

Sourton Parish Council

Minutes of the Sourton Parish Council meeting held at 6pm on the 27th March 2024 at Sourton Village Hall.

Council Member Present:

Cllr D Firth
Cllr S Firth
Cllr D Ford
Cllr S Gibson
Cllr Jefferies
Cllr Jewell

In Attendance:

Mrs A Horn (Clerk) 28 members of the public

In the absence of Cllr Eberle Council Chair, the meeting was chaired by the Vice Chair Cllr S Firth

161 Apologies for Absence

On the proposition of Cllr S Firth and seconded by Cllr Jefferies it was **RESOLVED** to accept Cllr Eberle apologies for personal reasons.

A statement from Cllr Eberle was read giving her apologies for the meeting and her support to the project

162 Public Forum

Members of the public asked questions raising concern and support for the project including.

- Legal fees- had the council considered?
- Survey closing date only gave a short time to respond
- How many surveys were distributed?
- Did the 90% neighbourhood survey include Bridestowe?
- When was the Levelling up grant refused?
- Was it going to auction?
- Had the Council considered future costs?
- How was the annual loan figure calculated?
- Drainage of the field
- Lack of children in the parish
- Community event space
- Sourton was a resilient community
- Privacy of house overlooked by the field?
- Village Hall- losing bookings due to parking.
- Parish needs to look at the big picture
- Need to take risks as a parish to make sure we keep the amenities we have.
- Regret if we don't try
- Need to keep community together with activities.
- Council working for the benefit of the community
- Closed churchyard heading the Council's way, an additional cost
- Standard of maintenance and upkeep
- Safe place for children

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- 163 **Declarations of Interest** None
- 164 **RESOLUTION TO BORROW** On the proposition of Cllr S Firth and seconded by Cllr Jewell it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to apply for a PWLB loan of £44,000 over the borrowing term of 15 years for the purchase of the field next to the Village Hall. The annual loan repayments will come to around £4115 a year.
- It is not intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments for the year 2024-25.
- It is also intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments in the year 2025-26 by a maximum of 44.41% which is the equivalent of an additional £24.49 a year. Donations from parish events and any budgetary underspend will reduce the amount needed to put the council tax up by.
- A questionnaire asking
- Are you in FAVOUR of the parish council going ahead with the save the field? YES / NO
 - Are you in FAVOUR of the parish/town council going ahead with the Save the Field if it includes a council tax precept increase of 44.45% (equivalent to £24.49 a year in 2025-26) for the purpose of the loan repayments? YES / NO
- Was distributed to the whole parish and the responses were:
- In Favour- 59 or 77%
- Not in favour -17 or 22%
- 165 **Date of Next Meeting** Monday 8th April 2024 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 7.20pm