

Sourton Parish Council

Notes from a Public Meeting called by the Parish Council, regarding a proposal for a car park adjacent to the parish hall, held at 7.30pm on 12th February 2018

Present:

Cllrs J. Hockridge (Chair), P. Deacon, S. Eberle, A. Horn, G. Jury & M. Spry
15 members of the public
The parish clerk.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that the Parish Council had been considering for some time whether to purchase part of the field adjacent to the churchyard for a burial ground extension. There had more recently been an additional proposal made that the whole of the field be purchased to include a car park. The Parish Council felt that this second proposal could only go ahead if it has strong support from the parish. It was decided to call a public meeting to consult with parishioners. The Chairman asked whether anyone had any interest to declare. Cllr Jury declared an interest as a member of the Hall Committee. Mr K. Hobbs declared an interest being the tenant of the field.

Members of the public asked questions about and discussed the decision by the Parish Council to purchase land for an extension to the Churchyard.

Comments were invited about the proposal to buy the rest of the field for a car park. One letter had been received by the PC in favour of the car park and two against.

Some of the points raised were as follows::

For

Larger events could be held in the hall if there was more parking space, increasing hall income.
Local events such as the produce show need more parking
There has been an increase in use of the car park by walkers and cyclists
The loss of parking at the Highwayman increases need
The new development by the Highwayman is likely to increase use of car parking
Motorists are parking on the A386 which is highly dangerous.
Could buy whole field, fence off part for the cemetery and get income from the rest until car park affordable

Against

Do not want precept raised
Costings on top of purchase cost too high
Who will maintain it?
Not needed

Current tenant of field makes it available for parking anyway when weather permits
Water run-off from the car park could cause flooding
A better alternative would be the field on the other side of the current car park.

The Chairman asked for a show of hands by those who felt the field was unsuitable for a car park. This showed a majority in agreement.

It was agreed to form a community task force for fundraising towards the cost of buying the ground for the cemetery

The following people present volunteered:

Adrian Brookes

Mark Spry

Andrew Horn

Geraldine Jury

Agreed to invite a member of the Commoners and one other person from the community

It was agreed that the Parish Council should enquire as to whether the alternative field suggested for creating a car park would be for sale.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm