

# SUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of Sutcombe Parish Council Meeting held at Sutcombe Parish Memorial Hall, on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019 which commenced at 7.45p.m**

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

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

Councillor Chris Quance welcomed all to the meeting and made a short announcement:  
With the sudden death of Stephen Horn the Parish Council had not only lost a Chairman but we lost a dear friend. He had a passion for his role as Chairman and will be greatly missed by all.  
Chris requested we all stand and hold a minute's silence in his honour.

### **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 P.F.S.C.O Andrew Moakes

### **4. Public Comment Session**

No Members of the public were present

### **5. Devon County Councillor Barry Parsons said that he is not usually lost for words, but was so at the news regarding Stephen. He went on to say that Stephen was someone who had always been there, was always direct and I had the utmost respect for him, for what he has done for me personally and for his Community, his legacy will be remembered for many years to come.**

Barry went on to say that he had emailed a report but would be issuing another shortly, these reports are put on the website. A brief synopsis of his report is as follows: -

- 1) Highways; the current neighbourhood officer is leaving DCC and a new officer will be announced shortly.  
There are constant complaints regarding the state of the roads, at present there is a lot of surface water which is not helping the pot-hole situation. Barry had recently been at a meeting with Skansa and serious issues were raised regarding the practice of filling in potholes in a particular area but failing to fill in those in the adjacent area, so requiring them to comeback, a waste of time and money, this practice is hoped to be changed in the near future.
- 2) Health and Wellbeing; It is hoped to hold a meeting with the Clinical Lead of Holsworthy Community Hospital with a Public presentation and all Parish Councils will be invited. The hospital is being used two and a half more times compared with the past two years. Holsworthy Community hospital is working together with Stratton Hospital.
- 3) The good news on the education front is that the funding for the South West has been increased by £19million, this Equates to an extra £30 per child, which makes a big difference.

Councillor Chris Quance thanked Barry for attending and for all the help he gives the Parish.

**District Councillor Richard Boughton** echoed the sentiments expressed by Barry regarding Stephen Horn, it is such a tragic loss to his family and to the Parish.

Richard went on to report that Torridge District Council hoped to carbon neutral by 2030, not sure how this will be achieved. A strategic meeting had been held regarding the Climate emergency and discussing Capital Expenditure. The Council is at present embroiled in a Court case with Kivells regarding the 'dirty water system' at the new Market, which supposedly should have been a 'reed-bed' system that was low cost to run, at a high capital cost the Council decided to install a 'mechanical system', issue came to a head as it does not work as it should and is very expensive to run.

Councillor Barry Galbraith-Marten asked if this would have an impact on the Parishes?

Councillor Boughton replied that as there were substantial damages involved it could have.

### **6. All members of the Council had received a copy of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 by email, with the unanimous decision of the Councillors the contents were deemed true and correct and were duly signed by the Vice Chairperson Councillor Chris Quance.**

## 7. Matters Arising

- 1) Dog Waste Bin- the bin had now been installed and to date no complaints had been received.
- 2) Sutcombe Playing field – update, a meeting had been arranged with David Bowles from Devon County Council To confirm the Boundary of the field before the final purchase takes place, Councillors Claire Furse and Chris Quance will attend. The question regarding financing the purchase and repaying DCC was discussed The decision had already been made at a previous meeting to apply for a loan to cover all the costs. A pre-requisite of an application is that all residents had to be notified of the PC intentions, as such a notice will be prepared and delivered by hand to all households in Sutcombe Parish. The Clerk reported that the interest for PC loans had just been increased, and will have the new rates for the next meeting The school building had been broken into but fortunately no damage had been done and the building is now secure.
- 3) Hedge/verge cutting, this had now been completed, Councillor Chris Quance will chase up the invoice.
- 4) New Councillor, the advertisement for a new Councillor will be prepared once the notice of ‘request for an election’ has expired (13<sup>th</sup> November)
- 5) Broadband: The Clerk reported that she had contacted Matt Burrows but to date no reply had been forthcoming.

## 8. Planning Applications

*There are none*

### Planning Decisions

*There are none*

### Planning Appeals

*There are none*

## 9. Finance.

- a) Financial report to date, the Clerk reported that the bank balance stood at £10,992.75, this comprises of Ring fenced funds: Elections £350, Project fund £2702, owed to DCC for fencing £3150, the balance of £4790.75 being PC general funds.
- b) Two Councillors signed cheques for: i) Clerks quarterly Salary (Oct-Dec) £308.75  
ii) Medisave for new pads and emergency pack for AED £101.86 (agreed between meetings)  
iii) Although not on the agenda it was agreed to sign a cheque for hall hire for meetings £25
- c) The draft budget was discussed, to keep with in the budget for 2020/21 it was suggested to increase the precept from £ 5850 to £6000, Councillor Barry Galbraith-Marten commented that the percentage increase would be high and perhaps raise a red flag to residents, the Clerk replied that yes the percentage would seem high but in true sense it was quite a small increase £150 for the year. The Final decision will be made at the January meeting.
- d) To acknowledge receipt of: i) second half of precept £2925, ii) VAT refund of £614.30  
iii) Wayleave £3.27
- e) Grant applications were discussed and it was unanimously agreed to award the following grants  
i) Sutcombe Memorial Hall £200 ii) Sutcombe Badminton Club £200, iii) St Andrews Church £200  
iv) Sutcombe Free Cemetery v) Sutcombe Community Play Field £200. Cheques were signed by two Councillors and then distributed.

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

- |  |  |                              |
|--|--|------------------------------|
| i) Ryan Borkowski- Additional Works          | ii) Devon Community together newsletters x 2 |                              |
| iii) DALC Newsletters x 2                    | iv) D.C.C Highways update                    |                              |
| v) Parish & Town Consultation conference     | vi) Devon Dark Skies event                   |                              |
| vii) Public Consultation- Planning Documents | viii) D.C.C. Every Mind Matters              |                              |
| viv) Rural Services Network x 2              | x) Healthwatch                               | xi) Community Insight Survey |
| xii) Re-cycle Devon Awards                   | xiii) David Bowles – re meeting              | xiv) Rural Bulletins x 3     |

*The above were all received by email no issues were raised.*

### Received by Royal Mail:

- 1) Sutcombe Alms-houses – Re New Trustee it was the unanimous decision of the Parish Council to agree to the election of Ms Scilla Edwards to be trustee for a term of four years.

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

- 1) Councillor John Daniels reported that the Bridge at Derworthy had been badly damaged, and requested that the Clerk reported it to highways.

The next meeting date was set for the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm