

# Sourton Parish Council

## Minutes of a meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at Sourton Hall

**Members present:** Cllrs J. Hockridge (Chair), G. Jury, S. Daniel, S. Eberle, A. Horn & M. Spry

**Also present:** Cllr C. Mott (WDBC), Cllr D. Webber, 3 members of the public and M. Leonard (Clerk)

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies None

3. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Hockridge declared a personal interest in Item 9.1

4. Public Participation Time

Members of the public expressed concern about the number of retrospective planning applications at East Bowerland and about retrospective applications generally. Strong views were expressed about the unfairness of people being able to 'get away' with developments without planning permission. Cllr Mott explained that it was not within the power of WDBC to prevent people building without planning permission and it is not necessarily illegal to do so, but anyone who does so risks enforcement if the development is later found not to comply with planning regulations. Neither the District or Parish Councils are able to take action over inappropriate developments which they do not know about.

5. Minutes of the previous Meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> November & 4<sup>th</sup> December.

Cllr Jury asked that the first line in Item 17, page 1707 of the November minutes, that states the Parish Hall 'has bought' a microphone, is amended to 'will be buying'. Agreed. The minutes were then approved as true records & were signed by the Chair.

6. Matters arising from any items in the previous minutes which are not on the agenda

6.1 Cllr Spry was thanked for repairing Thorndon bus shelter. Cllr Eberle said this was much appreciated by the residents of Thorndon Cross.

6.2 Pool House verges, Steve Brockman was contacted and he produced a map indicating that the beds were within the boundary of Pool House and that much of the area had previously been concealed by the fir trees that have now been removed.

6.3 Highwayman litter bin. This was still in an accessible area of car park when the Clerk checked. Member of the public reported this is sometimes blocked off. Clerk to contact the Highwayman Inn.

6.4 Parking in front of the Old Post Office. Clerk contacted Steve Brockman re the plan to put a repaired footway with a kerb at this site. No DCC funding available this financial year but work is still on the list.

6.5 Website. Checking with DALC re application for a grant for new website. Vision ICT the preferred choice

7. Councillor Co-option

Mr Peter Deacon of Luddon Farm has applied for the vacancy and was duly co-opted.

8. Clerk's Report - Correspondence and new matters raised which are not on the agenda

8.1 Treetops request for grant

8.2 TNMWD Citizen's Advice request for grant

8.3 Nominations for Royal Garden Party. None to be made.

8.4 Northern Links November Minutes - circulated

8.5 Notes on Neighbourhood Plan meeting, December - circulated

9. Planning

New applications:

WDBC

9.1 **4295/17/CLE** Application for Lawful Development Certificate for the use of stables as a dwelling for a period in excess of 4 years. The Stables, East Bowerland.

The PC is unable to verify or refute the statement given by the applicant. However, if the application had come up at the time the PC would have objected on the grounds of over development.

**4293/17/VAR** Application for variation of condition 4 of planning consent 00648/2013 (landscaping to allow the planting of 5 oak trees.) Cllr Spry proposed supporting because it may help screen the noise from the shed . Seconded by Cllr Eberle. Agreed.

9.2 **4126/17/HHO** Householder application for extension to existing front porch. Forda Cottage. Agreed to support.

9.3 **4248/17/FUL** Alteration and extension to existing detached dwelling and new barn to replace existing pole barn at Camberly, Cowsen Lane. Agreed to support as will improve the property.

9.4 **4044/17/AGRI For information only.** Prior notification of proposed new agricultural building. The Pieces, near Rixton Farm. Now established agricultural approval not required.

9.5 **Licensing Department application from Shell, Sourton Cross** for variations. Cllr Daniel proposed that the council object to the proposed increase to a 24 hour license for sale of alcohol. Agreed.

Decisions

DNPA

**0525/17** Change of use at Prewley Moor Arms - conditional permission granted.

**0526/17** Erection of circular sign at Prewley Moor Arms - permission granted.

WDBC

**3562/17/HHO** Ground floor extension at Barnicote, Forda - conditional permission granted.

**3464/17/PDM** Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to form one dwelling house, Forda - prior approval given.

10. Finance

10.1 Report of Financial Officer

Current Account

Previous balance	5285.99
Withdrawn	559.57
Deposits	<u>0.00</u>
<b>New balance</b>	<b>4726.42</b>
- TAP fund reserve	985.00
Non-restricted funds	3741.42

Deposit Account

Previous balance	1370.57
Interest	<u>0.06</u>
<b>New balance</b>	<b>1370.63</b>

## 10.2 Budget setting and precept 2018/2019

Sourton's Council Tax Support Grant will be reduced by £19 to £207 in the next financial year. It was agreed to raise the precept by 9% if support for purchase of land for a car park is given by parishioners at the forthcoming public meeting. If not, the precept to be raised by 5% to cover inflation and additional costs such as increased number of meetings and management of Thorndon phone box,. It will also assist with purchase of land for a burial ground.

10.3 The following accounts were agreed for payment -

Sourton Parochial Church Council (50% churchyard maintenance April-Sept.)	116.95
WDBC Fortnightly bin emptying 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2016 - 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2017	31.20
A. Barton, Broadbury Landcare. Strimming at Trescote and Sourton	140.00 (TAP)
BT, purchase of Thorndon phone box	1.00
TNMWD Citizen's Advice grant	50.00
Treetops grant	50.00
Mrs M Leonard, clerk's salary	322.00
Mrs M Leonard, clerk's expenses	36.08

## 11. Grass cutting 2018

DCC have renewed the contract for grass cutting along the West Devon Way with Lifton Parish Council, increasing the rate by 3.6%. This will again cover the cost for all the parishes. Clerk to thank Chris Edmunds, Lifton Chairman, for running this contract.

Andrew Barton is willing to continue grass cutting contract at the hall for the same rate as this year.

## 12. Proposed purchase of land between the parish hall and the churchyard

Write to SPCC to establish whether a gift of land for the purpose of extending Sourton Churchyard would enable it to continue to run the burial ground by establishing its own sources of funding for the remaining costs.

Various ways of purchasing and managing the proposed car park were discussed without a final decision.

## 13. Neighbourhood Plan Update

Cllr Eberle reported that after tomorrow's NP meeting it is hoped that the Plan will be ready for submission.

## 14. Councillors' reports

Cllr Jury reported damaged and missing signage on the traffic calming island at Lake  
Cllr Eberle has a petition signed by 18 residents of Sourton wanting a defibrillator in Thorndon phone box. She is looking into funding. The PC agreed to support the idea.

Cllr Eberle has been asked by parishioners if the PC could ask Fountain Forestry for some rails on the track over the culvert in the forestry at Thorndon for safety reasons. Clerk to contact Fountain Forestry.

Cllr Eberle raised the issue of blocked drains and road edges. It was agreed to put together an itinerary for drainage work in the parish, and claim remaining TAP money. Andrew Barton is willing to take on winter work.

15. The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.15pm