

Minutes of the Annual Open Meeting of Sutcombe Parish Council, held at Sutcombe Parish Memorial Hall, on Monday 24th April 2017 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors S Horn (Chairman) C Quance (Vice Chair), C. Furse, B Galbraith-Marten, John Shepherd and J. Daniel also present were L Buttery (Clerk), Christine Cawsey, Scilla Edwards, and Emma Horn

Apologies were received from: County Councillor Barry Parsons, District Councillor Ken Carroll, Councillor Michael Wonnacott, Darren Furse, Guy Ley, Rosie Cawsey and the guest speaker James Jarroudi.

The Chairman, Councillor Stephen Horn, welcomed everyone and voiced his disappointment that James Jarroudi had sent his apologies at 10am that morning explaining that he had 'childcare issues' and could not attend the meeting.

Stephen thanked the Parish Clerk for her work and support over the past year. Sadly the School closed at the end of July 2016, but the good news is that Sutcombe Parish Council are now 'Tenants at Will' of the school playing field, the Council has been reliably informed that the ownership of the land will eventually pass to them, and maybe the School buildings as well.

My sincere thanks to Councillor Claire Furse for her determination and drive in obtaining grants to purchase play equipment for the field, with the help of other Councillors the playground fund has nearly reached its target of £20,000, all credit to them all

Local Clubs and organisations were then invited to give their reports for activities during 2016, condensed reports follow:

1. Alms -house Trust : Report given by Chris Quance
The Almshouses in Sutcombe were formed in 1648 when Sir William Morice left Morice Terrace, Millbrook Farm and just under 50 acres of farmland to the people of Sutcombe. His wish was to always provide affordable accommodation to parishioners in need. With this in Morice Terrace was rebuilt in 1986 and a further bungalow was purchased in 2012. There are 20 trustees who work together and have quarterly meetings to carry on Sir William Morice's wishes. In the past year maintenance work included painting all windows and updating heating systems.
2. St Andrews Church – read by Scilla Edwards
The worship rota for the benice of 6 parishes has settled into a routine. There is a service at Sutcombe almost every Sunday, usually at 10am. Details of forthcoming services are displayed in the porch. This year fund raising has concentrated on raising funds for the Bell tower repairs, with some good events, those concerning food have been very popular. A full programme of fund-raising will continue as there is always work needed for the upkeep or our beautiful church.
Sutcombe Singers: The Choir continues to be popular, they have recently given several concerts, the choir evenings will restart in July.
3. Village Hall – Written by the Chairperson Darren Furse and read by Claire Furse
We as a committee have had a successful year organising many events, from the Queens 90th Birthday celebrations to 'Pub Nights' to 'Big Breakfast', profits raised have gone into the hall funds and donated to the Church. My special thanks go to Tracey Stevens for being secretary and Richard Quance, Treasurer. I would also like to thank Richard Poole who was a member of the committee for many years, but has now moved to pastures new.
4. Badminton – report given by Emma Horn
The Badminton club meets most Monday evenings in the village hall, with 4-9 players attending each week. We play mixed doubles and take in turns playing, as such many an interesting topic is discussed. The season closes in May and reconvenes in September. We would love to see more people joining, to continue the growth of the club.
5. Skittles – Guy Ley- read by Emma Horn
The Skittle club needs more players next season as at times it was very difficult to raise a team. Next year the club will play in the Holsworthy League.
John Baker won the highest average trophy and the Henry Ley knock-out tournament. Guy Ley won the William Ley trophy for the highest score for the season.

Signed.....

Date

page 1 of 2 AOM 24th April 2017

6. Short Mat Bowls – Report given by Christine Cawsey
 This season has been rather different from last year, although we did manage to reach the third round of the Tony Stephen K.O. but Shebbear got their revenge by beating us. Otherwise the season has been very testing, but because we were so strong in holding up all the other teams in our division we are going down to a lower division in the afternoon and evening leagues, but looking on the bright side we will be meeting new teams and going to different places. The new season will commence on the 13th September, new players are always welcome.
7. Bell Ringing – report given by John Daniels
 We have six members and a couple of learners, which is good for the future of bell ringing. The bells have now gone off to be serviced, many thanks to those who helped with the removal. The frame is in the process of being built and we hope to have everything re-installed by the Autumn
8. Sutcombe Community Playground - Claire Furse
 After the closure of the School Sutcombe Parish Council are now 'Tenants at Will' of the School playing field. After a survey of the residents
 The Committee has been very successful in obtaining grants from Torridge New Homes Bonus Grant Scheme, with a lot of help from James Morrish, The Balsdon Trust, Barry Parsons via Devon County Locality Grant Scheme, the balance of the funds from 'Friends of Sutcombe School, and the Parish Council, this gives us a Budget of £20,000. To date we have also received funds from W J Watkins wind turbine, we expect £1000 a year from this source which will be used for ongoing maintenance and grass cutting. Currently the site is closed for safety reasons, as we need to ensure that the current equipment in the field is safe, it is hoped the field will be open for the Summer.

The Chairman Councillor Stephen Horn thanked the representatives of the various clubs and organisations for their achievements and wealth of activities generated for the local community.

The meeting officially closed at 7.50pm when Tea, coffee and biscuits were served, kindly provided by Councillor Clare Furse

The next meeting – the Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday 15th May 2017 commencing at 7:45pm at Sutcombe Memorial Hall, followed by a general meeting.

Signed.....

Date

page 2 of 2 AOM 24th April 2017