

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of Silverton Parish Council
held Monday 12th April 2021 at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom

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

Mr M Lewis and Ms J Haines also attended the meeting as members of the public

Prior to the commencement of the meeting a Minute's Silence was held to note the recent death of Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh

Minute 113317 **To note any Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Cross declared a personal interest in relation to Planning Application 21/00273/LBC relating to 12 Exeter Road, Silverton

Minute 113318 **To note any apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs G Perkins, V Miller, District Cllr B Deed & County Cllr M Squires

Minute 113319 **Meeting open to any questions from members of the public – 10 mins**

Mr Lewis stated that he and Ms Haines were new to the village and they had a planning application which was being considered at the meeting in relation to South Cottage, School Road.

Minute 113320 **Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st February 2021**

It was noted the "M" of March was missing from the heading of the Minutes but subject to that amendment the Chairman proposed the Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st February 2021 be accepted as a true record. Cllr Roach seconded the proposal – a vote was taken with all members present in favour

Minute 113321 **To note return to Face to Face Parish Council meetings from May 2021**

The Chairman pointed out that unless there were Government changes Parish Council meetings would be returning to face to face meetings as from Monday 10th May 2021. There were still legal issues being dealt with which may change the position but the Clerk would confirm the position nearer the date.

Minute 113322 **To set date for Annual Parish Assembly**

Subject to the availability of the main hall in the Community Hall it was agreed the 2021 Annual Parish Assembly would be held on Tuesday 25th May 2021 @ 7.30 p.m.

Minute 113323 **Review of Action Plan**

The Chairman noted that there was currently only one “red” item which related to the review of the current banking system. Due to COVID restrictions it had not been possible for him and the Clerk to progress this item but would do so as soon as restrictions were fully lifted.

Asset Transfer of grass areas – the Task/Finish Group had not considered this item as yet and it was agreed Cllr Derbyshire would liaise with the Chairman as to the way forward.

Sites to plant trees - The Clerk had requested 2 trees via the Devon County Council website

Tree Inspection in Recreation Field – A response had been received from Hi-Line who had indicated they would be carrying out the inspection on the 12th April.

Parish Lengthsman – An email had been received from the Clerk to Thorverton Parish Council and it appeared that their Lengthsman carried out similar work to the Parish Council Contractor except he filled potholes. The Chairman pointed out that DCC do have a scheme for minor road repairs but the Parish Council had resolved at the March meeting that it did not wish to benefit from this.

District Cllr Wright pointed out that if the Parish Council employed someone to fill potholes Parishioners would effectively be taxed twice, once by the Parish Council and once by DCC when, in fact, it was DCC’s responsibility to carry out this work. District Cllr Wright reminded the Council that Parishioners should report all potholes via the DCC website – he had reported potholes and most of these had now been dealt with.

Cllr Faulhaber stated he thought that DCC may reimburse when potholes are repaired independently.

It was agreed the Clerk would liaise further with the Clerk to Thorverton Parish Council to establish how the potholes are prioritised and if the Council is reimbursed for this work.

Park Road -Cllr Cross confirmed she had been chasing County Highways and had received an email indicating that a scheme had been provisionally booked for early November. The email referred to work already carried out and Cllr Cross will chase further to see if the scheme can be brought forward and also establish what work has already been carried out.

Infilling of old skate ramp - Cllr Maylan confirmed this work had now been completed and the area grass seeded

Rivet replacement at Skate Park – Cllr Wright informed the Council that the previous rivet gun purchased was not strong enough for the work required. A further rivet gun had been sourced and hopefully the rivets will be replaced shortly

New Goal Posts – funding had been raised by parishioners to cover the cost of new goal posts and Cllr Wright stated he had sourced posts which were constructed from very strong steel. He had also sourced a specification as to how these should be concreted in and was waiting for a quotation. There may be sufficient funds remaining to purchase new nets for the goal posts.

Minute 113324 Discussion with District Cllr J Wright

District Cllr Wright informed the meeting that the District Council were still in Covid recovery. There were a few issues regarding the lack of feedback in relation to planning queries and complications from staff working from home.

It was noted there were recyclable items being placed in the litter bins. MDDC has confirmed that if they already empty the litter bins then they will continue to do so if those bins were replaced with specific recyclable bins. However, they do not have the funds to provide new bins. The Chairman pointed out there were funds already earmarked for recyclable bins as agreed at the Budget meeting in the sum of £800.00. It was agreed that District Cllr Wright would establish with MDDC the preferred recyclable bins, the cost of installation of the bins and bring this information back to the May meeting.

