

MINUTES OF MEETING OF SYDENHAM DAMEREL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 25TH JANUARY 2017 AT REST HARROW, TOWNLAKE .

Present: Tracy Windemer, Barry Isaacs, Stephen Reddicliffe, Jane Franklin, James Pattison, Claire Brittan, Denise Head, Cllrs. Debo Sellis and Bob Baldwin.

1. Minutes: Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed.

2. Matters Arising:

2.1 Improved broadband via Airband. There have been further reminders to submit vouchers to sign up with Airband as work is progressing to set this up. It was also reported that an Access Point has been placed at Beera Farm.

2.2. Kissing gate for Bartons farm, near the church has still not been repaired despite earlier notification to Footpaths Dept.

3. Cllr. Sellis reported a “Question Time” event, to be held at Tavistock Town Hall, in which young people, e.g. Sixth Formers are invited to join in discussions, questions and answers involving local councils.

4. Cllr. Baldwin informed the parish council that he is doubtful that the Local Plan envisaged for West Devon will be completed by March, as planned. As far as Sydenham Damerel is concerned he believes their findings are wrong, inasmuch as the parish does not warrant 10 extra properties – which has been proposed in the Local Plan - and is regarded as a very small rural area, and unlike its close surrounding parishes, is an AONB.

5. Planning: Conditional Approval granted 17.1.17 - Hartwell Barn, Sydenham Damerel PL19 8QU – Variation of conditions 2 (drawings) and 5 (general permitted development – extensions and alterations) following approval of planning permission 00319/2014. -

6. Parish Clerk/Financial Officer: As discussed and reported in the previous minutes, Denise Head intends to resign from this position. As no other members wish to take on the job it was agreed that the parish council would advertise for a paid Clerk/Financial Officer.

With this in mind it was obvious that the annual Precept would have to substantially increase. It was estimated that a Clerk's hours of employment were approximately 2 ½. As advised from DALC payment would be £10-15 per week - £1200 p.a.

At present, there is no restriction on Precepts and it was suggested and unanimously agreed that the Precept for 2017/18 should rise from £659 to £1800.

Another option is for Sydenham Damerel Parish Council to join another Parish Council. There followed a long discussion, during which it was pointed out that financially, this may not make much difference; also local knowledge and history may be overlooked. It was agreed that it was necessary to find out more of what this move could entail and the Council would consult Catherine Bowen, Monitoring Officer at WDBC.

7. Resignations: During the above discussions, Jane Franklin informed members that she wished to resign from the Parish Council. Denise Head gave notice that on her eventual resignation as Clerk, she will also resign as Councillor.

8. A.O.B.: The next meeting will be in March (date to be agreed).