

Sourton Parish Council

Minutes of the Sourton Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on the 3rd June 2024 at Sourton Village Hall.

Council Member Present:

Cllr S Eberle
Cllr D Firth
Cllr S Firth
Cllr S Gibson
Cllr Jefferies
Cllr Jewell

In Attendance:

Mrs A Horn (Clerk) Cllrs Mott and Southcott WDBC 1 member of the public

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| 19 | Chair's Welcome | Cllr S Firth welcomed the member of the public to the meeting. |
| 20 | Apologies for
Absence | None |
| 21 | Public Forum | <p>A Member of the public asked if the minutes could be more descriptive as he only discovered a councillor had resigned by the addition of a new signatory. The Clerk replied that she was still awaiting confirmation of the dates from WDBC for advertising the vacancy which was why it was not an agenda item.</p> <p>The member of the public also mentioned that the bridlepath at Pigsleg Lane had large rocks in it. The Clerk would report to DCC.</p> <p>Member of the Public left at 7:10pm</p> |
| 22 | Declarations of
Interest | Cllr Jewell declared an interest in item 25.1 due to being a friend of the applicant |
| 23 | WDBC, DCC, DNP
and Sourton Hall
Reports | <p>Sourton hall – no report</p> <p>WDBC- Report circulated by email</p> <p>DCC- no report</p> <p>DNP- Report circulated by email</p> |
| 24 | Minutes of the
previous meeting | It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15 th May proposed by Cllr D Firth and seconded by Cllr Gibson |
| 25 | <u>Planning</u> | |
| 25.1 | 1422/24/FUL lane
at top of Cowsen
Lane | <p>Cllr Eberle proposed not to support the application as the Council should be consistent as it had not supported the last application for the same change of use. It was not in accordance with policy, and it was in the wrong location. It was also industry in open countryside which was against the Neighbourhood Plan and could increase lorry traffic for the area. Cllr Jefferies seconded the proposal 3 in favour, 3 abstentions. It was RESOLVED to object to the application.</p> |
| 25.2 | Application
3811/24/FUL- | It was noted that an appeal had been submitted, but no starting date had yet been received. |

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App/Q1153/W/24/3
341918

26 Finance

26.1 **Finance Report**

The finance report was noted. Cllr Jefferies said that she had come up with alternative layouts for the finance report but did not realise that they had not all been sent to the Clerk. Cllr Jefferies and D Firth to have a look at a new presentation. The Clerk advised that budget lines could not be changed during the year and that the current spread sheet added up the Agar figures and it was very important that this not be affected.

26.2 **Payments**

On the proposition of Cllr D Firth and seconded Cllr S Firth it was **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments.

26.3 **NatWest**

The Council noted the Clerk had submitted a complaint against NatWest who had refused to transfer funds to the Council's Unity Accounts and close the NatWest accounts. An update was awaited. Cllrs Mott and Southcott left 8:10pm

27 Projects

27.1 **80th Celebration of D Day**

The Clerk had ordered the food for the event and would collect it on Wednesday evening. Cllr Jewell had arranged the cider for the evening as well as the gas for the beacon which he would bring on the night. Cllr S Firth would read the official proclamation before the beacon was lit. A new flag had been ordered as the current flag does not fly well due to the heavy material. It would arrive before D Day.

27.2 **Communication**

Cllr D Firth proposed that Cllr Eberle continue writing Base articles as this was delivered to most houses in the parish and available online through the Bridestowe website plus a link from the Sourton Parish Council website. Cllr Eberle and the Clerk would work on a template with the council contact details at the top to be used each month to see if residents found it easier.

27.3 **Traffic in Sourton**

The Council noted the draft document as a starting point and would work on collecting:

1. Speed watch data when the weather allowed
2. Line of sight distances from junctions and paths
3. Photographic evidence of when lorries meet at the narrow section.
4. Stopping distances
5. Size of lorries using the road

27.4 **Bin Request**

Two requests for new bins had been received by the Council, one at Sourton Down near the caravan park and one near Trescote Way. Cllr D Firth proposed that the Clerk would go back to the first request and suggest that the bin would go on the Granite Way rather than on the road. The Clerk would contact West Devon to see if two extra bin collections would be possible. It was agreed to ask the residents of Trescote Way where they would like the bin, Cllr Eberle and the Clerk would put together a leaflet that would be delivered to those houses.

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It was agreed if the extra collections were possible that the bin by the church be moved to Sourton Down and a new larger bin be purchased for its replacement as this was a well-used bin. A dog bin that was mounted on a pole was suggested for Trescote Way. The cost for the bins and the extra collections had not been budgeted for and would have to be taken out of reserves.

- 27.5** It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Order 3 (z) to permit extension of the meeting following a proposal by Cllr D Firth, seconded Cllr S Firth.
- 27.6 Grass Cutting** The PCC had offered to meet some of the councillors at the Ark in Bridestowe. It was agreed that the Parish Council would only meet the PCC at the churchyard so frequency, quality and area could be discussed while looking at the site. As the closed area of the Churchyard had been made the responsibility of the Parish Council it was felt that it was the Parish Council's choice as to how the area was maintained. Cllr Eberle mentioned that the Church of England had recently agreed to promote biodiversity on Church of England land as havens of wildlife and plants. Cllr Eberle felt the Parish Council this a sensible option
- 28 Items Brought Forward for next agenda** Wording update
- 29 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
- 30. WDBC Enforcement** An update was noted.
- 31. Clerk's Holiday** On the proposition of Cllr D Firth and seconded by Cllr S Firth it was agreed that the Clerk would reduce her working hours to 26 a month and take 4 hours holiday a month to use her holiday entitlement.
- 32** On the proposition of Cllr S Firth and seconded by Cllr Jewell it was **RESOLVED** to exit part 2 of the meeting and ratify the decisions made.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.