

Minutes of the meeting of Silverton Parish Council
held Monday 5th February 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in the Silverton Community Hall

Present: Cllrs S Cross, G Donovan, O Kennard, R Harrison, J Wright & S Hedges

Minute 113819 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor V Maylan

Minute 113820 **Consider any applications to be co-opted onto Parish Council**

None received.

Minute 113821 **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 prejudice al interests must leave the room for the relevant items)

None

Minute 113822 **Meeting open to any questions from members of the public – 10 mins**

A parishioner informed the Council that on Saturday evening he was walking down Oak Close and he noticed 2 pick-up trucks parked at Oak Close with their engines running and two people looking at the area where the fence had been. When they saw him they jumped into their vehicles and drove away. He suggested that when no-one is working in the field this entrance should be securely blocked off. It was agreed this information would be fed back to MDDC.

Mr Miles Snowdon stated that he understood a working group was going to be set up to oversee the Broad Oak and he would like to volunteer his services if this is agreed. Messrs Dave Wright & John Kingdom also volunteered to be members of the working group.

Mr Wise stated that parking in the village was becoming desperate. He wondered if a long-term lease could be arranged at a reasonable rent from a farmer to try and alleviate the parking problem. He also suggested parking in the Square should be a herringbone system which improves visibility. Mr Wise further suggested again the possibility of borrowing a speed camera and getting some income from this. It was agreed the Clerk would send County Cllr Squires an email asking that parking in the village be considered, It was noted that able bodied people drive to the shop rather than walk. Mr Snowdon confirmed that historically the Parish Council had looked at parking in the village and drawn up a plan at that stage

Speeding in the village had also been monitored by the Police a few years ago and it had been found there were very few people who were driving over the limit. Cllr Wright stated that the average speed limits were low when monitored and the accident record in the village was very low. It was agreed that parking to be placed on the March Agenda for further consideration.

A suggestion was made that a concrete strip could be put on the entrance to the village from Park Road as a way of slowing traffic down.

The Chair proposed Item 12 be moved to this point. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Minute 113823 **To consider options relating to the Broad Oak**

The Chair confirmed there was a huge interest in what happens to the Oak. MDDC had been on site last week and had carried out most of the safety work. The tree was situated on MDDC land and ultimately it was up to MDDC what happened to it although they are happy for the Parish Council to move this matter forward.

Cllr Kennard stated she felt the Parish Council needs to get a working group set up.

Cllr Wright asked that the Parish Council thank Teign Trees for the care they took and for leaving the trunk long. Also thanks be given to MDDC for how quickly and how sensitively they dealt with this matter.

The Chair proposed a Working Group be set up and it was agreed the members would be the Chair, Clerk, Cllrs Kennard and Wright together with Mr M Snowdon, Mr D Wright, Mr J Kingdom and Mr P Kidd. The Group would liaise to meet and thereafter report back to the Parish Council for any final decisions. A vote was taken with all members present in favour.

The Meeting was opened to Mr M Snowdon and thereafter it was agreed members of the Group can liaise with experts as they saw fit and co-opt if necessary.

The Chair pointed out dozens of emails and phone calls had been received by the Clerk in relation to the tree.

The Meeting was closed to members of the public at this point.

The Chair proposed Item 11 be moved to this point. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Minute 113824 **Discussion with Silverton Youth Football Club in relation to future projects**

Mr R Jones (Silverton Football Club), confirmed the Club had started well and he had assistance from children's parents and the future looks encouraging from number participation. He pointed out that the site lacked facilities in order for the Club to move to the next level and more equipment was needed. Currently some equipment is kept at his home and this needs to be taken to the field each week. The Club would like to spruce up the Tennis Hut in order that equipment could then be stored safely in it. Alongside that is the possibility of having a sports themed Street Market. Mr Jones confirmed that after Half Term subscriptions will be payable.

The Chair pointed out the door to the Tennis Hut had recently been vandalised and the Parish Council Handyman had carried out basic repairs. Mr Jones confirmed as older children join the Club then larger goal posts will be needed which are not collapsible and which could not be stored at his home.

After discussion the Chair proposed the Football Club be permitted to clean/tidy the Tennis Hut as they see fit leaving a small area for the Contractor to store items. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Cllr Wright asked for clarification that should any other organisations wish to store items in the Tennis Hut then this could be facilitated and Mr Jones confirmed this. It was noted that Broadclyst Football Club had not used the field since before Christmas.

It was agreed the Clerk would ask Parsons Landscaping when the next cut would be undertaken as the grass is getting long.

The Chair proposed if the Football Club liaises with the Clerk the Parish Council will support any grant funding applied for. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Thanks were expressed to Mr Jones for organising the setting up of the Football Club.

Minute 113825 **Minutes of the Meeting held on the 8th January 2024**

With regard to **Minute 113180** – Item 6 – it was agreed that the wording “...perhaps Mr Seward would agree to some land ...” should be amended to read “perhaps the Land Owner could be approached as to whether he would allow some land to provide a footpath from Exeter Road to the A396”.

Subject to the above amendment the Chair proposed the Minutes of the meeting held on the 8th January 2024 be accepted as a true record. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Minute 113826 **Minutes of the Budget Meeting held on the 15th January 2024**

The Chair proposed the Minutes of the Budget Meeting held on the 15th January 2024 be accepted as a true record. A vote was taken with 5 in favour and 1 abstention

Minute 113827 **Review of Action Plan**

1 – “Draft Neighbourhood Plan” - agreed the word “Draft” would be deleted from the description

8 - Gate – Cllr Harrison had not as yet received a response from her contact. The Chair pointed out that one of the Contractors dealing with the Broad Oak had said he might be able to assist but nothing further had been heard from him.

