

Sourton Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 4th March 2019 at Sourton Hall.

Members present: Cllrs J. Hockridge (Chair) , P. Deacon, S. Eberle, A. Horn & G. Jury
Also present: Cllrs C. Mott, (WDBC), K. Ball (DCC) & D. Webber (DNP), 6 members of the public and M. Leonard (Clerk)

1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Public Participation Time No matters were raised by members of the public.

3 Declaration of interests in items on the agenda.

The Chairman stated that he would not participate in the Bowerland Barn application discussion.

4 Apologies None

The Chairman informed the meeting that Cllr Daniel has resigned as from today and he proposed that the council sends a letter of thanks to him for the interest he has shown and for the hard work that he has done for the parish. Cllr Daniel had been the only member who lives in the village and he is very sorry to lose him. All agreed.

5 Minutes of the Previous Meetings held on 7th January were approved as a true record & signed by the Chair. Minutes of the planning meeting on 21st January were approved, with the addition of meeting notes made by Cllr Horn, and signed by the Chair.

6 Matters arising from any items in the previous minutes which are not on the agenda
None

7 Co-option of new councillor

The vacancy has been advertised in BASE this month. There have been no applications.

8 2019 Election Election packs are ready for collection from WDBC offices. Cllr Eberle proposed that an item is put in Base to encourage Sourton parishioners to consider becoming councillors. Clerk to action.

9 DCC, WDBC, DNP - To receive reports and updates from councillors present

The Chairman invited Cllr Ball, Devon County Councillor, to address the meeting, which he did.

Summary

Budget - there have been 9 years of cuts in funding to DCC by the Government, meaning a 20% cut in revenue in real terms, causing significant changes. Just under 70% of the budget is spent on adult and children's services. Staff are under pressure and many are off work due to stress. The average age in the county is increasing fast. These costs impact on rural areas.

Roads - The Government has given an additional budget of 16.6 million to help repair the road network, which DC will have a share of.

There is one main highways contractor. The rest of the work is sub-contracted to whoever is appropriate. The main contractor is in its second year and this year is on schedule. DC are ready to deal with any bad weather in March.

Railway - Chris Grayling has announced that the Okehampton to Exeter service is on target to be re-introduced. DCC did a high level report last year for the Department of Transport. Cllr Ball is hopeful that an announcement will come this year.

New school in Okehampton - This is nearly complete and due to open in April

Business Park - Forthglade are now in situ, creating 20 jobs. More plots are being look at by other businesses. An Airband mast will soon be in place for good broadband on the site and surrounding houses may also benefit.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Ball for a detailed and interesting talk and Cllr Ball then answered questions.

Planning - to receive new applications & updates

The Chairman asked the Clerk to read part of an email received from a member of the public regarding the Parish Council's recent response to an application at East Bowerland, for change of use of a barn to a dwelling. He wished to state publicly that only he and Cllr Horn were available to attend the site meeting. The email implied that he was not entitled to attend the site meeting, which is not the case. The suggestion that he had been seen playing with a child while at the site visit was false. He wished to clarify this in public, as such claims can be damaging.

It was proposed by Cllr Deacon that a letter of reply should be sent. Agreed.

New applications

4227/18/FUL Demolition of existing stable building & erection of replacement, Ebsford.

Cllr Horn proposed supporting the application as this is a replacement of an out of date stable with an up to date alternative. All agreed

0273/19/PDM Notification for prior approval for proposed change of use of agricultural building to dwelling house (Class 3) and for associated operational development (Class Q (a&b). Barn at Forda Farm, Forda EX20 4HW . All agreed to support

0284/19/FUL Retrospective application to amend approved elevation detail under approved 2625/18/FUL, to allow raised eave height at 2, Bowerland Barn, Okehampton EX20 4LZ.

Two letters of objection had been circulated prior to the meeting. After a discussion, Cllr Eberle proposed objecting because the original principle that the outline of the building remains the same should not change. Seconded by Cllr Deacon. All agreed.

0366/19/VAR Removal of condition 8 of planning consent 00648/2013 (Erection of building over existing sand school for equestrian and dog training) to allow the retention of security light facing car park for pedestrian safety. Two letters of objection had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Eberle proposed that the condition should remain, in order to safeguard the appearance and the character of the area. Seconded by Cllr Jury. All agreed.

