

SUTCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Sutcombe Parish Council Meeting held Remotely

Using the ZOOM Platform, on Monday 16th July 2020 which commenced at 7.30p.m

Members of the Council Present: Councillors C. Quance (Chairperson) B.Galbraith Marten -(Vice Chairperson), C. Furse, M. Wonnacott, E.Horn and J. Daniel and John Shepherd, District Councillors Anna Dart and Richard Boughton Also present was Mrs Lorraine Buttery (Clerk)

1. Chair'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 were received from:

Devon County Councillor Barry Parsons, District Councillor Stephen Harding, and PCSO Mark James.

4. Public Comment Session

There were no members of the public attending.

5. Reports from Devon County Councillor and District Councillors:

DCC Councillor Barry Parsons had sent an update by email. District Councillor Richard Boughton reported that there was a possibility of free parking in Bideford, Torrington, and Holsworthy to encourage residents to shop locally, hence help local businesses to recover from some of their loss of revenue due to the pandemic.

It's whether the Council can stand the loss of revenue, which cost an estimated £192,000.

Councillor Anna Dart reported that she was at the full Council meeting when the 'motion' was raised, after one and a half hour of debate it was raised that the 'motion' was not worded correctly with no indication of the time of the free parking or for how long, so it now has to go before the full committee again, it was a right debacle. also, to be considered is whether free parking would lead to extra shoppers in the towns.

There is a presentation on you-tube on the Financial Projections for Torridge Council, which makes interesting Viewing, but not a buoyant situation, but considering what has happened over the past 4 months Torridge finances are actually fairly buoyant at the present time, Steve Hirst acting head of paid services has done a brilliant Job since holding the fort, especially as he took over just before lockdown.

The Chair Councillor Chris Quance thanked Richard and Anna for attending.

6. All members of the Council had received a copy of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 22nd June 2020 by email, with the unanimous decision of the Councillors, the contents were deemed true and correct and were duly signed by the Chair Councillor Chris Quance.

7. Matters Arising

- 1) Sutcombe Playing field – the DCC Heads of Terms for the purchase was discussed at length, all new points Were unanimously agreed, but just need clarity regarding the drainage, who is responsible for any damage, The legality of who is responsible must be in the new deeds. Councillor Claire Furse will contact Pam at Coodes Solicitors. The Clerk reported that there is no update regarding the loan, Councillor Furse suggested writing a Letter to DALC to complain regarding the long delay in getting the application sent, the Clerk will do so.
- 2) Notice Board – still waiting to be looked at, but it might be that a new one might be required.
- 3) The unanimous decision of the Parish Councillors was for Councillor Quance to obtain quotes.
- 4) DAAT Night Site – Toby Russell is obtaining the quotes for the work, Councillor Claire Furse informed all that the family would pay for any electricity charges when the site is up and running. The Clerk will inform Toby of the date of the next meeting so he can attend.
- 5) Roads/Bridge, the Clerk had reported the damage to the bridge and the poor road surface at Thuborough Cross, No date has yet been given for the repairs, Councillor Wonnacott asked whether enquiries could be made as to whether weight and width restrictions could be applied to the bridge, the size and weight of vehicles using the bridge now are somewhat larger and heavier than when the bridge was first constructed. The consensus of opinion was that it would be a huge blow to the farming community if there were restrictions put into place, or the bridge closed, it is thought that the bridge is 'protected', therefore it has to be repaired to the standard of its present state. It was agreed that Councillor Chris Quance will speak to Kieran Stanbury to get his opinion of the problem and report back at the next meeting. Councillor Shepherd commented that perhaps those that hit the bridge should be made to pay for the repairs. All agreed that in principal that was a good idea but those that hit the bridge do not generally, report or own up to the damage. Councillor Michael Wonnacott replied that something had to be done even if it is just a sign saying 'Please drive with Care, narrow Bridge, or just Slow Down. District Councillor Anna Dart commented that signage might work, but unfortunately these things happen, the last thing the Parish Council would want to do is alienate the residents, and suggested contacting Devon County.

