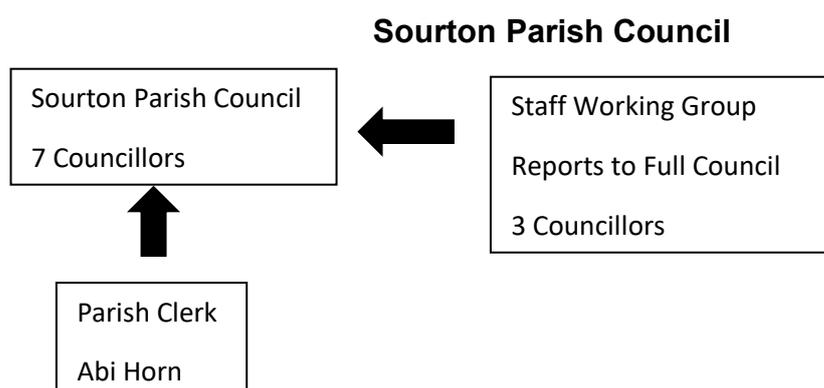


Sourton Parish Council  
Annual Report 2021-2022

The Parish Council does not have a dedicated office so the Clerk works from home.

Lake Farm Cottage  
Lake  
Sourton  
EX20 4HQ  
Tel: (01837) 861120  
Email: [parishclerk@sourtonpc.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@sourtonpc.org.uk)  
Website: [www.sourtonpc.org.uk](http://www.sourtonpc.org.uk)

The Annual Report is produced by the Council to give parishioners an overview of Council activities during the past year.



### Council Meetings

The Parish Council meets on the first Monday of each month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. There are 7 Parish Councillors, elected every 4 years, the next election will be held in May 2023.

#### Parish Councillors 2021/22

Councillor Sue Eberle – Chairman

Councillor Alan Jewell – Member

Councillor – Councillor Sam Firth- Member

Councillor – Councillor Jo Stone- Member

Councillor Mark Fogerty - Vice Chairman

Councillor Danielle Firth - Member

Councillor – Councillor Mel Leonard - Member



## Parish Council - Budget

		Y/E 31 March 2022				
		Spent V Budget		% of Budget	Budget	Difference
Total Expenses		Natwest	Unity		8,495.71	
Category	Sub category					
Clerk salary	Salary	2,875.55	-	33.85	3,438.71	563.16
	Working from home allowance	58.33		0.69		58.33
Grass cutting of the Green and church		943.00	-	11.10	1,370.00	427.00
Administration		60.00	100.00	1.88	560.00	400.00
Office costs		1,676.25	54.00	20.37	1,108.00	622.25
Insurance		305.47	-	3.60	425.00	119.53
Grants		125.00	150.00	3.24	675.00	400.00
Maintenance of assets contingency		300		3.53	300.00	0.00
Election Costs 4 yr contingency		214.00		2.52	214.00	0.00
General Reserve/contingency		405.00		4.77	405.00	0.00
			Underspend	Overspend	transfer	1,229.11

The Parish Council's total income comes from the precept it has not received any grants this year.

### Underspends

1. Clerk's salary- due to the changes of clerk during the year, the spend on wages was under budget, even after an increase in working hours.
2. Grass Cutting- due to combining the cutting of the village green and the closed churchyard, a saving was achieved.
3. Administration- A saving was achieved as the new clerk lives in the parish and is not claiming milage.
4. Insurance- The Council signed a 3 year contract with the insurance company thereby saving money on the insurance cost.
5. Grants- Covid 19 has reduced the activity of local groups. A list of grants given is listed later in the report.

### Overspends

1. Working from home allowance- this is part of the clerk's contract but was not budgeted for resulting in an overspend
2. Office Costs- The locum clerks invoice was paid from this budget heading resulting in an overspend.

Sourton Parish Council underspent the budget by £1229.11 mainly due to the lack of applications for grants.

