

# Sourton Parish Council

## Minutes of the Sourton Parish Council meeting held at 7pm on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at Sourton Village Hall.

### Council Member Present:

Cllr S Eberle (Chairman)

Cllr D Firth

Cllr S Firth

Cllr Jefferies

Cllr Jewell

### In Attendance:

Mrs A Horn (Clerk) Cllrs Mott and Southcott WDBC,

- |       |  |  |
|-------|--|--|
| 126   | <b>Chair's Report</b>                          | No report  |
| 127   | <b>Apologies for Absence</b>                   | On the proposition of Cllr S Firth and seconded by Cllr K Jefferies it was <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept Cllr Ford's apologies for illness.  |
| 128   | <b>Public Forum</b>                            | none   |
| 129   | <b>Declarations of Interest</b>                | Cllr Jewell declared an interest in min ref 137.1 due to being a neighbour of the applicant.   |
| 130   | <b>WDBC, DCC, DNP and Sourton Hall Reports</b> | WDBC email update to follow shortly and will be circulated.<br>DCC None<br>DNP email update to follow shortly and will be circulated.<br>Sourton Hall quiz night Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> raising funds for the hall at 7.30pm                            |
| 131   | <b>Co Option</b>                               | It was agreed to postpone this item until March's meeting  |
| 132   | <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 8 <sup>th</sup> January proposed by Cllr Jefferies and seconded by Cllr S Firth   |
| 133.  | <b><u>Policy Review</u></b>                    | On the proposition of Cllr Jewell and seconded by Cllr Eberle it was <b>RESOLVED</b> to adopt the policies on block<br>1.Asset Register<br>2.Asset Register Policy<br>3.Health and Safety<br>4.Site Visit risk assessment<br>5.Financial Risk assessment |
| 134.  | <b><u>Finance</u></b>                          |  |
| 134.1 | <b>Finance Report</b>                          | On the proposition of Cllr D Firth seconded Cllr Eberle it was <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept the finance report and budget update.   |

## Sourton Parish Council

- 134.2 Payments** On the proposition of Cllr Jefferies and seconded by Cllr Eberle it was **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payment.
- 134.3 Internal Auditor** On the proposition of Cllr Jefferies and seconded by Cllr D Firth it was **RESOLVED** to appoint Penny Clapham as the Internal auditor for the 2023/24 financial year at a cost of £65
- 135 Upcoming**
- 135.1 Meeting dates** On the proposition of Cllr Eberle and seconded by Cllr Jewell it was **RESOLVED** for the clerk to book the dates with the village hall.
- 135.2 Annual Parish Meeting** It was agreed to start the meeting at 7.30pm on 13<sup>th</sup> May and not to invite a speaker this year due to poor attendance in previous years. The Clerk would arrange some refreshments for the meeting.
- 135.3 Annual Meeting of the Parish** It was agreed to hold the meeting at 7pm on 13<sup>th</sup> May.
- 135.4 80<sup>th</sup> celebration of D Day** It was agreed that members of the events working group would contact members of the public who had offered help for the event. It was agreed to ask the public if they had any pictures of Sourton that could be shown for the event or a film that could be shown as part of the event. The events working group would report back with more details closer to the event.
- 135.5 WDBC Mayoral Awards** On the proposition of Cllr Jewell and seconded by Cllr S Firth it was **RESOLVED** to nominate Cllr Eberle for the Long Service Award.
- 136 Correspondence**
- 136.1 Track to village Hall** The state of the “in” track was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Commoners Council and ask them to complete some maintenance on it.
- 136.2 Housing** Cllr Eberle reported she had spoken to the Chair of Bridestowe Parish Council, and it was noted that the results of the housing survey were yet to be received.
- 136.3 Lamerton Neighbourhood Plan** It was agreed that Cllr Eberle would respond to the email as she had been a part of the Bridestowe and Sourton Neighbourhood plan but that Sourton had not communicated with any housing Associations so help would be limited.
- 137 Planning**
- 137.1 3811/23/FUL** READVERTISEMENT (amended plans) Erection of new stable and arena with associated landscaping East Bowerland Farm Okehampton EX20 4LZ
- On the proposition of Cllr Jefferies and seconded by Cllr Eberle was **RESOLVED** to object to this application as:

# Sourton Parish Council

- The ecological survey did not provide an accurate result as the original ground surface has been covered by soil from the gym building works
- The site is already overdeveloped, and this would add to the problem
- They already have a full-size equine area, but it is being used exclusively by the holiday cottages
- There was a welfare issue with the lack of land for the number of horses specified and that not allowing them out to graze was harmful to the horse's health and wellbeing.
- The application form still contained inaccuracies such as the site cannot be seen from the Pegus Way which it clearly can be.

These objections were additional to the objections already raised by the council at the previous meeting.

- 137.2 Planning appeal** The dismissed appeal was noted.  
WDBC councillors left at 20.15
- 138. Clerk Update** Dalc nominations for Buckingham Palace Garden party- it was agreed to nominate Cllr D Firth  
20 is plenty signs have been removed and will be replaced with heart shaped signs. The Clerk is in communication with the Highways officer regarding speed, signs and other safety issues.  
Grants had been submitted to the Levelling Up Fund and the National Lottery for Green space projects and it could be 12 to 16 weeks before any the result is known. The Clerk worked 40 hours in January submitting all the grant paperwork so will reduce February's hours to 20 so as not to charge the parish for overtime.
- 139. Councillor Reports** None
- 140 Items Brought Forward**  
**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**
- 141. WDBC Enforcement** An update was noted
- 142** 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.
- 143 Date of Next Meeting** **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7pm**

# Sourton Parish Council

The meeting closed at 9pm