

SUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Sutcombe Parish Council Meeting held at Sutcombe Parish Memorial Hall, on Monday 2nd March 2020 which commenced at 7.45p.m

Members of the Council Present: Councillors C. Quance (Chairperson) B.Galbraith Marten -(Vice Chairperson), C. Furse, M. Wonnacott, E.Horn and J. Daniel.

Also present were Mrs Lorraine Buttery (Clerk) Devon County Councillor Barry Parsons, District Councillors Richard Boughton and Steven Harding.

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**
District Councillor Anna Dart, Parish Councillor John Shepherd and P.F.S.C.O Andrew Moakes
4. **Public Comment Session**
There were no members of the public present.
5. **Reports from Devon County Councillor and District Councillors:**
Councillor Boughton reported that the Torridge Budget had now been set, with Council Tax rising by approx. £5 per property for band D, this will add £145,000 to the funds, which equates to 8% of all Council Tax collected. Councillor Quance asked whether Anna Dart was still a Torridge District Councillor after her resignation of leader. Councillor Harding replied that yes, she was, her resignation as leader was due to ongoing issues. Councillor Ken James was elected the new leader with Claire Hodgeson as deputy, it is hoped things will now move forward.
Jenny Wallace, who is at present 'Head of Paid Services' is leaving in April, the position of Head of Paid Services will be replaced by a Chief Executive, which will be recruited by due process.
Steve Hurst is holding the post in the interim period
Councillor Quance asked Richard if there was any news regarding the money that he though was being held under the '106' for recreational purposes? Richard replied that he had not received any information but would chase it up.
6. All members of the Council had received a copy of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 13th January 2020 by email, with the unanimous decision of the Councillors that the contents were deemed true and correct and were duly signed by the Chairperson Councillor Chris Quance.
7. **Matters Arising**
 - 1) Sutcombe Playing field – update and Residents response to ‘flyer’
The Clerk reported that she had had only one resident phone regarding the flyer giving information of the Parish Councils intention of requesting a loan.
Councillor Claire Furse reported that the Highways Officer had visited the play-field and looked at the field entrance and signs that were in-situ. Would not entertain 'speed-bumps' but agreed that something has to be done urgently. He agreed to swap old school signs for 'playground' signs. The suggestion is to trim the hedge right back to improve the exit, and also put up our own signs, e.g. Beware Children Playing'.
Councillor Galbraith-Marten asked whether a mirror near the exit might help? This will be considered.
Councillor Quance commented that the biggest problem on that stretch of the road is speed, Councillor Daniel asked whether a 'speed check' would be appropriate? Councillor Furse said it is hoped to get signs up very soon on telephone posts, Councillor Wonnacott commented that permission would have to be obtained from Open Reach
The 'Heads of Terms' was discussed with the opinion that it was full of 'ifs & buts' and legal jargon, with DCC with all the 'rights' on their side. Councillor Quance delegated Councillors Barry Galbraith -Marten and Claire Furse to make an appointment with the solicitors to sort out amendments and clarify fees.
 - 2) Highways- Devon County Councillor Parsons commented that the new highways officer Kieran Stanbury is very proactive regarding contact with Parish Councils and all District Councillors. The access to the proposed development was discussed, as this will have a definite effect on the 'playground entrance', Councillor Quance commented that it will be easier to comment once the full planning application was presented. Councillor Boughton suggested that it would be a good idea to send a further comment to the Planning department regarding the issues surrounding the site access.

Matters arising cont/...

3) Newsletter- a note had been sent to all residents regarding whether they would like to continue to receive a hard copy of the Newsletter or would they agree to it being sent by email or on the web-site? The Clerk reported that she had had about 10 emails with the majority wanting paper copies. Councillor Quance will have a chat with Faye Fry to see if she is happy to continue to compile the newsletter. The biggest problem is the distribution as volunteers have not been forthcoming just recently.

Councillor Parsons commented that there is a reluctance to embrace the digital age, as for instance to send a social worker to an elderly resident takes up 5-6 hours of their time, but if there was an initial investment to supply computers this could be done 'remotely' with a large group of people, the comments were, could this lead to isolation and loneliness of the elder generation with no physical contact?

8. Planning Applications

There were none

Planning Decisions

There were none

Planning Appeals

There were none

9. Finance.

a) A spreadsheet was given to all Councillors, along with the Bank reconciliation and Bank statement. There being £8,817.43 in the bank account. Ring fenced £350 for Elections, Project Fund £3,002.00 £3,150 DCC funds, the balance of £2,315.43 being PC general funds.

b) Loan for Playfield, it was confirmed and unanimously approved that the Clerk would send the Initial application to DALC/NALC for approval prior to the loan application to the PLB.

The Loan agreed was confirmed as being £12,000 payable back over 10 years.

The clerk informed the Parish Councillors that she had received one enquiry from a resident asking for further information, after receiving the flyer.

c) Although not on the Agenda as invoices received after it had been printed it was the unanimous decision of the Parish Councillors to sign cheques for i) Meeting room hire Jan-March and ii) Printing of the flyers £27.99.

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

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| i) Rural Bulletins x 2 | ii) R.S.N Rural Funding digest | iii) DALC Newsletters x 2 |
| iv) Lands' End Trial | v) G B Spring clean | vi) Vision ICT Accessibility Statement |
| vii) H. Roper Hatherleigh Junior Road Race. | viii) Highways- Drainage Maintenance Responsibilities | |
| viv) Healthwatch Bulletin | x) G,Fawsett- Hospice event | xi) Wonderful Village Photo Comp |
| xii) Rural Businesses | xiii) E.Blundell- Carbon Challenge | |
| xiv) Village Hall survey | v) D.C.T bulletins x 2 | xvi) D.C.T. Supporting Parish Councils |
| xvii) C.P.R Best Churchyard 2020 | | |

No issues were raised except for vi) This was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would inform ICT to implement the changes at a cost of £45, Councillor Barry Parsons warned that there was 'scams' about regarding this issue.

Received by Post

Letter from the Clerk to the Trustees of The Sutcombe Alms-houses requesting that Mr R Ley be elected as a Trustee for a four-year term The Councillors unanimously agreed.

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

1) Councillor Galbraith -Marten asked what had happened to the notice board, the clerk explained that Wind had caught the door and loosened it from the wall, it was unacceptable to leave it 'hanging' so was removed. It is now in the hands of the Chair who will see if it can be repaired. It was not covered by insurance.

2) Councillor Wonnacott asked if anything was being planned for V.E. Day? Councillor Quance suggested that something could be arranged for the actual day 8th May. The Memorial Hall are holding a '40's dance on the 1st May. The suggestion was to have 'Bell Ringing' at 7pm followed by a bring and Share supper, with the Toast being supplied by the Parish Council. This was agreed as being a great idea and was unanimously approved. To be held in the Hall if the weather is bad.

3) Annual Parish Open Meeting 20th April 2020, no suggestions/ideas had been forthcoming for a guest speaker for this evening.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.