

Minutes of ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Held on

Tuesday 24th May 2022

Apologies

Apologies were received from District and Parish Councillor J Wright and Mr G Knowles (Richards Educational Charity)

Present:

Cllrs V Maylan, A Melville, O Kennard, S Hedges, S Cross & L Trebble

4 members of the public

The Chairman gave a resume relating to the regulations overseeing an Annual Parish Assembly and confirmed if the Chairman was present then he/she must chair the meeting. He stressed this meeting was not the annual meeting of the Parish Council but the annual meeting of the Parish.

1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 25th May 2021

The Chairman gave a resume of the Minutes of the 2021 Annual Parish Assembly. Chairman proposed the Minutes be accepted as a true record. Mrs G Barrett seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 7 in favour and 2 abstentions

2. Annual Report by Chairman of Parish Council

The Silverton Neighbourhood Plan will when complete give Silverton and Ellerhayes residents more say in planning matters and the future development of the Parish. The Neighbourhood Planning Group was established by the Parish Council in 2014 and has worked tirelessly consulting, gathering views and navigating changes in the process since that time. Everyone involved is to be commended for their commitment to endeavour, which will shape so much of what happens in the future across the Parish.

During this last year the Parish Council has been operating under a new structure with work planned and budget organised to align with the key themes contained in the draft Neighbourhood Plan. Each area is led by named Parish Councillors and members of the community are invited to join these 'Task and Finish Groups' as required:

Natural environment – Councillors Derbyshire and Trebble

Built Environment – Councillors Melville, Faulhaber and Cross

Traffic, Travel and Transport – Councillor Wright

Community spaces and activity – Councillors Maylan, Miller, Cross and Derbyshire

During this last year the 'Old Fire Station' roof has been replaced and a public consultation is under way to consider how this community facility could be used in the future. It should be stressed that this is a long term project over years rather than months. Arrangements have been made with British Telecom for the phone box in the Square to be repainted and have a new door fitted and the grass matting area around the new book swap in the Little Rec has been approved to improve access. New recycling bins have been installed in the Square and on the Big Rec, which are being well used and a new noticeboard has been agreed for Ellerhayes .

The plan for the Parish Council to take responsibility for grassed areas owned by Mid Devon District Council was unsuccessful and a new grass cutting contract has been organised for grass owned by the Parish with an increased frequency of cutting, which although early in the season has attracted favourable comments. New contractor and favourable comments.

New goalposts for the playing field have been purchased following a generous and successful fund-raising initiative by the community. It has been a source of frustration outside the control of the Parish Council that these have taken so long to install but they are now in place being well used.

During the summer a litter pick and tidy up of the Big Rec proved very successful with a large turnout of volunteers. The 'Big Rec' project has been a key initiative for the last year culminating in successful grant allocations of over £25,000 from Viridor together with £3,000 from Silverton Parochial Trust, £2,000 from the Locality Grant and £3,000 from Parish funds. This project will provide new play, fitness and leisure facilities in the 'Big Rec' and a community fund raising initiative has been launched to make up any shortfalls for these ambitious plans, which will significantly enhance the amenities in this open space. Gym equipment now installed.

Many of the existing play equipment and skateboard facilities have needed repair following routine scheduled safety inspections. It has proved difficult to find contractors able to undertake this specialist work and at times this has led to the closure of some facilities on health and safety grounds. This has now been resolved and the equipment has been updated and repaired. The cost of this type of work is very expensive and the Parish Council has established a park equipment maintenance budget to ensure funding is available for future years as the need arises.

A Community Grant fund of £3,000 has been established to support local projects each year. This year the majority of the funding namely £2,500 will support the planned celebrations for the Queen's jubilee street party.

Potholes and road repairs are raised regularly in consultations. The Parish Council are aware of the problems and parishioners are reminded that reporting these themselves via DCC website is the most effective way to have them resolved. We have made strong representations through our local County Councillor and directly with Devon County Council about highway issues including the recent prolonged road closures and impact on people living, working, and visiting the Parish. A recent application has been submitted for consideration of 20mph speed restrictions in parts of the Parish and non-enforceable awareness signs sponsored by local business are underway.

The Parish Council is one of the consultees on planning applications, however the decision-making body for all planning matters in the Parish is the District Council. The Parish Council has made comments on various planning applications during the past year, the majority of which we have been able to support. An exception to this is the planned development at Silverdale, which the Parish Council has repeatedly objected to and most recently on the grounds of design, lack of affordable housing, intrusion on the surrounding area and residents and impact of increased traffic.

Through prudent financial management the Parish Council was able to set the budget for 2022/23 of £35,781.35 an increase of 3% from the previous year.

Councillors Roach and Derbyshire stood down during this last year and are thanked for their many years of service and contribution to the community. Councillors Kennard and Hedges were co-opted onto the Parish Council in April.

Mr Wise pointing out Plymouth had installed at a cost of £190,000 a speed camera and had it been working it would have generated an enormous amount of money. Chairman confirmed this is something which could be considered.

3. Reports by Local Organisations

Reports were received from the following local organisations:

Silverton History Society	Richard's Educational Trust
Silverton Poetry Group	Silverton Community Hall

4. Discussion led by Cllr Sarah Cross re electric charging points for the village

Cllr Cross explained she felt it was a good opportunity to raise this item in this forum. An important issue is where and how to obtain the charging points and people need to bring forward ideas. She pointed out she is a member of the Raddon Hill Group which is a group of Parish Councils which meet to discuss various problems – to date they have discussed climate issues and in particular electric charging points. It was felt charging points are not particularly suited for a parish but more suitable for places like supermarkets and town locations or joint initiatives with businesses in the village. There are 2 local parishes which are strongly considering charging points and these are Thorverton & Sandford with Huxham having appointed a Community Champion for climate issues. Cllr Cross stressed it takes a lot of community engagement to move matters forward.

Cllr Hedges pointed out the Neighbourhood Plan was proposing the Parish Council set up a forum for parishioners to participate and stated there will be a need for more charging points in years to come. Cllr Cross stated the Exe Valley Farm shop is ideally placed if funding could be offered and Mr B Croome asked if it was possible for charging points to be situated on lamp posts. It was noted a turnover of vehicles is important to get the most benefit, faster chargers are needed and it was queried if private chargers can possibly share their points with others.

5. Matters brought forward by the Chairman

Cllr Cross confirmed there were many events over the weekend to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with posters available and information on social media.

Mr Croome queried if the Parish Council had considered a tree to commemorate the Jubilee and the Chairman confirmed this had not yet been agreed although it was under consideration. Mr Coombe explained to the meeting which trees in the village are associated with Royal and suggested a Horse Chestnut could be purchased to replace the one which was originally on the lower part of the Bury.

Meeting closed: 8: 11 p.m.