

Minutes of the Budget Meeting of Silverton Parish Council
held Thursday 13th January 2022

Present: Parish Cllrs A Melville (Chairman), F Derbyshire, S Cross, V Maylan, L Trebble, K Faulhaber & Josh Wright

Minute 113290 **To note any apologies**

None

Minute 113291 **Meeting open to any questions from members of the public – 10 mins**

No members of the public were present

Minute 113292 **S106 Monies**

The Clerk circulated a breakdown of the available S106/CIL monies available to Silverton as confirmed by MDDC.

£2,884.00 had been originally earmarked towards the cost of a footpath across the Little Rec from School Road. These funds can be reallocated for a project on the Little Rec but would need the approval of the S106 Officer before being allocated.

£2,150.00 had been earmarked for a new public space next to the Recreation Ground. The Clerk clarified that this was the area between the Children's Play Area and the Local Authority flats. Originally a suggestion had been put forward to utilise this site for a toddler area. The funds are still available but do need to be used in this area. After discussion it was agreed that the area was too close to the flats to provide a toddler area. Historically a zip wire had been suggested but this would be too noisy for adjacent home owners. It was agreed the Clerk would ask the S106 Officer if these funds can be re-allocated to another area within the Recreation Field.

£6,888.05 is earmarked for new play equipment

£1,277.00 remains in a General Fund and had not been allocated as yet to any project

Minute 113293 **Themes for 2022**

(a) **Consider request for additional matting to Book Swap Area**

A Quote had previously been received from A D Isaac in the sum of £300 which included materials, grids, disposal, soil & seed + labour.

After discussion Cllr Cross proposed Mr Isaac be asked for an extension of the quote to include increasing the surface area beyond book swap and behind the War Memorial with matting and ask S106 if the monies could be used for this

purpose. Cllr Derbyshire seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

(b) Consider request from resident for a defibrillator in the EX5 4DA area of Silverton (Leigh Barton/Leigh Pool)

After discussion it was generally agreed the Parish Council could not consider providing defibrillators for the outlying areas of the Parish due to the cost. Cllr Faulhaber proposed the Parish Council do not consider providing a defibrillator in this area. Cllr Wright seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 5 in favour and 2 against.

(c) Request from residents of Ellerhayes for a Noticeboard

The Clerk explained historically a Noticeboard had been provided at Ellerhayes which have fallen to pieces many years ago. The Chairman proposed the Parish Council agree a replacement noticeboard. Quotes to be obtained and monies from the S106 general fund be applied for to cover the cost. Cllr Cross seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

(d) Little Rec Wall

A quote had been received from the Parish Council contractor to replace the stones which had fallen out and replace the capping. Cllr Faulhaber proposed the Contractor's quote in the sum of £400.00 be accepted. Cllr Wright seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 6 in favour and 1 abstention.

(e) Replacement laptop

Cllr Wright stated that the cost of a replacement laptop would cost circa £500. Cllr Derbyshire proposed the Parish Council's laptop be replaced at a maximum cost of £500.00. Cllr Wright seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Cllr Wright proposed that the old laptop be donated to him to be cleaned and thereafter repurposed to a family in need at the Primary School. Cllr Cross seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

(f) Repairs to play equipment

Sutcliffe Play had provided a quote for the replacement parts highlighted in the ROSPA report. Cllr Maylan queried whether the parts listed were in fact correct. After discussion the Chairman proposed the Parish Council accepts the quotation from Sutcliffe Play on the proviso the replacement parts are for the correct pieces of equipment. Cllr Maylan will check with Sutcliffe Play when they have a site meeting the following Monday. Cllr Derbyshire seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

(g) Beacon for Jubilee

Cll Wright confirmed Bradninch Town Council had obtained permission to use the field at Christ Cross and the community event will have stalls and any

money raised will be kept by the organisations taking part. He confirmed he had pulled together a group of volunteers and Cllr Cross confirmed she would assist. The Clerk confirmed she had informed Bradninch Town Clerk that Cllr Cross was the Parish Council's representative in relation to this project as agreed at an earlier meeting.

