

**Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of Silverton Parish Council**  
**held Monday 1<sup>st</sup> arch 2021 at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom**

**Present:** Parish Cllrs A Melville (Chairman), F Derbyshire, V Maylan, E Trebble, V Miller, J Wright (also in capacity of District Councillor) K Faulhaber & S Roach

District Cllr B Deed

**Minute 113303**      **To note any Declarations of Interest**

None

**Minute 113304**      **To note any apologies**

Cllrs S Cross, G Perkins & County Cllr M Squires

**Minute 113305**      **Meeting open to any questions from members of the public – 10 mins**

No members of the public attended the Zoom meeting

**Minute 113306**      **Minutes of the meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021**

The Chairman proposed the Minutes of the meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 be accepted as a true record. Cllr Derbyshire seconded the proposal – a vote was taken with all members present in favour

**Minute 113307**      **Review of Action Plan**

It was noted the possible transfer of grass areas to the Parish Council should be shown under “Natural Environment”.

Sites to plant trees - The Clerk pointed out possible areas needed to be identified prior to an application being made for trees from Devon County Council. It was agreed the Football Field may be a possibility together with any open spaces which may be asset transferred from the District Council to the Parish Council

Tree Inspection in Recreation Field - It was agreed to chase Hi-Line again for a response.

Parish Lengthsman – A discussion arose regarding the duties a Lengthsman may be asked to carry out and whether there were sufficient to justify employing someone. The Chairman proposed that the Clerk be asked to Contact the Clerk of Thorverton and Bickleigh Parish Councils who already employ a Lengthsman to ascertain what work is carried out for those Councils and whether their Lengthsman would have any available time which could be utilised at Silverton

Banking System – this is to be reviewed post Lockdown.

Footpath between Silverdale and High Street – District Cllr Wright had made enquiries and confirmed this footpath was not owned by MDDC and was partly privately owned. The path has a right of way only and is not a formal footpath. The enquiry has been passed to County Highways and he awaits a response. MDDC are looking at the lighting position along the path.

Park Road Cllr Cross had contacted County Highways and been informed that a routine inspection had been undertaken on the 11<sup>th</sup> February where three edge of carriageway defects had been identified and risk assessed for a 28 days response. Due to the winter weather County Highways had found a high number of defects across the County and they are working with their contractors to prioritise the repair of defects over other works and they ask for patience in allowing this work to be undertaken.

Rivet replacement at Skate Park – Cllr Wright confirmed the correct rivet gun had now been obtained and he needs to arrange to meet with the Council's Contractor.

### **Minute 113308**      **Discussion with District Cllrs J Wright and B Deed**

District Cllr Wright – with regard to planning consent for the Community Larder District Cllr Wright confirmed he had made enquiries and as this will be a community building it will require planning consent and he will be speaking to the Silverton Community Hall committee.

It was pointed out that if anyone wishes to erect a shed on their property and it is a Listed Building then Listed Building Consent should be obtained.

Although not impacting directly on Silverton, discussions are continuing with regard to the redevelopment works and the possibility of re-opening a train station at Cullompton

District Cllr B Deed confirmed the re-opening of a train station at Cullompton is progressing and the project appears to have the backing of the Department of Transport. It is anticipated the Cullompton Relief Road will be completed within 3 to 4 years.

At the recent Budget Meeting MDDC agreed to increase their part of the Council Tax by 2.6% with DCC having increased by 5%. District Cllr Deed stressed that only 10% of the total Council Tax collected is paid to MDDC, the remainder is paid to the Fire, Police etc.

A Governance Meeting is scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> March when a possible change to the current process may take place.

The Elections are due to take place on 6<sup>th</sup> May but it is proving very difficult to find a building to carry out the count and comply with social distancing regulations. The consent to hold internet meetings legally ceases on 6<sup>th</sup> May and thereafter meetings should revert to face to face meetings for both District and Parish Councils. If the Government does not extend this time limit this will also provide difficulties for the District Council to be able to locate a suitable

meeting place to allow both Councillors and any members of the public to attend and also to adhere to social distancing regulations.

