

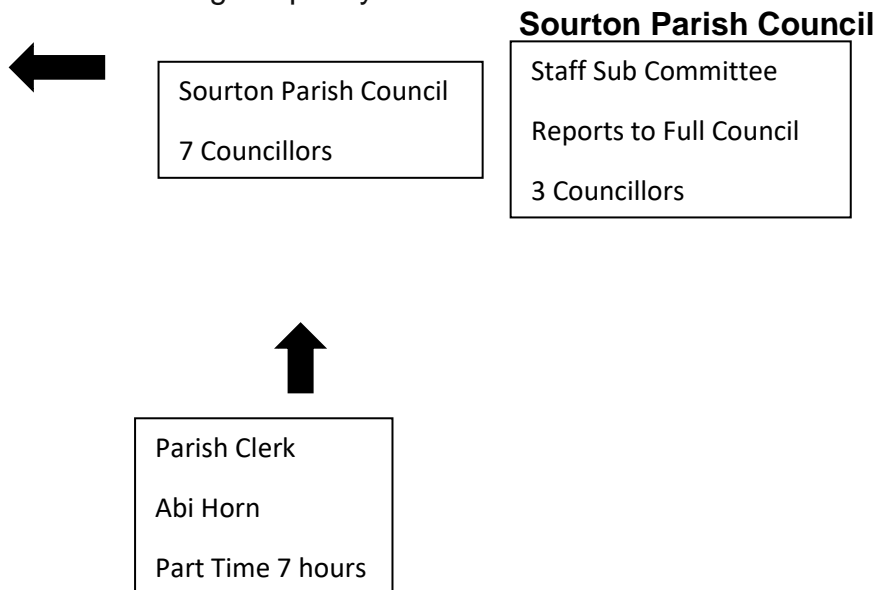
# Sourton Parish Council

Annual Report 2022-2023

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

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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 7pm in the Village Hall.

There are 7 Parish Councillors, elected every 4 years, the next election will be held in May 2027.

## Parish Councillors 2022/23

Councillor Sue Eberle – Chairman 83% Attendance

Councillor Mark Fogerty - Vice Chairman 100% Attendance

Councillor Danielle Firth - 66% Attendance

Councillor Sam Firth- 75% Attendance

Councillor Alan Jewell – 100% Attendance

Councillor Mel Leonard – 100% Attendance

Councillor Jo Stone- 91% Attendance



## Parish Council - Budget

The Parish Council's income comes from the precept and grants this year.

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Spend to Date</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Salary	£3,894.00	£4,242.34	£348.34
Working from home allowance	£100.00	£100.00	£0.00
Grass cutting of the green and church	£1,472.00	£1,125.00	£347.00
Asset maintenance	£500.00	£1,108.69	£608.69
Tree inspection	£0.00	£395.00	£395.00
Defibrillator	£0.00	£135.00	£135.00
Admin expenses/mileage	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00
Training	£360.00	£60.00	£300.00
Printer toner/stationery	£203.00	£213.54	£10.54
Website	£160.00	£417.50	£257.50
Village Hall hire	£150.00	£150.00	£0.00
Subscriptions	£215.00	£35.00	£180.00
Litterbin emptying	£80.00	£39.78	£40.22
Events	£2,379.00	£1,612.00	£767.00
Internal Auditor	£150.00	£55.00	£95.00
Business bank account charges	£80.00	£90.00	£10.00
Insurance	£425.00	£272.75	£152.25
Grants	£875.00	£900.00	£25.00
Reserves	£919.00	£0.00	£919.00
Total	£12,062.00	£10,951.60	£1,110.40

## Grants Received

National Lottery Grant	£	739.00
Commoners Council	£	472.00
WDBC	£	200.00
Trasfer	£	440.00
DCC	£	500.00
WDBC	£	1,000.00
WDBC	£	200.00
WDBC	£	500.00
National Lottery Grant	£	950.00
	£	5,001.00

### **Underspends**

1. Grass Cutting- due to heatwave the grass needed less cutting in August.
2. Administration- A saving was achieved as the clerk lives in the parish and is not claiming milage.
3. Training- The Councillors and Clerk felt they had completed all the relevant training courses.
4. Subscriptions- By not renewing some subscriptions and taking out new one's a saving was made.
5. Internal Auditor- A better relationship with the auditor means the Council has a quote at budget setting time so can plan accordingly.
6. Insurance- The Council signed a 3-year contract with the insurance company thereby saving money on the insurance cost.