Cllr Wright proposed the Parish Council donate £500 towards the event. Cllr Trebble seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

(h) Handrail up edge of steps at Play Park

Cllr Maylan proposed the Parish Council provide a handrail to assist anyone climbing up the steep steps in play park. Cllr Cross seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

The Chairman proposed a maximum budget of £500 for these works. Cllr Cross seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

(i) Small Community Projects

Cllr Wright stated that he felt it would be beneficial to have a designated pot for requests for small community projects. After discussion Cllr Wright proposed funds be earmarked for such a fund. Cllr Trebble seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Minute 113294 **Consider quotation from Hi-Line for various tree works in the village**

A quotation had been received from Hi-Line in the sum £1,440 + VAT to carry out the various tree works requested. Cllr Faulhaber proposed the Parish Council accepts the quotation. Cllr Maylan seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Minute 113295 **Report by Task/Finish Group re Big Rec Project**

Cllr Maylan confirmed the project was going well. Silverton Parochial Trust had agreed a grant of £20,000.00, possibly £25,000.00, toward the project. The Group had successfully completed the first stage of an application for a Viridor grant of £30,000.00 and were looking to complete and submit the second stage of the application by the deadline of the end of March. Viridor had confirmed that the Applicant cannot supply the necessary 10% of £3,000 which is the only issue at the current time. Cllr Cross stated she hoped the community may assist with raising the £3,000.00 required with the Parish Council matching this sum.

The Group had met with two contractors and one quotation had been received to date.

The issue of on-going maintenance was being considered.

Funds are required for advertising purposes.

The Chairman pointed out it had been agreed at the January meeting the sum of £3,000 would be earmarked to the project and this is already included within the budget figures provided.

The Chairman proposed the Parish Council agree a budget of £250 towards the marketing costs for Big Rec Project. Cllr Derbyshire seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Minute **Report by Cllr Cross re quotations for work highlighted in ROSPA Reports**

Cllr Cross confirmed the Big Rec Group were looking into the possibility of regular maintenance inspections for the play equipment. Sovereign had confirmed it was able to do these. She stated that she felt there needs to be funds earmarked for maintenance purposes with a preferred contractor to call on. The Group were hoping the contractor who carries out the proposed improvements would be able to carry out this role.

Cllr Derbyshire informed the meeting that both contractors have said the most damage is caused by strimming around the play equipment.

The new equipment will be under warranty for 10 years. The Group is looking for a supplier to come to a verbal agreement for support of the existing equipment for a cost.

The Chairman proposed the Parish Council create a park equipment maintenance replacement fund and this is built into the annual budget and proposes £5,000 subject to the final overview of the figures this evening. If such funds were not used for maintenance it would be utilised for replacement equipment. Cllr Cross seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Cllrs present in favour.

Any current repairs are to be covered by the £5,000 allocated above.

Minute **Consider quotations re grass cutting in the parish**

Quotations x 3 were considered.

After discussion Cllr Wright proposed the quotation received from Sam Campbell be accepted subject to clarification that the total number of cuts required is 16 and was not 9 as shown in the quotation. It was noted the wording of the quote referred to 2 cuts per month between the months of March and October which does equate to 16. Cllr Cross seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 6 in favour and 1 abstention.

Due to the problems having been experienced during the current financial year it was agreed to accept the quote provided the work is carried out in accordance with the terms of the specification. Failure to do so would result in the Parish Council being able to employ a replacement Contractor.

Minute **Consider way forward re old Fire Station**

After discussion it was agreed more time was needed to consider what to do with the fire station. Cllr Wright proposed the Parish Council accepts the current quotation of circa £5,000 in order to carry out the immediate repairs required. Cllr Derbyshire seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Cllr Wright pointed out the Parish Council would need to consider what professional/planning fees are likely to cost. It was agreed these would in all probability not be required during the next financial year as it will take some time to investigate available grants etc.

Minute Consideration of Financial Reserves

The current annual receipts were considered

The Suggested Earmarked Reserve Fund was explained by the Chairman. He indicated that should the Parish Council wish it could create an earmark fund "Community Grants" and could move some of £5,626.99 into this fund and the remainder could be put into refurbishment/replacement of park equipment.

After discussion the Chairman proposed a General Reserve (6months of general expenditure) of £15,000.00 be agreed. Cllr Cross seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

The Chairman proposed the "Refurbishment/replacement of play equipment fund" be renamed "Park Equipment maintenance fund" Cllr Maylan seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors in favour.

The Chairman proposed the balance at end of year be split as to £3,000 to the Community Fund and the remainder of £2,626.99 to the Park Equipment Fund. Cllr Wright seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Minute 113295 Approve appointment of internal auditor

The Chairman proposed the Parish Council re-appoint Mr Dishman to be its Internal Auditor. Cllr Trebble seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Minute 113296 To consider budget papers and set precept for financial year 2022/2023

The proposal annual expenditure figures were considered on a line to line basis and adjusted where necessary which produced a figure of £35,781.35 required for the financial year 2022/2023.

The Chairman confirmed this would be a 3% rise on the 2021/2022 precept request.

After discussion the Chairman proposed a £35,781.35 precept be requested from MDDC. Cllr cross seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Meeting closed at 9.47 p.m.