

SUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Sutcombe Parish Council Meeting held in the Memorial Hall on Monday 16th September 2024 which commenced at 19:45.

Members of the Council Present: Councillors Chris Quance Chair, Emma Horn, Clare Furse, John Shepherd and Chris Rose. Also present were District Councillor Stephen Harding, Devon County Councillor James Morrish and the Clerk Lorraine Buttery

1. Chair's announcements

The Chair 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. *Councillor Claire Furse declared a personal interest in the planning application 1/0674/2024/FULM*

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 Anna Dart and Parish Councillor Barry Galbraith-Marten Vice Chair

4. Public Comment Session:

No members of the public present.

5. Reports from District and County Councillors

District Councillor Stephen Harding stated that there was not a great deal to report, waiting for the Government To make decisions regarding the levelling up fund. The government would like Torridge to build 950 houses per Year to comply with their housing strategy, unsure whether this is possible or realistic. The local plan is tied up with the levelling up fund so although we are busy we are still in limbo. The depot in East the Water is going ahead as is the dockyard at Appledore but the shipyard is not looking good.

As there were no questions for Stephen the Chair Councillor Chris Quance thanked him for attending and his report.

County Councillor James Morrish reported that the devolution of Devon County and Torquay will happen, will it have any effect on the local community- highly unlikely.

Investments by DCC are under fire, there was 150 demonstrators at County Hall objecting to the investment of Pension funds to a Chinese Company which makes springs for triggers which in the end could be use in weapons In warfare. DCC invests pension funds to reap the highest interest for its investors and future pensioners. In the past has lost millions of pounds due to not investing in certain companies. DCC is under pressure to go vegan, which is not supported by the farming community. James stated that many of his emails from parishes are complaining about pot holes, Highways are doing slightly better but much improvement is necessary.

DCC are fairing much better financially than some other counties, and have 90million in reserves, 64 million of this is ring fenced for adult and child care.

As there were no questions for James the Chair Councillor Chris Quance thanked him for attending and his report.

6. All members of the Council had received a copy of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 17th June 2024 by email, the contents were deemed true, they were approved by a show of hands and duly signed by the Chair Councillor Chris Quance.

7. Matters Arising

1) Sutcombe Playing field -update/Sale of school buildings, Councillor Chris Quance asked the question as to why DCC did not apply for planning permission before the school and land was sold? The sale went through very quickly and at a low cost, the buyers then applied for planning permission and have now put the premises back on the market at a much higher price.,

If DCC had applied for planning before the sale there would have been more funds to distribute between Bradworthy School and Sutcombe Playing Field? The Clerk was asked to send an email to Councillor Morrish who will ask the question.

Councillor Claire Furse said that we are close to signing and will need a cheque to pay Coodes, the Clerk will phone the bank regarding transferring £10,000 from the deposit account to the current account. This will cover the solicitor's fees and part of the fencing costs.

- 2) The Goal posts are still with Torridge, as it is not viable to install them in either the small pay area in St. Andrews close or the Playing Field it was suggested that new ones be purchased for the Playing Field, Councillor John Shepherd will find out the cost, Councillor Morrish offered to help with the cost with a grant, as soon as the Clerk receives the estimate for new ones, she will apply for a grant from DCC.
- 3) New Parish Councillor, to date no one has come forward.
- 4) Dog Waste Bin – St. Andrews Close, this has now been installed.
- 5) The Church clock has now been reset, thanks to Councillor Shepherd.
- 6) Damage to the bridge had been reported but as it is only cosmetic it is not a priority.
- 7) The yellow painting on the road outside the school had been reported, Highways said that it would be removed But to date is still there. The comments from all Councillors was what an utter waste of valuable resources.

8. **Planning Applications:**

1) 1/0674/2024/FULM

Proposal: Enclosed Slurry Tower

Location: Northcott, Sutcombe, HOLSWORTHY, Devon

The Above application was discussed, no issues were raised and the Councillors unanimously approved, Councillor Claire Furse was asked a couple of questions but in the decision.

8. **Planning Decisions**

There were none

Planning Appeals

There were none

9. **Finance.**

a) Financial report to date, a spread sheet of the finances had been sent by email prior to the meeting, no issues were raised. The current account bank balance of £4,977.19 the deposit account at £16,302.63, both were supported by the current bank statement sand bank rec. There being £4,808.07 in general Parish Council funds.

b) The Clerks quarterly salary cheque of £509.34 was approved and duly signed by two signatories.

10. **Correspondence as below emails 1st August – 5th September**

- i) DALC Newsletters 2024 33-39 ii) R.S.N Bulletins Aug/Sep iii) Coode's-Invoice reminder and copy of emails sent to Councillor Furse. iv) R.S.N Sep/Aug bulletins, Rural Funding
- v) One Devon Bulletin – RD& E Hospital Trust August Bulletin vi) DALC- their AGM
- vii) DALC- Connect Self Help Highways session viii) P.Odilnshi- Torridge Parish Councils Group.
- viii) J. Foster Holsworthy Trust Transport 25th Anniversary coffee morning. x) Rosanna Teal- CAB news.
- xi) T. Cox -Road Signs xii) NALC Newsletter x 2 xiii) Devon Bus Changes

Correspondence received by post

None received

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

- 1) Councillor Chris Rose commented that Airband had erected many poles but there is no sign of anything else happening.
- 2) The clerk explained the benefits of the gov.uk status and informed the Councillors of the cost, the consensus of opinion was that unless it was compulsory the Parish Council will not go ahead.
- 3) The question was asked who was responsible to fill the grit bins for the Winter? Councillor Quance has the new bin for St. Andrews close and also has a good stock of salt/grit.
- 4) Further to the conversation regarding the Goal Posts Councillor Morrish said he would agree to the donation of £500 towards the cost.
- 5) As there is no need to purchase a poppy wreath it was unanimously decided to donate £25 to the Poppy appeal, the cheque will be prepared for the next meeting.

The next meeting was set for the 18th November 2024

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.