

MINUTES OF MEETING OF SYDENHAM DAMEREL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT REST HARROW, TOWNLAKE ON 10TH OCTOBER 2017

Present: Tracy Windemer, Barry Isaacs, James Pattison, Claire Brittan, Peter Rogers, Denise Head, Cllr. Bob Baldwin and Chris Harris (Clerk St.Cleer/Torpoint)

Apologies: Stephen Reddicliffe

Introduction: The Chairman introduced Chris Harris who will be locum Clerk to Sydenham Damerel

1. Minutes: Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed.
2. Matters Arising: Broadband – It would appear that Airband are still struggling to make progress setting up their system within this area. Other suppliers are gradually becoming more favourable.
 - 2.1 Local Plan: Cllr. Baldwin reported that there was not much movement with regard to the Housing policy in this Plan. In short – a reluctance of finding land means a lack of housing.
 - 2.2 One Council: West Devon and South Hams merging as one Council. Conferences and talks are on-going and a final vote takes place on 30th October.
3. Planning:
 - 3.1 Field View, Sydenham Damerel (was Woodbine Cottage): Extension of gate in field opposite property –This application has been refused on grounds of negative impact on listed building, and safety issues concerning the road.
 - 3.2 Chriss Cottage, Townlake: Alleged unauthorized planning breach of garage as residential. - This property is owned by Mr. & Mrs. Britten and as a parish councillor, Claire Britten left the room whilst this application was discussed.
4. A.O.B.
 - 4.1 Gate on footpath at rear of Rest Harrow, Townlake, leading to field owned by Mr. Rapson. One side of the gate is not too secure and has been reported to Footpaths Dept. DCC. This department confirmed by email that maintenance on public rights of way falls to the landowner. 25% can be claimed back of work undertaken.
 - 4.2 Future of St. Mary's Church, Sydenham Damerel: Following a questionnaire addressed to everyone in the parish, it was agreed that the Parish Council should give their views. After some discussion it was felt that most people

would like to maintain services for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals; but also if consideration could be given to adding plumbing facilities to the premises, it would be worth trying to use the Church for community resources. The Parish Council would correspond with Rev. Atkins with these views.

It was also agreed that future meetings of the Parish Council should be held at St. Mary's and arrangements could be made for the first meeting there in December.

- 4.3 Neighbourhood Plan: Following a lengthy discussion which included the pros and cons (expenses and commitment of interested parties) of organising this, it was agreed that this should be added to the Agenda for the next meeting.
 - 4.4 Overhead lines: This was discussed some years ago with little outcome. Western Power has now been approached and the Parish Council was encouraged by their view that they may have some funding to consider putting underground lines in Sydenham Damerel.
 - 4.5 Road flooded: From Sydenham Cross down to Horsebridge several drains appear to be permanently blocked. This will be reported to Devon Highways.
 - 4.6 Footpath flooded: From Townlake to Horsebridge. Reported to be badly flooded at the Horsebridge end owing to verge being diverted. Devon Highways (Footpath Dept.) to be contacted.
 - 4.7 Cheque authorised: Cheque paid to Western Web - £24 in payment for renewal of domain sydenham-damerel.org.uk.
5. Resignation: Denise Head resigned as Parish Clerk. Since recent efforts to find her replacement were unsuccessful, Chris Harris who is Clerk for the Parish Councils of St. Cleer and Torpoint, will act as locum Clerk for the time being.
- Chris Harris has been a Parish Clerk for 28 years, including 23 years as Town Clerk and for the last 21 years at Torpoint. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Local Council Management and mentor to other Clerks. He also writes articles for the "Clerk" magazine and has been Chairman of the Cornwall Branch of the SLCC.
6. Next meeting: As discussed in 4.2 above, the next meeting will be in early December, the date to be agreed shortly.