

SUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Sutcombe Parish Council Meeting held at Sutcombe Parish Memorial Hall, on Monday 11th September 2017 which commenced 7.45pm

Members of the Council Present: Councillors S Horn (Chairman), C Quance (Vice Chairman), J. Daniel, C. Furse, B. Galbraith-Marten, J. Shepherd, M. Wonnacott, and Parish Clerk L. D. Buttery.
Also present was District Councillor Ken Carroll and 10 members of the public.

1. Chairman's announcements

Councillor Stephen Horn welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded the general public that there was a 15 minute time limit for the public to speak, and that it was not permissible for them to comment or ask questions during the general 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. *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 Devon County Councillor Barry Parsons.

4. Public Comment Session and District and Local Councillors reports.

The public comments session was largely about the complaints received by email to the Parish Council from residents, all emails were forwarded to County and Local Councillors, MP G.Cox and S. Philips at Devon County Council as requested. Replies had been received by all and stated they would contact the relevant Highways departments.

The Parish Councillors were asked "what is being done" by them regarding the poor state of the roads.

One residents said they had blown a tyre due to a pothole, the road between Sutcombe and Bradworthy is in a dreadful state with promises for it to be repaired but nothing has been done. It is very frustrating to see roads in better condition and of lesser use being repaired whilst really bad ones are left. Councillor Ken Carroll remarked that this is a maintenance programme to ensure that these roads stay in good repair.

The Chairman replied that the Parish Council writes regularly to DCC and the Local, District and County Councillors, and he urged residents to inform DCC via their web site regarding their complaints.

Councillor Mike Wonnacott said that you can sue the Council for damage to your vehicle if you can prove it was caused by the condition of the road. A reply had been received from Simon Phillips;

"We are aware of the condition of the roads around Sutcombe and there will indeed be some works taking place this financial year in the area and in particular to the road from Sutcombe to Bradworthy. If you can be patient a little longer you should see some significant improvements being made. I haven't got specific dates as yet unfortunately but it will be before the end of next march and hopefully a bit sooner than that.

The other complaint made was about the amount of mud and slurry left on the roads by farmers.

This caused offence and a hazard to residents and all motorists. The remarks that followed were varied and generally it was accepted that being a farming community at times, it was very difficult to keep the roads clean, as was stated that one farm in the middle of the village has 300 cows, also a lot of the fields in use cannot be reached except by the roads/lanes.

The reply from Simon Philips was;

"In relation to the mud and slurry etc. this is really down to poor farming practices, we can pass it to the Police who do have enforcement powers if its excessive but sometimes a more informal approach works best particularly if the farmer is known to the Parish council. Is this anything the parish could take up initially?"

The unanimous decision of the Parish Council was for the Parish Clerk to compose a letter for approval which would then be sent to all Farms in the area. This would be done when the Clerk returned from Holiday.

The clerk would also report the matter of blocked drains and ditches to DCC.

One member of the public asked "what was happening with the School playing field and when would decisions be made to install the play equipment" The Chairman replied that it would be dealt with in item 6.

5. Approval of Minutes

All members of the Council had received a copy of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 7th August 2017, they were agreed as true and accurate and duly signed by the Chairman Councillor Stephen Horn.

Signed.....

Date:.....

page 1 of 2 11th September 2017

6. Matters Arising

1) School Playing Field Educational Trust: There have been complaints regarding the lack of action regarding the installation of the Play Equipment. Grants had been given by Waitrose and the Balsdon Trust, Grants from Torridge Council could be in danger of being withdrawn if it was not used in the near future.

Devon County Council have been dragging their feet but recent communications state:

“The terms of the disposal agreement provide that any school or community user group using the playing fields in the 6 months immediately before the transfer may continue to do so for at least 10 years following the disposal, during which time they will have access to the playing fields for at least the same periods and on the same, or more favourable terms as they did before the disposal”

The Chairman read out sections of the reply from Lesley Smith of DALC, who said that the Parish Council is in a very strong position. All paperwork is held by the Clerk.

Councillor Michael Wonnacott stated that he was dead against any action being taken at the present time as he felt it was still not clear as to whether it would be a waste of Public Money by installing the equipment now.

Councillor Barry Galbraith-Marten replied that not all the money would be wasted as the equipment could be moved if necessary, the thought of using a cheaper material for the playground was not an option as the rubber matting was the safest there is.

Councillor John Shepherd commented that the Parish Council had already had the use of the field for 12 months so they were at an advantage.

After further discussions the following proposal was made by the Chairman Councillor StephnHorn:

- 1) Move forward with the school field and use site for playground.
- 2) Order the equipment and start preparing the field.

A vote was taken, six in favour and one against, the proposal was carried.

2) Memorial Railings. Councillor Stephen Horn had received a quote for the repair of the railings and will obtain two more before a decision is made. Councillor Ken Carroll offered a grant £400 towards the cost. The Chairman thanked Ken for his offer.

3) Tap Fund, the Clerk informed the Councillors that the application was ready, as soon as the quotes were received then she would send to Torridge Council.

7. Planning Applications: *There were none*

Planning Decisions

1/0585/2017/CPE

Proposal: Commencement of works following Planning Application 1/0385/2014/FUL

Application Granted permission

Planning Appeals, *There were none*

8. Finance.

- a) The Clerk presented an up-to-date financial report, there being £19,266.28 in the bank account, this comprises of restricted funds of £200 possible election costs, £278 TAP Fund, and £14,160.50 playground fund. The balance of £4,627.78 being PC general funds
- b) Although not on the Agenda the councillors agreed to sign a cheque for £14.31 for minute book loose leaves.

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

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| i) TNMWD CAB Newsletter | ii) Rural Services Network, Transport and Fuel Poverty |
| iii) DALC Newsletter | iv) Devon Communities re. Local Plan Consultation |
| v) North Devon Healthcare Trust newsletter/Survey | vi) DCC Soft toy advice |
| vii) Rural Services Network Newsletters | viii) Devon County Resilience Forum Meeting 22/11/2017 |
| ix) Joint Advisory Meeting 14/09/2017 | x) Holsworthy Area Advisory Group meeting 6/11/2017 |
| xi) Torridge DC – new recycling | xii) ND Healthcare Trust – Healthy People. |
| xiii) DCC Minerals Planning – Survey | xiv) emails from M.Trayhorn, C.Miller, J.Bean and H. Smith |

The above communications had been circulated by email, no further action was required except for item xiv) which was fully discussed in item 4 on the agenda

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

- 1) Councillor Michael Wonnacott stated that he was unaware that an amended lease had been signed.
- 2) Councillor John Shepherd stated that he was concerned that the Playing Field had been over-ruled as the public were unable to take part in the discussion or the vote, they had been in the process of looking at alternative sites/ fields for the playground. (None had been found). He would like the committees terms of reference clarified. He said he would contact the Clerk to confirm.

The next meeting was booked for the 13th November
There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed

Date:..... Page 2 of 2 11th September 2017