6) Sale of School Buildings, emails had been received from Jon Williams DCC regarding the sale of the School Buildings and where the proceeds would go and what they might be spent on, Councillor Claire Furse commented That she thought that the proceeds of the sale would be going into a 'Trust' and that the Charity commission would then decide what the cash would be spent on, it was always the suggestion that the proceeds would be used for the benefit of education for the children of Sutcombe. It was unanimously agreed that assurance needs to be given that the proceeds would go to Bradworthy School and spent on a major project such as a new classroom. The Parish Council would like some form of acknowledgement that the proceeds came from the sale of the old Sutcombe School, with perhaps a plaque commemorating the occasion, after all what has been a great loss to Sutcombe Village will be a huge gain for Bradworthy. It was agreed that a representative of DCC and Bradworthy School should be invited to a future PC meeting. Councillor Chris Quance will write an email to Jon Williams, will send to all for approval.

8. **Planning Applications:** *There were none*
Planning Decisions: *There were none*
Planning Appeals: *There were none*

9. **Finance.**

a) Financial report to date, the cash book spreadsheet had been emailed to all Councillors, no issues were raised, There being £11,015.84 in the bank (Statement presented to uphold), earmarked funds of £350.00 election costs £3,002.00 project funds, £3150.00 owing to D.C.C. for fencing, balance of Torridge Grant £188.16.

The remaining balance of £4,325.68 being PC General funds.

b) The clerk informed the Councillors that two cheques issued in March had not been cashed, Cheque 625, for Printing, Councillor Claire Furse apologised for not cashing it, and will do so.

Cheque 626 for the Hire of the room for meetings made out to Sutcombe Memorial Hall, Councillor Emma Horn Stated that the Badminton Club had had the same problem, she will chase it up.

c) Approval was unanimous and two Councillors will sign cheque for:

- 1) Clerks quarterly salary £319.68

The Clerk informed the Councillors that she had that morning received an invoice from Devon county Council £6,118, this consists of the £5,000 agreed contribution for the demolition of the classroom and wooden structures and £1,118 for the extra work putting in edging and stonework. Although we have the recourse to pay this the worry is that we will then have the invoice the fencing DCC paid for £3,150 and also expected solicitor's expenses. without the loan application being accepted the Parish Council will not have the resources to cover everything. Councillor Furse suggested that maybe we should be having a conversation with DCC to delay payment? District Councillor Anna Dart said she would contact the County Solicitor Stacy Dory to get her advice. Meanwhile a cheque would not be signed.

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

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| i) New Code of Conduct-Survey | ii) Holsworthy Rural Update DCC Councillor Barry Parsons |
| iii) DALC Newsletters Nos 35/36/37 | iv) Rural Network Bulletins x2 v) R.S.N Rural Funding digest |
| vi) Councillor M.Wonnacott - Bridge | vii) D.C.T – Opening of Parish/Village Halls |
| viii) K.Stanbury re Bridge | viv) J.Williams Sale of School Buildings |
| x) H.Roper- Mini Skate Ramp | xi) P.C.S.O Mark James Police Update . xii) Connect me |
| xiii) D.C.C Stay Alert | iv) D.C.T Covid-19 Update |
| xv) Kirsty Brown – Register of Interests | xvi) D.C.C. Energy Workshop |

The above were all received by email no issues were raised except for viv) discussed item 6

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

- 1) It was reported that Ham Lane Layby is being used as a 'car park' and making the passing of two vehicles Difficult. Councillor Chris Quance will contact Keiran Stanbury to find out if it is a specified layby or Just a 'passing place'.
- 2) Councillor John Shepherd reported that there was overhanging no 2 St Andrews Close making it very Difficult for pedestrians to pass, John also asked who was cutting the grass as piles were being left and was beginning to smell? Councillor Emma Horn will contact the owners of the property and the contractors who cut the grass.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

The next meeting was scheduled for the 14th September