### Grant recipients

1. Royal British Legion - £25 donation for a wreath
2. Sourton PCC - £100 Repairs to churchyard shed
3. Citizens Advice Bureau - £25 plus £50 awarded in the last financial year which failed to reach them - for their services in the community

4. Okehampton District Community Transport Group - £75 to support a service used by 35 of Sourton's parishioners

### **What Sourton Parish Council has been up to in 2021-22**

1. Bridestowe and Sourton's Neighbourhood Plan adopted in August 2021. Now that the Bridestowe and Sourton Neighbourhood plan is complete there was some money left over. Bridestowe and Sourton have shared it between the two parishes and Sourton will put it in an earmarked reserve until we find an appropriate use for it benefiting the whole parish.
2. Two speed watch groups have been set up – one in Sourton Village and recently one at Thorndon Cross
3. Four litter picks and one village tidy up completed
4. One pavement revealed when a roadside hedge was cut back by Highways at the Parish Council's request
5. One extra site for road salt identified (Forda) and bags of road salt have been obtained
6. Help provided to a flooded Sourton parishioner – Highways came out almost immediately to clear the blocked drains that caused the flooding.
7. £200 award from the Road Safety Commission for additional road signage was granted
8. A granite bench has been created as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations from a piece of granite donated by the Dartmoor National Park.
9. Councillors and the clerk have attended training sessions provided by DALC as well as webinars/zoom meetings with Dartmoor National Park, Highways, CPRE and West Devon Borough Council.
10. The Parish Council has been exploring with WDBC the possibility of providing faster broadband connections.
11. Prewley moor track to the water works has been repaired on the request of the Parish Council
12. Following the concerns raised by Sourton Parish Council about safety to children, changes to the layout at Prewley where the Granite Way crosses the Prewley moor track

### **New this year**

1. Agendas are displayed on the Council's website as well as two of the parish notice boards. This has helped reduce office costs as well
2. A monthly parish council update is in the BASE magazine.
3. The website is getting updated frequently with information from WDBC and DCC as well as useful signposts and links for residents

### **Parish Council**

The Parish Council is responsible for cutting the village green and the closed area of the churchyard at Thomas a Becket's. Grass cutting is a major outlay, but the contractor offers an excellent service and costs have been kept constant over the two year contract period. The Council will be looking for new quotes for the grass cutting later in the year as the current contractor is not able to continue past the 2022 grass cutting season. During the year some of the notice boards have received some T.L.C to prolong their lifespan. Five enthusiastic walkers have walked surveyed the parish footpaths and reported back to the DCC Footpaths Officer who will organise any necessary repairs. 30 trees have been planted as part of the Queen's Green

Canopy and the council will be discussing the planting of more trees in the autumn. Thorndon Cross defibrillator group held a fundraising event to raise money for the ongoing costs of the defibrillator- over £400 was raised.

## **Planning**

The Parish Council is a consultee on planning applications within the parish. The council appraises the applications against a list of material considerations :

1. Overshadowing- The completed proposal would create overshadowing to neighbouring properties
2. Overlooking and loss of privacy- The completed proposal would overlook and create a loss of privacy to the neighbouring properties.
3. Adequate parking and servicing- The completed proposal would have insufficient parking and access
4. Overbearing nature of proposal-The completed proposal would be overbearing to its surroundings.
5. Loss of Trees- The completed proposal would lose trees.
6. Loss of ecological habitats -The completed proposal would involve loss of ecological habitat.
7. Design and appearance -The completed proposal would not be in keeping with or enhance both the original dwelling and the character of the local area. (Refer to local village design statement and or village plan if available)
8. Layout and density of buildings-The completed proposal would not relate well in layout or form to its surroundings. (Refer to local village design statement and or village plan if available)
9. Effect on listed building(S) and conservation areas -The completed proposal would affect listed building(s) conservation areas
10. Access and highway safety- The completed proposal would not have adequate and safe access to highway or not comply with highway safety requirements.
11. Traffic generation -The completed proposal would increase noise levels or disturb the immediate neighbourhood.
12. Noise and disturbance from the scheme -The completed proposal would increased noise levels or disturb the immediate neighbourhood.
13. Disturbance from smells-The completed proposals would create smells.
14. Public visual amenity (not loss of private individual's view) -The completed proposal would affect the visual or aural amenity of the immediate neighbourhood.
15. Flood risk -The completed proposal would increase the risk of flooding.

The Parish Council has considered and submitted a response to West Devon for 18 planning applications. The Parish Council met with West Devon Borough Council Officers to discuss planning and enforcement and how to work productively together in the future. West Devon Borough Council has created a Memorandum of Understanding outline how parish, town and borough councils will work together and Sourton has signed up to the draft version.

