

SUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Sutcombe Parish Council Meeting held at Sutcombe Parish Memorial Hall, on Monday 6th March 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, M. Wonnacott and Mrs L D Buttery Parish Clerk
Also present were Councillor Barry Parsons and P.C.S.O Emma Tomkies

1) Chairman's announcements

Councillor Stephen Horn welcomed Councillor Barry Parsons and P.C.S.O Emma Tomkies.

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

Councillor Ken Carroll sent his apologies as he was at another meeting.

4) Public Comment Session and District and Local Councillors reports

P.C.S.O Emma Tomkies introduced herself to the Parish Councillors as this was her first attendance at a Parish Meeting, she reported that although there has been no crime reported in the area, a complaint had been received regarding gun fire near a footpath in Sutcombe Woods. Councillor Chris Quance explained that the area in question was 'Millennium Woods' and is under the jurisdiction of Sutcombe Alms Houses, although dog walkers and the public are permitted to walk there, there is no public right of way. Emma said that this was fully understood but she needs the names of the gun handlers and who they work for, Councillor Quance said he would email them to her. Emma asked if it could be advertised in the Newsletter that the Neighbourhood watch required a new co-ordinator as Toni Sluggett no longer holds the position. The clerk said she would add it to her report.

Councillor Barry Parsons reported that he had been updated by Charlotte Reynolds, who reported that DCC legal have things in hand. Initially they need to deal with the reversionary clause- which requires national advertising for a certain period of time. Following that and depending on the outcome they will need to determine the issue of the trust and department of education consents. It was disappointing to hear that Charlotte is retiring, Megan Cross who will be picking up matters from Charlotte is well versed in Charitable trust matters. Matthew Jones (Head of Assets) has been briefed on both matters and has had lengthy meetings with the legal department.

Barry went on to report that he was very disappointed at the temporary closure of all beds at Holsworthy hospital, and the way it was instigated and reported. The reasons given for the closure were:

- 1) The high cost of Agency Nurses and the increase of lack of safety issues
- 2) Sickness rate of 11%
- 3) The problem of employing people at Holsworthy.

The sickness rate of 11% is a statistic that can be argued against as if there are 20 people employed, if just two are off sick than that constitutes 11%.

People will not apply for employment at a hospital which is constantly being threatened with closure.

The whole situation is outrageous and the real issues need to be challenged.

There will be a meeting at Holsworthy memorial Hall on the 15th March, the Chief Executive Alison Diamond will be in attendance. Councillor Michael Wonnacott commented that NDHC ran at a surplus and this money could have been used to employ nurses and not used to bail out other hospitals.

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 January 2017 were agreed as true and accurate and duly signed by the Chairman Councillor Stephen Horn.

6) Matters Arising

- 1) School Playing Field Educational Trust, discussed during Councillor Barry Parsons Report, a copy of the Trust Document has not been obtained.
Councillor Claire Furse was asked when the Playground might be open, she replied all being well early Summer, the access to the school playing field was discussed and the suggestion that the old school entrance be used initially was not upheld, it was agreed that the top entrance would be used at all times but the gates are very heavy and need to be sorted.

- 2) Web Site, the clerk reported that progress is a bit slow, and requested that if any Councillors had any photographs could they please be emailed as soon as possible.
- 3) Bench Repairs not yet done.
- 4) Parish Open Meeting, the Clerk reported that James Jarroudi could not attend on the 17th April as it is Easter Monday and he was away. It was requested that the Clerk contact him again and enquire as to whether he could attend on either the 3rd of the 24th April, the meeting will then be held on one of these two dates.

1) **Planning Applications**

1/1113/2016/FUL Proposal: Removal of holiday occupancy restriction (condition 6 of 1/1607/2003)

Location: Church Barn, Sutcombe, Holsworthy, Devon.

The above application was refused.

Planning Appeals

None have been received.

Planning Decisions

None have been received.

8. **Finance**

- a) A Cheque for the Clerks quarterly salary £256 and expenses of £21.81 was signed by two Councillors. Although not on the agenda the Chairman and Councillors approved the signing of a cheque for room Hire to the amount of £40.00
- b) Up to date financial report was given by the Clerk, there being £19,022.35 in the bank, this comprises of £3878.85 PC general funds, Ring-fenced amounts of £1700 for possible election costs, TAP fund £283 and Playground fund £13,160.50, this amount will be transferred to the Playground Bank account as soon as it is up and running.
- c) The receipt of VAT Refund of £221.01, £250 from D.J.Watkins and £10,000 from TDCAP was acknowledged.
- d) Financial Regulations update, S.O. Update, Risk Assessment and Asset register were discussed and signed by the Chairman
- e) After discussion on the finances available for the Playground equipment, it was the unanimous decision of the Councillors that £1500 would be transferred from the possible election fund, as a grant to the playground fund.

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| i) Lands end trial | ii) Planning Consultation- Travellers accommodation |
| iii) Rural Services Network Newsletters | iv) CPR Devon Seminar |
| v) Electoral Review final recommendations | vi) DCC- Connect Me |
| vii) Standards Committee- Code of Conduct | viii) Torridge – Indoor Sports assessment |
| ix) CAB Newsletter | x) Devon Communities – Filleigh hall 8/03/2017 |
| xi) Devon Acute Services review | xii) Devon Countryside access forum |
| xiii) Planning – National TV | xiv) Working with RoSPA |
| xv) Highways – Measuring Engagement Survey | |

The above communications were emailed to all Councillors as received and no further action is required.

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

- 1) Tenders for grass cutting for the financial year 2017/2018, the clerk was requested to a put notice up requesting Quotes.
- 2) Councillor Galbraith-Marten had down loaded the grant application form received from Devon County Council Under the heading of Highways Enhancement Fund, after discussion it was unanimously agreed to request The amount of £2000 to be used for grass, verge and hedge cutting in the coming year

The Parish Council meeting will be held after the Annual Open Meeting which will be either the 3rd or 24th April 2017 depending on the guest speaker

The Annual General Meeting was set for the 15th May 2017.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.57pm