

Minutes of the meeting of Silverton Parish Council
held Monday 6th November 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in the Silverton Community Hall

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

Minute 113774 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr S Hedges

Minute 113775 **Consider any applications to be co-opted onto Parish Council**

None received

Minute 113776 **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 113777 **Meeting open to any questions from members of the public – 10 mins**

Mr Wise raised various road maintenance issues with County Councillor Squires.

Cllr Wright raised the drainage problems being experienced in Tiverton Road and he confirmed he would forward to County Cllr Squires an email received from a resident regarding the on-going problem.

Cllr Donovan stated a number of residents had complained that when reporting potholes on line they don't always get clarification of any work carried out.

Cllr Maylan raised the issue of the overflowing drain in School Rd/Coach Rd. She stated this had been reported but SWW states the drain is on a private land and therefore not their responsibility. The problem is made worse due to mud, leaves and water not being able to drain into the gully in School Road. Cllr Maylan pointed out this was dangerous for people in wheelchairs/pushchairs.

Mr Wise raised the issue of Road Wardens who appear to be very competent in other areas. County Cllr Squires confirmed there are volunteers who are trained as Road Wardens and able to fill in potholes. Agreed this would be on the Agenda for the Budget meeting.

Cllr Wright stated he was not aware of how much influence DCC has but people are tired of this and potholes/road defects should be fixed professionally and not by volunteers. He said parishioners pay their taxes and need Governments to invest in their communities.

Mr B Croome queried if the tree contractors had concluded their work as there is a tree in a poor condition on the left side of Newbarn Lane. The Chair stated the Parish Council will look to see whose responsibility this is and checks are being carried out to ensure the work

on the Berry had been done as per the quotation. It was agreed the Clerk would check the Minutes with regard to historic complaints by residents to replacement trees on the Berry.

Minute 113778 **(a) Discussion with Mr S Matthews (Treasurer, Broadclyst Football Club) regarding possibility of using the Football Field to host youth football games on Saturday mornings between 9.00am to Noon during the football season for ages 7-11 and (b) Discussion with Mr R Jones regarding possibility of setting up a Silverton Youth football team and using the Football Field**

Mr Matthews, Treasurer of Broadclyst FC, gave a resume of the background to the current request having been made. He said the Club had expanded its search locally for a green space which potentially would be suitable to play football and he knew Silverton had a green space for this purpose.

Mr Jones stated that he was hoping to set up a club in Silverton which would initially be on a smaller scale to that of Broadclyst FC. He said he had previously worked at Bradninch. He stated he was not sure yet which age groups would be covered but he thought they would initially use the pitch for an hour or hour and a half and maybe initially only use half of the Football Field.

The Chair felt the Council would be keen to utilise the land and accommodate both Clubs. There are goal posts but no lines marked out. The grass is cut every 2 weeks March to October. Mr Matthews explained the pitch may lend itself better to the older age groups as it is a full size pitch. Broadclyst Parish Council supply the paint for lining their current pitch and the grass not being cut during the Winter months at Silverton may be problematic for them but they may be able to contribute towards the cost of any additional cuts.

Mr Jones confirmed that his team could work with cones/markers temporarily.

Cllr Harrison raised the point of on-going maintenance of the Football Field.

Cllr Wright stated it would be lovely to have the pitch available for football and there are people in the village who would be willing to support such a scheme.

The Chair pointed out that the Council does not have funds for additional cuts up to end of March. She said the Parish Council is keen to support both initiatives but cannot fully support it financially save there may be some funds available via the Community Fund although there may be a shortfall. If the clubs are happy to support by making up the difference then the Chair would propose the Parish Council would support their initiatives. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Cllr Donovan queried the drainage at the Football Field but Mr Jones stated he did not think this would be a problem for youth teams

The Chair confirmed there is some space for storage in Tennis Hut and both Clubs can view this at a mutually convenient time.

