

**Minutes of the Sourton Parish Council meeting held at 7:00pm
On 7th September 2026 at Sourton Village Hall.**

Council Members Present:

Cllr Mott (Chair)
Cllr Firth
Cllr Southcott

In Attendance:

Mrs A Horn (Clerk) One member of the public

65 Chair's Report

I am saddened to note the resignation by Mr Horn. This now makes it difficult for the PC to function effectively.

Councillor Edmonds, Councillor Southcott and I were appointed to the Parish Council under the powers granted to the Brough Council by section 91 of the Local Government Act 1972. The appointment was intended to be temporary, to allow the Parish Council time to fill vacancies so that it was quorate and able to act. Following the resignation of Cllr Edmonds, Cllr Southcott and I have been in post for approaching two years. During that time, the Parish Council has attempted to fill vacancies so that the two of us can stand down. Unfortunately, that has not happened, and every sign is that this situation will continue. Such a position is not sustainable.

We have therefore concluded that we should use our office as Borough Councillors to request the Borough Council to voluntarily review the community governance of the Parish with a view to the Parish Council being amalgamated with an adjoining parish council.

This will be formally request on October 6th should no parishioners step forward for co-option prior to the next meeting on the 5th October.

**66 Apologies for
Absence**

On the proposition of Cllr Firth and seconded by Cllr Southcott it was **RESOLVED** to accept Cllr Kennedy apologies (personal).

67 Public Forum

A member of the public asked about the noticeboard at Trescott Way, which was falling apart. The clerk confirmed a replacement had been purchased and just needed putting up.

The grass verge near Trescott way has for many years been cut by a volunteer who has now left would the council consider taking on the cutting of the grass?

A Band D house in Sourton pays £60 a year council tax what do they get for their money? Explanation given.

**68 Declarations of
Interest**

None

**69 WDBC, DCC, DNP
and Sourton Hall
Reports**

Update covered within agenda item 74 for WDBC & DNP

ITEMS REQUIRING A DECISION

70 Minutes of the previous meeting

On the proposition of Cllr Southcott and seconded by Cllr Firth it was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th July 2026 and 3rd August 2026.

It was noted that Cllr Southcott's absence at the August meeting was due to him being advised by the Chair that the meeting would not be quorate and so not to attend.

71. Co- option

71.1 Co-option of Councillors

No applications received

72 Finance

72.1 Finance Report

On the proposition of Cllr Mott and seconded by Cllr Southcott it was **RESOLVED** to accept the Bank Reconciliation report and budget report dated 31st July and 31st August 2026.

72.2 National pay increase

On the proposition of Cllr Firth and seconded by Cllr Southcott it was **RESOLVED** to ratify the implementation and backdating of the Local Government Services Pay Agreement for the 2026/27 financial year in accordance with the pay scales published by NALC for employees (pro-rata) from 1st April 2026

72.3 Payments To resolve to approve the payments as set out on the payment schedule.

On the proposition of Cllr Mott and seconded by Cllr Southcott it was **RESOLVED** to approve the payment list totalling £882.79 plus VAT

72.4 Delegated payments To ratify payments made by delegated authority during August detailed in the payment list.

On the proposition of Cllr Southcott, and seconded by Cllr Firth it was **RESOLVED** to ratify the payment made under delegated authority totalling £696 plus VAT for grass cutting

72.5 Budget planning To consider projects for 2027/2028 and budget headings

Budget headings and amounts were considered and would be reviewed again at another meeting before being decided in January.

72.6 SLCC Membership

It was noted that payment of membership of SLCC as agreed previously by the council would be made when the invoice was received.

72.7 Grants

On the proposition of Cllr Firth and seconded by Cllr Mott it was **RESOLVED** to Vire £1200 from General reserves to the grants budget and award the Village Hall a grant of £1500. It was felt that the Village Hall is a vital part of the community, providing an important space for local groups and residents. Without the support provided by this grant, there is a concern that the Village Hall may no longer be able to remain open.

72.8 Remembrance Day

Cllr Firth would attend the service on behalf of the Council, and the Council would make a donation of £25 in lieu of a wreath

72.9 Defib

It was agreed to budget over two years for the replacement of the defibrillator, while also ensuring that sufficient funds were available for replacement pads should they be required.

73. Closed Churchyard

It was noted that the Clerk and PCC were working on a faculty for the repair of the gravestones, and that a second family had come forward to take responsibility for one of the stones. Grass cutting had been paused in recent weeks due to the weather conditions, which had restricted grass growth, but would now resume as conditions had improved.

74 Devolution

74.1 Cluster hub

It was noted the next meeting is at Meldon Village Hall on Wednesday 23rd September and Sourton Parish Council was funding the refreshments.

74.2 Joint South Hams and West Devon Local Plan.

It was agreed that individuals would submit responses rather than a collective council response.

74.3 Local Government Reorganisation

It was noted that the Government had paused Local Government Reorganisation and that the elections in May 2027 would be for Parishes and West Devon Borough Council.

75 Events working group

It was agreed to form an events working group and that Cllr Firth would lead it with Clerk support. The Terms of Reference were agreed.

76 Drains

The Clerk and Chair had been in contact with the new Secretary of the Commoners Council, who was looking into whether they could assist with clearing the gullies.

77 Speeding Signs

Information regarding speeding signs had been received. However, it was felt that there may be difficulties identifying suitable locations within 150 metres of the existing speed limit signs, where there was sufficient space for the signs to be installed safely. It was agreed to invite a Highways Officer to attend the next meeting to discuss the matter further.

78 4 Windard Terrace, Sourton, EX20 4HL

A Parish Council response was agreed to be sent to Live West expressing extreme disappointment in their communication to sell off one of only 4 Council Houses in the parish.

79 Items Brought Forward

Speed watch

PART TWO

*On the proposition of Cllr Mott and seconded by Cllr Southcott it was **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.'*

80 WDBC Enforcement

An update was noted.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm