

# Sourton Parish Council

## Minutes of the Sourton Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on Monday 9th October 2023 at Sourton Village Hall.

### Council Member Present:

Cllr Eberle (Chair)

Cllr D Firth

Cllr S Firth

Cllr D Ford

Cllr Jefferies

Cllr Jewell

Cllr Stone

### In Attendance:

Mrs A Horn (Clerk) Cllr Mott, Cllr Southcott WDBC,

77	<b>Chair's Report</b>	None
78	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	None
79	<b>Public Forum</b>	None
80	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	Cllr Jewell declared an interest in min ref 66.3 as he was a friend of the applicant.
81	<b>WDBC, DCC, DNP and Sourton Hall Reports</b>	WDBC report circulated by email to councillors just before the meeting. No report from DCC Rob Taylor a ranger from DNP was leaving in October.
82.1	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b>	It was <b>resolved</b> to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on proposed by Cllr Eberle and seconded by Cllr Stone with the amendment to min ref 53.7 changing kennel to breeding
82.2	<b>Register of interests</b>	Meeting high standards of public conduct is fundamental to maintaining public confidence in local democracy. By acting and taking decisions in an open and transparent manner councillors will be seen to be serving the public interest and avoiding allegations that they are furthering their own private interests or those of people they are closely associated with. Not only is the registration of interests a legal requirement under the Localism Act 2011 but is an important part of being open and transparent.
66	<b><u>Planning</u></b>	
66.1	<b>2807/23/HHO West Cleave Sourton EX20 4JB</b>	On the proposition of Cllr D Firth and seconded by Cllr Ford it was <b>Resolved</b> to object to the application as there was concerned about size of the building given there were already large buildings not being used that could be utilised. The council was also aware there is a grave on site but are not able to pinpoint its location.
66.2	<b>3065/23/HHO</b>	On the proposition of Cllr S Firth and seconded by Cllr Jewell it was <b>Resolved</b> to support the application

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## Tower View

### Sourton

#### EX20 4HN

- 66.3 **3200/23/FUL  
Land Adjacent to  
Catsmoor Cross  
Bridestowe** On the proposition of Cllr Ford and seconded by Cllr S Firth it was **Resolved** to object lack of sufficient information - connections to mains services such as water and sewage.
- 66.4 **Planning  
consultation** To note a response to the planning consultation was circulated and submitted by the Clerk under delegated powers
- 67 **Community**
- 67.1 **Bridestowe and  
Sourton Housing  
Needs Survey -  
September 2023** It was agreed to encourage resident if QR code was not working to use West Devon's website to submit their survey. The web address is on the poster sent to every house and on the poster displayed on the notice board and parish council website.
- WDBC councillors left at 19:45
- 67.2 **Road Safety Plan** Cllr S Firth proposed that the councillors work on different areas of the plan and combine the work together. Cllr Eberle agreed to liaise with the speed watch group about collecting data, the clerk would contact Community Transport to see if they had issues when collecting clients and other councillors would look at footpath exits and distances needed for vehicles to safely stop.
- 67.3 **Speed at Southerly** To note a resident was concerned about the speed at Southerly and when considering speed proposals to include Southerly as well as Sourton and Lake.
- 67.4 **Slow Ways** On the proposition of Cllr Jefferies and seconded by Cllr Eberle it was **resolved** to do this as part of the annual review of footpaths undertaken for DCC Highways at the start of 2024.
- 67.5 **Field beside the  
village hall and  
village green** On the proposition of Cllr S Firth and seconded by Cllr Eberle it was **resolved** for the clerk to write to Strutt Parker the Land Agent for Leawood Estate and if we take on the carpark and village green and if they would sell the field next to the village hall.
- 68 **Finance**
- 68.1 **Finance Report** The Clerk gave an update on the council's finances and spend against budget. It was noted that an advanced notice from WDBC was received and the cost of the elections for Sourton was £71 which would be invoiced in the new financial year.
- 68.2 **Payments** On the proposition of Cllr D Firth and seconded by Cllr Jefferies it was **resolved** to approve the schedule of payment.
- 68.3 **Budget** The Council noted the budget options and agreed that the Green Working group would meet with the PCC and discuss grass cutting of the Churchyard for the next year as this was the second biggest expense to the Council.

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- 68.4 Grants** On the proposition of Cllr D Firth and seconded by Cllr Eberle it was **Resolved** to donate  
£100 to Community Transport  
£50 to Citizens Advice  
£25 to Royal British Legion  
£50 Boasley
- 68.5 Insurance** The clerk updated the council on correspondence from the insurance company and asked that councillors email her.
- 68.6 Freedom of Information** To note a FOI was received by the council and the 20 working days the council had to respond expired on 4<sup>th</sup> October. The Clerk responded to the FOI but due to GDPR and excessive request not all areas of the FOI were answered.  
It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Order 3 (bb) to permit extension of the meeting following a proposal by Cllr Eberle, seconded Cllr S Firth.
- 69 Projects**
- 69.1 Firework Night** IT was agreed to hold the event on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November starting at 6pm Fireworks 7pm  
It was agreed to ask for donations, and they would be put towards Parish projects. The clerk would book the Village Hall.
- 69.2 Christmas Party** It was agreed to hold the Christmas party on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, details to be decided by the events working group, the Clerk would book the Village Hall.
- 69.3 Decorating the Village Green** On the proposition of Cllr S Firth and seconded by Cllr Jewell it was **resolved** to purchase Christmas lights and incorporate the switch on into the Christmas party.
- 69.4 Green Working Group** The results of the Facebook survey were noted, and the green working group would use this information to for the job specification for advertising for next year's grass cutting. The Green working group would meet to agree the tender for next year.
- 69.5 20's Plenty for us** The council unanimously voted to take Cllr Mott up on her offer of purchasing 20 is plenty signs.
- 69.6 Remembrance Day** It was agreed that Cllr S and D Firth would represent the Council at the service and Cllr Jewell would erect the Silent Soldier.
- 70. Councillor reports** Cllr Ford Men in Sheds would help repair the bungalow bus stop and donate some bat houses and bird boxes
- 71. Items Brought Forward** Move November meeting 7<sup>th</sup> November
- 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**
- 72 WDBC** An update was noted
- Enforcement**  
**EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC**

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- 73 Grass Cutting** A Quote from the current contractor was noted.
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- 74 Staff Report** On the propositions of Cllr S Firth and seconded by Cllr Jefferies it was **resolved** that -  
1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 the Clerk's salary would increase by a scale point as per her contract.  
The clerk would use her hours flexibly as workload dictated reducing hours in August so holiday can be used.  
The clerk would set work hours as an email response so expectation of responses was set.
- 75** 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.
- 76 Date of Next Meeting** **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November**

The meeting closed at 21:34