

Minutes of ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

held

Monday 20th May 2024 @ 7.30 in the Dorothy Grainger Room, Community Hall, Silverton

Apologies

Cllr Kennard

B Croome, C Kingdom, Rich Obourne

Present:

Cllrs Vicki Maylan, Josh Wright (Parish & District Cllr) & Cllr Simon Hedges together with 4 members of the public representing local organisations.

Welcome to the Silverton Annual Parish Assembly.

Cllr Sarah Cross, Chair of Silverton Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting and stressed the meeting was not a Parish Council meeting and no Parish Council decisions would be made at the meeting. She pointed out however that the Paish Council is legally bound to call an annual meeting for the Parish to raise any issues and the rules state that the Parish Chair, if present, chairs the meeting.

1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 22nd May 2023

The Chairman gave a resume of the Minutes of the 2023 Annual Parish Assembly meeting after which she proposed they be accepted as a true record. A vote was taken with 5 in favour.

2. Annual Report by Chairman of Parish Council

The Chair started the Parish Council were pleased to have welcomed Ruth Harrison and Gavin Donovan as councillors during the past year but there were still 3 vacancies and she encouraged new volunteers to come forward

(a) The Neighbourhood Plan had finally reached its conclusion and big “thank you” was given to the whole committee who have worked over the hard over the past 10 years to get the plan through.

(b) The Parish Council had consulted on a number of planning matters over the last year. The Chair stressed the Parish Council is only a consultee and not a decision making body but it had tried to convey the feelings of parishioners especially in relation to the contentious Silverdale development which is expected to commence in the coming year. As always the Parish Council encourages individuals to put forward any comments they have direct to Mid-Devon as this carries as much weight as the comments made by the Parish Council. It is often found that Mid-Devon District Council will approve a scheme even if the Parish Council do not support. A full panning statement for all such situations will be available on the Mid-Devon planning website.

- (c) 2022/23 Annual Audit successful with no concerns raised. Thanks were given to the Clerk for her continued hard work and diligence.
- (d) The old fire station has been cleared of scout equipment with much of the old tents and other items being utilised by the school and other members of the community
- (e) Thanks to the continued lobbying of the Parish Council and individual parishioners the bus service returning from Exeter on evenings have been reinstated – the use will continue to be monitored and so the message is” use it or lose it “
- (g) The Parish Council had concerns with regard to the state of the roads in general. The message from DCC has been that this is a County wide issue and there is severe lack of funds available. Generally speaking potholes are to be reported on the DCC website, if they fit the criteria they are filled within a reasonable time period. The concerns regarding the condition of Church Road have been raised with DCC and a further update is awaited. The Parish Council are looking into the DCC road warden scheme where DCC will train volunteers to patch potholes and carry out other highways maintenance. The Parish Council consider it needs to be put forward at least 5 people for training to be worthwhile and it is currently seeking volunteers.
- (h) Parsons Landscaping were awarded the contract for grass cutting in the village last year and have made an excellent job and have reappointed them for the forthcoming year. The areas which are owned by the Parish Council have been beautifully maintained by Parsons. The Parish Council are letting the Bury grow wild for the short term and will continue to monitor the position. At the same time the Parish Council are looking at a project for regeneration of the historic lime trees on the Bury.
- (i) Denis has been re-awarded the handyman contract and has been paying particular attention to the leat and sump at the rec. We continue to monitor the leat on Fire Street – this is a DCC responsibility but we've struggled to get them to assist. This may form part of the road warden responsibilities.
- (j) The Parish Council are looking at the historic cobbled path on Newbarn Lane and looking for a volunteer group with interest in the history to take this forward.
- (k) The Parish Council are pleased to have supported the SEC with their new youth worker.
- (l) Financial support was given to the Kings coronation celebrations and a budget has been set aside should anyone want to take forward any celebration for the upcoming 80th anniversary of D-Day landings
- (m) The football field is now being regularly utilised and the Parish Council area the supporting new Silverton Football Club and thanks were expressed to the Manager and his team.
- (n) The Parish Council is working with the school who are designing bug hotels for the Recreation Field. The Parish Council are also considering other habitats (bird houses/ bat boxes etc) assisted by some S106 funds which are available.

(o) Councillor Donovan is taking forward the Silverton Speedwatch Group Speeding through the village continues to be a hot topic and the Parish Council are looking for opportunities to reduce this with the first step being collating statistics via the Speedwatch Group – again the Parish Council are always looking for volunteers to assist in such groups.

(p) The big event this year has been the sad loss of the Broad Oak which generated a lot of interest and the Parish Council were pleased by the number of people who attended the public meeting. This will be a long term project as any use of the oak for community projects will need to be seasoned over a number of years. The large trunk and smaller parts currently on MDDC land will remain. A working group meets monthly to discuss long term projects and in the short term the moving of the wood by the play park.

(q) On top of all the above the Parish Council has continued to deal with day to day administration and maintenance for the parish working closely with local groups and District and County Council.

3. Reports by Local Organisations

Reports were given on behalf of the following:

Richard's Educational Charity
St Mary's Church
Silverton Link Up
Silverton Women's Group
Baby Group and Toddler Group
Silverton Football Club
MDDC
Silverton Parochial Trust
Silverton Community Hall
Silverton Neighbourhood Plan
Silverton History Society
Silverton Street Market

4. Public Forum

No questions were raised by members of the public

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.26 p.m.