

SUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Sutcombe Parish Council Meeting held Remotely

Using the ZOOM Platform, on Monday 1st March 2021 which commenced at 7.30p.m

Members of the Council Present: Councillors C. Quance (Chair) B.Galbraith Marten -(Vice Chair),C. Furse, E.Horn , J. Daniel and John Shepherd., District Councillors Richard Boughton, Stephen Harding, ND Anna Dart also present was Mrs Lorraine Buttery (Clerk)

1. Chair's announcements

Councillor Chris Quance welcomed all to the meeting, and hoped that this would be the last Zoom meeting

2. Declarations of Interest

a) Register of Interest: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests.

There were none declared

b) To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature. *There were none declared*

c) To declare any disclosable pecuniary interests in items on the agenda and their nature. *There were none declared.*

3. Apologies and reasons for absence were received from:

Devon County Councillor Barry Parsons and PCSO Mark James.

4. Public Comment Session

No Members of the Public present.

5. Reports from Devon County Councillor and District Councillors:

Devon County Councillor Barry Parsons was hoping to attend the meeting but was delayed at another meeting. He had telephoned the Clerk earlier in the evening to report that he had been in touch with Jon Williams regarding the sale of the School buildings and the problem with the access to the site. He asked the Clerk, in his absence to inform the Councillors of the forthcoming Locality meeting of Torridge District Council, the subject of the sale of the school is on the agenda. It is not clear whether the subject of the entrance will be discussed.

It will be held on the 5th March and he will be in attendance, he will report back after the meeting.

Barry had sent his Holsworthy Hamlets report via email, this was distributed to all Councillors and will be put on the web-site.

District Councillor Anna Dart, reported that there was not a lot going on at present, the major issue is the increase in the Council Tax, at the recent finance meeting I voted against the proposal as the accumulated sum is a huge amount, consequently Anna said that she had voted against the budget, the extra financial burden will be an added blow to residents at this present time.

District Councillor Stephen Harding stated that he had voted for the budget, as although all will be asked to pay The extra, money has been provided by central Government to help the neediest.

District Councillor Richard Boughton said that Anna and Stephen had updated all on the issues relevant.

6. All members of the Council had received a copy of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 11th January 2021 by email, with the unanimous decision of the Councillors, the contents were deemed true and correct and were duly signed by the Chair Councillor Chris Quance

7. Matters Arising

1) Sutcombe Playing field – Councillor Claire Furse said there was not a lot to report, a meeting was held on Thursday and discussed the subject of Speed awareness signs, has the Parish Councillors any objections to using the signs that were designed by the Children in the competition last year? There were no objections and all Councillors fully support the SPF committee. Councillor Barry Galbraith Marten asked has there been any complaints from Highways regarding those already displayed? Claire replied that she thinks that highways use their discretion in allowing certain signs. Claire also reported that the top fence had been reported as being a bit wobbly, she will have a closer look herself.

2) DAAT Night Site, has now been fully installed, as yet not commissioned for operation but will be in a few days, the Parish Councillors much appreciate Darren and Claire for the use of their land and also to finance any electrical The Clerk will enquire with the insurers to insure the installation, it was suggested that an announcement be put on the website, and an official letter of thanks be sent to Darren and Claire

Matters arising cont/....

3) Sale of School Buildings- the email from DCC legal department regarding adjustments to the 'Heads of Terms' terms 'covering the entrance to the School Buildings to be put on sale, the proposal is for the Playing field entrance be used on a temporary basis until planning permission could be sought/granted for a new entrance at the old school playground.

The Chair Councillor Chris Quance said it was very unsettling to receive proposals such as this when we thought The 'Heads of Terms' was completed and we thought agreed, but we must be careful how we proceed as the HOT are not legal as no paperwork has been signed. Councillor Galbraith Marten stated that it was very unprofessional for them to want to change the 'Heads of Terms' at this late stage, using the Playing field entrance would be a danger and to all those that use the field. The subject was discussed fully and the decision was made for Councillors Claire Furse Barry Galbraith Marten to draft a letter with relevant points to Councillor Barry Parsons to be received before the Torridge meeting on Friday 5th March.

4) New Councillor, the clerk had received an application from Holly Rowlands, after discussion it was the unanimous decision of the Parish Councillors to co-opt Holly as a Parish Councillor, the Clerk will notify Holly of the decision, and send the relevant paperwork and invite her to the next

5) Notice Board, the art work had been sent to the Councillors vis email, the decision was to ask for the sign writing of Sutcombe Parish Council to be put on the rim of the board, the Clerk will notify Jag Signs.

