

Minutes of the Annual Open Meeting of Sutcombe Parish Council, held at Sutcombe Parish Memorial Hall, on Monday 16th April 2018 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors S Horn (Chairman) C Quance (Vice Chair), C. Furse, B Galbraith-Marten, John Shepherd And M. Wonnacott also present were L Buttery (Clerk), Devon County Councillor Barry Parsons PCSO Emma Tomkies and 8 residents of Sutcombe.

Apologies were received from: District Councillor Ken Carroll, Councillor John Daniels,

The Chairman, Councillor Stephen Horn, welcomed everyone and introduced Matt Barrow

Guest Speaker:

Matthew Barrow gave his presentation regarding broadband in the area, and what options will be open to residents. He said that all areas of Sutcombe would have faster broadband available by the end of the year. The main provider will be 'Airband' who supply a very good service at a reasonable cost. Full details are also available on the 'Connecting Devon and Somerset' website. Matthew would also take enquiries through his email account, details can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.

Matt answered questions from Councillors and residents.

Chairman Councillor Stephen Horn thanked Matt for attending and for a very informative presentation

PCSO Emma Tomkies:

Emma covers Holsworthy Rural area and stated that fortunately Sutcombe so far this year has had no reportable crimes, there had been thefts recorded in, Bradworthy, Black Torrington and Anvil Corner. There had been a report of a farmer having to shoot a dog that was worrying livestock, a very upsetting event for all concerned, please make sure you keep your dogs under control is the message to all.

Emma went on to advise all to mark their belongings, the Police recommend a system called 'selective DNA' which is available from the Police for a cost of £20.00, as the system has a retail cost of £69.99 It is quite a saving.

The system consists of a bottle of liquid only visible to a special ultra violet reader, each drop of liquid contains a set of individual numbers registered to the owner, also included are labels of various sizes.

Chairman Councillor Stephen Horn thanked Emma for attending and for all her hard work in the area.

Devon Count Councillor Barry Parsons:

Councillor Parsons commented on the amount of work that Emma does and Holsworthy Area is very lucky to have her.

One of the main topics of discussion and complaints were the state of the roads in Devon, Barry stated That it is not just Devon but a national problem. Councils have been underfunded for many years and although extra money has been allocated it is a drop in the ocean in comparison to what is required.

He emphasised that it is not the fault of your Councillors but central government. He urged residents to write to their local MP Geoffrey Cox, it is scandalous that so many millions of pounds is being spent on such projects as HS2 which will benefit a few whereas if this was spent on our roads it would benefit the whole nation. After a question from the floor Barry explained that the reason some roads were repaired which seemed in better condition to those that were not repaired was that the focus was on what roads that would cost less in the future.

Another bug bear was the amount of Council Tax we pay in Devon. The Average in England for band D is £1671, London is £1405, Metropolitan £1658, Torridge is £1749 as the salaries in Devon are way less than in London it is unfair that our Council Tax is far higher than other parts of the Country, the other anomaly is that in education we receive £268 per annum less per child than other parts of the country Barry once again urged all to petition MP Geoffrey Cox.

Holsworthy Hospital: Barry informed all that there would be a meeting soon regarding the question of re-instating the beds in the future. It is being held in the Holsworthy leisure Centre and 3-400 people are expected to attend.

Chairman Councillor Stephen Horn thanked Barry for attending and for all his hard work in the area, He gives a lot of support to Sutcombe for which we are all very grateful. He thanked the Parish

The Chairman Councillor Stephen Horn thanked the Parish Clerk for her work throughout the year, and urged all local club organisers to pass on information regarding their fund-raising events to enable her to advertise them on the website. He thanked the Sutcombe Playground committee for their hard work in getting the playground up and running, and in particular Councillor Claire Furse for her diligence in obtaining grants to make it happen. He also thanked Devon County Councillor Barry Parsons, district Councillor Ken Carroll and Torridge district council for their grants and invaluable support.

The playground is a credit to all concerned.

