

Minutes of the meeting of Silverton Parish Council
held Monday 4th March 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in the Silverton Community Hall

Present: Cllrs S Cross (Chair), G Donovan, O Kennard, V Maylan, R Harrison & S Hedges
District Cllr R Roberts.

Minute 113836 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from County Cllr Margaret Squires & Cllr J Wright

Minute 113837 **Consider any applications to be co-opted onto Parish Council**

None received.

Minute 113838 **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 113839 **Meeting open to any questions from members of the public – 10 mins**

No members of the public attended the meeting.

Minute 113840 **Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5th February 2024**

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

Minute 113841 **Review of Action Plan**

Item 3 - S106 – it was agreed the Clerk would contact the S106 Officer to ask if some of the money allocated to the Recreation Field can be spent on bug hotels/bird boxes.

Item 5 - Bus Service – It was noted that Cllr Wright had asked a question of County Cllr Margaret Squires at the last meeting as to when the services/funds are due for consideration and she was not able to provide details. It was agreed to ask County Cllr Squires to ascertain the date when these are to be considered and to send District Cllr Roberts a copy of the correspondence.

Item 6 - Speed Watch - The Chair confirmed that the idea put forward by Seddons Estate Agents for “20 is plenty” signs similar to those in Bradninch had previously been considered. She explained that signs cannot be approved by Devon County Council unless they are in a certain format and Seddons were not prepared to cover the cost of these as they were not sufficient for their marketing purposes. It was agreed to try to re-establish the

Speedwatch Group and to ask Simon Steer, as the current Co-ordinator of the Group, for an update.

Item 7 - Plaque for tree – The Chair confirmed this would be sited in the near future.

Item 8 – Gate to Children’s Play Area – The single gate needs to be unlocked – it was noted MDDC has the key.

Item 9 - Goalposts – an email from MDDC regarding the price structure for inspecting the various pieces of play equipment was noted.

Item 10 - Cobbled area – It was noted that the vegetation had now been removed.

Item 11 - Old Fire Station – Cllr Kennard confirmed she was now dealing with this item and she felt a piece of the Broad Oak could be utilised to make the necessary sign.

Item 13 - Light in Church Path – It was agreed that the Clerk will ask DCC if the Parish Council could deal with this light itself.

Item 14 Noticeboard, Ellerhayes – It was agreed the Clerk would obtain quotes for the Council’s consideration.

Minute 113842 **Discussion with District Councillor R Roberts on any relevant issues**

With regard to potholes, District Cllr Roberts stated that in the new round of funding from HS2 money, additional funds were being made available for Mid Devon, to be utilised for road works. He believes the sum is £1.5m. Two roads have been prioritised for work in Mid Devon but none in Silverton. He confirmed that if the Parish has a particularly bad area, then the Parish Council should push this. Any correspondence to be copied to District Cllr Roberts and Couty Councillor Squires.

The District Council 2024/25 budget has been completed, balanced, and approved with the result of a 2.99% council tax increase in band “B”. The average increase across the board is 4.7%.

Grants are available for up to £5,000 to support Halls etc and full details can be obtained from the District Council website.

With regard to the Three Rivers, a soft closure should take place at the end of this month as planned.

With regard to the Devolution, this has been inaugurated and includes MDDC but it needs final approval of Parliament. However, the scheme should commence in October 2024 with a £50,000m additional budget.

Cllr Hedges asked if electric charges would be provided for rural areas under the Net Zero policy.

With regard to improving the broadband in rural areas, this will not be one of the responsibilities of the local group.

Minute 113843 **Planning**

Applications:

24/00185/FULL – installation of concrete capping to existing stone wall – Recreation Field, Newcourt Road, Silverton

The Chair proposed the Parish Council supports the above application. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

(b) Approvals / Refusals by MDDC

NO OBJECTION to reduce overall by 2m one Wych Elm in a Conservation Area – 1 Tuns Lane, Silverton

APPROVAL – construction of a single storey, detached dwellinghouse with the removal of one motor home/converted pantechon lorry and other associated buildings – Oak Meadow Silverton

(c) Any other Planning matters

None

Minute 113844 **Finances**

(a) Monthly invoices

Chq 002791	Mrs S Woodland – Clerk’s wages (£671.76), Ink (£27.89), box of A4 paper (£25.59), Microsoft monthly invoice (£12.6) = £705.76
Chq 002792	Mr D Marsden – Contractor’s monthly invoice = £625.00
Chq 002703	E-on Next – electricity supply to Air Ambulance landing site - £65.09
Chq 002704	E-on Next – electricity supply to Air Ambulance landing site (1/2/24 to 29/2/24) - £30.49

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

(b) Other financial matters

The Chair reported that an email had been received from Silverton Football Club confirming their bank account now accepted cheques and asking if the previously agreed contribution to its set up costs of £200.00 can be made. The Chair proposed a payment of £200 be paid to Silverton Football Club as previously agreed. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Chq 0022705	Silverton Football Club – contribution to set up costs - £200.00
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Minute 113845 **Annual Review of Publication Scheme**

After discussion it was agreed the Parish Council would consider how best to bring to the attention of the public the items which are published on the Website and this would be a future Agenda item.

