

**Minutes of the Sourton Parish Council meeting held at 7pm
on 13th April 2026 at Sourton Village Hall.**

Council Member Present:

Cllr Mott (Chair)
Cllr Firth
Cllr Kennedy
Cllr Southcott

In Attendance:

Mrs A Horn (Clerk)

A fire drill was carried out at 7pm

- 197. Chair's Report** Cllr Mott reported that it was a good start to the new volunteer group and bacon baps provided by the hall was well attended. She hoped the group grow over next couple of months and the next meeting of the group and bacon baps is 18th April.
- 198 Apologies for Absence** On the proposition of Cllr Mott and seconded by Cllr Southcott was **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies of Cllr Horn apologies due to personal reasons
- 199 Public Forum** None
- 200 Declarations of Interest** None
- 201 WDBC, DCC, DNP and Sourton Hall Reports** WDBC – The new Village Hall grant is now open and details have been circulated. Planning regulations have been published by central government allowing West Devon to issue a date for the new local plan.
DCC- No report
DNP- No Report
Sourton Hall- No report
- 202 Minutes of the previous meeting** On the pros position of Cllr Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Southcott it was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd March 2026
- 203 Planning**
- 203.1** 0729/26/FUL
Fairways Lodge
Thorndon Cross
EX20 4NE On the proposition of Cllr Firth and seconded by Cllr Kennedy it was **RESOLVED** to submit a neutral view.
- 203.2** 0455/26/FUL
East Bowerland
Farm Okehampton
EX20 4LZ On the proposition of Cllr Firth and seconded by Cllr Kennedy it was **RESOLVED** to object to the application for the following reasons:
The Parish Council objects to this reapplication, noting that a similar proposal for a ménage was previously refused. The Council does not consider the current proposal to be an acceptable alternative. The

introduction of a new roofed structure in this rural location constitutes further overdevelopment of the site and would be out of keeping with the surrounding countryside.

The proposal would have an adverse visual impact, particularly when viewed from the nearby bridleway, contrary to the aims of the Sourton and Bridestowe Neighbourhood Plan, which seeks to protect the character and landscape of the area.

In addition, there is no information provided regarding proposed lighting, raising concerns about potential light pollution and its impact on local amenity and dark skies, contrary to West Devon Borough Council's planning policies on protecting the rural environment and landscape character.

- 204 WDBC Assets** On the proposition of Cllr Firth and seconded by Cllr Kennedy it was **RESOLVED** not to apply for any West Devon Borough Council assets at this time.
- 205 Policies**
- 205.1** To review and adopt On the proposition of Cllr Mott and seconded by Cllr Firth it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the policies
- with the addition of grant recipients would be asked to come to the Annual Parish Meeting and provide feedback.
 - Changing the review date on the Grants policy to 2027
- 206. Finance**
- 206.1 Finance Report** On the proposition of Cllr Mott and seconded by Cllr Kennedy it was **RESOLVED** to agree the bank reconciliation dated 31st March and the budget monitoring report noting that the first half of the precept for 2026-27 had been received.
- 206.2 Payments** On the proposition of Cllr Southcott and seconded by Cllr Kennedy it was **RESOLVED** to approve the payment list totalling £987.38 plus VAT
- 206.3 Standing Orders** On the proposition of Cllr Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Firth it was it was **RESOLVED** approve the list of standing orders and Direct debits for 2026-27
- 206.4 Internal Audit** It was noted the Internal Audit will take place on 7th May 2026 in person
- 207 Annual Report**
- 207.1 Draft Annual Report** The draft of the Annual Report was reviewed and some additions were suggested.
- 208 Ongoing Items**

- 208.1 Closed Churchyard** It was agreed that the Council apply for the Faculty from the Diocese of Exeter in June so that the work to the gravestones can be undertaken during the summer.
- 208.2 Drains** Cllr Mott had spoken to the new land agent for the Carpark and Village green and it was **RESOLVED** that the Council will write to the land agent to request formal permission for third parties to undertake works on the drainage system. The Council will seek confirmation that such permission can be granted without any liability being attributed to the third party in respect of the works carried out.
- 208.3 Cluster Group** The Clerk reported that the Cluster Group was meeting on Wednesday. A letter from the group to Highways was circulated asking for the wider area to be informed when major road works are taking place. The council suggested some additions to the letter such as including how much the disruption had affected the businesses which the Clerk would take to the meeting.
- 209 Councillor Reports** Cllr Firth asked if the bin at Prewely could be upgraded as it is constantly full.
Cllr Southcott reported that there were 2 new recruits for speed watch but sadly no response from established speed watch members. He was hoping to complete training and hold a session before the end of April.

- 210 Items Brought Forward for next agenda** Prewely bin

EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted to consider that the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting for the following items of business.

(**CONFIDENTIAL** by virtue of relating to legal and/or commercial matters, staffing and/or the financial or business affairs of a person or persons other than the Council)

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS CIRCULATED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- 211. WDBC Enforcement** An update was noted
- 212 Tree Surgeon Quotes** On the proposition of Cllr Firth and seconded by Cllr Kennedy it was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote from Adam of Eden tree care £350 plus VAT to reduced by approximately 3 metres Beech tree in car park of sourton church- large bow over the carpark area with included bark union at base to be to alleviate end weight and chip and remove debris.
- 213 Staffing** Due to the staffing committee being inquorate this item was differed.
- 214 Date of Next Meeting** Monday 11th May
The meeting closed at 8:24pm