



Sutton Poyntz Society

Minutes of the Sutton Poyntz Society AGM held at the Mission Hall 7.30 p.m. Wednesday April 15th 2015 John Crisp in the chair

1. Opening Remarks: The Chairman welcomed the 45 or so villagers at the meeting. He also expressed his thanks to Jez Cunningham who had organised the quiz that had been arranged for after the end of the formal Meeting.
2. Apologies were received from Simon and Dot Emblen, Caroline Crisp, Dave and Yvonne Emery, Jacqui Atkinson, Sue Wintle, Dave Morris, Joy Hyde, Hazel Bruce and Sue Embley.
3. Previous Minutes: The minutes of the AGM held on April 9th 2014 were accepted.
4. Matters Arising: Village Beacon; In answer to a question from Peter Jones, Bill Egerton explained that he had tried several times to get an estimate from Simon Grant-Jones, who had finally had the time recently to go up to look at the Beacon. An estimate is still awaited. There is a possibility of some financial support from Wessex Water.
5. Annual report: The Report was reviewed briefly. On Margaret's Seat, John Crisp announced that the order for the new seat had gone in earlier that day. Peter Jones pointed out another event on the same day – the erection of the new road sign at the top of Plaisters Lane. The question of a Neighbourhood Plan was discussed briefly; this is a significant undertaking, but is being looked into by the Committee. The Annual Report was accepted by the meeting (proposed Peter Jones; seconded Ian Bruce).
6. Treasurer's Report: John Sutherland gave his thanks to John Bellis who had audited the accounts.
 - a. The balance was £230 down on the previous year, at £4805. The reduction was largely due to costs associated with the purchase of the "Springhead Car Park". Since the accounts had been prepared, a further Solicitor's bill had become necessary, using the money collected at the Springhead Car Park meeting.
 - b. The Treasurer also noted a new donation since the end of the financial year, of £57 from SPAM for Margaret's Seat.
 - c. The Committee tries to maintain a Society balance of about £5000 against contingencies. Given a fairly normal year, the Treasurer and Committee believe it should be possible to restore the balance to £5000 without any need for an increase of Subscriptions.
 - d. Since the previous annual accounts, the accounting categories for the Village Plan activities (Biodiversity and History Groups, footpaths map, and village website) had been absorbed into the main accounts. Over the last 7 years, these activities had spent about £4700, all self-funded; current activity is quite low key and does not justify a separate accounting unit.
 - e. The report was accepted by the meeting (proposed Dave Martin; seconded Jez Cunningham).
7. Election of Officers, Committee and Auditor:
Chairman: Mike Blee (proposed Bill Egerton, seconded Peter Jones).
At this point, John Crisp stepped down from chairing the meeting. Mike Blee expressed the Society's very great thanks due to John Crisp, who was also stepping down from the Committee, for his years of service to the Society and particularly for having stepped back into the vacant Chairman's role a year ago.
Secretary: Bill Egerton (proposed Ian Bruce, seconded Peter Dye)
Treasurer: John Sutherland (proposed John Bellis, seconded Graham Embley)

Committee: All those elected last year with the exceptions of John Crisp and David Rees were willing to continue. In addition, Jez Cunningham, Peter Dye and Chris Balfe had joined the Committee since last year and now stood for election. In addition to the Officers, the following Committee was therefore appointed: Jacqui Atkinson, Chris Balfe, Jez Cunningham, Hilary Davidson, Peter Dye, Tamzin Hyde, Peter Riley, Sue Wintle (proposed *en bloc* by Katrina Blee, seconded Rita Riley).

Auditor: John Bellis (proposed John Sutherland, seconded Bill Egerton)

8. AOB:

- a. Springhead Car Park; Dan Stinson asked about the responsibility of Sutton Poyntz Ltd for the structure of the bridge under the car park. Bill Egerton responded that this was the responsibility of SPLtd; the Directors and members of the Limited Company individually were protected by their £1 limit of liability. The County Council had a responsibility for checking the structure regularly, which had been done recently so we are confident that the structure is currently sound. In response to a question from Jez Cunningham, there are no current plans to vary the use of the Car Park, apart from an idea to place a village notice-board there; however the Car Park is now protected for future village use.
- b. Seagulls; Margaret Brown complained about the mess and nuisance caused by seagulls, particularly nesting on Waterworks properties. She pleaded that villagers should not feed them and should discourage them where legally possible.
- c. Ashes; Ros Evans noted that there appeared to have been some ashes spread next to one of the seats by the pond, with a bouquet. Ian Bruce noted that this was quite a common problem, and the Borough Parks Department have responsibility. [Post Meeting note; these ashes were removed some time after the meeting].
- d. Planning applications for land off Plaisters Lane; It was explained that the Society response, based on the majority view expressed at the village meeting, was being drafted by Richard Burgess; copies of the draft were available to villagers on request. The principle of development on this site was discussed. There was quite a strong (albeit perhaps minority at this stage) view that some sympathetic development of the site could be an enhancement for the village; what was close to a unanimous opinion, however, was that this particular proposal was very far from the “sympathetic” development that might be accepted. The style and scale of the houses proposed were not thought at all appropriate. Members were urged to submit representations before the due date of 7 May.
- e. Hunts Yard; Julie Pemberton noted that Hunt’s Yard on White Horse Lane was up for sale, with an indication of capacity for 5 new houses.

The Chairman closed the meeting, with thanks to all those who had attended. A number of members stayed on for a most enjoyable Village Quiz.