Minute 113779 **Minutes of the Meeting held on the 2nd October 2023**

The Chair proposed the Minutes be accepted as a true record. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Minute 113780 **Review of Action Plan**

Item 5 – old Fire Station – the Chair reported that the garage sale had been successful with a lot of the items having been taken away. A total of £60.00 in donations had been taken and she proposed that this money be deposited and used in relation to on-going maintenance. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour. Thanks were expressed to everyone who helped on the day

Item 6 – it was agreed the plaque should be placed on a stand and thereafter cemented in a position to be agreed between the Chair and the Clerk.

Item 7 -With regard to the gate closing mechanism unfortunately Mr Gawen was not able to assist. It was felt a quotation should be obtained from a Playground Fencing organisation and Cllr Harrison stated that details could be placed on the Parish Council Facebook page to see if anyone can assist.

Item 10 – Stagecoach – the Chair reported that County Cllr Squires had responded helpfully. County Cllr Squires had received an email from the Principal Transport Officer at County Hall who had confirmed that now the Exe Valley Rd had been opened add hoc monitoring would continue. With regard to operating a later evening journey for Silverton on the 355, after discussion with Stagecoach it had been established this would require further funding. However, due to the level of patronage on the current service this is not sufficient to support the additional expense. County Cllr Squires had responded asking if it would be possible to exchange an earlier bus for a later one.

Cllr Wright pointed out his concerns that someone will get hurt walking down\up Up Exe Road to either catch the bus or walk back to the village after getting off the bus on the main road.

Cllr Donovan pointed out with the additional housing in the village it was important to have a good transport system.

The Chair confirmed she would formally respond to County Cllr Squire's email.

Item 14 – Cllr Donovan stated that during the period the A396 had been closed people had been travelling through the minor roads and he felt consideration should be given to the speed limit in these areas being reduced.

Minute 113781

Discussion with County Cllr Margaret Squires and District Councillors J Wright on any relevant issues

County Cllr Squires stated she accepted that sometimes potholes get filled in and then the filling comes out again. Devon County Council are currently looking at different fillings and are looking at reconstruction of roads and testing. The material used consists of tyres which are broken down and mixed with any surface material which has come off. Although this is not aesthetically pleasing it does serve its purpose.

District Cllr Wright stated the budget currently remains the main issue. With regard to J27, a large leisure complex had been anticipated with the Eden Project and which had received Government Funding. The Eden Project have now had to pull out. With regard to J28 there are now funds for another junction and the Cullompton Railway Station appears to be on track. With regard to recycling MDDC will not collect any residual waste outside bins and

may fine residents in the future who do not recycle properly. With regard to the Three Rivers & St Georges a lot of working is being undertaken as to how this is best used.

Minute 113782 **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:

23/01607/FULL – erection of a storage shed for machinery/equipment – land at NGR 295381 103326 (West of Silverdale), Silverton

Cllr Maylan proposed the Parish Council supports the above application. A vote was taken with 5 in favour and 1 abstention with Cllr Wright not voting.

23/01644/HOUSE – erection of two storey and single storey side extension following demolition of existing side extension – Ravenscott, Silverton

Cllr Harrison proposed the Parish Council supports the above application. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour save Cllr Wright who did not vote.

(b) Approvals / Refusals by MDDC

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

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

APPROVAL – 23/00741/HOUSE – erection of link extension to rear following removal of existing door canopy – 1 Fore Street, Silverton

LISTED BUILDING CONSENT – 23/00742/LBC – Listed Building Consent for the erection of link extension to rear following removal of existing door canopy -1 Fore Street, Silverton

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

(c) Any other Planning matters

None

Minute 113783 **Finances**

(a) Monthly invoices

Chq 002769 Mrs S Woodland – Clerk’s wages - £671.76 + expenses (Microsoft payments for periods 1.9.23 – 30.9.23 (£12.36) + stamps (10.00) =£694.12
Chq 002770 Mr D Marsden – Contractor’s monthly invoice - £300.00
Chq 002771 E-on Next – September invoice - electricity to Air Ambulance landing site - £71.54 –
CHQ CANCELLED
Chq 002772 Parsons Landscapes Limited – October Grounds Maintenance - £1,211.76
Chq 002773 E-On Next -October invoice - electricity to Air Ambulance landing site - £32.55
Chq 002774 E-On Next – September invoice – electricity to Air Ambulance landing site - £31.54

