

# SUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of Sutcombe Parish Council Meeting held in the Memorial Hall on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 which commenced at 19:45.**

Members of the Council Present: Councillors C. Quance (Chair), Barry Galbraith-Marten, E.Horn, C. Furse, J. Shepherd, and John Daniel also present was the Clerk Lorraine Buttery.

1. **Chair's announcements**  
Councillor Chris Quance welcomed all to the meeting and wished all a Happy New Year.
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:**  
District Councillor Stephen Harding, Richard Boughton and Anna Dart.  
Devon County Councillor James Morrish.
4. **Public Comment Session:**  
Nicola Furze & Chris were present to discuss the Kings Coronation (Item 7.4)
5. **Reports from Devon County Councillor and District Councillors:**  
**Although not in attendance reports were received by email as follows:**  
  
**Devon County Councillor James Morrish**  
Firstly, can I thank members for their support to me during my time of illness over the past 2 years  
I am much better now and am planning to come off medication next month some 26 months on  
I do hope to be with you soon but for now here is my report  
The government has given DCC an extra £9m to help repair pot holes and I am pleased to report that this makes a fund of over £64m for road repairs in Devon. Work in Holsworthy Rural is planned every weekday until September so I hope a great deal of work will be done during that time.  
The county council has a new Chief Executive who I hope will visit our patch soon.  
I was pleased to hear from our MP on Saturday that the Torridge area may see a cash injection for its economy in the near future let's hope some of that will be spent outside of Bideford and to support our biggest economic driver, agriculture.  
Just 3 emails from your ward to me in Feb/March on subjects to include Adult care, Roads and 20 mph speed limits  
**District Councillor Stephen Harding**  
Good evening please accept my apologies for tonight's meeting.  
I have nothing of substance to report from Torridge other than what has been reported on the press of the Appledore middle dock award and a lovely levelling up award as stated in the budget, a share of 400 million . Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need anything.  
**District Councillor Anna Dart**  
My belated apologies for not getting to you tonight.  
I look forward to hearing from Chris or Lorraine with your opinion on where money for the village Should be in order of priority in relation to the planning application for 12 houses.  
I put forward a notice of motion to full council in February to revoke a decision taken by Torridge to remove 20% rate relief for village halls. My NOM was supported at full council and then went to community and resources committee for discussion and debate.  
Unfortunately, despite my most valiant fight, it did not get revoked in the end. It's quite complex But to cut long story short, it was felt that if halls were struggling then they should appeal to District councillors or parish councils for support  
It's all on the Torridge you tube c and r committee if you're interested.( sound isn't great though)  
In real terms Sutcombe Hall will have to pay £184.32 In rates in this coming financial year.  
I argued that this was , in effect , a further tax on our rural communities which would be felt more than in our urban populations because we have less residents to support our halls in the rural areas. The government do offer some support to halls already, but we don't know how long for .

6. All members of the Council had received a copy of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 by email, the contents were deemed true and correct by a show of hands and were duly signed by the Chair Councillor Chris Quance.

**7. Matters Arising**

- 1) Sutcombe Playing field -update/Sale of school buildings no update at this present time
- 2) New Councillor it is hoped that with the elections on the horizon a new Councillor will be found.
- 3) Goal Posts they are not in situ as yet but it is hoped that they would be in the near future
- 4) The Kings Coronation and what to do was discussed fully with ideas being suggested, 'Bring your own picnic' Purchasing bulbs to be planted in the village, Plant a tree, games 4 the Children Parish Walk, communal Cake, Bell Ringing, No positive decisions were made and it was decided to form a small sub committee to meet and finalise The details. The sub-committee would consist of members of the Hall Committee and Parish Councillors.
- 5) Salt Bin St.Andrews Close, the Clerk informed the Councillors that she had written to Torridge regarding The matter, and thought she had copied Councillor Shepherd, she will check the emails to forward on.
- 6) The state of the condition of the roads in the Village was discussed, and although some work had been Completed there is still a lot to be done, particular areas of concern are: The Alms Houses to Roach Down, The War Memorial to Town Farm, The Road from Sutcombe Memorial Hall to Holsworthy Beacon. the Clerk will Report to Highways.

**8. Planning Applications:**

- 1)1/0200/2023/FUL Proposal: Erection of roof over existing silage clamp  
Location: Langadon Farm, Holsworthy, Devon.
- 2)1/0205/2023/FUL Proposal: Erection of roof over existing silage clamp  
Location: Langadon Farm, Holsworthy, Devon.

*The above applications were discussed, no issues were raised and the Councillors approved of the applications  
The Clerk will convey the decision to Torridge Planning.*

**Planning Decisions:**

*There are none*

**Planning Appeals**

*There are none*

**9. Finance.**

- a) financial report to date. All Councillors had received an email containing spread sheets of the current finances, copies were available at the meeting, no issues were raised, the clerk explained that the accounts were in good order and the Parish Council funds were good.  
There being £20,612.62 in the bank, which was supported by the bank statement and reconciliation.  
The funds consist of Ring-fenced election £650, Project fund £4152, Loan £8000, and DCC £3150.
- b) The following cheques were approved and signed by two Councillors:
  - i) the Clerks Quarterly Salary Jan-March £430.95
  - ii) Admin Expenses £45.43
  - ii) DALC Clerks training session £36.00
  - iv) Vision ITC Annual IT support £161.26

**10. Correspondence as below emails 1<sup>st</sup> February 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

- i) Rural Network Bulletins x 3 Feb x 1 March
- ii) DALC Newsletters 05-10
- iii) Devon County Council -Cost of living grants.
- iv) One Devon Bulletin (NHS)
- v) Torridge District Council – Apprentice news/Grant Funding/Council Tax Rise/Business Rates
- vi) NALC Newsletter
- vii) CAB Advice column Feb
- viii) D C T Village Hall Audit
- viv) T. Barrett- Airband
- x) S.Cawsey Area Advisory Group Minutes
- xi) T. Vanstone - Elections
- xii) R.Roberts Wilder Community Event
- xiii) NALC Chief Executive
- xiv) DALC Preparing for elections
- xv) Laura Davies- Housing development adjacent to Memorial Hall
- xvi) Councillor Anna Dart – 106 Money

The above emails had been forwarded to Councillors no issues were raised except for the email from Councillor Anna Dart, the Clerk was asked to contact Anna to confirm the information.

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

- 1) Councillor Emma Horn commented that the Airband organisation were littering the country side With new poles with no consideration for the environment. Hedge trimming in the future will be a nightmare, the company does not seem to care and it was agreed by all that it was a backward step in the infrastructure, they are doing things the cheapest way with no forethought at all, but as they have 'carte blanche' by the Government we have no say in what they do.
- 2) The future of the grass cutting for the Village Green, St. Andrews Close and the War Memorial was discussed and it was unanimously agreed to continue with the current arrangements.
- 3) The Clerk asked whether it was in order to ask the usual person to undertake the internal audit, It was unanimously agreed by the Councillors.