

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

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

Minute 113788 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from the Chair.

In the absence of the Chair the Vice-Chair chaired the meeting.

Minute 113789 **Consider any applications to be co-opted onto Parish Council**

None received.

Minute 113790 **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 113791 **Meeting open to any questions from members of the public – 10 mins**

Mr Wise stated that SWEB had dug a hole outside Londis and had replaced it well to comply with the regulations. However, Devon County Highways had repaired the road outside the old British Legion but there is still a lot of mess and he queried why it had been left like this?

Mr Wise also had concerns regarding the cost of cutting the Football Pitch which he felt was high and he pointed out historically parishioners used to do it at no cost. The Vice-Chair pointed out that the football pitch formed part of the general maintenance quote.

Mr Simon Steer stated there were various issues which affect people in the village, but one important issue is speeding. He had tried to set up a Speed Watch Group previously and he had today spoken to the Devon & Cornwall Speed Watch Group in his capacity as Co-ordinator. Funding is available provided the Group consists of 6 volunteers. Mr Steer said he thought the two main problem areas are Park Road to Ellerhayes and Upexe Road into the Square. He is looking for support from the Parish Council to encourage volunteers to join the group and he thought it would be beneficial to ask the Police if they would attend a meeting to discuss speeding generally. Volunteers need to be pro-active to get the Group working. Further information is available on the Devon County Council website – form TNT/01.

A discussion took place with Cllr Wright in relation to the “20 is plenty scheme” and it was agreed that the Clerk would ask the parishioner who is interested in being involved to contact Mr Steer who confirmed the Clerk can disclose his email address to him. Cllr Donovan also confirmed he would be happy to be part of the Speed Watch Group and be the Parish Council representative on

the Group. Mr Steer will contact the Police to see if they willing to attend a meeting.

It was confirmed that Silverton is formally on the Agenda for being part of the Countywide 20 is Plenty scheme.

Minute 113792 **Minutes of the Meeting held on the 6th November 2023**

The Vice-Chair proposed the Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th November 2023 be accepted as a true record. A vote was taken with 5 in favour and 1 abstention.

Minute 113793 **Review of Action Plan**

Item 2 – Internet Banking – the Clerk confirmed this was on-going. She had submitted the application form which appeared to have been accepted and she had also submitted her specimen signature. The Bank had confirmed the next step would be for the form to be circulated to the remaining signatories in order that their specific signatures could also be submitted to the Bank. Cllr Hedges should have received the application, but to date this had not been received and the Clerk was trying to speak to someone at the Bank by telephone which was proving difficult.

Item 3 – Bulbs for Jubilee Garden area – the quotation from Parsons had been noted and the funds were to be obtained via S106 funds. The Vice-Chair gave a resume of the funds available and stated Bug Hotels for the Recreation Field had also been considered.

After discussion the Vice-Chair proposed that the Parish Council use £480.00 of the S106 monies available to plant bulbs in the Jubilee Garden Area. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour. The Clerk to submit an application to the S106 Officer.

Item 5 - Old Fire Station - the Clerk confirmed the Chair had drafted an Agreement and this was almost complete.

Item 7 – Pedestrian gate to Children’s play area - the Vice-Chair proposed the Parish Council contact Playground Fencing Companies to try and establish the cost of a new gate. A vote was taken with all Councillors in favour.

Item 8 – Goalposts – Cllr Wright confirmed the regulations appeared to have been complied with when the goalposts had been installed.

A quotation had been received from Dave Bradner at the cost of £792.00. The Vice-Chair confirmed the Parish Council does not have the funds currently and it was agreed this would be reconsidered at the Budget Meeting in January.

Clerk to chase MDDC for a response to the request that they include the goalposts in its play area inspections.

Item 9 – Cobbled path - Cllr Kennard confirmed she would speak to the residents regarding this matter.

Item 10 – Reference is made to the bus service on the Notes to the meeting with DCC which had been circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting. It was agreed to leave this item on the Action Plan but move it to “Traffic, Travel and Transport”.

Item 11 – Sign for Old Fire Station – Cllr Wright stated he had not as yet dealt with this matter but would do so as soon as possible.

