

Sourton Parish Council

Minutes of the Sourton Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on 16th December 2024 at Sourton Village Hall.

Council Member Present:

Cllr Mott (Chair)
Cllr Edmonds
Cllr Horn
Cllr Southcott

In Attendance:

Mrs A Horn (Clerk) 10 Members of public

In the absence of a Chair of the Council, the meeting was opened by Cllr Mott

105 Elections

- 105.1** Election of Chair On the proposition of Cllr Edmonds and seconded by Cllr Southcott it was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Mott as Chair.
- 105.2** Acceptance of Office Cllr Mott signed the acceptance of office
- 105.3** Election of Vice Chair On the proposition of Cllr Edmonds and seconded by Cllr Mott it was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Southcott as Vice Chair.

- 106** Apologies for Absence None

- 107** Public Forum Cllr Edmonds introduced himself to the residents. Members of the public asked questions including:
- Why did all the councillors resign?
 - What happens if no members of the public come forward to be co-opted?
 - Who do they contact if they if they do not like the WDBC councillors chosen?
 - How does co-option works
 - Was there any cost to the parish in having WDBC councillors as councillors?
 - How did a member of the public see an email sent regarding planning.
 - There was no support for resigning councillors from WDBC and DALC
 - Could the Clerk contact the Commoners as the drains by village hall were full
 - There is a loose drain just along from the Old Post Office
 - Culvert by the Old Post Office across the road needs cleaning as the water is freezing in winter as sheet as ice across the road.
 - Allotments how many people needed to ask the council for them to investigate it?
 - Could a sound system be investigated as the acoustics in the village hall make it very difficult to hear?

Sourton Parish Council

- Was there an update on the Speed watch signs as there were a lot of accidents in the snow?
- A Freedom of Information request had been submitted
- There were differences between the Annual Report, the Agar and V1 of the budget.

108 Co-option/ Election

108.1 Councillors Resignation It was noted that the Notice of Vacancy for John Leonard, Sue Eberle, Kate Jefferies, Alan Jewell and Danielle Firth's seats expired on 5th December and no request for an election has been received. The council could advertise for co-option

9 members of the public left 19:41

108.2 Co-option On the proposition of Cllr Mott and seconded by Cllr Southcott it was **RESOLVED** to Co-opt Brandon Horn to the Parish Council. Cllr Horn signed the acceptance of office.

109 Declarations of Interest None

110 WDBC, DCC, DNP WDBC, DNP and DCC reports had been received via email and the clerk would circulate by email to Cllr Horn once his council email address was set up.

ITEMS REQUIRING A DECISION

111 Minutes of the previous meeting On the proposition of Cllr Mott and seconded by Cllr Southcott it was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 2nd November 2024 and 13th November 2024

112 Finance

112.1 Finance Report It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Edmunds to check and sign the bank reconciliations. The finance report and budget monitoring were noted.

112.2 Budget Version 4 of the budget was discussed, and the clerk would check with DALC if their subscription rate was changing. The Council would apply for a Warm Hub grant from WDBC which could be added to the events budget. The final version of the budget would be agreed at the January meeting when the final tax base was known.

112.3 Defibrillator It was noted the invoice for installing the defibrillator on the Village Hall had been received and paid under delegated authority.

112.4 Payments On the proposition of Cllr Edmunds and seconded by Cllr Mott it was **RESOLVED** to approve the payment schedule noting it would still be paid by PayPal until the signatories were added to the bank. The payments made under delegated authority by PayPal were also noted.

Sourton Parish Council

- 112.5** Signatories On the proposition of Cllr Mott and seconded by Cllr Southcott it was **RESOLVED** to add Cllrs Mott, Southcott and Edmunds as signatories. Cllr Horn would be added at the next meeting.
- 112.6** Grants On the proposition of Cllr Southcott and seconded by Cllr Edmonds it was **RESOLVED** to award Treetops a grant of £100. Cllr Mott requested that when the Grants policy was reviewed in July that it be changed to have grant requests twice a year in October and March.
- 112.7** Grass Cutting On the proposition of Cllr Mott and seconded by Cllr Southcott it was **RESOLVED** to retender for the grass cutting contract with 12 cuts over the year flexibly and to ask if the contractor would agree to a three-year contract.
- 113** **Projects**
- 113.1** Firework Night It was noted the Firework night event raised £337.50 which has been given to Sourton Village Hall to help fund the water repairs.
- 113.2** Parish Council Property It was noted that the Beacon and Party Box had been left at the Village Hall. Cllr Mott would collect the other items.
- 113.3** Council Action Plan It was agreed to add to the action plan:
Rebuild the Parish Council
Training for all Councillors
To add Volunteer group to the volunteer days
And change Christmas lights and fair and Fireworks Night to 2
Community events.
- 114** **Policies**
- 114.1** Co option On the proposition of Cllr Mott and Seconded by Cllr Southcott it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Co Option policy.
- 115** **Councillor reports** none
- 116** **Items Brought Forward** Council laptop
Year meetings date
- 117** **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

Sourton Parish Council

- 118 Grass Cutting Tenders** No tenders had been received
- 119 Staffing** Cllr Edmonds and Cllr Southcott would undertake the Clerks Annual PDR and would report back to the January meeting. Due to changes in legislation the Council would be liable for National Insurance contributions from April 2025. The clerk would investigate if the Council laptop could be repaired if not it would need to be replaced.
- 120** On the proposition of Cllr Mott and seconded Cllr Southcott by it was **RESOLVED** to exit part 2 of the meeting and ratify the decisions made.

The meeting closed at 21:08