

SUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Sutcombe Parish Council Meeting held at Sutcombe Parish Memorial Hall, on Monday 4th March 2019 which commenced at 7.45pm

Members of the Council Present: Councillors S Horn (Chairman), C Quance (Vice Chairman), J. Daniels B. Galbraith-Marten, J. Shepherd, C. Furse and Parish Clerk L. D. Buttery.
also present were Devon County Councillor B. Parsons, District Councillor J. Hutchings, Stephen Martin and one other member of the public.

1. Chairman's announcements

The Chairman Councillor Stephen Horn welcomed all to the meeting and commented that it was good to see Councillor Parsons back on his feet.

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

Councillor M. Wonnacott

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

Stephen Martin a resident of St. Andrews Close asked if there had been any update on the issue of speeding Vehicles on the roads in the Village. The Chairman replied that the problem had been reported to the Police but they offered no solution. The traffic through the village is very spasmodic so would be difficult to monitor. Councillor Barry Parsons suggested that residents could be trained as 'speed watch' officers to monitor the speed of traffic, with the initial training being done by the Police. Councillor John Hutchings informed the Councillors that Holsworthy Hamlets had just purchased a 'speed gun' so maybe contact them. Stephen Martin suggested running a competition for the design of speed signs that could be erected throughout the village. Councillor John Shepherd suggested that it was something that the 'Playground Committee' could get involved with, as there were several events planned over the next few months, that the children of the village were going to be involved with. They would check with the Highways department to see what sort of signs would be permissible. and where they could be erected.

Councillor Barry Parsons said he would be happy to put some money towards the cost to make up any signs. Barry went on to say that it was nice to be back and thanked the Councillors for their support during his absence. He had been kept up-to-date with the playground and would continue to support the Parish in its purchase of the field. He had recently approved a grant of £1000 towards the ongoing costs.

Councillor Parsons went to give his report, on subjects including the increase in Council Tax and anomalies between the amount of Council Tax paid in Torridge and in other parts of the UK. The Band D average throughout the UK is £1671 whilst Torridge's amounts to £1823, this is totally unfair when you take in consideration the much higher salaries especially London and the Home Counties. Other subjects included the Highways, and local Hospitals. Councillor Parsons full report has been posted to the website.

Councillor Jon Hutchings said although he had only just been elected, he will have to stand again in the forthcoming elections in May. There has been a change in boundaries, these can be viewed on Torridge website.

Matter for public discussion as advertised on the Agenda, the website, social media, notice boards, and the Memorial Hall. The proposal to apply for a loan to ensure the future of the Community Playground.

The Chairman Councillor Stephen Horn explained that a loan was necessary, how much it would cost, he invited questions from those present but no queries were raised. Councillor Galbraith Marten asked for clarification for the loan amount, the Chairman explained that this would cover the cost of fencing off the field, legal fees and a contribution (£5,000) to Devon County Council towards the cost of clearing the site, which is in excess of £20,000.

The Parish Council could contribute up to £2,000 from Parish Council general funds.

Councillor Chris Quance proposed that a loan of £12,000 be applied for, to be repaid over 10 years, this was seconded by Councillor Barry Galbraith- Marten, the proposal was unanimously carried.

It was noted that the loan could not be applied for until the field was officially signed over from Devon County Council to Sutcombe Parish Council. The Clerk will prepare the paperwork to get permission to request a loan, this must be applied for in the first instance from the Devon Association of Local Councils and the National Association of Local Councils.

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 January 2019 by email, a member of the public commented that there was an error at 4C of the Public Comment Session, it should read *60% of residents do not attend functions: with an average of £66 per household* with the unanimous decision of the Councillors, Councillor Stephen Horn, altered the minutes, the rest of the content was deemed true and correct and were signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters Arising

- 1) Sutcombe Community Playing Field- Update, a meeting was held on the 13th February, at the playfield with David Bowles, Councillor Stephen Horn and Councillor Clair Furse. David explained that the cost of removing the old classroom, the demolition of the wooden structures and site clearance would cost approximately £20,000, he suggested that Devon County Council would cover this cost but would require a contribution from the Parish Council. Subsequent emails from David and between Parish Councillors the sum of £5,000 as a contribution was Proposed and was unanimously agreed, and accepted by David on behalf of Devon County Council. The urgent question of the fencing off of the site was also agreed, David suggested that Devon County Council would pay for the fencing temporarily until the purchase of the site was officially and legally in the name of the Parish Council. The Chairman has emailed David to thank him for all his help. The preparation for the boundary fencing is in progress, with trees being cleared, these need to be burnt before the fence is erected. The Chairman asked the clerk to send a letter of thanks to G M Plant for their hard work in clearing the trees etc, they gave their services free of charge.
- 2) Dogs waste bin, no further news, Councillor Chris Quance will get in touch with Torridge District Council.
- 3) Sign Post at Curtiss Cross, this had been moved but not erected in the correct place.
- 4) Branch on Public Footpath, this has now been removed by the land owner
- 5) Locality Grant, this had been applied for, and has been approved by Councillor Barry Parsons
- 6) Grass Cutting Tenders, advertisements had been circulated, the deadline for applications is the 5th April.

7. Planning Applications

There are none

Planning Decisions

- 1) 1/1182/2018/FUL

Proposal: Part retrospective application for the retention of independent dwelling and proposed extension

Location: Brightwater Farm Annexe, Sutcombe, Devon. EX22 7QE

The above application was approved

Planning Appeals

There are none

8. Finance.

- a) Up to date financial report, a spread sheet was given to each Councillor, there being £5,061.31 in the bank £200 ringfenced, and £4,861.31 Parish Council General funds
- b) Three Councillors signed a cheque for Admin expenses 7th Nov-4th March- £25.25
- c) Three Councillors signed a cheque for Defibrillator Pads (agreed by email) - £41.57

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

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| i) CAB Newsletters x 2 | ii) Rural Services Network Bulletins | iii) Devon Countryside Forum |
| iv) DALC Newsletters – Feb/March | v) NHS Newsletter | vi) DCC Awards |
| vii) Moving Together - Devo | viii) Connecting Devon | viv) Emails – David Bowles |
| x) Devon Communities Together | xi) DCC Councillor B. Parsons Rural update | |
| xii) Area Advisory Meetings | xiii) Keep Britain Tidy | |
| xiv) ND Healthcare Trust- Pulse Publication | | |

The above items were all received by email. No further action was required.

Communication received by Post from:

- 1) James Jarroudi- Connecting Actively to Nature, this was discussed and a suggestion was made that perhaps A grant could be applied for to purchase adult equipment and erect it in the playfield, the clerk will contact James to make enquiries.

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

- 1) Councillor John Shepherd suggested that new directional playground signage would be a good idea, Councillor Chris Quance said that the old school signs were still there, perhaps they could be adapted, to encompass speed restrictions or directional signs, this would have to be approved by the Highways department, Councillor Parsons said he would see what he could do.
- 2) Councillor John Daniels commented that the road from Matcock to Derworthy was in dreadful condition
- 3) The subject of the 'section 106' contribution in lieu of a play area in the outlined planning application was discussed, after various sums were discussed it was proposed by Councillor John Shepherd seconded by Councillor John Daniels to set the sum at £30,000, the proposal was unanimously carried.

There being no further business the meetings closed at 9.05 pm

The next meeting will be held on the 7th April, after the Parish Open meeting