

## **Note of an Open Village Meeting held on 19th December 2014 at the Mission Hall.**

Following the issue of Newsletter 159.1 on the purchase of the Springhead Car Park, which had been distributed to all villagers and also to Sutton Poyntz Society members living outside the village, a meeting in the Mission Hall was attended by John Crisp, John Sutherland, Bill Egerton and about 55 villagers.

John Crisp welcomed all those attending, and described the background to the purchase of the Springhead Car Park, and in particular the circumstances that had driven the Sutton Poyntz Society committee, unwillingly, to conclude that purchase was the only way of solving long-standing problems.

John Sutherland then described the very long history of correspondence and action that had finally led to the purchase of the land from Devenish Brewers Ltd, the creating of Sutton Poyntz Limited to hold the land, and finally, two weeks ago, to the moment when we received confirmation from the Land Registry that Sutton Poyntz Limited was now the legal owner, with Title Absolute.

Bill Egerton read out the Objectives of the Limited Company, and then explained that Title Absolute was effectively unchallengeable, and that we were therefore in a position for the village to decide what it wanted to do with the land, and for whatever was decided to be actioned quickly by the Directors of Sutton Poyntz Limited.

There then followed an open discussion on what the village would like done with the land. There was one clear decision, passed unanimously:

“That the village wish the skip parked on the land to be removed forthwith, and not replaced”.

The question of car parking was discussed, but without a clear conclusion. There was a general, but not unanimous, feeling that the parking available on the land was needed, and it was thought likely that some established rights for car parking might have accrued. It was also recommended that the Directors need to look carefully at the need for some sign showing that the land is private and stating the terms under which car parking is permitted.

Other topics that were left open for the time being were the setting up of a village notice-board on the land, and the question of a seat and garden area in the corner of the area, overlooking the pond.

John Crisp closed the meeting, inviting those attending to partake in a glass of wine, and inviting donations.