The Chair proposed that the Publication Scheme as circulated by the Clerk be agreed with no amendments. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Minute 113846 **Update re Broad Oak Working Group**

It was noted two meetings had been held since the last Parish Council meeting. The first was an initial meeting which looked at the tree on site followed by a meeting in The Lamb to try and move

matters forward. Contacts were being approached by the Group. A meeting had taken place last week when it was confirmed that David Wright and John Kingdom had met a contact on site to discuss the smaller pieces situated against the play area. A dendrochronologist had been contacted who had indicated he needed the roots cut off and then a slice cut from that end of the tree. It was felt this could destabilize the tree and has not as yet been agreed. It was noted that a Dendrochronologist in Wales had made contact who did not require a slice from the tree to be able to date it. It was agreed the clerk would establish if any contact had been made with this particular Dendrochronologist.

The Harris fencing remains in situ and the grass cutting of the Recreation Field will not be able to be carried out at the present time.

Minute 113847 **Parking problems in the village**

It was agreed to contact County Councillor Squires for an update regarding the parking lines in the Square. After discussion it was agreed that if the Speedwatch Group is re-established then this could possibly become a general traffic group to investigate potholes, parking etc

Minute 113848 **Update re Lime Tree Regeneration Programme**

Thanks were expressed to the Working Group who had tidied up the Lime trees on the Berry and which consisted of Cllr G Donovan, Paul Gawen and James Ruttledge. Cllr Donovan reported that Paul Webster had offered to burn the cuttings on the Church bonfire and thanks were expressed for this gesture.

Cllr Hedges had produced a new plan showing the position of the current trees, the stumps of trees previously felled and spaces where there were no trees or stumps. He indicated that the Parish Council could possibly plant a tree at point S3 as no tree appears to have been planted there previously. Point S4 is on the corner and he felt it was probably not a good idea to plant a tree at this position. He felt removing the stumps shown on the plan at points N4, 5 and 6 would be very expensive.

At position S3, a large tree is required to complete that part of the avenue. Cllr Hedges proposed that in principle, should there be no significant objections and the cost is not significant, a tree be planted at position S3 which will grow in time to become large. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

With regard to position S4, this is a smooth area of grass, close to the fork and any tree planted could cause problems in the future. Cllr Hedges proposed a sizeable tree is not planted at this point. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

With regard to positions N5 & N6, there are stumps there. Cllr Hedges proposed, if the price is reasonable and people don't object, that a sizeable tree be planted at these points. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Cllrs Hedges and Kennard will consider moving these items forward and report back in due course.

Minute 113849 **Neighbourhood Plan update**

Thanks were given to everyone who turned out to vote at the Referendum at the end of February. The village now has a Plan for the next 9 years, before it is reviewed, to help

protect the parish from overdevelopment. What happens from here is as follows: The Plan now has the same legal status as MDDC's Local Plan (and other documents that form part of the statutory 'development plan'). As such our Plan has now come into force as part of the 'development plan'. This means that applications for planning permission in the future, must be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Policies of the Neighbourhood Plan will be used alongside policies in the adopted Mid Devon Local Plan and the Devon Minerals and Waste Plans, to help guide decisions on planning applications in Silverton, which are submitted to the Council for determination.

Under Section 38A (4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) there is a need for Mid Devon District Council to 'make' (adopt) the Silverton Parish Neighbourhood Plan, following the referendum, and to publish a statement setting out the decision, and the reasons for making this decision, under the Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. A report will now be taken to the meeting of the Cabinet on 2nd April and the Full Council on 24th April for ratification.

Thanks were expressed to the Group for all the work carried over the last 10 years for all the hard work put into this Plan.

It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan Group will now be disbanded. With regard to what happens next, Cllr Hedges suggested the Parish Council meet to discuss this and invite those who were on the Neighbourhood Plan to the meeting. Cllrs Hedges and Kennard will move this item forward and report back to the Parish Council.

Minute 113850 **March Mini-Market Report**

Cllrs Hedges, Kennard and Donovan had manned the table at various times as Cllr Wright had been unable to do so on the day.

1. David Rolls of the Devon Wildlife Trust had asked to be put in contact with the Silverton Sustainability Group and Cllr Hedges had put him in contact with Maggie Hendry who chairs the group.

With regard to the Sustainability Group, Cllr Hedges reported that a public recycling station will be provided which will need removing frequently to an intermediate storage and he suggested possibly the Old Fire Station could be utilised for this purpose. It was noted that the Street Market Committee currently have use of the Old Fire Station.

2. Several people had mentioned that the Leat was blocked underground which is causing flooding in the area. The flooding was so bad it was causing problems for a wheelchair user, obscuring potholes, damaging the road and the garden walls running alongside the Leat. This had been reported to Devon Highways and an officer had carried out a site meeting and partly cleared the Leat, but due to the weather conditions the problem continues. The officer had indicated the County Council would not re-instate the grid that had prevented underground blockages as he felt it was not necessary and DCC had a funding limitation.

It was agreed to ask the Handyman to investigate the cost of providing a grid outside number 13 High Street and to provide a quotation for the work.

3. A report of drug dealing in the Churchyard had been made and it was agreed to provide PCSO Randal with the relevant details.

4. Several people had congratulated the Parish Council/Neighbourhood Plan Committee on the passage of the plan and what would happen next and this had been explained to them.

Minute 113851 **Correspondence**

Notification of Road Closure – road from Cadbury Cross Cottages to Valley View, Cadbury – between 12/06/2024 and 14/06/2024.

Minute 113852 **Matters brought forward by the Chairman**

No matters were discussed.

Meeting closed at 21.17 p.m