

# SUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of Sutcombe Parish Council Meeting held at Sutcombe Parish Memorial Hall, on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 which commenced at 7.45pm**

Members of the Council Present: Councillors S Horn (Chairman), C Quance (Vice Chairman), J. Daniels B. Galbraith-Marten, M. Wonnacott, J. Shepherd and Parish Clerk L. D. Buttery.  
also present were District Councillor John Hutchings, and Stephen and Helen Martin

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

Councillor Stephen Horn welcomed Councillor John Hutchings to the meeting, and invited him to say a few words. Councillor Hutchings stated that he was still finding his feet, he had been to one full Council meeting. If there is anything that he could do for the Parish Council please ask

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

a) Register of Interest: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests.

*Councillor Chris Quance updated his register of interest- he was no longer a Trustee of Sutcombe Alms Houses.*

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**

Devon County Councillor Barry Parsons- recovery from hip surgery

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

Stephen Martin who is a resident of St. Andrews Close voiced his surprise that at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018 the Parish Councillors unanimously approved of the 'Outline Planning Application' for ten houses on the land beside the Memorial Hall, and made the following points:

- a) There is no infrastructure to support the development- no school, no shop or public house except for the Microbrewery
- b) There are 30 houses in St. Andrews Close with 72 adults and 13 primary school age children.
- c) 60% of residents of the Close attend functions and support the Memorial Hall with an average of £66 per adult being spent annually.
- d) There was no mention in the minutes regarding the safety of Children leaving the play park and was this taken into consideration when the application was discussed?
- e) What proof is there that the new development will be beneficial to the residents of Sutcombe?
- f) What is meant by 'affordable housing', would it enable young Sutcombe residents to buy property?
- g) The majority of residents do not want change, and would approval of the development open the flood-gates for further applications.
- h) Residents do not fully understand the term 'outline Planning Application' so perhaps the Parish Council Could have sent a flyer round to all residents to explain the term and given the residents a chance to attend the meeting.

In reply to the statements and questions the following comments were made:

Councillor Michael Wonnacott stated that the safety of the Children using the Play Park was very important, and was discussed at the meeting, also when the final plans were available further discussion and comments will be made. The Parish Councillors have fought tooth and nail to get a safe entrance for the playground.

Councillor John Shepherd said that this was not clear in the minutes, and they did not contain all that was discussed and the comments that were made.

The Chairman thanked the residents for his comments and appreciated the fact that he had made his comments face-to-face, and not behind the Parish Councillor's backs. He also said that the land was actually set aside for development within the 'Local Plan' which was completed in 2010. Previously the land owners were loath to seek planning permission for the development as there was so much hassle and objections when St. Andrews close was developed.

Councillor John Hutchings said that any resident could go to Torridge Planning website and make comments, on any development and it is useful and important for them to do so.

Councillor Claire Furse suggested that when the full planning application is received perhaps a public meeting could be held, which would give the residents a chance to see the full plans.

The Chairman Councillor Stephen Horn said that this would be considered.

Regarding the Minutes the Clerk stated that the minutes give an outline of what has been discussed and are not Verbatim of what was said. The dates of meetings are decided on at the meeting in hand, the November date was written in the September minutes. The agenda is always advertised on the website at least three working days prior to the meeting and also posted on the notice boards.

## 5. Approval of Minutes

All members of the Council had received a copy of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018 by email, they were agreed as true and accurate and duly signed by the Chairman Councillor Stephen Horn.

## 6. Matters Arising

- 1) Sutcombe Community Playing Field: A successful meeting was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> November with the following Information in an email from David Bowles addressed to Councillor Claire Furse ;  
Thank you to you and your fellow councillors for our meeting at the playing field site recently to discuss the proposed boundaries for the proposed transfer of the field. This was very helpful and moved things along – thank you to you all. I did take away some work to look at what would be involved in removing the classroom building. To that end I have now commissioned a piece of work that will involve a survey of the building to ascertain what asbestos may be in there and require removing – and what would be involved in demolishing the building and removing. I am hoping this survey work will happen soon after the Christmas break, but I do not have any definite dates at present. Once I have that information, I will be better placed to discuss what options DCC may be able to offer around the classroom, be that removing the asbestos through to a complete clearance.  
Claire went on to report that the fence needed to be repaired as soon as possible as ‘stock’ would be in the adjacent field early March. Councillor Chris Quance asked whether the Farmer would be happy with a ‘post & wire’ fence until the Play field was legally signed for? Councillor Mike Wonnacott replied that all concerned had already taken a great risk in spending £20000 on the site already, and it was highly unlikely that Devon County Council would not go ahead with the sale of the site to the Parish Council. Claire provided one quote for the erection a fence and the removal of trees. The Chairman Councillor Stephen Horn stated that he would obtain two more.  
The funding for the work was discussed, with the suggestion of obtaining a loan to cover all the work, which is estimated at £10,000. The Clerk gave details of how much it would cost, this would vary as to how many years the Parish Council had the loan. The Clerk also informed the Councillors that she had approached Milton Damerel Parish Council to ask them to join Sutcombe in claiming the Community Grant (formally the TAP fund), this would amount to almost £600.
- 2) Dog waste bin. This has as yet to be put in place, but Torridge District Council has agreed to supply one.