With regard to Chq 002771 it was noted a late penalty fee had been added to the amount due. The Chair explained problems had arisen last year with payment of the E-n Next invoices due to when these were issued. An agreement had been reached with the Company that invoices would be issued in good time for payment at Parish Council meetings. The Chair therefore proposed Chq 002771 is not agreed and a payment of £31.54 be paid with an explanation as to why the late payment fee has been deducted. All other payments are agreed. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

With regard to the outstanding payment to MDDC of £45.05 for fly-tipping clearance Cllr Wright stated he had sent an email indicating he thought the work had been carried out as a favour but was awaiting a response. It was agreed this item to be an Agenda item for December.

(b) Other financial matters

(i) Review of Contractor's contract

A copy of the current Contractor's contract had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting for consideration. After discussion the Chair proposed the Contract remains the same as the 2019 Contract save the following additions:

- (a) Weeding in Square, disposal of detritus at sump, maintain footpaths in the Recreation Field to ensure paths are free of brambles etc, empty and sort recycling bins in Square, Children's Play Area and Skatepark, weed the Sump outside Church House.
- (b) The Contractor to arrange his own public liability insurance for a sum not less than £5m

A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Cllr Maylan proposed a further amendment to the Contract with the Contract being for a period of 2 years and not 4 years as currently. A vote was taken with 5 in favour and 2 abstentions.

It was agreed to publicise the Specification on local Social Media sites and the Parish Newsletter

(ii) To note MDDC Play Area Reports re Children's Play Area & Skatepark

The reports were noted.

(iii) To note second instalment of Parish Precept - £21,652.50

Noted

(iv) To note email from MDDC re funding and Support Opportunities for Mid Devon Businesses

Noted.

Minute 113784

Neighbourhood Plan

(a) Update

The Neighbourhood Plan Committee has now received the finalised report from the Examiner which has been put up on the website at <https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/silverton/neighbourhood-plan>. The Committee are working hard to amend the Plan in line with the report and get it finalised before the middle of November in order it can go before the MDDC Cabinet on 12th December 2023.

(b) Neighbourhood Plan printer

Cllr Kennard explained the Neighbourhood Plan Committee had a printer which was now surplus to requirements. It was agreed the Parish Council did not need the printer and Cllr Kennard would advertise it on Social Media.

Minute 113785 **October & November Mini Market reports**

Cllr Maylan reported the following:

October Mini Market:

Shirley Cole had thanked the Parish Council for planting a tree to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Comments had been made regarding the water leak at the bottom of School Road

Concerns had been raised regarding the bus service when the proposed road closure takes place at Stoke Cannon

November Mini Market

Concerns had been raised regard the parking on Coach Road and in particular with regard to large lorries which caused a visibility problem when exiting Hillcrest Road or travelling up/down Coach Road. It was also noted when events take place at the Community Hall people tend to park adjacent to the bus stop which causes problems. It was agreed to ask the Hall Committee if they could ensure the bus stop is not blocked

Minute 113786 **Correspondence**

- (a) To note email received from Libraries Unlimited re Impact Report 2022-23
- (b) To note Fire Service Consultation which is open until Midday, 30th November 2023

Minute 113787 **Matters brought forward by the Chairman**

Cllr Donovan stated he was disappointed there was no location plan within the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Kennard confirmed the Plan did include a plan. Cllr Donovan also stated that he was concerned that during the pandemic a lot of people worked at home which resulted in the lost of internet provision in the village. He was therefore concerned that with the increased housing in the village this would cause further problems. "Broadband provision" to be an Agenda item for December.

Meeting closed at 21.35 p.m.

