

# Sourton Parish Council

## Minutes of a Meeting held at 8pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at Sourton Hall

**Members present:** Cllrs J.Hockeridge (Chair), S. Daniel, P. Deacon, G. Jury & M. Spry.

**Also present:** 8 members of the public & M. Leonard (Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Eberle, Cllr Horn & Cllr Mott (WDBC)

2. Declarations of Interests in items on the agenda. None

3. Public Participation Time

3.1 Members of the public commented on Item 10. Some of the views expressed by them on the possibility of Sourton being given Sustainable Development status either in DNP or in West Devon were :

- This will open Sourton up for large developers over whom there will be no control
- Sourton does not have the facilities to be sustainable and should be kept as it is
- Why should development be limited to within the settlement boundary
- Young families looking for homes in Sourton will not be able to afford the types of homes currently lived in by elderly residents, when they come on the market, so need an alternative
- A number of smaller dwellings at affordable prices on the edge of the settlement boundary would be good for the area

The Clerk explained that since the agenda was published, DNP had informed Cllr Eberle that it already intends to include Sourton as a sustainable settlement in its Development Plan.

Following further discussion in which councillors expressed various views the Chairman proposed a vote. Cllr Spry proposed against Sourton becoming a sustainable settlement in the DNP Development Plan. Seconded by Cllr Jury. Three in favour and two abstained.

3.2 A member of the public expressed concern that a development is going ahead in the parish without planning permission, while a previous similar development in the parish had to undergo rigorous planning checks in order to get planning permission via the correct planning procedure.

The Chairman explained that the PC has made WDBC aware and does not have powers to take any further action. The matter is now in the hands of the Planning Authority.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April were approved as a true record & signed by the Chair.

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

5.1 A response has been received from Helen Maynard, DNP Planning Officer re the possibility of obtaining planning permission for a car park close to the village hall:

DNP's policy on community car parks DMD39, allows for community car parks within or adjacent to Rural Settlements where the proposed development is necessary to alleviate traffic or environment problems or to provide for tourist demand. Information justifying the car park would be needed on any planning application including a written statement and photographs. Visual impact, care with the layout of parking and surfacing used to limit the landscape impact of the parking area should all be considered.

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

6.1 A letter of thanks has been received from Mrs K Fogerty, Sourton Village Hall Secretary, for the Parish Council's donation.

6.2 Mr Graham Brown has updated the clerk on his correspondence with Airband re broadband coverage at Forda. Airband are hoping for additional funding from central government to try and extend coverage. Meanwhile the area receives good 4G coverage, which may be the best option at the moment. Airband are currently trialling a new technology called whitespace, across some areas of the national parks, which does not require line of sight and may be available in the future.

6.3 Councils Together Promoting Local Democracy Sourton PC is invited to a coffee morning on Sat 19<sup>th</sup> May, 10 - 12, to promote parish councils to the public. Cllr Spry to attend.

6.4 Trescote notice board is in need of repair. Cllr Spry volunteered to look at it.

6.5 The address of the new website which is now 'live' is <http://www.sourtonpc.org.uk/>

The new parish council email address is [parishclerk@sourtonpc.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@sourtonpc.org.uk)

Training to administer the website to be arranged with the providers, using the Transparency Grant funds. Cllr Deacon offered to receive training in addition to the Clerk. Agreed.

6.6 Using the projector. Cllr Deacon offered to assist the Clerk in looking at how the projector can be made fuller use of in future meetings.

7. Planning

7.1 **1140/18/FUL** The PC has been consulted on an application for the reinstatement of previous vehicular access to the site and closure of existing access at Fairway Lodge, Thorndon X, in the parish of Okehampton Hamlets, being adjacent to Sourton. Following a site visit with the Chair of Okehampton Hamlets, it was agreed to send a letter of objection due to a highway safety concern - the new access being too near the bridge.

7.2. **0674/18/HHO** Conditional Approval given for a replacement garage at Thrush Lea, Thorndon X

8. Finance

8.1 Report of Financial Officer

Current account:

Previous balance	4266.33
Withdrawn	939.00
Paid in	3,174.00
New balance	<b>6460.86</b>
(TAP fund reserve)	(280.00)
(Transparency grant reserve)	(886.65)
Unrestricted funds	<b>5294.21</b>

Deposit account:

Previous balance	1370.84
Interest	0.06
New balance	<b>1370.90</b>

8.2 Accounts for payment

WDBC Litter bin collection	15.60
Vision ICT Website	600.00
Community First Trading	349.56
Andrew Barton Grass cutting	220.00
Mrs M Leonard -Admin expenses	20.47
Mrs M Leonard Clerk Salary	212.50

### 8.3 Annual Accounts

A Certificate of Exemption was agreed and signed by the Chairman, for return to the External Auditor

The Annual Governance Statement 2017/2018 was completed, approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Accounting Statement 2017/2018 was approved and signed by the Chairman

All documents to be published on the website. It is no longer required to send the Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor.

Robert Humphry has agreed to act as internal auditor of the 2017/2018 accounts.

A notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and other information required by Regulation 15(2) Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 will be published on the website and on notice boards.

### 9. To consider whether Sourton should become a Sustainable Parish within the DNP Development Plan.

This item was discussed in Public Participation Time

### 10. Councillors' Reports

10.1 Cllr Spry asked whether it was necessary to continue with monthly meetings following the 6 month trial period. After a discussion it was proposed by Cllr Deacon, seconded by Cllr Jury to continue meeting monthly.

10.2 Cllr Jury reported incidents of dog owners not being in control of their dogs on the Granite Way.

10.3 Cllr Deacon expressed concern about the new vehicles being used by WDBC for litter collection. The vehicles are too big for some lanes and it seemed that money was being wasted. He suggested that the PC write to WD for an explanation. Agreed

### 11. Date of next meeting and items for the agenda

At the request of the Clerk the next meeting was arranged for Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm at Sourton Hall

12. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm