

SUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Sutcombe Parish Council Meeting held in the Memorial Hall on Monday 28th November 2022 which commenced at 19:45.

Members of the Council Present: Councillors C. Quance (Chair), B.Galbraith -Marten (Vice Chair), E.Horn
C. Furse and J. Shepherd. District Councillor Richard Boughton, also present was the Clerk Lorraine Buttery.

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 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 District Councillors Stephen Harding and Anna Dart. Parish Councillor J. Daniel

4. Public Comment Session:

No members of the public were present.

5. Reports from Devon County Councillor and District Councillors:

District Councillor Richard Boughton stated that although not a lot to report, There will shortly be a meeting Regarding temporary housing accommodation, possible sites include garages at Tucker Park, Solly House, Bideford other various places are also being considered. Councillor Quance asked whether this was for The homeless or those waiting for Social Housing? Councillor Shepherd asked whether it included Immigrants, legal or otherwise?

Councillor Boughton replied that the accommodation was primarily for those waiting to be housed, as the cost of housing them in Hotels or B & B's was a great drain on the finances. As far as he was aware this did not include immigrants. Richard went on to report that Active Torridge had made a great start with renovating the Leisure Centres, he biggest issue is the cost of heating.

Richard Haste is now in charge of Ground Maintenance as well as managing all aspects of recycling.

Councillor Emma Horn commented that the Government had given the green light for larger increases In Council Tax, and asked what impact this would have on the charges made by Torridge.

Richard replied that there will be a budget meeting in two weeks, when these decisions will be made.

Councillor Horn also commented that the big part of the budget is allocated to social care, Richard replied that yes this was the case but Social Housing and Mental Health care has also got to be considered.

Councillor Chris Quance thanked Richard for his report and invited him to stay for the rest of the meeting.

6. All members of the Council had received a copy of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 10th October 2022 by email, the contents were deemed true and correct by a show of hands and were duly signed by the Chair Councillor Chris Quance. It was noted that the date on the minutes was incorrect and was altered by the Clerk.

7. Matters Arising

1) Sutcombe Playing field/ Sale of School Buildings, there is no update regarding the sale of the school Buildings, which is in the hands of the department of education.

Communications had been received from Emma Ingles regarding damage to the fences, around the school Buildings and the playfield, some wooden slats had been removed, the damage to the fencing around the playfield had allowed sheep to enter, Councillor Furse will have a look and make sure a temporary fence is put into place. The fencing around the school is DCC's responsibility and they will be fixing that part.

Councillor Quance will get a quote for the rest of the fencing, but should we hold off until the site is sold?

Should we go to the expense of fencing off the whole area even though we are only tenants. Councillor Furse Commented that she was concerned that Children will climb on the roofs, Councillor Quance commented children will be children. Councillor Shepherd asked whether it is in the tenancy agreement that the Parish Council erect the fencing. Would a cheaper option be acceptable, say a chain link fence? Councillor quance believed that the type fence was specified, the Clerk will check the lease agreement.

- 2) New Councillor, no one had come forward, signs had been put on the website and notice boards, Councillor Shepherd suggested putting a notice on the 'Whats Ap group, the Clerk will forward a notice. Councillor Boughton commented that there was no panic as next May is election year for all Councillors.
- 3) Holly Rowland – Photographs, the Clerk had written a letter of thanks to Holly and also a request as to Whether she had any further Jubilee photographs. The Clerk had received no reply
- 4) A letter had been received from the Royal British Legion thanking the Parish Council for the donation of £25.00

8. **Planning Applications:**

There were none

Planning Decisions:

There were none

Planning Appeals

There were none

9. **Finance.**

a) financial report to date the bank balance of £22,678.92 was supported by the current bank statement and bank reconciliation. The balance consists of Ring-fenced funds £650 elections, £4152 project and, £8,000 loan £3150 owing to DCC, the balance of £6,991.92 being Parish Council general funds.

b) It was the unanimous decision to approve the following cheques, two councillors signed

i) Jag Signs £116.40 for repair to the notice board. ii) C.Abbot for grass cutting.

c) Grant requests had been received from: - St. Andrews Church, Sutcombe Free Cemetery, North Devon C A B, and Holsworthy Rural Transport.

Although some have been approved the decision on remitting cheques has been deferred until the January meeting, Councillor Quance commented that the Memorial Hall Committee had applied but the Clerk could not recall receiving the email but will check, he also requested that further information be requested from Holsworthy Rural transport. It is hoped that those that had not applied will do so for the January meeting. The Clerk was asked to send a letter of thanks to Jeremy Sluggett for his sterling work in keeping the War Memorial clean and tidy

d) A copy of the draft budget had been emailed to the Councillors prior to the meeting, it was discussed in full. Although in general terms it is prudent to increase the precept annually, it was unanimously decided to keep the precept the same as last year due to there being sufficient funds in the bank. the Clerks salary was discussed and it was unanimously agreed that her salary would rise according to the NALC pay scale.

10. **Correspondence as below emails 20th October-21st November**

- i) Rural Network Bulletins x 2 November ii) DALC Newsletters 51-54
- iii) Devon County Council -Training Opportunities, Financial Situation. iv) One Devon Bulletin (NHS)
- v) Torridge District Council – Affordable Housing, Active Torridge. Dog owners guide
- vi) DCC -Protecting the under 5's this winter vii) NALC New publication viii) Flood risk management
- viv) H.Roper – remembrance day x) Devon Highways- Closures xi) C.A.B Advice column and appeal letter
- xii) Peter Styles- Plough Theatre Appeal xiii) D.C Together report Jul-Sep. xiv) D.C.C Unpaid Carers

Received in the post:- 1) Letter from David Quance re grant, 2) David & Alfreda Wilson

The letter from David & Alfreda Wilson was read to the Councillors by Councillor Quance, the letter Concerning donating to Holsworthy Rural Transport, the Clerk was asked to reply to the letter.

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

1) Councillor Emma Horn commented that the Bridge has been damaged again.

2) Councillor John Shepherd reported that the goal posts in the play area in St Andrews close had been Chained to the fence, no reasons or reports had been given. The Clerk was asked to write to Richard Haste at Torrington Council to get an explanation.

3) The publication of a newsletter was discussed but deferred to the January meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting was arranged for the 16th January 2023

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed

Date..... Page 2 of 2 28th November 2022