

**Minutes of the meeting of Silverton Parish Council**  
**held Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in the Silverton Community Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs Chris Eveleigh, Ruth Harrison, Vicki Maylan, Simon Hedges, Gavin Donovan and Josh Wright

**Minute 113992**      **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Lewis Ward & Olivia Kennard and County Cllr Margaret Squires.

**Minute 113993**      **Election of Vice-Chair**

RESOLVED that Cllr Harrison be elected Vice-Chair for the remainder of the Parish Council year (May). Proposed by the Chair and agreed by a show of hands.

**Minute 113994**      **Consider any applications to be co-opted onto Parish Council**

Mr Ben Rice addressed the meeting and confirmed he would be interested in joining the Parish Council and he gave a brief resume of why he would like to be a Councillor. It was agreed the Clerk would email Mr Rice the relevant information forms which he would return prior to the January 2025 meeting when his application would be considered.

**Minute 113995**      **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 113996**      **Meeting open to any questions from members of the public**

None

**The Chair proposed Agenda item 7 be moved to this point of the meeting – agreed by a show of hands**

**Minute 113997**      **Consider request from Silverton Football Club (a) to repaint the Tennis Hut and add the club logo to each end and (b) provision of an electric point in order the Club can consider opening a tea room**

Mr Rob Jones, Manager of Silverton Youth Football Club, explained that the Tennis Hut is in need of renovation and the Club would like to find a local artist to paint the Club's logo on each end. He confirmed the hut would be repainted the same colour as currently and at the Club's own expense. RESOLVED the Parish Council agrees to the repainting of the Tennis Hut and for the Club's logo to be painted on each end at the Club's expense. Proposed by Cllr Wright and agreed by a show of hands.

Mr Jones also explained that the Club would like to have an electric point in the Hut in order to provide teas and this could potentially be achieved by running a spur off the existing electrical point. Certified electricians would carry out the work and he confirmed the Club had a grant to enhance the facilities. Mr Jones confirmed should any other groups/clubs wish to take advantage of the electricity in the Hut the Football Club would not raise any objections. Mr Jones stated the Club's preference was to use the current meter and pay the monthly air ambulance landing site bill. RESOLVED that the Parish Council agrees that (a) a certified electrician will confirm that the work is feasible and appropriate bodies will be consulted including the Air Ambulance (b) the work itself would be certified by a qualified electrician with suitable liability insurance (c) the Club would be amenable to sharing the facilities, with the agreement of the Parish Council, with other community groups or bodies (d) the Club would absorb the cost of electricity for the Air Ambulance Landing lights as long as usage remains consistent with current levels and (e) the meter will remain in the ownership of the Parish Council with the Parish Council paying any bills and the Silverton Youth Football Club reimbursing the Parish Council quarterly. The Clerk to clarify the position with regard to insurance. Proposed by the Chair and agreed by a show of hands.

Thanks and a round of applause were given to Mr Jones and his officials for all the work they have done for the children of the village.

Mr Jones mentioned dog walkers are going across the Recreation Field and Cllr Wright confirmed he would chase MDDC with regard to the requested Public Spaces Protection Order.

The Chair indicated he and Cllr Maylan are going to carry out a site inspection around the Recreation Field next Monday with regard to suggestions put forward by a Parishioner, and at the same time would check the location of existing notices concerning dogs.

**Minute 113998**                      **Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 be accepted as a true record. Proposed by the Chair. A vote was taken by a show of hands with 5 in favour and 1 abstention.

**Minute 113999**                      **Review of Action Plan**

**(a) Action Plan Review**

The Chair explained the new layout of the plan

**101 Traffic, Travel and Transport**

**Road conditions and repairs**

111 – Park Road repairs – An email was sent to County Cllr Squires - no update as yet.

112 – No update – this is reliant on the Deed of Easement as per 111 above.

113 – Agenda item.

**Traffic and Pedestrian Safety**

121 – “20 is Plenty” scheme - no further action.

122 – An email had been received from County Cllr Squires in which she confirmed that DCC had confirmed if the community want to fund and erect signs to help with pedestrian safety this can be agreed. The position of any signs will need to be agreed with DCC.

### Public transport

131 – Check date when subsidies for buses will be considered – still no update from County Cllr Squires.

131 – Heard nothing back as yet.

132 – Request for bus shelter at junction of Upexe Lane and A396 – this is on hold until the wood from Broad Oak is seasoned and this item should be shown in purple (meaning “On Hold”)

133 – Leak in the Bus Shelter - the Handyman had cleared the guttering and there now appears to be no leaks but it is being monitored.

134 –Bus bay outside The Meads – on Agenda.

### **Community Spaces and Activity**

#### Big Rec

212 – “No ball playing” sign for Children’s Play Area – the Chair confirmed he had ordered one aluminium sign and if this is suitable he will order a further sign for the second gate.

213 – Children’s Play Area gate repair – quoted to be obtained.

214 – Change description to “Smart Meter” – it was agreed the Parish Council does not wish to be proactive with regard to a smart meter for the Tennis Hut.

215 – No update.

216 – Jubilee Garden – the daffodil bulbs had now been planted and this is the last appearance on the Plan.

217 – Bug Hotels – Cllr Eveleigh confirmed he has three bug hotels already and there is one more to come. He said he felt the names of the children who designed each bug hotel should be included on the relevant items and this was generally agreed.

