

SUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Sutcombe Parish Council Meeting held in the Memorial Hall on Monday 10th January 2022 which commenced at 7.45p.m

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

1. Chair's announcements

Councillor Chris Quance welcomed all to the 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 were 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:

PCSO Mark James- not on duty, Devon County Councillor James Morris,

District Councillors Richard Boughton and Anna Dart

4. Public Comment Session:

No Members of the Public present.

5. Reports from Devon County Councillor and District Councillors:

Devon County Councillor James Morrish sent his apologies and emailed a short report:

Devon County Council has helped with the distribution of over 2,350,000 covid injections in the last 4 weeks,

Over 95,000 for 1st, 966,000for 2nd and 400,000 boosters.

I have had 9 communications from residents and companies within Sutcombe ward on issues such as

DCC farms rent to Domestic abuse in Rural Torridge.

I have now given just over £6,000 to groups and projects within Holsworthy Rural, however if you have a need please let me know.

District Councillor Stephen Harding reported that a new body is to be set up to take on the Leisure Centres, which the Council will be taking over in April, it is expected to make a loss initially. With the Holsworthy centre closed again Councillor John Hutchings is working hard to facilitate this.

The regeneration of Bideford Centre is still in the planning stage with Isaacs yard in the forefront, as is the regeneration Of the Wharf, which has been an eyesore in East the Water for many years.

At present the Council is looking to purchase a site for a new recycling plant, which would be more central than the present site. With many employees still working from home organisation of plans can be difficult.

Stephen finished his report by stressing that there is Hardships Grants for any residents that might be struggling and Should be encouraged to seek help from Torridge District Council

The Chair Councillor Chris Quance thanked Stephen for attending.

6. All members of the Council had received a copy of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 8th November 2021 by email, the contents were deemed true and correct and were duly signed by the Chair Councillor Chris Quance

7. Matters Arising

- 1) Sutcombe Playing field, nothing much is happening as waiting for the sale of the school buildings to go through, Negotiations were still ongoing for the sale of the corner of the field to facilitate access.
- 2) Sale of School Buildings, still waiting for the acceptance of terms by the Charity Commissions.
- 3) Sutcombe Newsletter, the decision was to leave the decision in obedience until we get back to some semblance of normality, as at present not much is going on.
- 4) The damage to the bridge had been reported but was not deemed that the work was imperative.
- 5) Railings, this was reported to Martin Caddy with Councillor John Shepherd contacting him, as yet no repairs had been forthcoming, the Clerk will contact him again.

8. Planning Applications:

There were none

Planning Decisions:

There were none

Planning Appeals:

There were none

9. Finance.

- a) The Councillors unanimously approved and three signed the cheque for:
- i) Clerks Quarterly Salary £322.02 (Jan – March)
 - b) Financial report to date, the Councillors had received a spreadsheet of the Accounts by email prior to the meeting, no issues were raised. The bank balance was supported by a copy of the current bank statement. There being a balance of £19,748.35 this consists of: Ring fenced funds, Election £500, Project Fund £4002.00, Loan £8,000, DCC £3150.35, the remaining balance of £4095.35 being Parish Council general reserves.
 - c) The budget for the financial year 2022-2023 was discussed in full, it was the unanimous decision of the Councillors to accept the budget proposals, the increase of the Precept was discussed, the Clerk was asked if it was necessary to increase the Precept at this present time, she replied that it would be prudent to do so taking into consideration that costs are increasing all the time.
 - d) The precept was set at £6,250; the Clerk will send the request to Torrington District Council.
 - e) The payment by Direct Debit of £420.90 for the loan was acknowledged by the Councillors. Councillor Emma Horn asked whether it might be a good idea to enquire if it was possible to go to online banking, the Clerk replied that it was possible and would contact NatWest Bank for the correct procedure.

10. Correspondence as below, emails 1st -31st December and as available at the time of the meeting

- i) DALC Newsletters 73-79
- ii) DCC Covid 19 rates
- iii) Rural Network Services bulletins x 3
- iv) R.N.S Rural Funding.
- v) Public WLB Payment Notice.
- vi) Harry Roper – Trustees wanted
- vii) Devon Communities together newsletter
- viii) C. Stobart DCC Autumn Briefing recordings
- ix) Torridge D C Domestic Abuse Bystander training
- x) L.Barrows -Parish & Town Conference
- xi) D. C. C. Vital Business support
- xii) North Devon Stakeholders update
- xiii) One Devon Bulletin
- xiv) Torridge D C Have a Green Christmas
- xv) Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Virtual events
- xvi) Devon C. C. NHS advice to get Booster
- xvii) Torridge D C – Community Partner of the year

The above were all received by email, no issues were raised or follow-ups required

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

- 1) H R H Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, events to celebrate this was discussed with various ideas, such as a Street Party, Picnic in the Park, Afternoon tea, the Chair Councillor Chris Quance asked all Councillors to give it some thought as by the time of the next meeting, there will be more idea of what other communities are planning, and events would not be duplicated..
- 2) Councillor Emma Horn informed the Council that Paul Furse had come to the end of his term as a Trustee for the Sutcombe Alms Houses, it was the unanimous decision for him to be re-elected for a further term.
- 3) Councillor Claire Furse commented that better signage was needed at Roach down. Although it is a 'no Through road' satnavs regularly sent vehicles that way, which causes chaos. She asked whether it would be possible to ask Highways to improve signage. Councillor Shepherd asked whether we could make our own signage?
- 4) Councillor Rowlands informed the Councillors that she had a donation bucket which was at the Brew House and now it has moved, would let Councillor Furse have it.
- 5) Councillor Daniels commented on the poor road surfaces in particular from Thuborough cross to the Memorial Hall, the Clerk will inform the Highways department and copy Councillor Morrish in.

The date of the next meeting was set for the 7th March 2022
There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45pm