

Sourton Parish Council

Minutes of the Sourton Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on Monday 4th September 2023 at Sourton Village Hall.

Council Member Present:

Cllr Eberle (Chair)

Cllr S Firth

Cllr D Ford

Cllr Jefferies

Cllr Jewell

Cllr Stone

In Attendance:

Mrs A Horn (Clerk) Cllr Mott WDBC, Cllr Samuel DCC, 3 Members of the public

- 43 Chair's Report** Cllr Eberle welcomed the member of public to the meeting
- 44 Apologies for Absence** On the proposition of Cllr Eberle and Seconded by Cllr Jefferies it was **Resolved** to approve the absence of Cllr D Firth due to an appointment.
- 45 Public Forum** The applicant answered questions about the planning application on the agenda.
- 46 Declarations of Interest** Cllr Jewell declared an interest in 49.1 Planning application at land adjacent to Catsmoor Cross due to being a friend of applicant.
- 47 WDBC, DCC, DNP and Sourton Hall Reports** DCC report to be circulated after the meeting. DCC finances were looking more positive. Cllr Samuel is now on the cabinet for Children services and SEND.
DNP were looking at new appeal over camping on Dartmoor. A new Highways officer to replace Steve Brockman has been appointed.
WDBC reports being circulated by email.
Village Hall Committee have a meeting Wednesday 6th September
- 48 Minutes of the previous meeting** It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th July 2023 proposed by Cllr Ford and seconded by Cllr Jewell
- 49 Planning**
- 49.1 1861/23/FUL** On the proposition of Cllr S Firth and seconded by Cllr Jefferies it was **Resolved** to submit neither a support nor object response but submit the comments shared by the residents.
- 3 members of the public left 19.31
- 50 Community**
- 50.1 Bridestowe and Sourton Housing Needs Survey** The council noted the house need survey drop in dates from West Devon. This would be sent to every house in both parishes by West Devon. The Council would add the poster to the website and noticeboard and encourage residents to respond.

Sourton Parish Council

51 Finance

- 51.1 **Finance Report** The Clerk reported the second half of the precept was due this month. The clerk shared July and August's bank rec with the councillors and the year to date spend.
- 51.2 **Payments** On the proposition of Cllr Eberle and seconded by Cllr S Firth it was **resolved** to approve the schedule of payment.
- 51.3 **Budget** Cllr Jefferies suggested separating the budget headings into things the council legally must do and things it chooses to do. It was also suggested to split the green budget heading into grass cutting and green projects. The clerk would look at this with Cllr Jefferies and come back to the council with an updated budget.

52 Policies

- 52.1 **Policies to review** On the proposition of Cllr S Firth and seconded by Cllr Jewell it was **Resolved** to approve the following policies:
Closed churchyard
Expenses
Meeting attendance
Continuity plan
Equal opportunities
- 52.2 **Policies to adopt** On the proposition of Cllr Eberle and seconded by Cllr Jefferies it was **Resolved** to adopt the following policies
Sickness & absence
Complaints procedure
A Governance Committee

53 Projects

- 53.1 **Events working group** The working group were planning the firework night event, and this would be added to the BASE magazine to give residents notice. They were also hoping to host a Christmas party to use the last of the warm spaces money and would talk to the PCC about a possible combined event.
- 53.2 **Green Working Group** The next litter pick is Wednesday 6th September at 5pm. It was hoped that following litter picks would be on soup and roll days to finish the event off with a reward. Next year's grass cutting tender was discussed and it was decided to ask in BASE if the residents wished their precept to be increased to cut the churchyard as many times as in previous years or to leave the grass longer and not spend more of the precept on it.
- 53.3 **20's Plenty for us** The Council signed up to 20 is plenty and have been added the map. The Clerk has contacted Steven's estate agents about the 20 is plenty house signs and was waiting for a response. The Clerk also contacted the police team about the speed but has had no reply.
- 53.4 **Councillor Emails** The clerk shared the instructions for council emails ending @sourtonpc.org.uk and reminded councillors that as of the beginning of October this would be the only email address used.
- 53.5 **Councillor Training** Cllrs Ford and Jefferies asked to be signed up to the new councillor e learning and Cllr S Firth would liase with the clerk regarding the date of the course Councils as an employer.

Sourton Parish Council

- 53.6 **Clerk Update** The Clerk will be moving so website and notice board and policies addresses would be being updated and contact number changed to the clerk's mobile as that was not changing.
- 53.7 **Councillor Reports** Bridle path at Thorndon Cross needs gate clearing for access. East Bowerland's breeding licence was under review by West Devon.
- Cllr Samuel left at 20:25
- 54 **Items Brought Forward** None
- 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
- 55 **WDBC** An update was noted
- Enforcement**
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
- Cllr Mott left at 20:35
- 56 **Staff Report** The Clerk reported that there was still no news on the pay update, but it has been budgeted for. Cllr S Firth asked to defer the rest of the item to the next meeting as the Staffing Sub Committee had had to postpone their meeting.
- 57 **Bungalow Bus stop repairs** The clerk shared a quote received but the council agreed not to accept the quote and ask for volunteers in the BASE magazine.
- 58 On the proposition of Cllr Eberle and seconded by Cllr S Firth it was **RESOLVED** to exit part 2 of the meeting and ratify the decisions made.
- 59 **Date of Next Meeting** 9th October 2023

The meeting closed at 21.06