## **Minute 113309      Planning**

***Cllr J Wright took no part in the following planning discussions as he is a District Councillor for the Ward and wishes to remain independent of the Parish Council so as to be able to represent parishioners if asked***

### (a) Applications:

20/02133/FULL – erection of dwelling following demolition of agricultural building – Land and building at NGR 296644 107734 Butterleigh

Cllr Faulhaber proposed the Parish Council support the above application. Cllr Miller seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 6 in favour and 1 abstention.

21/00273/LBC – Listed Building Consent for replacement of asbestos corrugated sheet roof with slates, removal of window and reinstatement of door to include formation of steps and replacement door to side passage, installation of gas metre box, installation of new window opening and double doors in rear elevation, re-rendering to front façade, alterations to ground and first floor layout – 12 Exeter Road, Silverton

Cllr Miller proposed the Parish Council support the above application. Cllr Roach seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all members present in favour.

21/00358/HOUSE – Erection of garden room, 38 Ellerhayes, Hele

As this application had only recently been received and all Councillors had not had an opportunity to consider the plans it was agreed to ask the Clerk to contact MDDC to request an extension of time to comment.

### (b) Approvals / Refusals

**NO OBJECTION** had been raised by MDDC with regard to a notification of intention to fell a Palm Tree within the Conservation Area at 4 Exeter Road, Silverton

**REFUSAL** of Planning Permission had been received in relation to the change of use of part of orchard to form new driveway and removal of existing drive to serve Great Pitt Granary and dwellings, Great Pitt Granary, Silverton

### (c) Any other Planning matters

#### Land at Oak Close, Silverton

An email had been received from MDDC regarding an enquiry from a resident to acquire land at Oak Close. After discussion and considering the plan provided by MDDC Cllr Derbyshire proposed that the Parish Council supported the disposal of the land provided the District Council ensured the turning point and 4 parking spaces are retained and a consultation takes place with

neighbouring property owners. Cllr Maylan seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 5 members in favour and 2 abstentions.

### MDDC – Call for Sites Consultation

MDDC is launching a Call for Sites process for land to be included in the new Local Plan for Mid Devon. This provides individuals and organisations with the opportunity to suggest any sites they think have the potential to be developed for housing, economic or other uses. The Call for Site consultation runs from 8 February to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021. It was agreed this was noted by the Parish Council.

### **Minute 113310**      **Finances**

#### (a) Monthly invoices

Chq 002471 Mrs S Woodland – Clerk’s monthly wage (£631.78) + expenses  
(£26.99)  
Chq 002472 Mr D Marsden – Contractor’s monthly invoice - £300.00  
Chq 002473 Mrs E Trebble – Neighbourhood Plan monthly Zoom meeting -  
£14.39

The Chairman proposed the above payments be made. Cllr Roach seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all members present in favour

#### (b) Other financial matters

- (i) To note Locality Budget payment of £500.00 towards cost of new roundabout in Children’s Play area

Noted and thanks were given to County Cllr Squires for her support

- (ii) To consider responses to initial public consultation re adoption of public telephone box in the Square/community book swap, Bus Shelter

Cllr Maylan informed the meeting that the result of the consultation confirmed that the majority of residents who responded wanted the telephone box to remain as a functioning telephone. She pointed out that the telephone box is in need of repair and felt BT should be contacted and asked to carry these out as it is situated within a Conservation Area.

With regard to the community book swap, a parishioner had suggested a shed adjacent to the current Community Larder. Cllr Wright pointed out that complaints had been received during the consultation that parishioners were unable to use the bus shelter to sit whilst waiting for a bus. A general discussion arose when it was suggested that as the community wanted a book swap area it was up to the community to find an alternative site post lockdown. It was generally agreed the book swap was a good resource for the village but an alternative site would need to be considered post Lockdown as the Parish Council has a legal obligation to protect parishioners and provide a safe bus shelter.

