

Sourton Parish Council

Minutes of the Sourton Parish Council meeting held at 6:30pm
on Monday 9th May 2022 at Sourton Village Hall.

Council Member Present:

Cllr Eberle (Chairman)

Cllr Jewel

Cllr D Firth

Cllr S Firth

Cllr Stone

Cllr Fogerty

Cllr Leonard

In Attendance:

Mrs A Horn (Clerk) Cllr Mott WDBC

1. **Welcome by the Chair**
2. **Apologies for Absence** Apologies received from Cllr Southcott WDBC
3. **Public Forum** This item will be conducted in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Council, which are available to read on the website.
4. **Declarations of Interest** Cllrs Stone and Jewell declared an interest in item 7.1
5. **Elections**
 - 5.1 **Election of Chairman** On the proposition of Cllr Stone and seconded by Cllr Fogerty it was **resolved** to elect Cllr Eberle as Chairman.
 - 5.2 **Acceptance of Office** Cllr Eberle signed the Acceptance of Office
 - 5.3 **Election of Vice Chairman** On the proposition of Cllr Eberle and seconded by Cllr Leonard it was **resolved** to elect Cllr Fogerty as Vice Chairman.
6. **Minutes of the previous meeting** On the proposition of Cllr Jewell and seconded by Cllr D Firth it was **resolved** to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th April 2022
7. **To nominate representatives**
 - 7.1 **DNP** On the proposition of Cllr Leonard and seconded by Cllr D Firth it was **resolved** to Cllr Eberle
 - 7.2 **Closed Churchyard** On the proposition of Cllr Eberle and seconded by Cllr Leonard it was **resolved** to Cllrs D & S Firth
 - 7.3 **Northern Links** On the proposition of Cllr Eberle and seconded by Cllr D Firth it was **resolved** to Cllr Leonard
 - 7.4 **Police and Crime Commissioner Advocate** On the proposition of Cllr Eberle and seconded by Cllr J Stone it was **resolved** to Cllr Fogerty

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7.5 **Asset Assessment** On the proposition of Cllr S Firth and seconded by Cllr D Firth it was resolved to Cllr Stone and Cllr Jewell

8. **DCC, WDBC, Reports** DCC reported previously circulated
No WDBC report

7. **Planning** To consider a response to new applications listed on the WDBC and/or DNPA Planning Portals.

7.1 **1128/22/FUL**

General views on compliance with relevant planning policies e.g. within or outside a development boundary.	Open countryside Dogs and Equine not agricultural defined by Defra
Beneficial and adverse impacts of a development on the local community.	N/A
Effects on surrounding buildings (e.g loss of privacy or light) and environment.	Loss of privacy neighbours
Acceptable design, scale, materials and landscaping to fit in with site and/or adjacent buildings.	N/A
Problems with site access or parking.	N/A
Adequacy of highway network to cope with additional traffic and related safety issues.	N/A
Adequacy of local services and/or infrastructure to cater for a development.	N/A
Particular features existing onsite which should be retained.	N/A
Problems with noise, dust, smell or fumes or any other adverse impact on the amenity of local residents.	Noise- the site already cause a problem to neighbours with noise and the addition of another training area will only add to this.
Any suggestions to improve the proposed development.	
Local Knowledge / Previous History	The site already has a 2000m indoor arena and a 4000m out door training area so the need for another training area is not felt.

Sourton Parish Council objects to this planning application.

TTV26 Development in the countryside states that an application should be complementary to and not prejudice any viable agricultural operations on a farm and other existing viable uses which this application is not. Covering an agricultural field in a sand school limits the use of the field and is not an agricultural use of the land. H5 of

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Bridestowe and Sourton Neighbourhood plan states that it should protect individuals from overlooking and loss of privacy, overshadowing and overbearing impacts and unreasonable noise and disturbance. Joint Local Plan TTV26 states that development in the countryside will be avoided and only permitted in exceptional circumstances...this is not an exception circumstance. Protection of landscape is covered in Joint Local Plan Policy SO10 and this application is not protecting the landscape but destroying it.

