

Sourton Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 5th February 2018

at Sourton Hall

Councillors Present: J. Hockridge (Chair), G. Jury, S. Daniel, P. Deacon,

S. Eberle, A. Horn & M. Spry

Also Present: Cllr Mott (WDBC) and two members of the public

1. Welcome by the Chair

The Chairman welcomed members of the public and the newly co-opted member of the council, Mr Peter Deacon, to the meeting.

2. Apologies - None

3. Declarations of Interests in items on the agenda - None

4. Public Participation Time

The following matters were raised:

Objection to planning application 0161/18/HRN due to concern about safety of a gateway at that location and the legitimacy of removal of the hedge by the applicant. Why have planning decisions at East Bowerland not been made by the target dates? [Cllr Mott to look into this.]

Objection to the purchase of a new website while free ones are available. The Clerk explained that the website would be purchased with Transparency Code grant money. (See item 7.6 for details)

Cllr Mott asked the PC to raise awareness in the parish about recycling. Issues were then raised regarding the number of items put in recycle boxes that are left behind by the recycling crew. It was also pointed out that because refuse collection is very early in the morning, bags have to be put out the night before, leaving them vulnerable to attack from animals. [Cllr Mott to look into these issues]

Cllr Mott informed the meeting about a GWR Consultation. Okehampton TC had completed it and encouraged parish councils to do so. Cllr Eberle to look at this.

5. The minutes of the previous meeting held on January 8th were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

6. Matters Arising from the minutes, not on the agenda

6.1 Highwayman litter bin. The landlord of the Highwayman Inn has assured the Clerk that the bin is still in use and will remain so, as that section of the car park will remain with the pub.

6.2 Proposed rails in Bowerland Woods, Thorndon. Fountain Forestry has been contacted. The track belongs to Devon County which will assess the request for fencing by 22nd Feb.

6.3 Winter drains and ditches work. The Clerk has put an initial itinerary together with Mr Barton for ditching work around the parish. Cllr Daniel suggested that removing green algae on the pavement through the village could be included. Clerk to ask Mr Barton. Also ask Steve Brockman re clearance of edges of roads or contact local contractors.

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7. Clerk's Report

7.1 A letter from Mr Graham Marfell, Pool House, has been circulated to councillors as he requested.

7.2 Thanks received from CAB for £50 donation.

7.3 Thanks received from SPCC for churchyard upkeep grant of £116.95

7.4 Letter of thanks for the PC's support, received from Sourton Hall Committee.

7.5 Tree Preservation Orders for trees on the Green. Brian Beasley, DNP Trees & Landscape Officer has informed the Clerk that DNP Legal Team did not consider the expediency test had been met, i.e. did not feel there was a significant enough threat to the trees to justify a TPO. He has been asked to gather more evidence to support a TPO and will be contacting the neighbours and the owners. He has noted some wind damage to the smaller trees, which may exclude them. The Authority would still consider making a TPO if it is established that there is a threat to the trees.

7.6 New website. The grant application for a new website to comply with the Transparency Code has been submitted to DALC, who have passed it to the NALC for approval. Confirmation by end of Feb. The total grant applied for = £ 920.72 This covers designing, developing and completing the website, first year website hosting plus training and the first month of clerk administration time. From year two there will be an annual fee of £125 for website hosting, access to the content management system, on-going help and support and on-going website warranty.

West Devon IT has confirmed in writing that it will no longer be able to host the parish website and it would appreciate every effort to migrate to a new host as quickly as possible. Assistance to migrate the site content offered by them.

7.7 West Devon Mayoral Awards. Mr Tony Batten was chosen to be nominated for his work in the parish.

7.8 Invitation to Chair to attend Town Mayor's Civic Dinner

7.9 Printed copies of West Devon's Planning Guide for Members distributed to all councillors.

8. Planning

New Applications:

WDBC

8.1 **0161/18/HRN** Hedgerow Removal Notice. Removal of 1500mm hedgerow East Bowerland road to West Bowerland.

Neutral view re removal of hedge. Concern about safety of a gateway to be raised.

8.2 **4281/17/CLE** Lawful Development Certificate for existing use of building known as 'The Annexe' as a self-contained holiday cottage. The Annexe, East Bowerland. Evidence requested re historic use of the building.

Agreed that the PC can neither refute nor verify the applicants' statements re the length of time that the building has been used as a holiday cottage.

Decisions:

4126/17/HHO Extension to existing front porch. Forda Cottage. Conditional approval

The WDBC enforcement cases list was circulated to Councillors.

9. Finance

9.1 Report of Financial Officer

Current Account

Previous balance	4726.42
Withdrawn	697.23
Deposits	<u>0.00</u>
New balance	4029.19
- TAP fund reserve	845.00
Non-restricted funds	3184.19
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Deposit Account

Previous balance	1370.63
Interest	<u>0.01</u>
New balance	1370.64

9.2 It was agreed to pay the following accounts:

Mrs M Leonard, clerk's salary January £181.12 (161 plus 2 hours at £10.06)

Mrs M Leonard, clerk's expenses January £23.35

Mrs G Jury, reimbursement for purchase &
erection of 'No Exit' sign from the village green. £51.59

10. Neighbourhood Plan update

Cllr Eberle reported that the Plan had now reached the 'Regulation 14' stage, which means it has gone out for official consultation and also public consultation. She distributed copies to those present and will be distributing more in the parish. Also available on Sourton and Bridestowe websites.

11. Telephone kiosk

The telephone kiosk has now been purchased and the contract signed by both parties. BT will inform the clerk when the phone has been removed. Cllr Eberle has obtained signatures of 18 residents in Sourton who support a defibrillator being installed in the kiosk. A meeting of residents has been held and Cllr Eberle is now working to establish how many would be willing to be trained in its use and help with its maintenance. 100% funding for the defibrillator is achievable.

12. Proposed purchase of land for Churchyard extension and car park

Two letters of objection from members of the public to the proposal for creation of a car park by the parish council were circulated.

Different aspects of the proposal were discussed. The public meeting on 12th February to be an indication of likely support or otherwise from the public.

13. Councillors reports

Two large potholes on the A386 near the entrance to Great Cranford and one pothole on the A386 near the Little Chef.

Mud on the road by the Highwayman Inn

14. The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.30pm

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