

# SUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of Sutcombe Parish Council Meeting held at Sutcombe Parish Memorial Hall, on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August 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.

### **1. Chairman's announcements**

There were none

### **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, Councillors Ian Parker and Ken Carroll

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

Devon County Councillor Barry Parsons sent his apologies but had sent a monthly report by email,

This was circulated to all Councillors and is available to any person that would like a copy

### **5. Approval of Minutes**

All members of the Council had received a copy of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017, they were agreed as true and accurate and duly signed by the Chairman Councillor Stephen Horn.

### **6. Matters Arising**

- 1) School Playing Field Educational Trust the meeting with Jayne Fox was attended by, DCC Councillor Barry Parsons, Councillors Stephen Horn, Galbraith-Marten and Claire Furse. There were two other members of DCC in attendance, one being a legal advisor. Devon County Council have no objection to play equipment being erected but on the clear understanding that it would have to be removed and the site returned to its original state.

It has come to light that the land for the school was originally given to the 'community' by three Bankers from London. Devon County Council do not want to dispose of the field until the future of the school has been decided. The school buildings will have to be advertised to see if there are any ancestors of the original donors who could then declare an interest in the site.

Councillor Michael Wonnacott voiced his dismay as this is something that should have been done Months ago. If no ancestors come forward then anyone could declare an interest, but any development Would have to go before the Charity Commission any with an 'educational' theme would take precedence.

Chairman Councillor Stephen Horn asked has for any ideas to 'move forward'

Various ideas were suggested;

Approach local schools, and preschools, Private day nursery, maintain hold of the field by using it, go ahead and prepare the groundwork and erect the equipment, using the grants to erect equipment elsewhere, would the 'alms houses' be interested?.

The Question was asked that "if we do not go ahead with purchasing the equipment and erecting it, would we lose the funding and have to repay it?" Councillor Clair Furse said that she did not know but was trying to find out. Councillor Michael Wonnacott said he was not comfortable in spending £8000 of public money to prepare the groundwork and then this be wasted if sometime in the future someone came along to reclaim the land.

Councillor Barry Galbraith-Marten asked that could we perhaps use a cheaper safety material for the Groundwork instead of the rubber, thus if we have to remove the equipment to another site at least the amount of money spent on the groundwork would be considerably lower. This idea will be discussed at the next meeting.

The unanimous decision was that we really need the next steps from DCC, when these have been obtained the committee will seek legal advice. In the meantime the purchase of goal posts for the field will go ahead. In the interim period if any Councillors can come with any ideas to put before the Charity Commission please have them ready for the next PC Meeting.

- 2) Campsite: The clerk had sent an email with the details as discussed at the last meeting to Torridge Planning. The reply received was: *Thank you for your email. We have had an enquiry in from the camping and caravanning club advising us of an exempted site. An officer has looked at this and under guidelines cannot see any reason to for site not to go ahead however this was only for up to 10 ten tents. The details you have provided seem to be over and above this and may require planning permission. In order for us to process your enquiry further we would need to set it up with our enforcement team for them to investigate. Please advise how you wish to proceed.*
- After discussion it was decided to leave well alone unless any Parish Councillors received a direct complaint Or enquiry, as it seems the owner of the site is abiding by the rules.

7. **Planning Applications**

*There were none*

**Planning Decisions**

*There were none*

**Planning Appeals**

*There were none*

8. **Finance.**

- a) The Clerk presented an up-to-date financial report, there being £20,781.03 in the bank account, this comprises of restricted funds of £200 possible election costs, £278 TAP Fund, and £15,160.50 playground fund. The balance of £5,142.53 being PC general funds
- b) Cheques were signed by two Councillors for:
- i) Clerks quarterly Salary (Jul- Sep) £308.75
  - ii) Visionitc £12.00
  - iii) Although not on the Agenda the Councillors agreed to sign a cheque for £200 for the repairs of the bench, The invoice being presented at the meeting.
- Councillor Michael Wonnacott requested that some money be transferred to the ‘playground’ Bank account, to enable the committee to purchase the goal post and have enough funds left to carry on having the grass cut in the playing field. The clerk explained that this would have to done by cheque, the unanimous decision was for two Councillors to sign a cheque for £1000, The Clerk requested permission to purchase some loose leaf sheets for the minute book, this was unanimously agreed.

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

- i) CAB Newsletter
- ii) Rural Services Network Newsletters
- iii) DALC Newsletter
- iv) Torridge Local Plan Consultation
- v) North Devon Healthcare Trust
- vi) Devon County Councillor Barry Parsons monthly update.

The above correspondence had been circulated to all Councillors by email and no further action is required.

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

The Chairman Councillor Stephen Horn reported that the railings surrounding the War Memorial had been damaged by a lorry or tractor. A quote the cost of the repairs will be obtained. The Clerk will enquire with the Insurance company as whether they could be covered. In the meantime the railings would be made safe as at present they could be hazardous to vehicles and residents.

The next meeting scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> September might be cancelled, it depends on whether there is any further news regarding the School Playing field to discuss. The Clerk will be kept informed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed .....

Date: .....

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