

SUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Sutcombe Parish Council Meeting held at Sutcombe Parish Memorial Hall, on Monday 13th January 2020 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 Mrs Lorraine Buttery (Clerk) and Mr Stephen Martin

1. Chairman's announcements

Councillor Chris Quance 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

Devon County Councillor Barry Parsons, District Councillor Richard Boughton, Steven Harding, Anna Dart and P.F.S.C.O Andrew Moakes

4. Public Comment Session

The resident Mr Stephen Martin raised serious concerns regarding the risks to those that use the playfield.

In particular the High Risk of road access,

the medium risk of the ease of access to the rooves and the

Low risk of the materiel which has been laid as the 'hard standing', which he feels is not suitable.

He went on to state that there are no signs to indicate that there is a play area, and asked whether a risk assessment had ever been done? Councillor Claire Furse replied that the annual playground inspection includes a 'risk assessment' and was due again in March.

Stephen Martin replied that the access was a known risk as such should have been given a high priority to sort Out.

Claire stated that there will be a Community Playfield meeting where the quotes for the signage would be discussed, The Highways department has now said that the signs can be erected.

Stephen Martin asked that could the 'five bar gate access' be locked thus the only entry would be through the School playground. Councillor Wonnacott replied that this was not possible as free access is required at all times for the resident of the 'Old School House' and Devon County Council.

Stephen Martin suggested that for the time being could a sign be put on the gate to encourage people to use the 'playground' entry, Councillors John Shepherd and Claire Furse said that this was a viable option.

Stephen Marti went on to say that the School Building was falling into disrepair and there is danger of bits falling off and injuring passers-by, also the 'ancillary area needs clearing out.

This will be reported to Devon County Council.

He also suggested that the Parish Council meetings be advertised more, maybe chalked up on the blackboard.

5. Reports from Devon County Councillor and District Councillors:

No Councillors attended- full Torridge Council Meeting

6. All members of the Council had received a copy of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 4th November 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) Sutcombe Playing field – update, most had been discussed in 4, the Clerk was requested to contact David Bowles to enquire what progress had been made with the purchase of the field. Councillor Furse asked was it decided who should pay for all the signage, was it coming out of the community Playfield fund or was the Parish Council going to cover it? The minutes will have to be checked before an answer can be given.

Councillor Shepherd asked if there was any indication of who would benefit from the sale of the old School Site? It is known that it would be 'held in trust' for the educational needs of local children.

Councillor Wonnacott asked would it just be Primary School age or would it encompass all age groups.

Councillor Furse replied that this would be decided by the Charity Commission.

Councillor Quance mentioned that he had been informed that a sum of money had been set aside for recreational use after the development of St. Andrews Close which had never been utilised, he will make further enquires.

Matters arising cont./...

- 2) Bridge at Derworthy as far as was known this had not been repaired, the Clerk will report the problem again.
- 3) New Councillor, one application had been received from Mrs Emma Horn, it was unanimously agreed to co-opt her as a Councillor to serve the Parish Council, Emma duly signed her acceptance form and this was countersigned by the Clerk.
- 4) Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, Councillor Michael Wonnacott proposed that Chris Quance be Elected as Chairperson, this was seconded by Councillor Galbraith-Marten and was unanimously carried. Councillor John Daniel proposed that Councillor Galbraith-Marten be elected as Vice Chairperson and was unanimously carried. Councillor Emma Horn was officially welcomed onto the Parish Council.

8. Planning Applications

There were none

Planning Decisions

There were none

Planning Appeals

There were none

9. Finance.

- a) Financial report to date, the Clerk reported that the finances were in good order, there is £9264.76 in the current account which consists of Ring-fenced election costs of £350, project fund £3002.00, owed to D.C.C for fencing, the balance of £2662.76 being Parish Council General Funds
- b) Two Councillors signed cheques for: i) Clerks quarterly Salary (Jan-March) £322.70, a higher amount as the last two quarters were underpaid. ii) Admin Expenses of £23.43

Between meetings it was agreed by email to approve the signing of cheques for the following:

- 1) Royal British Legion £21.00.
- 2) P. Hutchings Hedge/verge cutting £402.00
- 3) DALC Training session- Budgets and Precepts £48.00
- 4) Medisave- New Battery for AED £221.38

This was confirmed unanimously by all Councillors.

- c) All Councillors had a copy of the Budget, it was unanimously approved and the decision was to increase the precept to £6,000.

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

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| i) Rural Bulletins x 4 | ii) R.S.N Rural Funding digest | iii) DALC Newsletters x 3 |
| iv) D.C.C Highways update | v) Social Prescribing | vi) Healthwatch |
| vii) D.C.C Winter Bulletin/Service update. | viii) N.D. Hospice- Rugby Ramble | |
| viv) Holsworthy Advisory Group re meetings and minutes | x) Annual playground Inspection | |
| xi) Torrridge Council- Polling Places review | xii) N.D.H.T- Commissioning Bulletin | |
| xiii) N.D.H.T & R.D.E joining together | xiv) D.A.L.C Royal Garden Party nominations | |

The above were all received by email, the Chairperson suggested that the Parish Clerk be nominated to apply to attend the Queens Garden Party, this was unanimously agreed. No other issues were raised.

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

- 1) Councillor John Shepherd enquired as to whether there had been any news relating to the poor Broadband in St. Andrews Close? the Clerk replied that she had contacted Matt Barrows twice but had had no reply, she would contact him again.
- 2) Councillor John Daniel reported that there was a very deep gully halfway up Upcott Hill near Tuckers Hill Bungalow, also overhanging vegetation between Coombe End Bungalow and Brightwater Farm, causing a hazard to vehicles as it was impossible to see it until it was actually hit, the Clerk will report both problems to the Highways Department.

The next meeting date was set for the 2nd March 2020, with the provisional date for the Annual Open Meeting set at 20th April 2020, to commence at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm