

Minutes of the meeting of Silverton Parish Council
held Monday 5th September 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in the Silverton Community Hall

Present: Parish Cllrs K Faulhaber, J Wright (also as District Cllr), V Maylan, E Trebble, O Kennard & A Melville

Minute 113565 **To note any Declarations of Interest**

None received

Minute 113566 **To note any apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Simon Hedges & Sarah Cross

Minute 113567 **Meeting open to any questions from members of the public – 10 mins**

Shirley Cole attended the meeting and thanked the Parish Council for its contribution to the Jubilee Celebrations and asked if the Parish Council would celebrate the unique event purchasing maybe a tree or any other suggestions. She pointed out the Queen had given great service throughout her reign and it would be appropriate to mark this in some way.

It was pointed out that the area of grass at the junction of School Road and Park Road has not been cut. The Chairman pointed out this area was maintained by DCC and is only cut a maximum of twice per year. It was queried whether this could be a wild flower area but Cllr Faulhaber explained such an area takes a lot of maintenance and it is unlikely DCC would agree, Clerk to check with Devon County Highways. The Chairman confirmed the Parish Council are looking to source a tree to plant to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Mr Rutledge stated he felt the centre of village was not looking its best and has not done so for some time and needs improving. He said he appreciated DCC is responsible for the maintenance of kerbs etc but feels they tend to be ineffective. He said he would be happy to lend a hand to improve the area. The Chairman confirmed the Parish Council has a Contractor who keeps an eye on the bins and weeds the Square when asked to do so. There is a new door to the telephone box which has recently been painted. It was noted when the recycling is collected there is additional rubbish left around the area which has fallen from the vehicle and Cllr Wright confirmed he would contact the Manager of the Recycling Team to ask them to be more careful.

Mr Wise felt that SWW should perhaps reconsider putting the storm water into the sewage drain at Silverdale. This was due to concerns expressed recently by SWW regarding the quantity of water which had fallen in a short space of time and the ability for sewage drains to be able to cope with the additional water. Mr Wise pointed out electricity costs were going up by 25% more than France and he wondered if there was a thought that perhaps an entrepreneur could be found to look into providing a self-sufficient supply for Silverton. He said there are sites elsewhere which do provide a supply for its own Parish. Cllr Wright indicated he had spoken to the Environmental Officer and fundamentally this comes down to planning re solar and wind farms. This is something which is being looked at and National Planning Regulations must be adhered to. Any firms/people who would be interested should

contact Cllr Wright. County Cllr Squires stated that Morchard Bishop had looked at the possibility of providing a community supply but it was a long process..

Minute 113568 **Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th July 2022**

Cllr Maylan proposed the Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th July 2022 be accepted as a true record. Cllr Trebble seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 4 in favour and 2 abstentions

Minute 113569 **Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st August 2022**

Cllr Maylan proposed the Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st August 2022 be accepted as a true record. Cllr Trebble seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 3 in favour and 3 abstentions.

Minute 113570 **Review of Action Plan**

Item 2 =Banking System – Bradninch Town Council Clerk had confirmed that it does use online banking and she confirmed this was more efficient and saves time by not having to issue cheques. She pointed out the Parish Council would probably need to amend its Financial Regulations in order to support the system. A copy of the email from Bradninch Town Clerk had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. The Chairman proposed that the Council request the Clerk to arrange internet banking for the Council and in order to do so the Parish Council authorises the Clerk to be a signatory and once the process is in place the Council will review in order to put appropriate governance in place. Cllr Faulhaber seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Item 4 = Press & Social Media Policy - Cllr Wright to draft

Item 9 =Tree to commemorate Queen’s Platinum Jubilee –Cllr Faulhaber recommended a tree should be obtained which is draught tolerant and disease free and he agreed he would consider which species of tree would be appropriate and where this could be sited.

Item 10 = The telephone box has now been repaired and painted and this item can be removed

Item 15 = Goal posts – Clerk to chase MH Goals for a response

Item 16 = Grass cutting of Little Rec for Street Market. This item can now be removed.