## 7. Planning Applications

- 1) 1/1182/2018/FUL (15<sup>th</sup> November 2018)  
Proposal: Part retrospective application for the retention of independent dwelling and proposed extension  
Location: Brightwater Farm Annexe, Sutcombe, HOLSWORTHY, Devon EX22 7QE  
*The application was decided by email as was received between meetings. The split decision of the Parish Councillors was to object to the application. The comments by some was that if Torridge agreed to the Extension then they would approve of the overall application.*
- 2) 1/1260/2018/HPD (27<sup>th</sup> November 2018)  
Proposal: Alterations and enlargement of existing conservatory-extending from the original dwelling house by 4.3m, with a height to eaves of 2.8m and maximum height of 3.8m.  
Location: 15, St Andrews Close, Sutcombe, HOLSWORTHY, Devon – *Notification had been received that A planning application was not necessary for the enlargement of the conservatory.*

### Planning Decisions

*There were none*

### Planning Appeals

1/0587/2018/FUL (received after the Agenda was printed)

Proposal: Conservatory and replacement porch

Location: Rose Cottage, Sutcombe, Holsworthy, Devon

*There is no opportunity for the Parish Council to give their comments.*

## 8. Finance.

- a) Up to date financial report: The Clerk supplied each Councillor with a spread sheet, there being £5405.06 in the bank, £5205.06, PC general funds and £200 ring fenced.
- b) Two Councillors signed cheques for the Clerks quarterly Salary Jan-Mar £308.75.
- c) Draft Budget: The Budget was discussed in detail and the unanimous decision of the Parish Council was to increase the Precept by a further £500, the precept request would be increased to £5850. This will enable the Parish Council to increase the project fund to £1000 as discussed in 6.1. The motion was proposed by the Vice Chairman Chris Quance and seconded by Councillor Mike Wonnacott  
There was discussion concerning clarity of the impact of the increase in the precept and the amount charged to residents in the Council Tax. The actual increase is nominal in relation to the additional costs likely to be incurred with the acquisition of the playing field. The Clerk further explained that the larger than usual increase in the precept would make no difference to what the residents actually paid.

d) Although not on the Agenda it was the unanimous decision of the Parish Councillors to signa cheque for kitchen hire charges for Parish meetings and the hall for the serving of refreshments after the Memorial bench dedication, a total of £35.00

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

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| i) CAB Newsletter                            | ii) Rural Services Network Bulletin Nov/Dec    |
| iii) North Devon Record Office-Funding       | iv) DALC Newsletters – November/December       |
| v) NHS Commissioning Bulletin                | vi) Bus Shelter- Holsworthy                    |
| vii) Helen Brookhouse                        | viii) Emergency Planning Workshop              |
| viv) C.Hopkins -Annual Playground Inspection | x) Devon Communities Together Training Courses |
| xi) Councillor Jon Hutchings                 | xii) Devon Highways Update                     |
| xiii) Staci Dorey- Standards Committee       | xiv) ND Healthcare Trust- Medical Director     |

*The above items were all received by email, no further action required except for:*

viv) The Annual Playground inspection and risk assessment has been arranged for February

**Communication received by Post from:**

- i) Christmas Card from MP Geoffrey Cox    ii) CPRE Devon’s Housing needs

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

- 1) Councillor Chris Quance reported that the sign post at Curtis Cross was damaged with the Sutcombe Directional finger missing- The Clerk will report to highways.
- 2) Councillor John Shepherd reported that there was still a large branch across the Public Footpath, situated between Village and Upcott, the Clerk said that this had been reported but will do so again.
- 3) The Annual Open meeting was discussed and the date set for the 8<sup>th</sup> April, Councillor Claire Furse suggested that instead of having a guest speaker could there be a Defibrillator and CPR refresher? This was unanimously agreed. The Clerk was asked if it was convenient for her to conduct the refresher? The Clerk agreed that it was very important and she would be very pleased to run it.
- 4) The next Parish Council meeting will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> March

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.