

Minutes of the meeting of Silverton Parish Council
held Monday 4th September 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in the Silverton Community Hall

Present: Cllr S Cross (Chair), O Kennard, V Maylan & J Wright (also in his capacity as District Cllr)

District Cllr R Roberts

Minute 113745 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllr S Hedges and County Cllr M Squires

Minute 113746 **Consider applications from Mr G Donovan and Amanda Green to be co-opted onto the Parish Council**

Mr G Donovan gave a brief resume of his work experience and why he would like to be co-opted onto the Parish Council after which the Chair proposed Mr Donovan be co-opted onto Silverton Parish Council. Cllr Wright seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all members present in favour.

Mr Donovan signed a Declaration of Acceptance Form in the presence of the Clerk.

Minute 1137147 **To note any Declarations of Interest**

(a) To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature

None

(b) To declare any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda and their nature (Councillors with prejudicial interests must leave the room for the relevant items)

None

Minute 113748 **Meeting open to any questions from members of the public – 10 mins**

Mr Wise raised the issue of potholes and pointed out some road defects do not fit the criteria of potholes. There is an area outside the old British Legion which needs attention, the road is very rough outside West Garage and parts of Newcourt Rd and Church Road are also in need of urgent attention. He pointed out the Budlake to Ashclyst road had recently been closed for a week and the work carried out had been done to a good standard. Mr Wise queried why a minor road takes priority over the roads in the village. The Chair confirmed the condition of the roads in the village continues to be an area of frustration for the Parish Council. Cllr Wright confirmed parishioners must log all potholes on the DCC website and also email County Cllr Squires. Mr Wise indicated the points he had raised were road defects as opposed to potholes.

Mr Wise stated he understood the forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan meeting was open to the public, but they cannot speak. Cllr Kennard confirmed this was correct and pointed out the procedure for the meeting is entirely driven by the Examiner.

Minute 113749 **Minutes of the Meeting held on the 3rd July 2023 and to note no meeting**

took place on Monday 7th August due to the Parish Council not being quorate

The Chairman proposed the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 3rd July 2023 be accepted as a true record. Cllr Maylan seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 4 in favour and 1 abstention.

The Chair stated the August meeting was not able to take place as insufficient Councillors were available for the Council to be quorate.

Minute 113750 **Discussion with on any relevant issues with County Cllr M Squires and District Cllrs J Wright & R Roberts**

Cllr Roberts confirmed he shared Mr Wise's frustration with regard to the condition of roads. He also agreed with the comments made by Cllr Wright in relation to budgets and said parishioners should contact County Cllr Squires in relation to the condition of roads/potholes.

Cllr Roberts stated the following was being discussed at District Level:

In November last year the Council committed to review recycling through region and this has been posted.

Three Rivers had dominated time since the new District Council had been convened. A preferred way forward was being put forward to the full Council this week.

The Council committed to write to the Sec of State for Transport in relation to the proposal to stop railway ticketing staff. The number of potential closures he understands are significant.

The Council had received a refund of £3m for leisure services and the Council is looking at various options and issues as to how this refund will be spent.

The A396 just south of Stoke Cannon will be closed for 2 weeks from 6th November and will then be having a 5 month road improvement

Cllr J Wright stated Cllr Roberts had given an excellent update and he had little to add. He confirmed the Three Rivers was being investigated and he would provide an update on this at a later date when the result of the investigation was known.

Cllr Donovan raised a question in relation to parking for residents who may be living at the new properties built by 3 Rivers. Cllr Wright explained the proposed car parking.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Clerk had been told of a possible wasps nest in the hedge of the Recreation Field. This had been reported to MDDC but they had responded they don't deal with wasps. In the same week a report had been received via MDDC of flytipping at Quarry Lane. MDDC had confirmed they do not deal with flytipping on a bridle path. Cllr Wright confirmed he would ask MDDC why they would not deal with these issues and Cllr Kennard will ask Richard Spurway at DCC if he can arrange for the items to be removed.

Minute 113751 **Action Plan**

The Chair pointed out that the Action Plan had been omitted from the Agenda in error and therefore this cannot be considered unless there are any Health & Safety issues.

The Chair reiterated the issue with the pedestrian gate to the Children's Play Area which is not closing and was a Health & Safety issue. The Clerk had spoken with Capricorn who had carried out a site inspection and then confirmed they had not come across a system as was in place for this gate and were not sure how to repair it. It was agreed this would be an Agenda item for October and in the meantime Cllr Kennard will ask Dave Bradner for any suggestions he may have.

In relation to the goalposts, the Clerk and Cllr Wright have chased and Company who had installed them had confirmed they had been installed as per the specification. It was agreed to ask MDDC to include the goalposts in their play equipment inspections.