Item 20 = Rubble from behind Old Fire Station – Cllr Maylan had met with the Grass Contractor and had circulated an email to all Councillors updating on the discussion. The Contractor had suggested levelling the mounds of earth and removing the stones. They would then lay a sheet of membrane in the trench by the wall of the Old Fire Station and put the stones on top of it, to be finished by gravel to encourage drainage. They would also probably put a wood retainer on the trench edge to prevent gravel falling out and reseed the levelled earth around the tree and by the wall. The Contractor was also concerned over the fallen apples in the Little Rec.

There is a piece of guttering that has come down from the roof of the Old Fire Station.

After discussion Cllr Maylan proposed the works be carried out and the Clerk to obtain quotations.. Cllr Kennard seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour. It was agreed the proposed specification be as per the details contained in Cllr Maylan's email.

The Clerk to ask the Council's contractor to see if he can repair the guttering and remove the windfall apples. It was agreed that should any parishioners wish to pick the apples on the tree in the Little Rec then they can help themselves – the variety is unknown.

Minute 113571 **Discussion with County Cllr M Squires and District Councillors J Wright & B Deed on any relevant issues**

Cllr Margaret Squires confirmed August had been very quiet and she had nothing to report.

Cllr Wright confirmed the District Council were addressing Budget pressures. The new black bins have been delivered to all parishioners. Should there be any issues regarding the bins then parishioners must speak with MDDC who will do their best to assist.

With regard to the development at Silverdale, Cllr Wright confirmed he had called this in and MDDC had implied the current application would be considered at a planning meeting in August. However, he had checked the planning Agenda whilst away on holiday and nothing had come through as yet. He hoped to have an update for the October meeting.

With regard to the Three Rivers project further funding was being investigated.

Minute 113572 **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:

22/02368/FULL – consultation of a landscaped embankment – **St Regis Paper Co (UK) Ltd Silverton Mills, Silverton**

It was agreed that as the documentation was not available to view on the MDDC Planning Portal the Parish Council were unable to make a determination

22/01504/TPO – Application to remove 1 Turkey Oak tree protected by Tree Preservation Order 92/00004/TPO – **Clyst Farm, Strathculm Road, Hele**

Cllr Faulhaber proposed the Parish Council support the above application. Cllr Kennard seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors in favour save Cllr Wright who did not vote.

22/01549/HOUSE – Erection of single storey extension – **20 Parsonage Lane, Silverton**

Cllr Faulhaber proposed the Parish Council support the above application. Cllr Maylan seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors in favour save Cllr Wright who did not vote.

22/01625/HOUSE – erection of single storey rear extension – **5 Newcourt Road, Silverton** and

22/01626/LBC – Listed Building Consent for erection of single storey, blocking up of ground floor entrance door and alterations to first floor layout – **5 Newcourt Road, Silverton**

Cllr Faulhaber proposed the Parish Council support the above applications. Cllr Kennard seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors in favour save Cllr Wright who did not vote.

22/01518/FULL – replacement of roofing materials from corrugate profile 6 cement fibre to manmade slate following 21/02337/PNCOU - **The Old Granary, Silverton**

Cllr Faulhaber proposed the Parish Council support the above application. Cllr Maylan seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors in favour save Cllr Wright who did not vote.

22/01668/TPO – application to reduce limbs on S and SE aspect of one Oak tree protected by TPO 94/00008/TPO by 3-5m, thin sub-lateral branches by 20%, reduce extended limb resting on floor to 4-5m from stem (truncating the limb) and truncate SW limb by c.2.5m in height to c.3m from stem; crown reduce top height and N aspect by c.1.5m and reduce the remainder of the S, SE and W aspect by c.3-4m along with crown thinning of sub lateral branches c.10% - **Land at Wyndham Road, Silverton NGR 295892 103149**

Cllr Maylan proposed the Parish Council support the above application. Cllr Faulhaber seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors in favour save Cllr Wright who did not vote.