Neighbourhood Plan Policies E1 and E2 (General Business Development and Small-Scale Business Expansions) states that the scale and nature of the proposals should not have significant adverse impacts on the amenities of the adjoining businesses and householders, on the landscape or on sites designated for biodiversity, the scale and nature of the proposal would be compatible with other land-use activities the scale and the nature of the development would not adversely affect residential amenity. All of which do not support the application and will only increase the adverse effect on residents sharing a road with the site.

The site is overdeveloped. This site already causes issues for its neighbours and increasing the area of training for dogs will cause unreasonable noise and disturbance. The site started as one house with two holiday lets and is now two houses and six holiday lets a huge indoor arena, several outdoor dog training areas which has increased the site density of the business and therefore has outgrown the site and is causing problems to neighbours. The business is still only for 11 dogs.

Although the site is not in the Dartmoor National Park it is visible from the National Park and it is very important that the boundary between the National Park and outside is not outlined on the ground by bad planning decisions and so the Dartmoor Plans policy stating that equestrian development which has a harmful impact on the National Park is not supported, this includes new sand schools (also known as a 'manège' or arena), which are an alien feature in the Dartmoor landscape and easily harm landscape character should be taken into consideration and is relevant in this area of outstanding countryside when looking at this application.

Can the business prove a need for another training area either for equines or canines? The site already has an 2000m² indoor school and an outdoor training area of 4000m² as the number of dogs permitted on site has not been increased there is no evidence for an increased

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space. The stables on site can only hold three horses and from observation no horses are on site and from the applicants own social media posts they are housed off site even after the stables were completed so the parish feels there is no demonstrative need for another training area.

The business is sited down a quiet country lane which is access to several properties beyond East Bowerland. The growth in the business has prompted many complaints of nuisance and noise.

On the proposition of Cllr Fogerty and seconded by Cllr Eberle it was **resolved** to not to support the application

- 7.2 Communication** The clerk reported an improvement with WDBC since email addresses for correspondence had been confirmed. The Clerk would monitor the situation and report back if there was an issue.
- 8. Finance**
- 8.1 Agar** The Internal Auditor had completed her audit on the 3rd May and the report was noted. There were no issues to note.
- 8.2 Annual Governance Statement** Clerk and Chairman signed the Annual Governance Statement
- 8.3 Accounting statement** Clerk and Chairman signed sign Accounting Statement
- 8.4 Payments** On the proposition of Cllr A Jewell and seconded by Cllr D Firth it was **resolved** to approve the schedule of payments. The Council agreed that a cheque was signed by Cllr Eberle to herself for an expenses claim as the Council only had two cheque signatories at present. The Clerk was in the process of adding additional signatories to avoid this problem.
- 9. Working Group** On the proposition of Cllr Eberle and seconded by Cllr S Firth it was **resolved** to explore a ceilidh on 18th or 25th June. The working group consisted of Cllr D Firth, Cllr Eberle, and Cllr Leonard, Cllr Jewell and Mr Harris.
- 10. Platinum Jubilee** On the proposition of Cllr Eberle and seconded by Cllr Fogerty it was **resolved** to purchase the trowel and seeds and present them to the children on the Thursday. The bench would be placed by Cllr Jewell. before the Jubilee with the plaque attached. Cllr S Firth would purchase trees for the Queens Green canopy and it was agreed he should investigate rowan trees.

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- 11 **New Houses** On the proposition of Cllr Eberle and seconded by Cllr D Firth it was **resolved** to write to builders to ask for a completion date as it made the village untidy.

PART TWO

Items which may be taken in the absence of the press and public. The Committee is recommended to pass the following resolution: 'Resolved that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items as they involve the likely disclosure of sensitive and confidential information.'

12. **WDBC** An update was noted
 Enforcement
13. **Items Brought** None
 Forward
14. **Date of Next** **Meeting closed at 7:35pm**
 Meeting