

Sutcombe Parish Council

Minutes of Sutcombe Parish Council Annual Open Meeting held in the Memorial Hall on Monday 14th April 2025 which commenced at 19:35.

Members of the Council Present: Councillors Chris Quance Chair, Emma Horn, Claire Furse, John Shepherd and Chris Rose. Also present was District Councillor Steve Harding, the Clerk Jane Elliott and member of the public Scilla Edwards.

OPEN MEETING

The Chair Chris Quance welcomed all to the Annual Open Meeting, and thanked everyone for attending. He introduced the new clerk, Jane Elliott. He thanked Lorraine Buttery for her service as retiring clerk and for her work to procure a new defibrillator for the village. He commended local postman Alan Knight who was due to retire after many years. He confirmed that the sale of the Old School is complete, the Playing Field is now owned by the village and new fencing and play equipment is being added. He added that more planning applications for further housing have been received. He then thanked the current Parish Councillors and added that a vacancy exists on the Parish Council should anyone be interested.

Scilla Edwards: Scilla Edwards gave a fascinating account of the Sutcombe Almshouses.

St Andrews Church. New Rector, Mark James joined the church in June 2024 and serves 8 churches. There is a service most weeks and more people are invited to join the congregation. The Singers meet on Wednesday evenings and the Bellringing Team meet on Thursday evenings. New members are welcome.

Chris Rose: The Memorial Hall has suffered storm damage which has been repaired. New smoke detectors have been added. Lots of weekly activities are held in the building. Paulette hosts the Sutcombe Strollers every Thursday evening and hosts great community events.

Emma Horn: Badmington. Monday evenings at The Memorial Hall, new members are welcome.

Claire Furse: The Playing Field is due to have an upgrade and new fencing following the completion of the sale of the old school. The Playing Field will be amalgamating back to the Parish Council.

Meeting ended 19.50

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1) Chair's announcements The Chair Chris Quance welcomed all to the Parish Council meeting.

2) Declarations of Interest

b) To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature. Claire Furse -Playing Field

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: Barry Galbraith-Marten Vice Chair

4) Public Comment Session: None.

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- 5) Reports from District and County Councillors:** Councillor Steve Harding described the current £20million economic investment in Torridge and North Devon, with the pros and cons of unitary government dominating his diary. The economy of Torridge and N Devon is fairly healthy but our population is sparse and there is a concern our area may get swallowed up during proposed changes. Torridge/N Devon needs to join in a densely populated area to generate income. Crime rates remain low, with Domestic Violence being the most frequent crime despite an estimated 75% of crimes going unreported. Cybercrime is rising and £4.7million has been invested in Policing for an additional 110 PCSOs, 45 Police Officers and 55 Community Support Officers. Toby Davies, Police Super Intendent will be succeeded by Emma Butler Jones.
- 6)** All members of the Council had received a copy of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 24th February 2025 and the Extra Ordinary meeting held on 10th March 2025 by email, the contents were deemed true and correct, they were approved by a show of hands and duly signed by the Chair Councillor Chris Quance.
- 7) Matters Arising:** 1) Sutcombe Playing Field: A discussion followed regarding the upgrade of play equipment and replacement of the fencing. It was resolved to seek further quotations for the equipment, shelter and fencing, and to consider the needs of the age groups, including teenagers, accessing the area. The next inspection of play equipment is due July 2025 at a cost of £198 2) New Parish Councillor, to date no one has come forward. 3) The Bank Mandate situation has been resolved.
- 8) Planning Applications:** There were none. Planning Decisions: There were none Planning Appeals: There were none
- 9) Finance:**
a) The financial report to date, a spread sheet of the finances had been sent by email prior to the meeting, a question was raised about the TDC loan to remove the old classroom and erect fencing. The current account bank balance of £9,630.73 the deposit account at £6,444.13, both were supported by the current bank statements and bank rec. We hope to have resolved the bank hand over by the next meeting.
b) The cheques for the following were approved and each signed by two Councillors: i) The Clerks monthly salary cheque of £158.73 x 2 =£317.46 ii) Clerk's expenses £77.60 iii) DALC £125.34 iv) Vision ICT Website £161.26
- 10) Correspondence:** as below emails 24th February – 14th April i) DALC Newsletters 2025 ii) R.S.N Bulletins March iii) NALC Newsletters iv) Councillor Dart updates 2025 v) Citizens Advice Newsletter register of interests vi) Nat West Bank Mandate v) Play Inspection Company order acknowledgement vi) PWLB Loan Statement vii) DALC Clerk's Essentials Training information viii) M Ellis Sale of School money transfer.

Correspondence received by post None received

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

- 1) VE Day plans include Bellringing at 6.30pm 8th May other ideas were still being formulated including a possible dance/picnic
- 2) The Memorial Hall has not had updated booking information from the Parish Council
- 3) The btinternet mailbox is not working properly and has a high spam content so a new email address will be sought.

The next meeting the AGM was set for the 12th May 2025.
There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:45

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