

Minutes of the meeting of Silverton Parish Council
held Monday 2nd October 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in the Silverton Community Hall

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

Minute 113759 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllr S Hedges, County Cllr M Squires and District Cllr R Roberts

Minute 113760 **Consider any applications to be co-opted onto Parish Council**

Mrs Ruth Harrison addressed the Council and explained why she would like to be co-opted onto the Parish Council. The Chair proposed Mrs Harrison be co-opted onto the Parish Council, a vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Mrs Harrison signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form in the presence of the Clerk

Minute 1137161 **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 113762 **Meeting open to any questions from members of the public – 10 mins**

Mr Wise informed the meeting that someone had broken their ankle outside the old British building where there is a road defect and it was important that either DCC or possibly someone with private enterprise addressed the road defects in the village. The Chair explained road maintenance was the responsibility of DCC. The defect had been reported to DCC. The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council were in the process of arranging a meeting with Steve Tucker the Local Highways Officer. However, the response from DCC is usually the lack of available funding to cover the size of the County.

With regard to the development at Silverdale, Mr Wise stated there had been a lot of publicity recently relating to sewage outfalls which go into rivers and seas. He felt alternative arrangements other than a soakaway should be considered such as an AD Plant.

With regard to the War Memorial the names on this are looking grubby and need cleaning. The Chair explained the cost when the Memorial was last cleaned and after discussion the Chair proposed the Council Contractor be asked if he could clean the War Memorial in time for Remembrance Day. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

It was noted that the Handyman Contract would be on the Agenda for consideration at the

November meeting.

Minute 113763 **Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4th September 2023**

The Chair proposed the Minutes of the meeting held on the 4th September 2023 be accepted as a true record. A vote was taken with 5 in favour and 1 abstention

Minute 113764 **Review of Action Plan**

Item 1 (Neighbourhood Plan – this was an Agenda item

Item 2 (Internet Banking) – Clerk was in the process of applying for internet banking

Item 3 (S106 monies) – the Chair explained there were some unspent S106 monies one tranche of which related to the open space adjacent to the Children's Play Area in the Recreation field. This was an Agenda Item in relation to bulb planting

Approximately £8,000.00 is also available in relation to improvements at the Little Rec. The Lease will be due for renewal in the near future and funds will be needed to cover the administration costs of an extension to the Lease.

Item 4 (Park Rd) – there was no update in relation to the proposed Drainage Easement

Item 5 (Old Fire Station) – the Chair confirmed the Scout Group was no longer a tenant of the Old Fire Station but had left leaving quite a lot of equipment in the building. Confirmation had been received that these items were no longer required and the Chair stated there were quite a few items to be disposed of. When the Parish Council wrote to the Scout Association no mention was made of disposal fees but the Chair confirmed the Parish Council can legally ask the Scout Association to refund these. Items to be disposed of include old tents, poles etc. As the Street Market had signed a Licence to use the Old Fire Station for the purposes of storage the Parish Council must dispose of the old equipment.

The Chair proposed the items be offered to the community with community groups getting first refusal and thereafter the general public. A date to be arranged for the Old Fire Station clearance after which the Clerk to contact the Church, SEC, Primary School and Mrs T Allwright for the Forest School. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour

Item 6 (Plaque for commemorative tree) – waiting for Plaque to be delivered

Item 7 (repairs to pedestrian gate and goal posts) – Cllr Kennard confirmed she had spoken with Dave Bradner and was awaiting a quote

With regard to the pedestrian gate at the Children's Play Area, Cllr Donovan confirmed he would contact Paul Gawen and ask him to contact the Clerk with regard to a possible quotation being provided.

Item 9 (cobbled path) – Cllr Kennard will provide the Clerk with the relevant details in order that a letter can be sent in relation to the vegetation left on the cobbled path.

Item 10 (revised bus timetable) – The Chair explained that it had been a year since the revised timetable came into force. There had been no contact from our MP nor Stagecoach in response to concerns the Parish Council had raised at the time. She explained the current timetable is lacking in buses and is not working. The 5.55 pm from Exeter is late

every day because drivers don't have sufficient time to get back from Tiverton to then go out again. This results in drivers then driving too fast. It was noted the 355 bus is subsidised by DCC.

The Chair proposed she contacts both County Cllr Squires and Andrea Davis at DCC pointing out the Parish Council still consider the bus servicing the village is not sufficient and those which do run are not running to time. The buses also clash with other buses using the A396 and this cannot be cost effective. The Chair would also raise the question again of the provision of a bus coming into the village later than that at present. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Item 11 (information signage on Old Fire Station) – Cllr Wright confirmed he had not as yet dealt with this

Item 12 (Skatepark repairs) – remove

Item 13 (Parish Council recruitment) – remove

Item 14 (WI Commemorative seat) – the seat has been installed and this item can be removed

Item 15 (Condition of Park Road to Red Cross) – to be amalgamated with Item 4

Item 16 (replacement Ukrainian flat) – this had been donated by the Chair's husband and the item can be removed

Item 17 (Parish Council banner) – the banner had been obtained and this item can be removed

Item 18 (details of any Educational Psychologists for the area) – Clerk to chase County Cllr Squires for a response

Item 19 (purchase of non-vandal paint) – on agenda

Item 20 ("20 is Plenty") – It was noted Silverton is now on the "20 is Plenty" Information Map. An Email had been received from a parishioner which had been circulated to all Councillors and which was noted. In the email the parishioner had volunteered to be on a Speed Watch Group. It was agreed the Clerk to contact our PCSO to see if this scheme was still operating.