It was agreed the Clerk would feed back to the community that the Parish Council would not be purchasing the telephone box and was asking BT to make

the necessary repairs. The Parish Council supported the book swap scheme but this would not be able to continue in the bus shelter once Lockdown restrictions were lifted and asking parishioners for ideas as to where this could be located.

**Minute 113311**      **Consider briefing document re Asset Transfer of Grass Areas prepared by Chairman**

The Chairman had prepared a briefing document setting out the various options available to the Parish Council in relation to the Asset Transfer of grass areas from the District Council to the Parish Council and the various legal and financial implications.

There were two options available for the Parish Council to consider:

- (1) enter into a formal lease, generally for a period of 25 years. This option had a precedent of having been refused elsewhere by the District Council, or
- (2) entering into an agreement which provided the Parish Council with a right to maintain the areas but which had no time limit.

It was noted that the maintenance of the areas could take the form of either grass cutting or wild flower/wild grass seeding. With either option the full obligations of health & safety, liability, insurance etc would pass to the Parish Council. An estimate had already been provided previously by the Parish Council grass contractor to include the additional areas of grass.

After discussion Cllr Derbyshire proposed the Parish Council take up the option to maintain these areas. Cllr Miller seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all members present in favour.

The Chairman proposed a Task/Finish Group with the Natural Environment Sub Group Members (Cllrs Derbyshire, Roach and Trebble) and the Terms of Reference as drafted be accepted. Cllr Roach seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all members present in favour.

**Minute 113312**      **Traffic problems, Tiverton Road**

An email had been received via County Cllr Squires in relation to a proposal by Devon County Council to place double yellow lines along a section of Tiverton Road adjacent to the new development.

After discussion the Chairman proposed the Parish Council does not support double yellow lines along this section of road. Cllr Miller seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all members present in favour.

**Minute 113313**      **Road Warden Scheme**

An email had been received via County Cllr Squires relating to the Road Warden Scheme. After discussion it was agreed the Parish Council would note this scheme but would not pursue it further at this time.

**Minute 113314**      **Neighbourhood Plan update**

Cllr Trebble confirmed the Committee were moving forward and preparing for the public consultation which would be for a period of 8 weeks running from 12<sup>th</sup> April to 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021 although this would depend on the relaxation of Lockdown regulations. The Committee are applying for funds via Locality and are having assistance from an experienced Local Plan Champion who has also helped Exmouth and Broadclyst with their Plans. It has been suggested that the Neighbourhood Plan should have its own Logo and the logo previously used for "Silverton Week" has been suggested which was the Silverton Oak. The Logo is currently being re-drawn for consideration by the Committee and ultimately the Parish Council.

**Minute 113315**      **Correspondence**

An email had been received from Mr Elston raising concerns relating to the condition of the roads in the village and pointing out that the entrance to Hederman Close had been repaired at a great cost a few months ago which he felt was not as important as other areas in the village. He had made his concerns known to County Highways but had not received a response.

It was noted that the repairs to Hederman Close had been approved as a Scheme by Devon County Council but had taken 4 years to be carried out. The Parish Council has continually raised the condition of the roads in the village with County Councillor Squires and the Parish Council shares Mr Elston's concerns and is actively engaging with County Highways as the Minutes confirm.

**Minute 113316**      **Matters brought forward by the Chairman**

Cllr Derbyshire informed the meeting that the Fingerpost had been removed on Footpath 1 (top of Silverdale) and Devon County Council are to discuss its reinstatement with the new owner of the property where the original Fingerpost was situated.

It was noted the village was currently in a depressing state with a lot of litter and the dog bins overflowing. The Clerk confirmed she had reported the overflowing dog bins on line to MDDC.

Meeting closed at 21.26 p.m.