11 Neighbourhood Plan - update

Cllr Eberle reported that there had been a delay in completion after WDBC had suggested going into partnership re the development site adjacent to Bridestowe cemetery. After researching the proposal it was decided not to do this. There is now more delay because the working group have now been told that it is possible to shrink the size of the boundary on any site where there has been development which did not fill it. This would prevent further expansion of such a site. The boundary lines will now be redrawn to do this.

12 Clerk's report - Correspondence and any other item raised that is not on the agenda

12.1 North Dartmoor Search & Rescue Team - letter of thanks for donation

12.2 Email from Mr I. Wonnacott asking the council to write to the food outlets by the Shell Garage to provide sufficient rubbish bins and also asking the council to arrange a litter pick back from Cowsen Lane and around the junctions on the A386 towards Tavistock and towards Bowerland and surrounding area.

It was agreed to write to the food outlets. As the roads referred to would be too dangerous to organise a local litter pick on, the clerk to contact WDBC and reply to Mr Wonnacott.

12.3 Thorndon Defibrillator update.

The defibrillator is installed in Thorndon box and up and running. A VETS training course is to be run and when an invoice has been received the Clerk will send the grant claim to the Community Fund. The defibrillator to be advertised in BASE and the Okehampton Times

12.4 Request received from a parishioner about grit. The parish does not hold any grit, but parish councillors were reminded by the clerk to check local grit boxes and report to DCC or the clerk if they need topping up. Each box has an identity number inside it.

12.5 A parishioner reported that the wall holding the post box at Hardhill Cross had collapsed and the letter box is missing. It was later established that Royal Mail does have the box and told the parishioner that it would be returned. It was agreed to write to Royal Mail asking that the post box is put back as soon as possible, pointing out the danger of the stones from the fallen wall.

12.6 John Baker, PROW officer, has cleared the blocked ditch which was causing water to run down through Coombe Farm. His team will be doing more work early in March. Cllr Jury felt that the owners should receive compensation for damage done to their kitchen by the water, but it was agreed this was a matter for the owner to pursue. The sign beyond the Church, pointing down to the Granite Way, has been put in place following a request received from a parishioner, which was passed on to DCC.

12.7 Bratton Clovelly Parish Council is looking into the provision of warning lights outside Boasley School and have asked whether Sourton Parish Council would be interested in a joint project. It was agreed in principle to support the idea. Clerk to write to BCPC for more information.

12.8 CPRE - Invitation to Seminar on Thurs 21st March. Cllr Eberle has applied to attend at the cost of £5, which it was agreed could be reimbursed by the council

12.9 Northern Links meeting - 14th March, 7.30pm at Okehampton Town Hall, Council Chamber - no councillors able to attend.

13 Finance

13.1 Report of Financial Officer:

Current Account at 15th Feb £1017.15

Deposit Account at 15th Feb £1372.10

13.2 Accounts for payment:

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Vision ICT Annual Fee (Year 2) for ongoing website hosting, access to contents management system, on-going help and support, on-going website warranty £125 + vat = £150.00

Mrs M Leonard - clerk's salary, Jan & Feb - £425.00

Mrs M Leonard - clerk's expenses, Jan & Feb - £9.30

14 Ditching & grass cutting

Contact Andrew Barton for quote to clear ditches as last year.

Confirm agreement that he will cut the green at £80 per cut. Verge at Trescote Way to be considered later in the year.

15 Churchyard

The PCC has funded a tree survey of the cemetery, which has indicated that no work is currently needed on any of the trees and that they should be looked at again in three years.

Clerk to invite members of the PCC to join the PC on site to do an assessment of its current state.

16 Members reports

Cllr Deacon reported large lorries getting stuck up Luddon Hill. Agreed to contact DC.

Cllr Jury reported a number of incidents of deer being killed on the A386 across Prewley Moor. Agreed to ask DC for deer warning signs along that stretch of road.

Cllr Jury reported fly tipping in the car park by the cattle grid at Prewley (2 large mattresses). Clerk to report to WDBC

17 The meeting moved into Part 2 to discuss the WDBC Enforcement list.

Meeting moved out of Part 2.

18 The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting held on 1st April.

Items on the agenda will include talking to members of the public about becoming a councillor and the budget for the coming year. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm