

SUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Sutcombe Parish Council Meeting held at Sutcombe Parish Memorial Hall, on Monday 9th January 2017 commencing at 7.45pm

Members of the Council Present: Councillors S Horn (Chairman), C Quance (Vice Chairman), J Daniel, C Furse, B. Galbraith-Marten, and Mrs L D Buttery Parish Clerk)

Also present were Councillor Barry Parsons and district Councillor Ken Carrol.

1) Chairman's announcements

Councillor Stephen Horn wished all present 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

Apologies were received from P.C.S.O Emma Tomkies, Councillors Mike Wonnacott and John Shepherd

4) Public Comment Session and District and Local Councillors reports

Councillor Ken Carroll said it had been a quiet time for him due to illness and he was still recovering. He informed the Parish Council that he had had a letter from concerned parishioner regarding the lack of a safe bus shelter at Holsworthy Beacon when waiting to go to Barnstaple. The email regarding this was previously sent to Parish Councillors. Councillor Carroll was suggesting that he could help towards the cost of a shelter out of the locality budget. Chairman Councillor Stephen Horn explained that Holsworthy Beacon was not part of Sutcombe Parish, as such could not comment on the suggestion, Ken apologised for his mistake and would look again into the matter with Holsworthy Hamlets Parish Council.

Chairman Councillor Stephen Horn thanked Ken for attending and hoped his health would continue to improve.

Councillor Barry Parsons was late in arriving and apologised but explained that he had been at another Parish meeting, the Chairman thanked Barry for attending and said it must be difficult trying to attend all his Parishes meetings, Barry had previously emailed an update but did report to the Parish Council that Council Tax could increase by 4.99%, but the exact increase would depend on how Torridge DC implemented the Government's directive that the Council tax could rise by an extra 6% over two to three years, to cover the increased cost of adult social care, if Torridge decided to implement the 6% over two years this would mean the approved 1.9% plus 3%, this would account for a 4.9% increase in one year. Local schools would also benefit from the increase, but not secondary schools.

4a) Letter from Councillor Ken Carroll regarding bus shelter, dealt with at 4

5) Approval of Minutes

All members of the Council had received a copy of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 9th November 2016, they were agreed as true and accurate and duly signed by the Chairman Councillor Stephen Horn.

6) Matters Arising

1) Grant Funding for the Play Equipment: The Chairman Councillor Stephen Horn informed all those present that he had received notification that the grant application had been successful and the 'Sutcombe Community Playing Field' were awarded £10,000, Stephen thanked Councillors Claire Furse and Barry Galbraith-Marten for all their hard work, he also added that Councillor James Morrish had been very helpful, as had Barry Parsons and Ken Carroll and thanked them for all their excellent advice. The acceptance form from Torridge District Council was duly signed by the Chairman and countersigned by the Parish Clerk. Councillor Claire Furse said she would deliver the agreement by hand, as she was going to Bideford the next day. Further grants for the 'playground fund' were to be applied for, Councillor Ken Carroll suggested a grant of £2500 might be forthcoming, Councillor Ian Parker will have to counter sign. Councillor Claire Furse will complete the necessary paper work. There is also a promise of £1500 from Councillor Barry Parsons to be chased. Claire asked about the ongoing maintenance of the playground, the Chairman said that the annual donation £1000 that should be received from W. Watkins for the 'turbines' would be used for this purpose. Councillor Chris Quance asked when will the 'playground' be opened, the consensus of opinion was that it would be April time, the Chairman remarked that although the Parish Council were 'tenants at will' of the playing field it might be better to wait to announce an the opening date until after the Parish Council had more information regarding the final ownership of the 'school field' and buildings. Councillor Ken Carroll offered a donation of £300 towards the opening ceremony, this would come from his ward funds, the Chairman thanked Ken for his generous offer. The Holsworthy Post had contacted the Chairman regarding the opening of the 'playground' and how Torridge D C have granted the funds, Councillor Barry Parsons informed the Parish Council that any such articles must be approved by Torridge DC, they should be sent to Peter Soper.