### **Overspends**

1. Salary- The nationally agreed rise in Clerks' wages was higher than budgeted for
2. Asset Maintenance- the noticeboard in the middle of the village came to the end of its life. A grant paid for half of a new noticeboard.
3. Tree Inspection- tree inspections for the closed area of the churchyard must happen periodically and this had been delayed with covid.
4. Defibrillator- In previous years this had been paid for by the remaining grant monies, but this has now run out and the Parish Council is responsible for paying the invoice.
5. Printer/ toner/ stationary- A new printer and desk top computer have been purchased in line with the Council's replacement policy.
6. Website- Due to rising hosting costs the Council moved the website to a new provider and had an upgrade to make sure it was accessible.

### **Grant recipients**

1. Base magazine £200
2. Okehampton District Community Transport Group £100
3. North Dartmoor Search and Rescue £100
4. Royal British Legion £25 donation for a wreath
5. Citizens Advice Bureau £100
6. Treetops £200 for sandpit and water tray
7. Sourton Stitches £150 to hire the hall for a new group.

### **What Sourton Parish Council has been up to in 2022-23**

In June the Council held a celebration event for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. A BBQ and a beacon were enjoyed by the residents and over £200 was donated which was given to the

Church. The Mayor of West Devon presented all the children of the parish wildflower seeds and an engraved trowel to mark the event. The rowan trees were planted near the Churchyard to be part of the Queen's Green Canopy

In June the Parish Council organised a ceilidh which raised over £300 which was donated to the Village Hall.

In September the Council mourned the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, a condolence book was put in the church for residents and visitors to sign. The book has gone to be bound by West Devon Borough Council with other parish condolence books. A card was received from King Charles III thanking the parish for their letter of sympathy at a difficult time for his family.

In December native bulbs were planted on the village green to increase the species diversity.

More trees were planted on the verge by Trescott Way and on the verge by the cycle hire shop.

In February the Council hosted a free breakfast as part of the warm spaces initiative in which 70-80 breakfast were cooked. £74 was raised in donations and £50 of this was given to Treetops for new outside equipment.

In April a curry night was held as part of the warm space's initiative, around 40 parishioners joined the Councillors in the village hall.

In May the Council held a Coronation event with a free cream tea, a games afternoon and BBQ, beer, and fireworks in the evening.

The Parish Council is responsible for cutting the village green and the closed area of the churchyard at St Thomas a Becket. Grass cutting is a major outlay, but the contractor offers an excellent service and costs have been kept constant over the previous two-year contract period. A new contractor started in April but due to rising costs the number of cuts for the year has been reduced to six. Volunteer residents have joined the Councillors surveying the parish footpaths and reported back to the DCC Footpaths Officer who will organise any necessary repairs. The volunteers have also helped with litter picking and are looking forward to helping with more projects in the next council year.

A new website has gone live with more accessible information and with more information and pictures.

The Parish Council is a consultee on planning applications within the parish. The Council appraises the applications against a list of material considerations. The Parish Council has considered and submitted a response to West Devon for 14 planning applications and 1 application for Dartmoor National Park.

### **Parish Council Assets**

<b><u>Structures etc</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Value</u></b>
Bus shelter - wooden	Prewley	1,080.00
Bus shelter - wooden	Thorndon Cross	1,080.00
Bus shelter - block	Pool Hill	1,200.00
Bus shelter - natural stone and wood	Sourton	13,600.00
Bus shelter -wooden (50% owned)	Boasley	1,080.00
Notice Board (in bus shelter)	Thorndon Cross	50.00
Notice Board (in bus shelter)	Pool Hill	50.00
Notice Board (in bus shelter)	Boasley	50.00
Notice Board (free standing)	Pool Cross	300.00
Notice Board (free standing)	Sourton Green	(300.00)
Notice Board (free standing)	Sourton Green	1,000.00
1 seat	Trescote Way	328.50
1 seat granite	Village Green	1.00
1 phone box, containing Defribillator	Thorndon Cross	1.00
Bus Shelter	Windard Terrace Sourton	1.00
<b><u>Equipment</u></b>		
1 bin	Cycle track	199.00
1 laptop		200.00
1 desktop computer		144.00
replacement laptop		207.00
1 printer		(113.00)
1 printer Brother		113.00
1 projector		189.00
Portable projector Screen		15.00
1 screen		60.00
1 silver presentation bowl	On loan to Show	4,080.00