

SUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Sutcombe Parish Council Meeting held at Sutcombe Parish Memorial Hall, on Monday 16th September 2019 which commenced at 7.45p.m

Members of the Council Present: Councillors S. Horn (Chairperson), C. Quance (Vice Chairperson), C. Furse, M. Wonnacott, B. Galbraith-Marten, J. Shepherd and J. Daniel.
Also present were Devon County Councillor Barry Parsons and Mrs L Buttery (Clerk)

1. Chairman's announcements

The Chairperson Councillor Stephen Horn welcomed all to the 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

District Councillors Steven Harding, Anna Dart and Richard Boughton, there being a full Council at the same time

4. Public Comment Session

No Members of the public were present

5. District and Local Councillors reports.

Devon County Councillor Barry Parsons reported that he had issued a report by email but would be writing a further report, the reports will be put on the web-site a brief synopsis of his report is as follows: -

i) He very much supported the recent suggestion of a railway link between Okehampton-Holsworthy- Bude, whether this ever get off the ground we shall have to wait and see.

ii) Holsworthy Town Council are at present looking at the Viaduct, no more information is available at present as its information not to be divulged.

iii) Barry is encouraging as many Councillors as possible to attend the Highways Conferences, the nearest one is at Merton to be held on Tuesday 15th October 10am-1pm, please book your place if you can attend.

iv) Last year, the population of 0-16yo in Devon increased by 5.2% (to 139 020). **LARGEST DECREASE IN 0-16YO SEEN IN TORRIDGE (-6.9%)**. It is important for District and County Councils to address this matter together and I have raised the matter already with respective officers and members.

v) The Parish Council should look at the criteria for applying for grants from the Highways and Community funding, Barry will send details to the Clerk, it could be that the Parish Council could claim for the cost of hedge/verge cutting

vi) Connecting Devon and Somerset had cancelled contract with supplier as had only 2% of promised connectivity had been achieved. Councillor John Shepherd commented that 'fibre optic' broadband was very hit and miss in the village, there is cable from S. Andrews close which runs past the BT box and is connected to the exchange in Bradworthy. Barry suggested that the Clerk contact Matt Burrows who could come to a meeting and get updates.

vii) Finally, he reported that the Government is giving 'millions' away for Adult Care, but in fact they are not giving anything extra as the suggestion is that an extra 2% be charged to resident's vis Council Tax, which will equate to a 4% rise, this is totally unfair as Torridge has one of the highest Council Tax in the Country.

6. Approval of Minutes

All members of the Council had received a copy of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 22nd July 2019 by email, with the unanimous decision of the Councillors, that apart from a spelling error the contents were deemed true and correct and were duly signed by the Chairman Councillor Stephen Horn.

7. Matters Arising

1) Dog Waste Bin: Michael Sherman, at 'Tuckers Hill' had replied to the Clerk and was only too pleased to have a bin placed on his land. Details were forwarded to Parish Councillors. The Clerk will inform Torridge to contact Councillor Quance to arrange the fitting of the bin.

2)Sutcombe Playing Field: The grants applied for had as yet to be received, Councillor Parsons said this could be because of holidays but would chase it up. The Clerk reported that no reply had been received from the residents of 'School House' regarding the entrance.

The old classroom and wooden structures have now been demolished, the site cleared and new grass seed been Laid, with the 'stoned' area as requested completed. The playfield is a credit to all concerned with special

Thanks to Councillor Claire Furse for her excellent work and continued support.

Matters arising cont/.....

3) Hedge Cutting, this had now been done, Councillor Wonnacott requested that maybe next time the top of the hedges could be cut as just past A.Snows it was apparent that this needed to be done.

8. Planning Applications

There were none

Planning Decisions

i) 1/0542/ 2019/FUL

Proposal: Agricultural linked building

Location: Land west of Friesland, Sutcombe, Devon

The above application was approved

Planning Appeals

There were none

9. Finance.

a) Financial report to date, Councillors were supplied with a spreadsheet of the cash book, the bank balance stands at £8,153.24, consisting of £400, election fund, £3150.00 owing to D.C.C, £2,702.00 project fund. The balance of £1901.24 Parish Council general funds.

The Clerk reported that she had applied for the VAT refund of £614.30.

b) Two Councillors signed cheques for:

i) Clerks quarterly Salary (Jul-Sep) £308.75

ii) Admin expenses £19.31

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

i) Rural Bulletins x 5.

ii) Devon Community transport awards

iii) DALC Newsletters x 2

iv) Public Engagement Hospital Services

v) Rural Funding Bulletin

vi) Historic England -Sutcombe War Memorial

vii) Hospital Services in North Devon

viii) Devon Community Learning Academy

ix) Healthy & Happy Communities

x) Healthwatch - Devon

xi) CPR Planning workshop

The above were all received by email no issues were raised

Received by Royal Mail:

1) Environment Agency reference water extraction licences, the clerk informed the Councillors that the notification was on the website.

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

1) Councillors were reminded by the Chairman that the annual grant applications have to be in by the 1st November. The Clerk will get a poster on the website and on notice boards.

2) The financial obligations for the Play Field was discussed, as soon as the purchase of the field is Completed the Parish Council will apply for the loan as discussed in previous meetings. As it stands the cost so far has been, over £9,000, £3,000 for the fencing, £5,000 which is the agreed sum to pay DCC towards the demolition of the classroom and clearing of the site, £1,180 for the extra cost of the 'stoned' area requested by the Playfield Committee. There are further costs to consider as more fencing will be needed and solicitor fees as the Parish Council must have legal representation. Although the Parish Council will apply for a loan to cover all costs, the Playfield is a fantastic asset for the present and future generations of the village and surrounding area, and is a credit to all who helped to get it up and running.

There being no further business the meetings closed at 8.25

The next meeting will be held on the 4th November 2019

Signed

Date.....

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