Item 12 – “Educational Psychologist for the area” – agreed this to be removed from Plan.

Item 13 – “Pergola” – no recent complaints had been received and no suitable paint could be found. Remove from Plan.

Item 14 – “20 is Plenty” - remove reference to the plan not on being on the Information Map and place under “Traffic, Travel & Transport”.

Item 15 – “Overgrown brambles in Coach Road” – remove from Action Plan as these have been cut back.

Item 16 – “Brambles overgrowing pavement in Coach Road” - remove from Action Plan

Item 17 – “Internal Auditor” – an Internal Auditor had been agreed - remove from Action Plan.

Item 18 – “Lime Trees on The Berry” - historic emails relating to replacing trees on The Berry were circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllr Donovan stated he felt no maintenance had been carried out for years on the Lime Trees. The Clerk confirmed maintenance had been carried out during the past month and she had spoken to Hi-Line when they were on site.

Cllr Hedges proposed a Lime Tree Regeneration Programme be undertaken on the Lime Trees on The Berry. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

It was agreed Cllrs Hedges and Kennard will carry out a site inspection and report back to the Council.

Item 19 – “E-On” – the Clerk confirmed that E-On Next had accepted the late payment fee was not payable – remove from Action Plan.

Item 20 – “Neighbourhood Plan printer” - Cllr Kennard will deal with this item as soon as possible.

Minute 113794

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

Cllr Wright indicated that MDDC now has a new reporting system and gave an update. He confirmed the Mobile Library had ceased due to the financial cost. Damp problems in the Authority’s housing stock were being investigated. Steps were also being taken to secure leisure services in the District.

Minute 113795

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:

23/01764/FULL – Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 22/00337/FULL (erection of dwelling following demolition of agricultural buildings) to allow the substitution of previously

approved plans relating to position of dwelling – land at NGR 296704 102758 (Cornerway Farm) Silverton.

Cllr Hedges proposed the Parish Council support the above application. A vote was taken with all Cllrs present in favour, save Cllr Wright didn't vote.

(b) Approvals / Refusals by MDDC

None

(c) Any other Planning matters

None

Minute 113796 **Finances**

(a) Monthly invoices

Chq 002775 Mrs S Woodland – Clerk's wages - £671.76 + expenses (Microsoft payments for periods 1.10.23 – 31.10.23 (£12.36) + ink (£45.90)) =£730.02
Chq 002776 Mr D Marsden – Contractor's monthly invoice - £300.00
Chq 002777 E-on Next – electricity supply to Air Ambulance landing site - £31.50
Chq 002778 Mr A Isaac – Parish Christmas tree - £200.00
Chq 003779 Hi-Line – works to lime trees on The Berry - £1,516.87

(b) Other financial matters

(i) Update re outstanding MDDC invoice of £45.05 re fly tipping clearance

The Clerk confirmed this invoice had been cancelled and no payment was due.

(ii) Consider tenders received re position of Village Handyman

2 tenders had been received, one from Mr D Marsden at £25.00 per hour and one from Mr Max Sandford at £18.00 per hour. Mr Sandford had stated that he felt the time allocated would not cover all the work set out in the Specification and was unrealistic and he gave a breakdown of what he felt the time for each item on the Specification might be. A general conversation took place regarding the tenders and the work as set out in the Specification.

Cllr Wright proposed the Parish Council maintains the current provider which was then withdrawn to allow discussions to continue after which the Vice-Chair proposed the Parish Council accept the quote from Max Sandford – a vote was taken with 2 in favour and 4 against.

Mr D Marsden to maintain the contract. The Clerk to explain to Max Sandford that the Parish Council felt there were too many caveats contained within his quotation to enable the Parish Council to consider accepting the tender.

(iii) Consider request (verbally & by email) from residents of Ellerhayes for provision of Noticeboard (previously agreed but put on hold due to financial restraints for current financial year)

The Chair had confirmed to the Vice-Chair that funds were available from the Equipment and Building Fund to purchase a Noticeboard for Ellerhayes. The Clerk provided quotes she had downloaded and after discussion the Vice-Chair proposed

a Noticeboard be purchased for the sum of £436.84 + VAT. A vote was taken with all Cllrs present in favour.

