

Minutes of Sutcombe Parish Council Meeting held in the Memorial Hall on 13 July 2026 which commenced at 19.45

Members of the Council present: Chris Quance (Chair), Barry Galbraith-Marten (Vice Chair), Claire Furse, Emma Horn, Chris Rose and John Shepherd. Also present was District Councillor Steve Harding

1. Chair's announcement

Councillor Quance welcomed all to the meeting and introduced Tom James as a new member to the Council.

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.

Their were none declared.

3. Apologies and reasons for absence were received from: District Councillor Shirleyann Andrews.

4. Public Comment Session:

No members of the public present.

5. Reports from County and District Councillors: Councillor S Harding – Confirmed his re-appointment as Vice Chair – Scrutiny Committee. (i) Council very busy following the May elections, but there is uncertainty with the changing political situation. (ii) Active discussions concerning biodiversity continue, but no additional plans at present. (iii) Opposition to a large Solar Farm in the area has stalled plans, and it is considered unlikely that the project will progress. (iv) Present discussions concerning a large Data Centre and Battery Energy Store near Great Torrington are ongoing, but could be very lucrative with increased employment prospects for the area. (v) Locally, available funds are being applied to projects identified in the area, including Bideford and Great Torrington. (vi) Sir Geoffrey Cox KC, MP is conducting a Surgery at Woolsey Agricultural Show on 29 July 2026

Councillor Quance thanked Councillor Harding for his Report.

6. All members of the Council had received a copy of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 11 May 2026 by email, the contents were deemed true and correct, they were approved by a show of hands and duly signed by Councillor Chris Quance (Chair).

7. Matters Arising:

1. Sutcombe Playing Field – Councillor Quance noted that the leaning fence had not been corrected and will contact the Contractor. With the improvement in weather conditions, Councillor Furse will attend to the removal of the Trim Trail and several Councillors have agreed to assist, if necessary.

2. Shelter – Councillor Horn expressed disappointment that the work had not yet commenced and will approach the builder again.

3. Bank Mandate- Councillor Horn has confirmation from the bank of the removal of the previous Clerk's details and it holds appropriate signatures for the account. There appears to be an issue with the Bank's confusion over another unrelated account and this will be monitored.

4. Parish Councillor Vacancy- Tom James has been welcomed as a new Councillor. This appointment brings the Council to full strength.

5. Parish Clerk Vacancy – Although some interest has been shown, no firm commitments at present. Councillors C Quance and E Horn continue to approach potential candidates.

6. Web site – Councillor Furse confirms all is well following the transition to new web site providers. To improve the Parish web site and the identification of Councillors, Councillor Furse will display photographs of all Councillors.

8. Sutcombe Playing Field – Councillor Furse will present, for discussion, options for appropriate equipment at the next Meeting. At Councillor Furse's request, all Councillors will also discuss fully the transference of remaining funds from the Playfield account to the Parish Council. This will be ring fenced. Funds are also due from a Wind Turbine arrangement. It has been decided to defer any action till September, when the situation will be clearer concerning the future receipt of these funds.

9. Sutcombe Financial Regulations – Standing Orders -Councillor Galbraith-Marten explained the rationale of linking the Parish Council's documents to the format of the Models used by NALC. This is specifically relevant for ease of alteration in future amendments. It requires tidying up. Councillor Rose has accessed a streamlined version and will distribute this to all Councillors. This can then be reviewed before presenting to the Parish Council for approval and adoption.

10. Planning Applications:

(i) 1/0165/2026/FUL – Proposal – Erection of slurry tower under the Slurry Infrastructure Grant – Location – Land at grid reference 236022 (E) 110146(N) (Langadon Farm EX22 7QQ) – Approved.

Planning Decisions:

There were none

Planning Appeals:

There were none

11. Finance

1. Councillor Horn presented the Accounts for the period 1 April 2026 to 13 July 2026 indicating a **brought forward balance on 1 April 2026 of £16667.96**

Receipts - £3932.66 (Milton Dameral computer £150; Council precept £3750; Interest on 35 Day account £32.66)

Expenditure - £1689.42 (Parish Online website £300; DALC membership £124.23; Bench £359.10; HMRC PAYE £14.25; Insurance £325.94; Audit £55; Grass cutting £90; Insurance £325.94; Loan payment £420.90)

Net carried forward balance as at 13 July 2026 £18911.20

Bank Statements as at 13 July 2026

Current account	£12274.34
35 Day account	<u>£ 6636.86</u>

Balance carried forward at 13 July 2026 £18911.20

of these funds, Parish Council has:

Ring fenced Election costs / Parish Contingencies	£ 2500
Playfield Contingencies	£ 9000
Allocated Monies-Playfield Shelter	<u>£ 5664</u>
(Quote-£4720+VAT – VAT can be reclaimed)	
Total	£17164

Public Works Loan Outstanding £3677

2. AGAR – The Annual Return and documents have been displayed for the statutory period and will be removed on 14 July 2026.

3. Cheques for signature – R Stoneman – grass cutting March 2026 -£250. Approved for online payment.

12. Correspondence by emails – 1. NALC-Utility Aids, e-events; 2. NALC-Chief Executive -Bulletins-May,June; 3. DALC-e-bulletins-22-30; 4. Rural Services Network-newsletters; 5. Royal Devon NHS Trust-newsletters-May/June; 6. Local Council weed survey; 7. Devon Communities Together; 8. Devon CPRE- potential Network Grid overload; 9. R Teale-Citizens Advice Bureau-Newsletter-June; 10. J Hubbard- Defibrillator Support; 11. Ashlea Leggett-Defibrillator support; 12. DALC-Heat Alert.

Correspondence received by post – There was none.

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

1. Highways response- they will deal with concerns about -a) Matcott Road to Dirworthy Lane and b) Thurborough Cross to Heddon Cross. c) Will not take any action on Sutcombe Memorial to Town Farm, Sutcombe.

There is a continuing need for residents to also raise these issues independently with the Highways Department.

2. Church Clock- Mechanism needs to be removed as the problem seems to be with the shaft, but access is difficult. Councillor Shepherd to arrange for photographs of the mechanism which can then be referred to a local church clock repairer (suggestion - Peter Shields, Beaworthy).

3. Defibrillator – The access code has been obtained and published on the ‘Sutcombe Help and Advice’ app.

4. Sutcombe Parish Notice Board – Due to limited space, Councillors considered it appropriate that the Notice Board should be used only for Council business. Contact will be made with the key holder to clarify the situation.

The next Meeting was set for the 21 September 2026

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 20.55

Signed.....Date.....

B. Galbraith-Marten

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