(b) Approvals / Refusals by MDDC

FULL PLANNING PERMISSION – Erection of single storey extension and decking to rear, replacement of flat roofs with pitched roofs, erection of garage with new driveway and vehicular access onto Applemede – **7 King Street, Silverton**

FULL PLANNING PERMISSION – erection of single storey rear extension and re-modelling to include installation of a dormer window, erection of a detached garage with room above and associated landscaping – **28 King Street, Silverton**

(c) Any other Planning matters

None

Minute 113573

Finances

(a) Monthly invoices

Chq 002665 CANCELLED
Chq 002666 Mrs S Woodland – Clerk’s wages (£691.36) + expenses (£21.25 Ink & Book of stamps £7.60) = £720.21
Chq 002667 Mr D Marsden – Contractor’s monthly invoice - £300.00
Chq 002668 MDDC – half yearly payment re play area inspections - £216.00
Chq 002669 Silverton PCC – agreed 50% contribution towards cost of repair of Church path light - £338.00
Chq 002670 E-On – electricity re Air Ambulance landing site - £18.25
Chq 002671 Mrs V Maylan – purchase of sweets for Open Day on the Recreation Field - £33.03

The Chairman proposed the above invoices be accepted for payment. Cllr Kennard seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

(b) Other financial matters

(i) Consider Opt-Out of the SAAA Central External Auditor Appointment Arrangements

The Chairman explained the Council must have an External Auditor but can make its own arrangements if felt appropriate but there is a strict procedure.

The Chairman proposed the Parish Council remains with the Central arrangements. Cllr Kennard seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

The Chairman gave an update on the external Audit for 2021/2022 and explained the External Auditor was requesting an Exception Report relating to the increase of precept and there seems concerns at the level of precept agreed by the Council. The Clerk had forwarded copies of the Budget Meeting and Anticipated Expenditure/Receipts sheet for evidential purposes.

(ii) Consider condition of climbing wall in Children's Play Area and quotation from Rhino Play re potential replacements

Cllr Maylan explained that the climbing wall was going to be repaired but unfortunately prior to this being done it had been vandalised and wood torn from the bottom of the wall and put in the bin. Other pieces have been pulled and are loose and as a result the climbing wall cannot now be repaired. Rhino Play had put forward suggestions but some were unsuitable and were asked to provide quotation for a climbing wall. The Committee had looked at the possibility of removing the climbing wall and landscaping the area but this would have been costly. Rhino Play had provided a quotation for a new climbing wall in the sum of £4,977.00 + VAT.

The Chairman pointed out the Parish council had Earmarked Reserves for repairs/maintenance of £2,626.00. If this amount was utilised towards this project further funds would need to be taken from the General Reserves. Cllr Wright stated his view was that any vandalised equipment should be replaced. Cllr Maylan indicated that the Big Rec Project could potentially contribute towards the new equipment in the sum of £2,000.00 and still be able to afford the Broadclyst Tractor. The Parish Council had agreed to match the Big Rec Project fund raising to a maximum of £3,000 but as only £943.26 had been raised it was agreed to match with £1,000.00

After discussion the Chairman proposed the climbing wall be replaced with the Big Rec Project contributing circa £2,000 subject to its finances being checked. Cllr Maylan seconded the proposed. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

(iii) Consider damage caused to table in Little Rec

It was noted the damage appears to occur when it is moved at the Street Market. The

Chairman gave a resume of an email from Mr John Barrett which confirmed the table would be made good by local carpenter. No further action to be taken by the Parish Council at the moment

(iv) Request by British Legion to site a seat in Little Rec

The Royal British Legion had asked if a seat could be erected in the Little Rec to commemorate 100 years since the erection of the War Memorial. The seat would hopefully be made of metal by a local blacksmith and be sited near the War Memorial perhaps close to the railings along the wall. The Chairman confirmed the Richard's Educational Charity had agreed in principle to the seat being placed in the Little Re but does need clarification as to who would be responsible for its future maintenance and insurance. It had also been pointed out that the Parish Council's Lease of the Little Rec was due for renewal in 2026. Cllr Cross suggested a Licence be granted to the British Legion, in a similar format to that granted to the Book Swap Committee, in order to ensure it was maintained in the future.

