

Sourton Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 1st April 2019 at Sourton Hall, immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting.

Councillors present: J. Hockridge (Chair), P. Deacon, S. Eberle, A. Horn & G. Jury
Also present: Cllr C. Mott (WDBC), R. Taylor (DNP Ranger), two members of the public & M. Leonard (Clerk)

1 Welcome by the Chair

The Chairman reminded everyone that this was the final meeting of the present parish council as the local elections will be held on Thursday 2nd May. Two councillors have stepped down this year but he hoped that people will come forward to make a full council once again.

2 Members of the Public - no matters raised.

3 Declaration of Interests in items on the agenda - none

4 Apologies - none

5 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th March 2019 were agreed as a true record. To be signed by the Chairman.

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

6.1 Litter. WDBC has removed the fly tipping on old A30 and cleared the rubbish in the layby. A WDBC mobile officer has visited the area of the food outlets and reported that while the bins have been emptied since the time of the report and are currently in a better state there is still an issue with litter which he will investigate further. The Clerk has also visited twice but did not find any bins overflowing. Cllr Eberle noted that there is still a rubbish problem around the front of the building, so it was agreed to write to the outlets anyway.

Cllr Mott has indicated that the Bridestowe Group does sometimes have spare time to pick up in Sourton, and suggested perhaps a joint group, with Sourton contributing costs with Bridestowe, may be helpful. It was agreed to help with this.

6.2 A letter of reply has been sent to Mrs Bozier regarding her concerns, having first been circulated to all members of the council.

6.3 Hardhill postbox. Royal Mail have not yet replied to the council's letter asking for confirmation that the postbox and wall will be re-instated shortly. It has been noted that the stones lying on the road have been removed, but it is not known by whom. The owner of the field of which the wall is a boundary has asked the council to ask Royal Mail to get it repaired and the postbox returned. Clerk to contact Royal Mail again.

6.4 No reply yet from DC about Deer Signs

6.5 Bratton Clovelly PC has written to Devon County Highways for advise re installing some type of safety equipment on the roads outside the school at Boasley Cross and informed DC that Sourton is also supporting the idea. Cllr Hockridge has also spoken to BCPC Chairman advising him of Sourton's support.

7 DCC, WDBC, DNP reports

Cllr Mott advised that anyone standing for parish or borough council needs to get nomination papers submitted by hand to WDBC by the deadline of 4pm on Wednesday 3rd April. These should be submitted well to time in case of errors.

8 Planning

New Applications

Ref 4164/18/HHO Householder application for erection of a conservatory. The Old Forge, Thorndon Cross, EX20 4NG

Cllrs Horn and Deacon have studied the plans and advised that they saw no reason to object as the conservatory will be out of sight. It was agreed to support the application.

Updates on previous applications

3994/18/FUL Change of use of agricultural barn and adjoining land to provide a new dwelling with associated refurbishments and landscaping. Conditional permission granted.

9 Neighbourhood Plan

The development boundary has now been redrawn since the group has been told that the small field behind Hillside cottage can not now be included and also told that where a development has been completed, leaving some land unused, the boundary can be shrunk to exclude the unused land. Awaiting final report back from WDBC.

Cllr Hockridge thanked Cllr Eberle and all who have worked so hard on the Neighbourhood Plan.

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

10.1 Request received from a parishioner that the lower branches of the copper beech tree on the green are trimmed to prevent damage to vintage tractors driving up the track. The tree was planted in 1937. Ownership/responsibility to be clarified. Clerk to contact Brian Beasley, DNP, in the first instance, for advice.

10.2 Looking into a query from a parishioner as to why a section of the West Devon Drive opposite his home is not cut.

11 Finance

Current Account at 15th March 792.85

Deposit Account at 15th March 1372.00

A budget meeting to be arranged to report back to the next meeting.

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Lewington Electrical Systems (Defib phonebox)	70.75 (TAP fund)
Mrs S Eberle Re-imburse for Defib telephone account	37.22 (TAP fund)
Mrs M Leonard, Clerk's salary, March	212.50
Mrs M Leonard, admin expenses	13.76

Deposits:

Sourton Commoners grant for grass cutting	360.00
WDBC TAP grant for defibrillator project	3192.68

12 Churchyard

The Chairman confirmed that Tony Batten is willing to continue with churchyard maintenance this year. Churchyard not yet been cut, in order to preserve the spring flowers. Clerk to contact SPCC with 3 proposed dates for a meeting at the old churchyard to establish work needed and to formalise arrangements with Mr Batten.

13 Grass cutting

Noted that Andrew Barton will be cutting the grass on the Green this season for the same price. First cut has been done. Too late for ditching. Clerk to make note in diary in September to discuss next autumn's ditching

14 Members reports

Cllr Eberle attended CPRE meeting. She suggested that the council considers joining. The £36 sub would provide free planning advice through the year. Agreed to add to the next agenda.

Cllr Jury has been informed by a parishioner about the following problems at Sourton Down:

- Traffic coming down the slipway from the A30 is mistakenly turning left towards Sourton Down instead of right to the Services. Suggested solution is that a sign is put at the bottom of the slipway in front of traffic, in addition to the large sign already on the slipway, which people seem to miss seeing.
- Lorries are parking across the junction of the road leading to Cornridge View and the Prewley Arms, probably because they have taken the wrong turning, having come off the west bound A30 intending to go to the Services, but turned left in error at the bottom of the slipway, instead of right.

- Cyclists from Devon Cycle Hire are at risk from speeding cars on the road from the junction to the Prewley Arms. Suggested solution - 20mph speed limit

This was discussed, and it was agreed to write to DCC Highways to see if anything can be done.

Cllr Hockridge reminded members that he had last year given 12 months notice of his resignation as Chair, whether or not he is elected back on the council.

He thanked everyone who he has worked with. He feels it is time to move on, and will support whoever takes on the Chair. He felt that this council has been one of the most difficult recently. It has spent much time debating whether to buy land for the churchyard and although it did not, it has now taken on the old burial ground meaning an increase in the precept was necessary. There have been many difficult applications to be visited and commented on. The council has done its best in consultation on all plans. He can't remember how many clerks he has worked with but the first clerk he recalls arrived with just a small notebook. There have been great changes since. He said he owed a great debt to all who have clerked for him over the years and thanked the current clerk. Cllr Deacon said that it is the council which owes him thanks and that it has been a pleasure working with him.

15 Items for the agenda of next ordinary meeting

To consider membership of CPRE

Budget

16 The date of the next meeting, the Annual Parish Council Meeting, followed by and Ordinary Meeting, will be Monday 13th May

17 Close of Meeting 9.30pm