

MINUTES OF BUDGET MEETING OF SILVERTON PARISH COUNCIL
held MONDAY 18TH JANUARY 2016

Minute 112476 Apologies for absence

None

Minute 112477 Meeting open to members of the public – 15 minutes

Mr Green indicated he wished to address the Council regarding Agenda Item 5(vii) relating to the possible grant to the Room 4 U. He said he wanted to remind the Parish Council there is a period of austerity and it was encumbant on it to ensure the financial viability and sustainability of the Room 4 U project before agreeing any grant. He said it should also bear in mind government grants for the project were not guaranteed. Mr Green stated he felt the Trustees should provide a 5 year sustainability plan. If funding cannot be sustained the Parish Council should not agree a grant.

Mr Green stated the Precept will be set at end of meeting and the budget agreed and he asked that the agreed budget sheet be placed on the noticeboard and on the website when this was live.

Minute 112478 Agree draft Financial Regulations

Cllr J Roach proposed that the Financial Regulations be approved subject to the additional paragraph to Clause 11.1 (b) which should read "*where it is intended to enter into a contract under £200.00 in value for the supply of goods or materials or for the execution of works or specialist services as are excepted as set out in paragraph (a) a Council resolution is required prior to the entering into of the contract unless in the case of an emergency.*" Cllr Lawson seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

Minute 112479 To approve Standing Orders to include agreement of Policies in relation to (a) Complaints Procedure (b) Data Protection (c) Press and Media (d) Equal Opportunities and Equality and Diversity

Cllr Lawson proposed the Standing Orders and Policies be agreed. Cllr Kennard seconded the proposal A vote was taken which was unanimous.

Minute 112480 Budget items for consideration to include:

(i) New waste bin in Little Rec

The Chairman had obtained quotations for a plastic Topsy Royale Litter Bin at a cost of £152.34 + VAT . Concerns were expressed that these could melt. A suggestion was put forward as to whether the Parish Council could build a litter bin from stone and it was agreed to ask Mr D Langdon for advice on the suggestion. It was also agreed quotations should be obtained for metal bins.

It was agreed to defer any discussion to the February meeting.

(ii) Quotation for weed killing paths and brambles

The Chairman opened a quotation from Mr S. Land. After discussion Cllr J Roach proposed the Parish Council accept Mr Land's quotation of £45 per month for a 6 monthly period to run April to October. Cllr G Barrett seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

(iii) Quotations re Rec Field fencing in Coach Road

The Clerk stated that she had received no tenders prior to the deadline date. One tender had been received after that date. Cllr Dixon proposed the Council re-tender for the work. Cllr Lawson seconded the proposal. Cllr J Roach further proposed that the tender be advertised in the Parish Newsletter and on the Noticeboard. Tenders to be received by the end of February. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

(iv) "No Dog" stencils

It was noted that MDDC do their own stencils. It was agreed to contact Mr Simon Johnson (Legal Department who enforces Bye Laws) to establish whether or not MDDC's Bye-laws cover the Parish Council open spaces.

Cllr G Barrett informed the Council that the cost of a large stencil was £33.60 and a small stencil £19.80. The cost of paint would be additional.

(v) Purchase of second defibrillator for village and siting of same

Cllr S Roach suggested that the first defibrillator be installed to see how it works before making a decision on purchasing a further unit. Stephen suggests we get the first one up and running and see how it works out. It was agreed to ask Richard Cosway, Henry Pring (Bradninch) + one other to quote to install the defibrillator in the Square.

(vi) Beacon for Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations

The possibility of lighting a beacon was discussed. The Chairman suggested a street party would be less work. It was noted the Queen's birthday is 21st April. It was agreed to approach the three churches, The Lamb, Silverton Inn, the Spar Shop and the Brewery to see if they would assist with the cost. A hog roast was also suggested. It was noted that during a previous celebration parishioners could not get a table/chair when the event was held in The Square.

A Sub Committee was agreed which would be led by Cllr Lawson (the Clerk confirmed she would take over should Cllr Lawson have to withdraw) together with Cllrs G Barrett, O Kennard and S Roach.

(vii) Consider grant for Room 4 U

Cllr J Roach stated she wished to respond to Mr Green's question. She said that due to the austerity position at Devon County Council this means that day services for people with mental health or dementia are limited. People born after the war will need services which are not available and will not be provided due to a lack of funds. With regard to sustainability Cllr Roach confirmed the project does have a business plan but this contains confidential information which cannot be divulged at present. She said the long term sustainability is initially for the trustees to consider and in law they must be sure the project can be sustained. Cllr J Roach confirmed they had raised in excess of £30,000.00. Silverton Parochial Trust had given £19,000.00. The Trustees had raised sufficient for a solicitor and was in the process of purchasing the toilet block. If the Parish Council gives a grant they can give that subject to having it returned if the project does not proceed. She said the Trustees are asking for a grant now as

this is needed in order to be able to proceed and if the site is not purchased by March it will then be placed on the open market. The Trustees are now looking to fund an architect in order that drawings can be provided and the relevant planning consents applied for. Funding is urgently required to cover this and the cost of the conversion building costs.

Cllr O Kennard stated she felt the Parish Council should support the project. After discussion Cllr Kennard proposed the Parish Council gives a grant of £10,000.00 to the project. Cllr Dixon seconded the proposal and a vote was taken with 4 in favour and 3 abstentions. Cllr J Roach requested that her vote in favour of the proposition be recorded.

Minute 112481 Consider letter from DCC re grass verge cutting consultation

A letter had been received from MDDC relating to the grass verge cutting consultation and asking if the Parish Council would either agree to reduce the total cuts per year by one cut or would agree to contribute towards one additional cut per annum. After discussion Cllr S Roach proposed that the Parish Council covers the cost of the requested extra cut. Cllr G Barrett seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous but it was agreed to stress to MDDC that the Council had agreed this under duress in order to keep the village tidy.

Minute 112482 To consider budget papers prepared by Clerk/Chairman and set precept for the financial year ending 31 March 2016

The budget papers were considered and the budget figures for the financial year 2016/2017 were agreed as per the Anticipated Expenditure Sheet.

After discussion Cllr Kennard proposed the precept be set at £25,000.00 for the financial year 2016/2017. Cllr Lawson seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

Minute 112483 Approve appointment of Internal Auditor

The Clerk reported that Mr David Hincliffe had confirmed he would be willing to carry out the internal audit and his fee would remain as last year - £200.00. Cllr J Roach proposed that Mr Hincliffe be appointed the Internal Auditor for the financial year 2015/2016. Cllr Lawson seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

Minute 112484 To consider if Parish Council wish to opt out of Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd scheme re appointment external auditors from financial year 2017/2018

The Clerk reported that the Audit Commission will cease to exist on the 1 April 2015 and a new company (Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd) had been created to take over the appointment of external auditors and the setting of audit fees for smaller authorities from 2017. The Company will formally appoint external auditors on behalf of the Parish Council for a 5 year period and this will happen automatically unless the Parish Council chooses to opt out. The fee for a Council with an income/expenditure bank between £25,000-£50,000 would be £200.00. Cllr J Roach proposed the Parish Council did not opt out of this scheme. Cllr Lawson seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

Minute 112485 To review Clerk's salary and job description

It was agreed to defer this item to February.