

**Minutes of the Sutton Poyntz Society Committee Meeting of 12th August 2015  
at the Mission Hall.**

1. *Present:* Mike Blee, Bill Egerton, John Sutherland, Sue Wintle, Jacqui Atkinson, Jez Cunningham, Peter Riley, Peter Dye, Chris Balfe, Chris Hubbard.  
*Apologies:* Hilary Davidson, Tamzin Hyde
2. *Minutes of previous meeting*  
The Minutes of the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015 were agreed and signed.
3. *Matters arising*  
None
4. *Items to be raised under AOB*  
Bin by pond.
5. *Planning*
  - a. Land off Plaisters Lane – BE had contacted Richard Burgess to discuss his invoice. In view of his original verbal offer, Richard had offered make this his final invoice, so including work still to be done in relation to a Planning Committee hearing. Although this means the cost is still higher than the “under £500” that Richard originally suggested, it was agreed that the invoice be paid forthwith. It was also agreed that in future we must get a quote for work of this nature. There was lengthy discussion of what the Society’s next steps will be when the Planning Officer’s Report is published. Assuming that the application goes to Planning Committee, Richard Burgess will present the Society’s case. It was regarded as extremely important that the Society should not orchestrate presentations to the Planning Committee, but where we know that villagers wish to address the Planning Committee with views known to be aligned to those of the Society, it was regarded as acceptable to coordinate the presentations to ensure that material is not repeated unnecessarily and that the Society’s overall case is presented efficiently.
  - b. WP/CA/15/00090 – Trees at Cob Cottage, White Horse Lane – It was noted that the application paperwork does not give any justification for the proposed felling of two Cypress trees. It was agreed that we would happily leave the proposed crown reduction and crown raising of other trees to the professional judgement of the Council Trees Officer, but that we would request that permission should not be granted for tree felling without a documented justification.
  - c. WP/CA/15/00094 – Trees at 2 Sutton Close. No paperwork was yet available on the Council website, but JS explained the background and what was intended. On the basis of this, the Committee agreed that we would respond leaving this to the Trees Officer’s judgement.
  - d. White Horse Cottage – MB and BE reported a visit to White Horse Cottage to view plans for a new cottage, to be built alongside the end of the lane, in a style designed to give it the appearance of a conversion of an old barn. MB and BE had explained the contents of the Society’s planning policy, and how the Society would assess the application. The Committee will express a formal view when a planning application is submitted, but initial thoughts were that this may be acceptable under the Society’s planning policy.
  - e. Littlemoor development – The Committee noted that a public consultation was about to start on the large development north of the Littlemoor Road (the area designated LITT1 under the draft New Local Plan). A consultation event will be given between midday and 7.30 on 3<sup>rd</sup> September at the Top Club, Louviers Road; although this is outside the area of direct concern to the Society, it was agreed that it would be helpful if someone could attend the event and report back.
6. *Other village matters*
  - a. Margaret’s Seat – With excellent help from Peter Broatch, the new seat had been installed on its footings. The opening ceremony was held on the morning of 9<sup>th</sup> August, attended by members

of the Hobson family, David Mannings and his wife, and about 15 villagers. Prosecco was drunk, donated by the Springhead. (The Springhead supplied 6 bottles, of which 3 were consumed. With the kind agreement of Jo and Karen at the Springhead, the other 3 bottles will be kept for the next village event, perhaps the re-commissioning of the Village Beacon).

b. Springhead Car Park

It was reported that the Wilson family had very generously said they still wished to make a donation towards a village Noticeboard. The amount they wished to donate would not be sufficient for the Noticeboard, but David Mannings had offered to consider this project for a County Councillor Community Fund award.

Various levels of overall scheme were considered, including the noticeboard, planters to separate off a pedestrianised area, re-surfacing of the car park, and maintenance work to the wall. Initially, it was agreed that we will cost a simple scheme with the noticeboard and planters, and also a more ambitious scheme. A subcommittee comprising JC, CB and HD was appointed for this.

It was reported that the car that had been on the car park for some time had now gone (it was believed sold). No further action needed.

