

# Sourton Parish Council

Minutes of the Sourton Parish Council meeting held at 7:30pm  
on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at Sourton Village Hall.

## Council Member Present:

Cllr Eberle (Chair)

Cllr Jewel

Cllr Stone

Cllr Fogerty

Cllr Leonard

Cllr S Firth

Cllr D Firth

## In Attendance:

Mrs A Horn (Clerk) Cllr Southcott Cllr Mott WDBC, 3 members of the public

60. **Chairmans Report** Cllr Eberle reported she had meet with Highways the £200 grant could not be used towards a flashing speed sign, but Sourton Parish Council would have to pay for the full cost, and this was not feasible but might be used towards a pedestrian sign.  
Cllr Eberle reported that as the response from the parish had been limited the social events budget would be postponed.
61. **Apologies for Absence** None
62. **Public Forum** A member of the public spoke about ownership of trees at Highwayman's Grove and the unfinished nature of the site.  
3 members of the public left 7:56pm
63. **Declarations of Interest** None
64. **DCC, WDBC, DNP and Sourton Hall Reports** DCC report circulated by email  
WDBC emails circulated  
Sourton Hall were thinking of discussing hearing loops and a defibrillator for the hall.
65. **Minutes of the previous meeting** On the proposition of Cllr Fogerty and seconded by Cllr Jewell it was **resolved to** approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022
- Policies**
66. **Closed churchyard-** On the proposition of Cllr D Firth and seconded by Cllr Eberle it was **resolved** to adopt the policy.
- Expenses-** On the proposition of Cllr Leonard and seconded by Cllr S Firth it was **resolved** to adopt the policy
- Meeting attendance** - On the proposition of Cllr Jewell and seconded by Cllr Eberle it was **resolved** to adopt the policy.

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- **Vacancy-** On the proposition of Cllr Leonard and seconded by Cllr D Firth it was **resolved** to adopt the policy with the addition of the candidate to leave the room while the vote took place.
  - **Continuity plan-** On the proposition of Cllr Fogerty and seconded by Cllr Eberle it was **resolved** to adopt the policy.
  - **Equal opportunities-** On the proposition of Cllr Eberle and seconded by Cllr Jewell it was **resolved** to adopt the policy.
- 67
- 68     **Register of Interests**     Councillors were asked to review their register of interests as the council adopted a new version of the code of conduct in August 2022.
- 69     **Finance**
- 69.1   **Finance Report**     The clerk updated the Council on the finances and Cllr D Firth signed the bank rec and statements.
- 69.2   **External Auditor Arrangements**     On the proposition of Cllr Eberle and seconded by Cllr Fogerty it was **resolved** to not opt out of the government appointed auditor.
- 69.3   **Payments**     On the proposition of Cllr Fogerty and seconded by Cllr Jewell it was **resolved** to approve the schedule of payments.
- 69.4   **Grant**     On the proposition of Cllr Eberle and seconded by Cllr S Firth it was **resolved** to award the Community Transport Group £100
- 70     **Planning application**

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70.1 2391/22/HHO

On the proposition of Cllr Eberle and seconded by Cllr S Firth it was **resolved** unanimously to object to the application.

The proposed retrospective planning application does not meet Neighbourhood Plan Policy H5 and H4 Design and Quality of New Development which states that " the scale, height, and mass (of the building) should reflect the local character, which it does not. Southmoor is a huge house in comparison to the surrounding houses which are low bungalows.

The application does not comply with WDBC's Policy TTV 29.5. Which states that the extension should not be more than 50% of floorspace in combination with all other extensions. The proposed extension combined with the previous extension is more than 50% bigger than the original property.

The proposal's roof line is not consistent with WDBC policy which says that additions to properties should have a lower ridgeline than the original property.

It is also increasing the footprint of an already big house. WDBC has a housing shortage of smaller homes, and there is a presumption against giving planning permission for large houses to be made even larger, making more of the housing stock further out of the reach of local people.

The required planning notice erected on site had been removed soon after it was erected and therefore the site is not complying with planning procedure.

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Material planning considerations		No	Yes
1	<b>Overshadowing.</b> The completed proposal would, create overshadowing to neighbouring properties	X	
2	<b>Overlooking and loss of privacy.</b> The completed proposal would overlook and create a loss of privacy to the neighbouring properties.	X	
3	<b>Adequate parking and servicing</b> The completed proposal would, have insufficient parking and access	X	
4	<b>Overbearing nature of proposal.</b> The completed proposal would, be overbearing to its surroundings.		X
5	<b>Loss of Trees.</b> The completed proposal would, lose trees.	X	
6	<b>Loss of ecological habitats.</b> The completed proposal would, involve loss of ecological habitats.	X	
7	<b>Design and appearance.</b> 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)	X	
8	<b>Layout and density of buildings.</b> 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)	X	
9	<b>Effect on listed building(S) and conservation areas.</b> The completed proposal would, affect listed building(s) conservation areas	X	
10	<b>Access and highway safety.</b> The completed proposal would, <b>not</b> have adequate and safe access to highway or <b>not</b> comply with highway safety requirements.	X	
11	<b>Traffic generation.</b> The completed proposal would, increased noise levels or disturb the immediate neighbourhood.	X	
12	<b>Noise and disturbance from the scheme.</b> The completed proposal would, increased noise levels or disturb the immediate neighbourhood.	X	
13	<b>Disturbance from smells.</b> The completed proposals would, create smells.	X	
14	<b>Public visual amenity (not loss of private individual's view).</b> The completed proposal would, affect the visual or aural amenity of the immediate neighbourhood.		X
15	<b>Flood risk.</b> The completed proposal would, increase the risk of flooding.	X	

## 71 Green Spaces

### 71.1 Green verges

Cllr Eberle reported that some of the orchids are in visibility splay areas by the junctions and therefore Devon Highways will continue to cut them as per their maintenance schedule. The area on the Shell garage side of the road is not under the ownership as previous thought and contact was trying to be made with the owner.

Highways England are responsible for main area on lorry park side and no response had been received.

Cllr Leonard reported that the verge licence for Trescott Way and the Cycle Hire verge had come through.

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The council was asked to consider what trees were suitable and if the council should apply for free trees again. It was noted that DCC has asked for hornbeam/whitebeam to be planted.

Cllr Jewell suggested that until the new pipeline route was known it would be sensible not to plant any trees on the cycle hire verge.

WDBC councillors left 8:50pm

- 71.2 Village Hall Road** No update
- 71.3 Green Plan** The plan was noted and would be reviewed periodically.
- 72 Councillor Training** Cllr Fogerty ask to attend The Council as an employer course  
Clerk asked to attend Budgeting for Council Clerks and RFO's  
It was agreed that the clerk should book both courses
- 73. Councillor Reports** It was noted there were a couple of areas that were not as they should be- clerk to confirm if they were in the parish or not.
- 74. Items Brought Forward** Meeting frequency  
Budget

## 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

- 75. WDBC Enforcement** An update was noted

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- 76. Website**
- 76.1 Website Host** On the proposition of Cllr Fogerty and seconded by Cllr D Firth it was **resolved to** move the website hosting to Best Host.
- 76.2 London Bridge** On the proposition of Cllr Eberle and seconded by Cllr Leonard it was **resolved to** not ask the current website to host to add this feature as the website would be moving host shortly.

On the proposition of Cllr Eberle, seconded Cllr Fogerty it was **RESOLVED** to exit Part 2 and ratify decisions made therein. The meeting closed at 9:50pm

- 77. Date of Next Meeting** 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022