(iv) Request by Silverton Football Club for funding contribution

The Silverton Football Club had requested a set up contribution of £200.00 after having received some funding from the Richards' Trust.

After discussion Cllr Wright proposed the Parish Council contribute the sum of £200.00 from the Community Fund to assist with the set up costs. A vote was taken with all Cllrs present in favour.

(v) Set date for January 2024 Budget Meeting

It was agreed to hold the Budget Meeting on Monday 15th January 2024 – 7.30 p.m.

Minute 113797 **Notes re meeting with County Highways/County Cllr Squires and the Chair and Clerk on 13.11.2023 and discussion re Road Wardens**

An email had been received from the local Neighbourhood Officer in which he confirmed the gulleys on the footway behind the tree on the junction with Coach Road have been put on the system for attention as they are causing water to run directly onto a primary gritting route. The gully on Old Tiverton Road is not on a primary gritting route but has been entered onto the system for action, but he cannot say when this will take place.

It was agreed to ask where Silverton currently is on the list and whether this is available to view.

With regard to Road Wardens, Cllr Wright confirmed he would ask for volunteers.

Minute 113798 **Parish Broadband provision**

Cllr Donovan explained that properties outside the village had changed from hard wire to fibre during lockdown and the connection became weaker and weaker for circa 6 months with some people having to go onto satellite to get a signal. Cllr Harrison explained that the connection will not get better unless everyone is changed to fibre and this is dependent on cost. Cllr Harrison confirmed she would provide the Clerk with an insert for the next Newsletter regarding how to lobby for fibre broadband.

Minute 113799 **Neighbourhood Plan**

The Neighbourhood Plan has been amended to conform with the Examiner's Report and is now with Mid Devon District Council. On December 12th it will be put before the Cabinet (who are councillors appointed by the elected leader of the Cabinet) and provided it is approved and the Decision Statement published, a Referendum will be called which will give our community the chance to have a final say on whether the Plan should come into force.

The referendum version of the Plan is on the Parish Council website at <https://www.middevonparish.co.uk/silverton/neighbourhood-plan/> along with an amended Consultation Statement and Design Statement to conform to the amended policies. If you need a version in a more accessible format, please contact Olivia Kennard on 01392 861020 to borrow a hard copy.

As soon as we have a date for the Referendum, it will be advertised on MDDC website, the Parish Council website, posters in Silverton and Ellerhayes and Silverton Community Facebook and Nextdoor.

Thanks were given to the Committee for persevering and getting to this stage.

Minute 113800 **December Mini Market report**

Cllr Hedges gave a resume of the queries raised at the December Mini-Market by parishioners:

- (a) When was the road closure at Stoke Canon ?
- (b) Concerns were raised relating to the green space opposite the flats in Wyndham Road
- (c) Broken light on path to Church – agreed to ask DCC to inspect and see where it is connected past the Fire Station to the hub in the Square.
- (d) Christine Pryke had mentioned that there was only one quote available for the Book Swap paving. Agreed the Clerk would ask her to provide the quote in time for consideration at the Budget Meeting.
- (e) Potholes in Upexe Lane were reported.

Minute 113801 **Consider cover for Parish Council table at 2024 Mini-Markets**

Volunteers to man the Parish Council table for the forthcoming 6 month period were noted.

Minute 113802 **Correspondence**

Confirmation from Airband had been received that Newcourt Road will be closed for a period within the next 6 months. Once the permit had been accepted Airband will confirm the specific dates and timings.

The MDDC State of the District Debate would be taking place on the evening of either Wednesday 20th March or 27th March 2024 at Phoenix House, Tiverton in order to establish how the Council can better support access to helpful information etc. It was agreed to put forward the following suggestions:

On-line shared interest groups to share expertise etc

Shared templates

Legal advice to be available

Advice re play equipment maintenance

Minute 113803 **Matters brought forward by the Vice-Chairman**

None

Meeting closed at 9.38 p.m.