

Minutes of ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Held on

Tuesday 28th May 2019

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllrs E Trebble and F Derbyshire

Present:

Cllrs D Lacey, S Roach, V Maylan, A Melville

District Cllrs B Deed and J Wright

9 members of the public,

1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday 23rd April 2018

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on the 23rd April 2018 were read to the meeting by the Chairman. Mr B Coombe proposed the Minutes be accepted as a true record. Mr A Campbell seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 8 in favour , 0 against.

2. Annual Report by Chairman of Parish Council

The Chairman reported that since this time last year when John Barrett had retired from the Parish Council and his role as Chair it had been a challenging time. Cllr Jenny Roach who had been elected as Chair unexpectedly died a few months later and we miss her in her roles as our District Cllr and Chair of the Parish Council.

At that time albeit relatively new to the Parish and having only recently joined Parish Council I took over as Chair from January.

Last year the Parish Council reported that unfortunately, due to lack of volunteers to help with maintenance, the Jubilee Garden was looking very neglected. A local consultation was carried out via the Silverleigh magazine, noticeboards etc and Cllr Klaus Faulhaber has designed a plan to retain the area for recreational use but with a makeover to ensure the area is low maintenance. This has been approved and is now out for expressions of interest to complete the work.

The War Memorial was repaired and the lettering cleaned for the WW1 Centenary celebrations on 11th November and there was a high turnout for both the church service and then at the memorial afterwards. Following a successful recruiting campaign for new bell ringers and tireless patience from the existing band a group of new bell ringers were able to ring the bells to mark the occasion.

As the Spring/Summer months are upon us grass cutting requirements are in full swing. The Parish Council has a contract for much of the grass cutting that takes place and MDCC (via Cllr Jenny Roach initially back in April 2018 and subsequently Cllr Bob Deed) have been asked if they would consider asset transferring those small areas of grass which it owns to the Parish Council. This would give the Parish Council control over the grass cutting of these areas.

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.

The Neighbourhood Plan, which is an excellent expression of the hopes and aspirations for the Parish and which will, once approved by Mid Devon District Council, help guide decisions into the future is taking longer than originally anticipated but it is moving forward. The Committee have worked tirelessly to keep the momentum going on the plan for which they are to be congratulated. As a Parish Council we have been frustrated by this delay especially when being invited to comment on planning applications.

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. We have made comments on various planning applications during the past year the majority of which we have been able to support. We appreciated the views of parishioners who have come to express their concerns in quite considerable numbers on some of the more contentious applications, including ongoing applications for housing at Silverdale and a caravan site at the Rufwell. In both of these cases we did not support the applications for the reasons expanded on in our minutes of those meetings.

The refurbishment of Ellerhayes children's play area is now complete and the children are benefiting from new pieces of equipment which are already being well used every day. The Ellerhayes project was instigated by Cllr Jenny Roach utilising funds held in the section 106 fund administered by MDDC.

This has been an election year for Parish and District Councils in Silverton. Three new Councillors were co opted onto the Parish Council last year myself, Cllr Liz Trebble and Cllr David Lacey and all three of us together with the existing Parish Councillors stood for election on 2nd May and were elected unopposed. Cllr Patricia Allwright did not stand for election this year and we would like to publicly record our gratitude for her public service in the role of Parish Councillor. There are still vacancies to be filled and we would encourage anyone who would like to join us to make contact with either the Clerk or myself for more details.

We look forward to working with the newly elected District Cllr Josh Wright.

The Silverton Football Club continues to play an important part of life providing a competitive sport and opportunity to represent the village. The Parish Council is exploring a new lease for their continued use of the Parish football pitch and to help bring more certainty to the arrangements.

Silverton village remains very challenged with car parking issues both in the Square and at times High St/Fore Street. Whilst there are no quick or easy solutions to this complex issue we remain cognisant of it when commenting on planning applications and liaising with both the County Council and emergency services.

As we set the budget for the year it became necessary to increase the precept to realise an overall budget increase from £15,000.00 to £20,000.00. This takes account of inflation and works which the Parish Council needed to make provision for including tree maintenance and the Jubilee Gardens in this coming year.

We have asked MDDC to consider placing a recycling unit in the Square when the contract is next reviewed

On behalf of this Annual Parish Assembly I would like to publicly record our gratitude to our Parish Clerk Shelia Woodland for her support, knowledge and tenacity who despite herself having suffered a serious injury from a falling tree onto her car continued to advise and generally keep us on track these last few months.

The Chairman opened the meeting to questions of the Parish Council:

Mr Peter Kidds stated that with regard to the grass strip near Davis Close, it had been suggested at a monthly mini market that this area could be tarmacked to ease the parking problems. Mrs Annette Emmerson pointed out the area of grass, at the bottom of Coach Road, near the gas unit, needs cutting. She also pointed out the village needs weeding by DCC. Mr Bill Coombe asked whether or not it was necessary for the Parish Council to own grass areas in order to maintain it.

Mr Albert Campbell raised concerns regarding the Road Closure in Butterleigh Road. He stated this road is used by lots of tractors/trailers and this causes vibration through bungalows. He asked that route would they use when the road was closed? Mr Kidds confirmed the farmers left the vehicles in the fields during this time. Mr Campbell raised concerns in relation to the speed of agricultural vehicles and pointed out in his opinion an accident waiting to happen. It was noted that in all probability the majority of agricultural vehicles did belong to contractors.,k

3. Reports by Local Organisations

Reports were received from the following local organisations:

Silverton Community Hall	Silverton Short Mat Bowls Club
Friends of Wyndham House Surgery	Silverton Methodist Church
Silverton Memory Café	Silverton PCC
Walk & Talk Group	St Marys Silverton Flower Club
Silverton History Society	Silverton Neighbourhood Plan
Richard's Educational Charity	
Silverton Parochial Trust	
District Cllr Deed	
District Cllr Wright	

4. Matters brought forward by the Chairman

Mr Wise brought to the meeting's attention the state of the road surface between Park Road and Red Cross and also pointed out the drainage in this area was not adequate as it was broken.

It was noted that car drivers continued to pass on the wrong side of the bollards when leaving the village from Park Road.

Mr Kidds stated that the dog bin in the Square is often full and in part this is due to rubbish being put in the bin after residents have visited the Fish & Chip and Pizza Vans. District Cllr Wright suggested putting a sticker on the bin clarifying that this was for dog waste only

Meeting closed: 8:40