

Sourton Parish Council

Minutes of the Sourton Parish Council meeting held at 8pm on 4th November 2024 at Sourton Village Hall.

Council Member Present:

Cllr Leonard (Chair)
Cllr Eberle
Cllr D Firth
Cllr Jefferies
Cllr Jewell

In Attendance:

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

In the absence of a Chair of the Council, Cllr Eberle as Vice Chair opened the meeting

- 85 Elections**
- 85.1 Election of Chair** On the proposition of Cllr Eberle and seconded by Cllr Jewell it was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Leonard as Chair
- 85.2 Acceptance of Office** Cllr Leonard signed the acceptance of office.
- 85.3 Election of Vice Chair** Cllr Eberle remained as Vice Chair therefore an election to fill the position was not required.
- 86 Apologies for Absence** None
- 87 Public Forum** None
- 88 Co-option/ Election**
- 88.1 Co-option** The Council noted that no applications for co-option had been received.
- 88.2 Councillor Resignation** It was noted the Notice of Vacancy for Sam Firth's seat expired on 8th November and if no request for an election had been received the council could advertise for co-option
- 89 Declarations of Interest** None
- 90 WDBC, DCC, DNP and Sourton Hall Report** The Village Hall repairs for the water leak were underway.
WDBC email to be circulated
DNP forum date had been circulated
DCC no report received
- ITEMS REQUIRING A DECISION**
- 91 Minutes of the previous meeting** On the proposition of Cllr Jefferies and seconded By Cllr Eberle it was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting on 14th October with the amendment:
76.6 The Council discussed the installation of the defibrillator and agreed to bear the cost.
- 92 Planning**

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- 92.1** 3216/24/FUL
East Luddon,
Thorndon Cross,
EX20 4NJ On the proposition of Cllr Leonard it was **RESOLVED** to submit a neutral response.
- 92.2** 1422/24/FUL
Land At Sx 538 914
Sourton It was agreed not to change or add to the comments already submitted.
- 92.3** 3154/24/PDM
Kidnap Hill
Thorndon Cross The application was noted.
- 93** **Consultations**
- 93.1** Devon and Somerset Fire Rescue - Precept consultation and It was agreed the clerk would submit a response based on Cllr Leonards positive interaction with the Fire Service.
- 93.2** Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings consultation and The questions for the consultation were considered at the meeting and a council response was collated which the clerk would submit. The Council was not in favour of remote attendance and proxy voting as the hall currently does not have Wi-Fi, the internet in the area was not of a good enough standard for meetings and it would require more equipment to be able to hold a remote meeting as well as an in person meeting which the council would have to pay for.
- 93.3** DNP Active Travel consultation It was agreed to ask for signs to make safer crossing points across the A386 where footpaths and bridlepaths come off Dartmoor- Southerly, Lake, Village Hall and Collaven.
- Cars needed to be made aware of horses and people crossing and signs on paths to making people aware road ahead
- The track past church unsuitable for mobility scooters and dangerous for bikes and needed improvement to its accessibility.
- 94** **Finance**
- 94.1** Finance Report The bank reconciliation was checked against printouts of the statement but as the original paper statements had not arrived it was not signed. The Clerk reported that the bank charge for October was £5.40 but was returning to £6 a month in November and would be charged monthly not quarterly.
- 94.2** Payments On the proposition of Cllr Leonard and seconded by Cllr Jefferies it was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments on the payment schedule
- 94.3** Grants On the proposition of Cllr Eberle and seconded by Cllr Firth it was **RESOLVED** to award:
£200 to BASE magazine
£143 to Dartmoor Stitchers for hall hire
- 94.4** 2024/25 Pay Agreement On the proposition of Cllr Jefferies and seconded by Cllr Jewell it was **RESOLVED** to ratify the implementation and backdating of the Local

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Government Services Pay Agreement for the 2024/25 financial year in accordance with the pay scales published by NALC for employees (pro-rata) from 1st April 2024.

95 Projects

- 95.1** Firework Night Cllr Jewell reported the fireworks had been delivered and the bacon was ordered. The field owner had given permission to use it, and Cllr Jewell would bring large dumpy bags for rubbish. Cllr Eberle would purchase the drinks and rolls. The Clerk would bring the cups and napkins and bacon already purchased by the council. Cllr Jefferies would oversee the donation bucket. Cllr Leonard would check the field in the morning for rubbish. The Council wished to thank Mr and Mrs Batton for the use of the A Board informing people of the change of location for the firework display.
- 95.2** Christmas Craft Fair It was agreed not to hold the event this year as it clashed with other events and councillors were not available.
- 95.3** Decorating the Village Green Due to the Christmas Craft Fair not taking place this year it was agreed not to decorate the Village Green this year.
- 95.4** Traffic Management Plan It was agreed to add all the suggestions to the draft plan.
- 95.5** Council Action Plan The council agreed to reconsider in January and bring suggestions to the January meeting.

96 **Councillor reports** None

97 **Items Brought Forward** actions arising agenda item to be added
Co-option
West Devon Borough Councillors left at 9:45pm

98 **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

99 **Grass Cutting Tenders** It was noted that no quotations had been received from the 12 contractors contacted. The current contractor would not quote for a collected cut but would if the council continued with mulching. Cllr Jefferies would contact a few other contractors she knew. It was agreed if no quotes were received to bring the tender back to the December meeting and reconsider it.

100 On the proposition of Cllr Leonard and seconded Cllr Eberle by it was **RESOLVED** to exit part 2 of the meeting and ratify the decisions made.

The meeting closed at 9.54pm