After discussion Cllr Kennard proposed the Parish Council agrees to a seat being placed in the Little Rec subject to a Licence being entered into with the Parish Council in relation to future maintenance and siting of the seat. Cllr Faulhaber seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

(v) To note closure of Safe Custody service by NatWest on 16.1.2023

National Westminster Bank had confirmed the safe custody service was closing as from 16th January 2023 and arrangements will need to be made to collect the paperwork they currently hold.

(vi) Draft "No Dog"/other signage in village (Cllr Wright)

Cllr Wright had circulated copies of possible signage to Councillors prior to the meeting "20 is Plenty" Adam at Twenty Twenty is happy with the design and Devon County Highways/County Cllr Squires will be consulted shortly.

Cllr Maylan proposed the Parish Council agrees the draft sign in relation to "20's Plenty". Cllr Trebble seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 5 in favour and 1 abstention.

Big Rec Park Rules – It was generally felt that plastic signs would be adequate with one sign in skateboard park and one in the children's play area.

No Dog Signs – Cllr Wright proposed the Parish Council purchase 5 signs with the wording "No Dogs" and no other wording. Cllr Faulhaber seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

With regard to signs stating "Please drive carefully through village" Cllr Wright indicated he was currently working on prices

The Chairman proposed the Parish Council adopts the Risk Assessment for the current year with no amendments required. Cllr Maylan seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous

Minute 113575 **Update by Chairman of Big Rec Project**

Cllr Maylan confirmed the Big Rec Open Day had been really successful. The Football Tournament was organised by Amanda Radmore with Richard Sleep and Gareth Wicks referring. Louise Sleep and Cllr Cross gave a demonstration of the new gym equipment and Frances Derbyshire and Vicki Maylan organised tennis tasters and sold sweets and ice creams. Claire Shapcott kindly volunteered to do face painting and the Coffee Truck from Bradninch attended. £363.89 was raised from donations, payment for football, sale of sweets and ice creams and a donation of 10% of takings by coffee truck.

Cllr Maylan stated that there were two new mini goals in the Community Hall which nobody knew were available for community use.

The Clerk to chase Sutcliffe for a reply in relation to the spare parts for the existing play equipment

It was agreed that the Parish Council would ask the parishioners who have been repairing/replacing their fences/banks to make good the bank and re-seed with grass.

It was noted there was a wasp nest in bank at the Jubilee Garden. Cllr Faulhaber will deal with this as he is a bee keeper.

It was agreed to chase Devon County Highways as the sump needs clearing urgently

Minute 113576 **Neighbourhood Plan Update**

AECOM, who were asked to prepare a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) have now completed a draft. This was received on 17th August. The committee have commented on it and are awaiting the final copy. Once we have this, the SPNP will be finalised and sent to Historic England, who required us to complete the SEA following our Reg 14 Consultation last September to November. Once approved, the amended SPNP will be sent to MDDC with all accompanying documents and put up on the website.

Minute 113577 **Mini-Market report for September**

Dog Bin –Cllr Wright indicated that MDDC has confirmed this can remove completely or moved to different site. Agreed this should be an Agenda item for October

Warm Banks – A parishioner has raised a query with regard to Warm Banks and Cllr Wright had confirmed the Parish Council are unable to assist with this.

Delivery Drivers – Cllr Wright indicated that complaints regarding Delivery Drivers will be passed on to County Cllr Margaret Squires.

Minute 113578 **Hedges encroaching on paths around the village and condition of cobbled path in Babylon Lane (Requested by Cllr Kennard)**

The Chairman confirmed any issues regarding overgrown hedges should be reported on the DCC website at “Report a Fault”

Cllr Kennard reported that the Cobbled path at the entrance to Newbarn Lane was completely overgrown and she pointed out this path was historical. It was agreed the condition of the path would be an Agenda item for October

Minute 113579 **Correspondence**

- (a) Devon County Council (MidDevom HATOC (Traffic Regulation) Amendment Order

The Parish Council noted the Order

- (b) Letter received from Mr S M Haynes confirming he had withdrawn his support for the proposed Amendment Order and had registered his objection on the DCC Website along with his grounds for doing so

The Parish Council noted the copy letter

Minute 113580 **Matters brought forward by the Chairman**

The Second Consultation re MDDC Parish Review was noted

Meeting closed at 21.19