Minute 113325 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:

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

Cllr Faulhaber proposed the Parish Council supported the above application. Cllr Roach seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 6 in favour. Cllr Wright did not vote

21/00598/CAT – notification to fell 1 Laurel and 1 Western Red Cedar Tree and lift crown of 1 Lawson Cypress tree by 2-3 m within Conservation Area – South Cottage, School Road, Silverton

Cllr Faulhaber proposed the Parish Council supported the above application. Cllr Derbyshire seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 6 in favour. Cllr Wright did not vote

21/00599/FULL – erection of storage shed and goat shed – Southcoombe Bungalow, Silverton

Cllr Cross proposed the Parish Council supported the above application. Cllr Faulhaber seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 6 in favour. Cllr Wright did not vote

20/01901/HOUSE – alterations to 5d Fore Street, Silverton

Further details and information had been provided by the Applicant and after discussion Cllr Derbyshire proposed the Parish Council supported the above application. Cllr Roach seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 6 in favour. Cllr Wright did not vote.

21/00640/FULL – Land at Pound Farm, Butterleigh – Change of use of land for the siting of 1 holiday lodge

Cllr Faulhaber proposed the Parish Council supported the above application. Cllr Cross seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 6 in favour. Cllr Wright did not vote

Prior to discussion regarding the following application Cllr Cross went to the Zoom Waiting Room due to her declaration of a personal interest in the application:

21/00273/LBC – LBS for the 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 and alteration to ground and first floor layout – 12 Exeter Road, Silverton

Cllr Derbyshire proposed the Parish Council supported the above application. Cllr Roach seconded the proposal A vote was taken with 5 in favour. Cllrs Wright and Cross did not vote

(b) Approvals / Refusals

Non Material Amendment approval for the removal of 4 windows and addition of rooflights at 3 Fore Street, Silverton

(c) Any other Planning matters

None

Minute 113326 **Finances**

(a) Monthly invoices

Chq 002474 Chq cancelled - spoilt

Chq 002475 Mrs S Woodland – Clerk’s monthly wage (£631.78) + expenses (£32.99)

Chq 002476 Mr D Marsden – Contractor’s monthly invoice - £300.00

Chq 002477 Mrs E Trebble – Neighbourhood Plan monthly Zoom meeting - £14.39

Chq 002478 HMRC – Clerk’s NI and Tax (4th Quarter) - £961.73

Chq 002479 EON – helicopter landing site electricity charge - £7.78

Chq 002480 St Mary’s PCC – grant towards Churchyard grass cutting - £1,500.00

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

(b) Other financial matters

- (i) To consider request from a Parishioner for “no smoking” signs on the outside of the fences of the Children’s Play Area

The Clerk reported that it had been brought to her attention that people were smoking near the Children’s Play Area and the smoke was blowing into the park which had caused one or two difficulties. After discussion it was agreed the Parish Council fully supported a no smoking policy within the Children’s Play Park With regard to smoking near the Play Area it was hoped that parishioners would not do so but did not feel any further

signage would assist. If the problem persists it was agreed to ask the Parishioner to revert to SW who would bring it back to the Parish Council's attention.

Cllr Faulhaber proposed no further signage be obtained. Cllr Cross seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 4 members in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.

(ii) To consider service of the BMX equipment

It was noted the Parish Council's Contractor had reported possible faults with the equipment for which he felt a professional opinion was required. The Clerk stated that she had sent an email to Devon Skateparks to see if anyone was available to carry out an inspection but to date no response had been received.

After discussion it was agreed the Clerk would ask MDDC if they could inspect the area asap and Cllr Wright indicated he would obtain details of the Installers when he is next at the park.

A Parishioner had brought to the Council's attention damage caused to the Rope Bridge in the Children's Play Area. Cllr Maylan reported that the Council's Contractor had cordoned the area off but unfortunately the tape had been thrown around. She stated she had looked at the damage to the Rope Bridge and in her opinion it would appear that the damage caused was probably deliberate and not caused by wear and tear. It was noted at the Budget Meeting that it had been agreed the Parish Council would maintain and repair equipment but did not have sufficient funding to replace items.

It had also been brought to the Council's attention that children had been making tracks with mounds of earth on the area outside the Children's Play Area.

After discussion it was agreed to ask the Council Contractor to remove the rope and the mounds of earth and the Clerk will contact Sutcliffe with a view to repairs.

(iii) To consider responses to public consultation the siting of the community book store

The Chairman reported that various suggestions had been received and one Community Group was seeking to raise funds for a structure in the Little Rec. The Richard's Educational Trust had been approached by the Parishioner and had agreed, in principle, to the project, subject to approval of the proposed plans and any Planning Permissions required being obtained.

The Clerk reported that Mr M Snowden had offered to draw up plans and construct the structure for a Book Store on the little Rec.

After discussion the Chairman proposed the Parish Council supported a Book Store structure on the Little Rec. Cllr Maylan seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 6 in favour and 1 abstention.

A further discussion arose as to who would be responsible for the structure with regard to maintenance and insurance. Cllr Cross proposed a short term Licence could be drawn up and would probably be the best way forward. The Clerk would send Cllr Cross a copy of the Council's Lease of the Little Rec. for information purposes.