The Chair proposed the Clerk write back to the Parishioner to see if they would be willing to head up a Speed Watch Group consisting of the required numbers with the support of the Parish Council. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

It was noted the Parish Council strongly supports the "20 is Plenty" scheme and has done for some time.

Item 21 (overgrown brambles/hedges obscuring pavement in Coach Road adjacent to the entrance to the Rec Field) – waiting to hear back from DCC

Item 22 (overgrown brambles on Coach Road) – Clerk to contact owner of house requesting these be cut back

Minute 113765 **Discussion with District Councillor J Wright**

District Cllr Wright confirmed the biggest issue currently is the budget. He confirmed hopefully a balanced budget would be set in December/January with difficult decisions to be made especially in relation to those services which are not a legal requirement.

Minute 113766 **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:

23/01380/HOUSE – Erection of replacement studio and store – 1 Old Butterleigh Road, Silverton

Cllr Kennard proposed the Parish Council supports the above application. A vote was taken with 5 in favour 1 abstention

23/00916/FULL – Erection of replacement dwelling – Springfield Farm, Hele

The Chair proposed the Parish Council did not support the above application on the grounds of the layout and density of building and the number of previous planning applications. A vote was taken with 3 in favour and 2 abstentions.

(b) Approvals / Refusals by MDDC

OUTLINE APPROVAL -22/00969/MOUT – Removal and/or variation of Conditions 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of Planning Permission: Outline for the erection of 20 dwellings – land at NGR 295508 103228, Silverdale, Silverton

NO OBJECTION – 23/01365/PNAG – Prior notification for the erection of an agricultural storage building – land and buildings at NGR 295667 101490 – Dunsmore, Silverton

APPROVAL – 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

(c) Any other Planning matters

None

Minute 113767 **Finances**

(a) Monthly invoices

Chq 002758 Mrs S Woodland – Clerk's wages - £671.76 + expenses £36.79(ink), Microsoft x 2 monthly payments (£24.72) & brass plaque (81.88) = £815.26
Chq 002759 Mr D Marsden – Contractor's monthly invoice - £300.00 + weed clearance £96.00 = £396.00
Chq 002760 MDDC – Play Area Inspections – outstanding amount against invoice 20035989 - £86.40
Chq 002761 MDDC – uncontested election costs - £224.70

Chq 002762 MDDC – cost of removal of waste wire at Quarry Lane - £45.05
 Chq 002763 Parsons Landscapes Limited – August invoice 16960 - £1,384.92
 Chq 002764 St Mary’s Church – Grant towards grass cutting of Churchyard - £1,500.00
 Chq 002765 HMRC – Clerk’s NI + Income Tax – 2nd Quarter - £421.08
 Chq 002766 Miss O Kennard – Parish Council banner - £117.25
 Chq 002767 Parsons Landscapes Limited – Sept invoice 16988 - £923.28
 Chq 002768 PKF – External Auditor fee - £504.00

With regard to Chq 002762 the Chair stated she was not aware we were being invoiced for this work as the Parish Council had not asked for this to be done. Cllr Wright confirmed he would investigate. The Chair proposed this invoice is not accepted for payment. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

The Chair proposed the remainder cheques be passed for payment. A vote was taken with all Councillors in favour save Cllr Kennard did not vote in respect of the cheque issued in her favour. .

(b) Other financial matters

(i) To note conclusion of Annual Audit and exceptions raised by the Senior Auditor

The conclusion of Annual Audit and the exceptions raised by the Senior Auditor had been circulated to Councillors and these were noted.

(ii) Consider quote re bulb planting at Jubilee Garden

The Clerk confirmed Parsons Landscapes Limited had been asked to provide a quotation for the work but this had not yet been received despite chasing. It was agreed to defer this item to the November meeting when consideration would also be given to the purchase of bug hotels

(iii) Consider appointment of Internal Auditor

Thorverton Parish Council had recommended Penny Clapham and a copy of the email received from her had been circulated together with information relating to Microshade VSM Internal Audit Services. The Chair proposed Penny Clapham be asked to be our Internal Audit as she is local and recommended by Thorverton Parish Council. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Minute 113768 To note graffiti to gazebo since September meeting

It was noted a parishioner had assisted with the removal of the graffiti and thanks were given to him for doing so. The Parish Council Contractor removed the graffiti which the parishioner could not reach.

Minute 113769 Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Hearing called by the Examiner on the 29th September in the Millenium Hall was to clarify three main points, namely:

- Does the allocation of the Glebe Housing Development Site proposed, and the benefits accruing from the public access to land to the north outweigh any harm to the setting of the Grade I Church and the Conservation Area?
- What criteria was used to decide whether development sites should be included within or adjacent to the settlement boundary?

- How were the areas proposed as local green space in the Plan, identified as being of “particular importance” to the local community when compared to the significance of other green spaces in the village?

MDDC Forward Planning Team and the Neighbourhood Plan committee were present to answer the queries. The Examiner will now prepare a report which will be put up on the parish website in due course.

Minute 113770 **October Mini Market report**

It was noted the October Mini Market had not yet taken place and therefore the report would be given at the November meeting.

Minute 113771 **Request by Silverton RBL to have table and gazebo set up on the Little Rec on Saturday 28th October 2023 for The Poppy Appeal**

The Chair proposed the Parish Council agree that the Silverton RBL can have use of the Little Rec on the 28th October for The Poppy Appeal fund raising. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Minute Correspondence

- (a) To note email from MDDC introducing Dave Parker as the Town and Parish Liaison Officer
- (b) To note Raddon Hills Group had ceased with immediate effect due to lack of support from member groups

Minute 113773 **Matters brought forward by the Chairman**

None

Meeting closed at 21.07 p.m.