- c. The Beacon – CB reported that he and BE had recovered the beacon from up the hill, and delivered it to Simon Grant-Jones for repair. The repair had been completed, and the beacon was currently in BE's barn for rubbing down and painting, using a high-temperature paint recommended by Simon. The £9.83 cost of this paint was approved. BE had contacted George Lunn, who had agreed to transport the beacon back up the hill and help with the refitting, when they are less busy with harvesting. It was suggested that we have a bonfire in the Beacon on 5<sup>th</sup> November, to recommission it. There was a suggestion of providing a new plaque recording the repair and reinstallation.

- d. The pond – BE had discussed the state of the pond with Dave Emery. Some clearance of silt at the top end of the pond would probably be beneficial. The main problem envisaged by Dave was the removal of the silt. It was suggested that the Council might be willing to provide a skip and dispose of the silt. BE will discuss this with Ian Bruce (**Action BE**). Some control of the areas of reeds at the bottom end might also help, although these areas are highly beneficial for wildlife. It was thought that the reed roots themselves might provide support to allow someone to slightly reduce the area of reed. The third task that would be beneficial would be to cut out the self-seeded willow saplings. This would need to be done regularly. All this work should be done during the winter, perhaps February, to minimise the impact on wildlife.

7. *Village Events / Activities*

- a. Cream Teas (11 July) – This event had been highly enjoyable and successful, making a profit of £211.30.
- b. Vegetable Show (1 August) – The profit of £113 had been donated to the Children's Society Waves project in Weymouth..
- c. Pimms Evening (22 August) – A Temporary Event Notice has been obtained, and needs to be available on the day. Tickets were selling well, and it was hoped this event would prove attractive to younger villagers. The kebabs would be prepared on the Friday, in CB's kitchen, and help was needed on the Saturday morning to set up the garden and collect the barbecues.
- d. Winter events – Ideas are needed for Society events over the winter. This will be discussed at the next meeting (**Action All**).

8. *Communications*

- a. Newsbites and Newsletters – CH initiated some discussion of the relationship between these two communication media. At present, Newsbites are being used as reminders of future events, but not to report on recent events. It was agreed that we would give a trial to the idea of

reporting recent events by Newsbite. Newsletters still need to be comprehensive, until we get to the situation where all members are signed up to the Newsbite mechanism.

- b. Distribution – There was also some discussion of who gets copies of Newsletters. We had printed 200 copies of the two latest Newsletters so that Distributors had something to hand over when they try to collect subscriptions. The usual print run is lower, both because we do not distribute to some non-members (it is always slightly difficult to distinguish the true non-believers from people we simply haven't been able to collect subscriptions from), and also because some households are happy with electronic distribution.
- c. Website – JC and CH volunteered to help with maintenance of the website, and will be given training by BE. In particular, it was agreed that we will gradually publish ALL the Society's Newsletters on the website. At present, those Newsletters held at the Dorset History Centre (up to 1996) are available on the website. CH will publish recent ones, and the gap will gradually be closed.

9. *Other Village Activity reports*

No reports.

10. *Committee Reports*

The village picnic run by the Mission Hall Trust had been greatly enjoyed and highly successful, raising over £400 for Mission Hall funds.

The next Civic Society meeting is on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

11. *Treasurer's Report*

The report had been tabled by email, showing a balance of £5,138.05.

There was some discussion, initiated by JS, of the format of the report. The consensus was that a simpler format would suffice, but this was left to JS.

12. *Correspondence*

An annual report had been received and distributed from the National Grid Visual Impact Project.

The CPRE membership card had been received and was handed to the Treasurer.

The Temporary Event Notice for the Pimms Evening had been received.

13. *AOB*

PD raised the question of the bins by the pond, which cause a litter problem when wildlife (seagulls, foxes etc.) take the contents. It would be highly desirable to have a cover, but we do not want to do anything that might stop the bin-men emptying them. Ian Bruce's advice will be sought (**Action BE**).

It was reported that the funeral of Chris Fulford late of 9 Sutton Close would be on Monday at 2 p.m. Chris had been one of the founding members of the Society in 1968.

14. *Date of next meeting*

9<sup>th</sup> September at the Mission Hall.

***Minutes agreed and approved :***

***Date:***