Minute 113752 **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

Applications:

22/02291/LBC – Listed Buildings Consent for replacement windows and door on rear elevation – 3 Church Road, Silverton

The Chair proposed the Parish Council supported the above application. Cllr Donovan seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 4 in favour and 1 abstention.

23/01198/HOUSE – Variation of 2 of Planning Permission 23/00435/HOUSE to retain the existing ridge height and floor level – 24 Silverdale, Silverton

The Chair proposed the Parish Council supported the above application. Cllr Maylan seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 4 in favour and 1 abstention.

23/00741/HOUSE – Erection of link extension to rear following removal of existing door canopy and 23/00742/LBC – Listed Building Consent for the erection of link extension to rear following removal of existing door canopy – 1 Fore Street, Silverton

Cllr Maylan proposed the Parish Council supported the above application. Cllr Donovan seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 4 in favour 1 abstention

23/00204/HOUSE – erection of a side extension to create a swimming pool with associated facilities – Park View, Silverton

Cllr Donovan proposed the Parish Council supported the above application. Cllr Kennard seconded the application. A vote was taken with 4 in favour 1 abstention

23/00341/House – Erection of single storey side and rear extension, erection of replacement garage and construction of rear dormer for loft conversion – 8 Old Butterleigh Road, Silverton

Cllr Maylan proposed the Parish Council supported the above application on condition that the local Bat Officer ensures all the conditions imposed on an Approval are carried out. Cllr Kennard seconded the application. A vote was taken with 4 in support 1 abstention

(b) Approvals / Refusals by MDDC

APPROVAL - Re-pollard one Lime Tree (T5) at 5m protected by Tree Preservation Order – land at The Bury, Silverton (23/00876/TPO)

CHANGE OF USE approval – Prior notification for the change of use of an agricultural building to 1 dwelling under Class Q – land and building at NGR 294958 104779, Silverton (23/00853/PNCOU)

APPROVAL – retention of dwelling not build in accordance with planning permission 2002133/FUL – Burn View, Butterleigh (23/00923/FULL)

APPROVAL – Erection of 3 dwellings following demolition of barns utilizing the Class Q fallback position – land and buildings at Silverdale, Silverton (23/00937/FULL)

(c) Any other Planning matters

None

Minute 113753 **Finances**

(a) Monthly invoices

Chq 002749 Mrs S Woodland – Clerk’s wages - £671.76 + expenses £69.99 (paper shredder) = £741.75
Chq 002750 Mr D Marsden – Contractor’s monthly invoice - £300.00
Chq 002751 MDDC – Play Area Inspections – first 6 monthly instalment - £216.00
Chq 002752 E-on Next – electricity supply to Air Ambulance landing site - £96.16
Chq 002753 Evolution Skate Parks Ltd – preventative maintenance inspection - £714.00 (chq 00274 issued at July meeting not received)
Chq 002754 Parsons Landscapes Limited – July invoice 16906 - £461.64
Chq 002755 Estuary Pests – call out fee re possible wasp nest in Recreation Field - £45.00
Chq 002756 £500 – Silverton Evangelical Church re contribution to Youth Walker
Chq 002757 Evolution Skate Parks Ltd – repair works to Skate Park

The Chair proposed the above payments be approved. Cllr Maylan seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all members present in favour.

(b) Other financial matters

(i) To note cheques issued during August

It was noted cheque number 002743 (Mrs S Woodland – Clerk’s wages £671.76 + expenses (ink: £24.43, Defib batteries x 20: £62.58, Stamps: £8.8- and Defib pads x 3 £460.76 – total £1,228.33) and cheque number 002744 (Mr D Marsden – contractor’s monthly invoice + weed clearance = £396.00) were issued during August.

Cheque numbers 002745 to 002748 inclusive which had been written in readiness for the August meeting and had now been cancelled.

(ii) Financial Update by Chair

The Chair confirmed she was keeping a running total of expenditure to date and the spreadsheet had been circulated to Councillors for information purposes. No questions were raised on the figures given.

(iii) Update on Silverton Parish Council Banner

Cllr Kennard gave an update on the proposed banner. Cllr Wright stated he felt the current draft is not very contemporary and the Chair stated she was not sure about the inclusion of the photographs on the banner. It was agreed the Oak tree is the logo of Silverton. After discussion the Chair proposed the Oak Tree be situated below the wording "Silverton Parish Council, no photographs to be included and the background colour to be of Cllr Kennard's choosing. The banner to include a brief resume of the Parish Council's responsibilities which will be drafted by the Clerk and forwarded to Cllr Kennard. Cllr Maylan seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

(iv) Update re possible other options to vandal proof paint for roof of Pergola

The Chair stated that reports had been received by parishioners whose houses backed onto the recreation field of children climbing on the roof of the Pergola and looking into their gardens. The Chair stressed that this was Anti social behaviour and any incidents should be reported to the Police. The local PCSO had indicated she had not received complaints from parishioners although the Parish Council has reported various incidents to her.