Local Clubs and organisations were then invited to give their reports for activities during 2017, condensed reports follow:

1. Alms -house Trust: Report given by Chris Quance

The Alms-houses 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 10 trustees who work together and have quarterly meetings to carry on Sir William Morice's wishes. In the past year maintenance work included updating heating systems.

2. St Andrews Church– read by Scilla Edwards

There is a service at Sutcombe almost every Sunday, usually at 10am. Details of forthcoming services are displayed in the porch. There have been several very successful fundraising events in particular those involving food always very popular. We are planning a quieter year this year with less urgent need for funds as the bells are now back and fully functional. Look out for the notices for forthcoming fund raising events.

3. Memorial Hall – read by Alistair Cawsey

We as a committee have had a successful year organising many events, including 'Pub Nights', our third 'Big Breakfast' in conjunction with the Church. Improvements have also been carried out, new fencing around the car park and upgrading the electricity supply. This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the hall, there will be various events held through the year, the first being a Bluebell walk on the 6th May, a summer pub night & BBQ on the 30th June, with a Silver Ball on the 20th October. We are always looking for new people to join the committee so please speak to any committee member for more information.

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 – No report.

6. Short Mat Bowls – Report read by Christine Cawsey

In my report for the Sutcombe newsletter I mentioned that we were not doing very well in the Evening league, and we needed HOPE for our last three matches. Well HOPE was available to play and we won the next two games, (less said about the third the better) so we are staying in the same league for next season. We have won the afternoon league and now reach the dizzy heights of division 2, and will play Langtree, Holsworthy, Mowenstow, Buckland Brewer, Woolserly, South Molton and Winkleigh. Finals night is April 25th, AGM April 18th, with the Annual Dinner and presentation evening is April 27th.

The new season will commence in September, new players are always welcome.

7. Bell Ringing – report read by Scilla Edwards.

The Bells are back! These were installed in December just in time for the Carol Service. We are now practising on Thursday evenings and are always looking for new recruits. The Bellinger's Guild Day is to be held on the 5th May, teams will come to ring our bells throughout the day, after a service in the afternoon when the Bells will be re-dedicated, we will be serving a meal in the Memorial Hall

8. Sutcombe Ladies Choir:

It has been a very busy year with training throughout the year, we have also taken part singing at a variety of events. This is our tenth year, if anyone would like to join us, we sing a range of sacred and secular Pieces and train in the Church on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm.

9. Sutcombe Community Playground - Claire Furse

As you know this year we have completed a big part of the playing field project and I wanted to say a big Thank you to everyone for their hard work and support in helping this to happen.

We took on a disused playing field at the end of 2016, and spend many a cold day in early 2017 tidying and clearing to prepare the way for new play equipment in 2017.

The site was eventually cut in November, with the equipment installed in December 2017.

We have more work to do as unfortunately the trim trail is in need of repair and there are several jobs to do before the spring!

Fundraising wise: We held a very popular Easter coffee morning, which was well supported and the hot cross buns and cakes were enjoyed by everyone.

At the end of November, we held a Bingo which again was very well supported and enjoyed, raising a good sum for the funds and which we hope to make it an annual event.

It goes without saying that none of this would have been possible without the grants and donations we have received from local organisations and our gratitude goes to these organisations: Torridge District Council, Sutcombe Parish Council, Balsdon Trust, Devon County Council, FOSS, Waitrose and others.

This year we have our events planned and I'm sure you will make the year a great success.

The opening on the 7th April will be a great chance to celebrate what we have done so far.

Our next steps will be to take care of and maintain what we have got, creating a place which is used and enjoyed to enhance the sense of community in Sutcombe, by doing so we will encourage new supporters which will enable us to improve the facilities as new funds allow.

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, and invited all to stay for refreshments.

The meeting officially closed at 8.45 when Tea, coffee and biscuits were served, kindly provided by Councillor Clare Furse

The next meeting – the Annual General Meeting will take place on either Tuesday May 8th Or Wednesday 9th commencing at 7:45pm at Sutcombe Memorial Hall, followed by a general meeting.

Signed.....

Date

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