Signed..... Date:.....

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- 1) **School Playing Field educational trust:** The Chairman Councillor Stephen Horn had contacted Charlotte Reynolds to ask for an up-date regarding the Trust and if there had been any further decisions regarding the ownership of the field, to date he had not received any reply. The Parish Clerk had also written to Charlotte on two counts, firstly regarding the drainage of the field, secondly whether it was possible to have a copy of the original educational trust document. The clerk had not received any updates. Councillor Barry Parsons suggested that the clerk inform him by email of the questions and queries asked of Charlotte and he would chase it up, this was approved by the Chairman.
- 2) The Clerk asked for permission to carry on with the set-up of the new website, it was agreed that the introduction for the site written by Councillor Claire Furse was very good and should be used, the clerk also asked if any suitable photographs were available? Councillor Claire Furse said she would get some together and email them to her. The unanimous decision was to agree to the signing of a cheque for £600 to cover the cost of the set-up of the site. £100 VAT will be reclaimed.

7) Planning Applications

- 1) 1/1113/2016/FUL Proposal: Removal of holiday occupancy restriction (condition 6 of 1/1607/2003)
Location: Church Barn, Sutcombe, Holsworthy, Devon.
This application was received during November; the deadline for comments was the 7th December all Councillors were emailed for their comments, there were no objections and the Clerk informed Torridge Planning of the Councillors unanimous decision to approve of the application.

Planning Appeals

None have been received.

Planning Decisions

None have been received.

8) Finance

- a) A cheque for the Clerks quarterly salary £256 was signed by two Councillors
- b) An up to date financial report was given by the Clerk, who said the finances were in excellent order, the balance in the bank of £9407.34 consisted of, election ring fenced funds of £1700, TAP fund £283, project fund £2910.50 the balance of £4513.84 being Parish Council general funds
- c) The 2017/18 Budget and Precept request was discussed and the figures were unanimously approved
- d) Information that cheques were signed between meetings for £43.20 to JAG Signs and £350 to A Newman for final payment for grass cutting. The cheque for £17.00 which has been outstanding since November 2015 has now been cancelled and Mr Frances has been informed.
- e) Although not on the agenda two Councillors signed a cheque for £600 to Vision ICT (see item 6 (3))

9) Correspondence as below and as available at the time of the meeting

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| i) Removal of BT Payphones | ii) Your Future Care Consultations |
| iii) Rural Services Network Newsletters | iv) Parliamentary Boundaries review |
| v) NHS Stakeholder News update on Stroke Services | vi) N D & Torridge Local Plans update |
| vii) Rural Vulnerability Rural Broadband and Fuel Poverty | viii) Healthy People magazine |
| ix) Councillor Barry Parsons Town and Parish update | |

The above correspondence had previously been circulated to Councillors and no further action necessary except for:

- iv) Councillor Chris Quance asked Councillor Barry Parsons how the review would affect him and when will it take effect Barry replied "Cornwall were not happy with the Boundary changes as part of Cornwall will be within the Torridge District. The County ones will change in May and the District changes will be in two years' time, I personally will have 30 Parishes to look after".

10) Matters for discussion or to be noted and matters brought to the attention of the Chairman

- 1) The ownership of the Bench near the Alms Houses had been confirmed as being the responsibility of the Parish Council, as such the cost of the repairs that are necessary will be covered by them Harry Stevens will be asked to carry out the repairs.
- 2) The Chairman asked the Councillors for ideas for a speaker for the Annual Open Meeting, Councillor Parsons said although he would very much like to speak, he could not because of the elections in May. The suggestion to invite James Jaroudi from Torridge DC was unanimously agreed upon, and the Clerk will Write to him with the invitation.

The next meeting was set for Monday 6th March 2017

The Annual Parish Open Meeting was suggested to be either the 10th or 17th April

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.47pm