8. **Planning Applications:**

1) 1/0068/2021/FUL: Proposal: Retrospective application for the erection of a single storey garden room.

Location: 2, Coombe End, Sutcombe, Holsworthy Devon

Although Councillors had voiced their dislike of retrospective application it was the unanimous decision to support the application.

Planning Decisions:

1-3) 1/1095/2020/FUL,1/1089/2020/AGMB,1/1085/2020/FUL. Proposals: Conversion of barns to Dwelling Houses, Holiday Flat. Location: Barns at Matcott Farm, Sutcombe, Holsworthy. Devon

4) 1/1066/2020/FUL Proposal: Installation of Landing Lights to provide emergency lighting for the DAAT

Location: Land at Westcott Farm, Sutcombe Holsworthy

The above applications were granted permission

Planning Appeals:

There were none

9. **Finance.**

a) Financial report to date, all Councillors had received a spreadsheet prior to the meeting, no issues were raised. The bank reconciliation was supported by the current bank statement dated the 31st January. There being a balance of £22,152.93. this is made up of ring-fenced funds: - £500 election fund, £,4002 project fund, £3,000 DAAT fund £3,1500 DCC (Fencing), £8,000 Loan, the balance remaining of £3,500.93 being PC general funds.

b) To approve and sign cheques for i) ZOOM Monthly fees £7.19 ii) Clerks Quarterly salary £319.64

iii) Admin Expenses 15th Sep 2020-1st March 2021 £61.11 iv) Bryan Yeo £55, The Chair Chris Quance

signed the cheques with the approval of all Councillors present, Chris will seek another signature before returning to the Parish Clerk.

c) It was acknowledged that the Clerk had sought approval by email for the signature of the Cheque in the sum of £6,6704.58 MAT Electrics for the installation of the Devon

10. **Correspondence as below and as available at the time of the meeting**

i) DCC Councillor Barry Parsons, Covid 19 updates and funding, DCC hardship grants, Locality Grants.

ii) DALC Newsletters 02-08 iii) North Devon Healthcare Trust updates, NHS CCG Bulletins 6-9

iv) Rural Network Bulletins x 4 v) C. Hopkins Playground Inspection vi) H. Roper- Chamber Of Commerce

vii) DCC Vaccine updates viii) Harry Roper- Bus Support Grants, Northern Burrows,

ix) Devon Communities Together- Village Halls week, Covid Updates x) T.Vanstone- Football Post

xi) Adrian Avery- Torridge Engagement Officer xii) Devon CPR – Best Churchyard xiii) Lewis Clarke- Reporter

xv) DCC Councillor Barry Parsons, Hospice Fund Raising xiii) J.Williams x 2 xiv) S.Bowker – Sale of School

The above were all received by email no issues were raised apart from

xiv) The Chair Councillor Chris Quance suggested that with reference to the email regarding the sale of the School site it should be noted that the percentage of the proceeds were not specifically to recover spending but also, to cover new expenditure, such as new equipment. The Parish Council have to be patient as it is all out of our hands and we must wait for the decision of the Charity Commission. It was asked if planning application had been sought for the new classrooms at Bradworthy school? District Councillor Richard Broughton replied yes it had and was granted. The Chair commented that we should wait and see what is decided at th meeting on Friday, if necessary another meeting will be arranged.

11. Matters for discussion or to be noted, and matters brought to the attention of the Chair:

- 1) Grass cutting, Councillor Claire Furse stated that she had had quotes for the cutting of the Playfield and asked whether the contractor would be able to quote for the St. Andrews and the War memorial sites, the Clerk replied that as the usual cost is over £100, three quotes would have to be obtained for the sites that the Parish Council was responsible for. Councillor Quance will try to obtain the quotes required.
- 2) Councillor Furse had spoken to Faye Fry regarding Sutcombe Newsletter, Faye is still prepared to compile and have the newsletter printed. Councillor Quance recommended we wait until after lockdown and things become a bit clearer, maybe aim for a publication in June/July.
- 3) Councillor Barry Galbraith Marten asked that the comments on Planning application be ratified. To ensure that everyone's comments are visible, replies to the original email forwarded by the Clerk should be sent to all, this will ensure everyone will know each other's thoughts, it will take away uncertainty.

The date of the next meeting was not fixed, as the Chair will wait for the out-come of the meeting on the 5th March, to see if an earlier meeting will be necessary.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45pm