With regard to the bus shelter, this is currently proving a difficult situation as recently an elderly lady was sat waiting for a bus when other parishioners were stood looking at the books. The lady said she felt vulnerable as social distancing was not being adhered to. There were also occasional problems when others were sat in the bus shelter who were not waiting for a bus which limited the space available. Cllr Wright stated that, as District Councillor, he had heard both sides of the story and he felt that at the moment the benefit of the books being in the bus shelter slightly outweighed the disadvantages. It was agreed, however, that a time limit for the removal of the books should be made prior to the lifting of the National Lockdown.

Cllr Derbyshire proposed a deadline to remove the books/other items from the bus shelter of the 21st June 2021 with the Council reviewing the position as necessary. Cllr Wright seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all members present in favour.

(iv) The half yearly precept of £17,000.00 had been received from MDDC.

Minute 113327 **Annual Review of Parish Council Policies**

Copies of all Policies had been circulated by email to all Councillors prior to the meeting and no amendments were requested.

The Chairman proposed the Policies be accepted as currently drawn. Cllr Derbyshire seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all members present in favour.

Minute 113328 **Use of Social Media**

The Chairman stated he had asked for this Agenda item as he had noted various comments involving the Parish Council on the Silverton Community Facebook page. The Chairman pointed out that if a Councillor responded to any debate did this actually inflame the situation? The Chairman also stressed that any Councillor can respond personally to any postings but they must ensure they comply with the Code of Conduct Guidelines.

Cllr Derbyshire pointed out she had been upset by recent comments which have been quite toxic at times. She pointed out Parish Councillors were volunteers who were only trying to look after the village to the best of their ability.

It was agreed that should Councillors find any postings particularly toxic then they should speak to either the Chairman or the Clerk. The Clerk to put an item in the Newsletter confirming the Parish Council welcomes views of Parishioners but these are best put forward directly at a Parish Council meeting rather than via social media.

On a positive note funds had been raised via the Social Media format for the new goal posts.

Minute 113329 **Discussion with County Cllr Squires**

County Cllr Squires joined the meeting at this point and was updated on the current position regarding the section of road from Park Road to Red Cross. She confirmed that the local Officer had indicated to her that they were looking at a possible scheme from the Square to Red Cross but she had no further information at this stage.

With regard to a request from a Parishioner for a mirror at Red Cross, County Cllr Squires informed the meeting that these are not approved by Devon County Council as the sun can reflect off the mirrors causing problems.

County Cllr Squires left the meeting at this point.

Minute 113330 **Neighbourhood Plan update**

A full report to be provided by Cllr Trebble at the May meeting.

Minute 113331 **Correspondence**

An email had been received "Sole to Soul Fitness" requesting permission to use the Recreation Field, and in particular the football area, for a group exercise and mindfulness class in the Spring and Summer. An email had also been received from Joanna Hall also requesting permission to use the Recreation Field for fitness classes.

The Chairman pointed out there were no hard and fast rules as to the use of the Recreation Field and no booking system in place. After discussion the Chairman proposed that permission be given as requested. Cllr Wright seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all members present in favour.

Silverton Football Club – the Clerk had been approached by a parishioner who was looking to reform the Men's Football Team. The Chairman, Cllr Cross and the Clerk were to meet the representatives by Zoom to discuss what arrangements are required. Once the meeting had taken place the details will be brought back to the full Council

Request for a mirror at Red Cross – it was agreed to refer the Parishioner to the comments of County Cllr Squires

An email had been received from Louise Sleep raising various issues regarding the Children's Play area and equipment some of which the Clerk had been able to respond to. She had asked in her email if the Parish Council would consider replacing the rope bridge and if additional equipment could be purchased or whether fund raising could be agreed. It was agreed to confirm the Parish Council had no funding to purchase new equipment.

The Chairman proposed the Clerk respond to Mrs Sleep confirming the Parish Council supported any fund raising initiative for new play equipment. If fund raising is successful ask she reverts to the Parish Council in order to have

someone with whom she can liaise and also the Parish Council would need to approve any equipment prior to purchase. Cllr Maylan seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous

Minute 113332 **Matters brought forward by the Chairman**

Cllr Wright informed the meeting he had received an email from the new Environment Officer giving details of an initiative with regard to funding electric car charging points and suggesting an area off Wyndham Road. A response was required from the Parish Council prior to the next Parish Council meeting. The Chairman pointed out he believed the Parish Council had previously made a resolution for funding schemes for charging points and therefore Cllr Wright could confirm the Parish Council's approval.

Cllr Derbyshire stated she had concerns relating to the footfall in the Square maintaining social distancing especially when the food vans were in the village or Mr Vittals was selling his produce and queried if licences should be obtained. Cllr Wright confirmed no licence is required for the food vans only a Foot Hygiene Certificate.

Meeting closed at 21.36 p.m.