12 - Trees on the Berry – Cllrs Kennard and Hedges had carried out a site inspection and Cllr Hedges provided a plan show where there are currently trees and the position of stumps etc. It was agreed to further discuss this item at the March meeting. Cllr Donovan will also update the Council with regard to the saplings etc growing around the trees.

15 - Tennis Hut –the Handyman’s report had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Currently the Handyman had managed to open the door and secure it with a large padlock. The Chair proposed that this item be left on the Action Plan to consider further action in due course. A vote was taken with all Councillors in favour.

Minute 113828 **Discussion with County Cllr Margaret Squires and District Councillors J Wright and R Roberts on any relevant issues**

County Cllr Squires confirmed DCC were currently considering the budget process and it was proving very difficult to produce a balanced budget. There are currently circa 900 children in care which is a big cost. DCC were aiming to try to get more in house fosterers. The other big expense arises from children with special needs/disability and includes transport. There is also a large cost with Adult Care. DCC had received additional funds

due to stopping of the HS2 and this has enabled one or two bad roads in Devon to be re-surfaced. It had also been agreed that Care Leavers will not pay Council Tax between the ages of 18-25 years.

Cllr Donovan asked if some of the HS2 money could be utilised to bring the bus to Silverton more frequently. Cllr Squires pointed out the additional funds would primarily be used to fill potholes.

Cllr Wright asked Cllr Squires if there was any way her office could push for additional funds in Devon it would be appreciated. He queried when the subsidy for bus routes would be re-evaluated and Contracts re-issued in order the Parish Council could comment. Cllr Squires pointed out the Bus Company deals with all buses using the A396 straight through to Tiverton. A query was raised regarding the impending closure of the road at Stoke Canon and Cllr Squires commented that she has not as yet heard what will be happening to the buses when this road is closed. She had received an email a couple of weeks ago when she had been told it had not as yet been decided.

The Chair made a plea for Church Road to be re-surfaced and Cllr Squires confirmed this was on the list but she could not give any indication as to when the work was likely to be carried out.

Cllr Wright confirmed MDDC had managed to provide a balanced budget due to restructure and staff reallocation and funding from the Government.

With regard to Recycling and Side Waste, MDDC would not be collecting any side waste in the future but residents can have 2 bins if necessary. There will be a push to ask residents to recycle properly.

With regard to the Council redevelopment plan – should anyone have any input then they should contact Cllr Wright.

Cllr Wright confirmed he would obtain a new gull sack for Cllr Donovan.

MDDC are interested in providing electric car chargers for parishioners in the village but this is subject to funding

Minute 113827 **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:

24/00165/CAT – Notification of intention to reduce overall by 2m a Wych Elm in a Conservation Area – 1 Tuns Lane, Silverton

The Chair proposed the Parish Council supports the above application. A vote was taken with all Councillors present (save Cllr Wright did not vote as above) were in favour.

(b) Approvals / Refusals by MDDC

None

(c) Any other Planning matters

None

Minute 113828 **Finances**

(a) Monthly invoices

Chq 002788	Mrs S Woodland – Clerk’s wages (£671.76), Ink (£14.00), Hire of Room for Public Meeting (£20.00) = £705.76
Chq 002789	Mr D Marsden – Contractor’s monthly invoice (£625.00) + cost of lock/latch for Tennis Hut (£18.48) = 643.48
Chq 002790	MDDC – play area inspections - £302.40

The Chair proposed the above accounts be passed for payment. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

(b) Other financial matters

(i) To approve Internal Audit Service Contract

A copy of the Internal Audit Service Contract had been forwarded to Councillors prior to the meeting. The Chair proposed the Clerk signs the Contract as RFO. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Minute 113831 **Annual Review of Code of Conduct**

Chair proposed the current Code of Conduct be adopted with no amendments. A vote as taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Minute 113832 **Annual Review of Financial Regulations**

Regulation 6 was amended to reflect internet banking.

Regulation 11 was amended by deleting references to EU Directives.

The Chair proposed the above amendments be agreed. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Minute 113833 **Neighbourhood Plan update**

Cllr Hedges stated it would be disappointing, considering the amount of work that had gone into producing and putting forward the Neighbourhood Plan for approval, if parishioners are confused or concerned about supporting it and do not vote on the 29th February 2024.

After discussion Cllr Hedges proposed individual councillors publicise the Neighbourhood Plan in their own words in support of the Neighbourhood Plan. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Minute 113834 **Correspondence**

Th Clerk had received an anonymous letter through the post re a possible breach of planning at 2 Oak Close A copy had been forwarded to District Councillor Wright who had forwarded it on to Planning Enforcement. He pointed out that no action will be taken unless this is reported to Planning Enforcement by the parishioner in question rather than anonymously. The Chair gave a resume of the reason given by the occupier for the extension at the time of the planning application.

Minute 113835 **Matters brought forward by the Chairman**

The Chair reported that the reason the Tree Officer was in the village at the time the Broad Oak fell was due to a report of another possible tree on the bank adjacent to the stream falling over onto the Football Field. A check had been made with the Land Registry and the tree was on unregistered land and therefore the owner was unknown and therefore under Delegated Powers the Clerk and Chair had decided, on health & safety grounds, to ask Teign Trees to fell this as they were already on site and it would be at a discounted price. The Tree Officer had confirmed the tree would fall over in due course and work would be required on it within a 3-6 month time span in any event.

Meeting closed at 20.14 p.m