Cllr Maylan stated she had asked the original constructors if painting the roof would invalidate the guarantee and it had confirmed it would not. If anti-vandal paint was used this would result in any children climbing on the roof being covered in paint. No brown paint is available. It was agreed that residents should to report any anti social behaviour to the Police.

(v) To consider internet banking

The Chair proposed that the Clerk investigate setting up internet banking. Cllr Maylan seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Minute 113754 **Annual Review of Risk Assessment**

A discussion arose as to whether the risk of COVID-19 should be continued but it was agreed this should remain as a risk for the time being.

With regard to auditing the accounts this should be amended to Cllr V Maylan and not Cllr S Roach.

The Chair proposed that subject to the above amendment the Risk Assessment be agreed. Cllr Maylan seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Minute 113755 **"20 is Plenty" – review of current position (requested by Cllr Maylan)**

Cllr Maylan indicated a couple of residents had asked why this is not proceedings. Cllr Wright confirmed the biggest problem with "20 is plenty" is finance and he gave an update on the current position with Devon County Council. He also pointed out County Highways had confirmed any "20 is plenty" signs should be green and not red. One point when a 20mph Order is considered by DCC is the risk of accidents and Silverton is shown as having a low risk. A Speed Watch Group would also be required and when the Parish Council had previous asked for volunteers there were insufficient for the Speed Watch Group to be formed. Cllr Wright confirmed he would support a campaign to get 20 mph in the village and in Ellerhayes.

The Chair proposed the Parish Council continues to monitor where funding may be available to

formally apply to change the speed limit and also keep an eye out for lobby groups and campaigns that the Parish Council can join. Cllr Donovan seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Minute 113756 **Neighbourhood Plan update**

The Examiner has asked for a Public Hearing which is to be held on the 29th September from 10.00 am in the Millennium Hall, full Notice of which you can find on the Parish website at www.middevonparish.co.uk/silverton/neighbourhood-plan/. The Hearing has been called by the Examiner to clarify some points in the Plan and any further points which may have emerged from the latest consultation. Responses to the consultation are also on the website on the above link. Those present will include the Forward Planning Team from Mid Devon District Council, the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan committee and any others the Examiner may wish to invite. The Hearing is open to members of the public but you will not be allowed to take part in the proceedings.

The Chair thanked the Committee for all their hard work to enable the Plan to reach this stage.

Minute 113757 **September Mini-Market report**

- (a) Christine Pryke had been looking into having paving slabs in front of the Book Swap and has some funding which has been promised to her. If she needs additional funding the Chair had confirmed to her 3 quotes would need to be provided for the Parish Council's consideration.
- (b) Christine Pryke has had reported to her a lady who is feeding birds on the Little Rec.
- (c) Overgrown hedges/brambles in Coach Rd is obscuring pavement. It was agreed to ask DCC to arrange for these to be cut
- (d) House on Coach Road – brambles which are beginning to grow over the pavement.
- (e) Weeding around the bus stop/telephone – our Contractor had agreed to weed this area
- (f) Bench in Little Rec by Book Swap – needs attention as vegetation is growing on it – it was agreed to ask our Contractor to look at this

Minute 113758 **To consider disposing of the requirement for a "Seconded" to formal proposals and if agreed to amend Standing Orders 1(b), (d) and (g)**

The Chair explained that Cllr Hedges had requested the Parish Council consider disposing of the requirement for a "Seconded" to formal proposals. The Clerk had made enquiries and there was no legal requirement for a Seconded.

After discussion the Chair proposed the Standing Orders be amended to reflect the Parish Council's agreement that no Seconded is required for formal proposals. Cllr Maylan seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Minute 113759 **To note Play Area Inspection report from MDDC dated 31.7.2023**

Noted

Minute 113760 **Correspondence**

- (a) Confirmation from MDDC that Public Spaces Protection Order signage is shortly to be placed at the Children's Play Area and the Skatepark
- (b) The update from DAA re Night Operation Review was noted
- (c) It was noted the Broadclyst Neighbourhood Plan had now been formally adopted by EDDC

Minute 113761 **Matters brought forward by the Chairman**

Cllr Donovan explained the hunting lobby goes up their road and residents are not informed when they are taking part in a Meet. The Chair confirmed the Parish Council are not informed of any meeting.

Cobbled path at New Barn Lane– it was noted the resident living next to the cobbled path had cut their hedge and left clippings on the path.

The Chair informed the meeting of the recent death of Geoffrey Knowles who historically had been a Parish Councillor for over 24 years and Chairman for over 20 years. The work he had done for the village with various organisations was noted.

Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.