#### The Berry and Environs

231 – Weeds along the path in Church Road – A quote had been received from the Handyman for the removal of the weeds and he had indicated a skip would also probably be needed to remove the waste/weeds. Cllr Donovan indicated that Mr Paul Webster may agree to the weeds being put on the Church bonfire and we will ask him to contact the Clerk.

RESOLVED to ask the Contractor for a quote to remove the weeds from number 7 Church Road to where The Berry starts. Proposed by the Chair and agreed by a show of hands.

232 – Lime Tree Regeneration Programme – RESOLVED that quotes be obtained using the previous diagrams the Parish Council considered for improvements on The Berry which will be recirculated to Cllrs. Proposed by the Chair and agreed by a show of hands.

242 – Leat flooding in High Street - this continues to be monitored and can be coloured purple (meaning “On Hold”).

243 – Investigate ownership of unregistered land at the Pond Site – the Chair had contacted Sarah Cross who had replied there is currently no update.

It was noted that Cllr Eveleigh had arranged for the removal of the leavings on the Pond Site and thanks were given to him.

### **Admin, Finances and Miscellaneous**

301 – S106 projects – Cllr Wright confirmed he had spoken to a lady in the Planning Department who now has to speak to the Housing Department who own the land. He awaits an update.

302 – Review of Banking System - Signatories to check their personal details prior to the application being submitted to Unity Trust Bank.

303 – central email list was working well and it was agreed to make this permanent and this to be this item’s last appearance on the Plan.

304 – Christmas Tree Festival – volunteers needed to decorate the tree and Cllr Harrison indicated she may be able to help.

305 – Direct Debit payment to Westcotts – this was on hold pending transfer of Banks and the item can be changed to purple.

306 – Facebook Poll re CLT information - The Chair had drafted a poll which he will link to Facebook. This will be circulated to Councillors and he will then wait a few days and if no averse comments from Cllrs it will be uploaded to Social Media.

307 – “Update Emergency Plan” – the Plan needs updating and the Chair and Clerk will review its content.

#### **(b) Review Leads for each section of the Plan**

RESOLVED Councillors will look at the Plan prior to the January meeting to consider whether it is worth having “Leads” for each section or just assign actions on an ad hoc basis

#### **Minute 114000**

#### **Discussion with District Cllr Rhys & Josh Wright on any relevant issues**

District Cllr Wright explained not a lot had happened since last meeting although MDDC was going to trial taking old pots and pans from doorstep and it was exploring nappy recycling (to make into roads).

#### **Minute 114001**

#### **Planning**

#### **Applications:**

24/01628/FULL – Conversion of redundant public house to 4 dwellings – Ruffwell Inn, Thorverton.

RESOLVED the Parish Council would support the application subject to the concerns raised by SWA in relation to sewage being met. Proposed by Cllr Maylan and agreed by a show of hands. Cllr Wright did not vote.

(b) Approvals / Refusals by MDDC

None

(c) Any other Planning matters

None

**Minute 114002**      **Finances**

(a) Monthly invoices

Chq 002850	Mrs S Woodland – Clerk’s wages (£690.) + expenses (£37.08) = £727.08
Chq 002851	Mr D Marsden – Handyman’s monthly invoice - £625.00
Chq 002852	Parsons Landscapes Limited – October grounds maintenance - £1,271.97
Chq 002853	A D Isaac – Parish Christmas tree - £250.00
Chq 002854	Parsons Landscapes Limited – November grounds maintenance - £1,099.68

RESOLVED the above accounts be accepted for payment. Proposed by the Chair and agreed by a show of hands.

(b) Other financial matters

(i) Donation to RBL re Remembrance Day Wreath

RESOLVED to donate £30 to the Royal British Legion. Proposed by the Chair and agreed by a show of hands.

Chq 002855 Royal British Legion – provision of Wreath for Remembrance Day - £30.00

(ii) ROSPA 2024 Report – agreed to defer this item to the January 2025 agenda,

(iii) Any proposals for items to be included on the Agenda for January 2025 when Precept is to be considered.

Councillors to email the Clerk with any proposals for items to be considered for the next financial year.

(iv) Green Impact Fund - to consider email from MDDC

It was noted that the Email received from MDDC was very late in the day. It was felt the Parish Council should have a project “shovel ready” should any similar grants come up. RESOLVED to write to MDDC to confirm the Parish Council would like to instal slow charging electrical charging points on the lamp posts in the Car Park and to work with MDDC to achieve this aim. Proposed by the Chair and agreed by a show of hands.

(v) To note email from MDDC re grants offered by Centrica for energy project in Devon

Noted

(vi) Spending commitment process

The Chair reminded Councillors that when the Parish Council spends money the endorsement of the final spend has to go via the Clerk after having been previously approved by the Parish Council.

- (vii) RESOLVED that a new Laser Jet scanner/printer be purchased as the scanner on the current printer does not now work. It was felt a Laser Jet scanner/printer would be cheaper to run than the current printer. Proposed by the Chair and agreed by a show of hands

**Minute 114003**      **Report of Chair, Clerk and DCC re bus signage**

A copy of the Notes relating to the meeting had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. RESOLVED the Clerk will chase DCC for an update.

**Minute 114004**      **Consider Mr Bill Croome's offer to be responsible for the flag pole/raising flags on relevant dates**

Mr Bill Croome had offered to be responsible for the flag pole and raising the flags on the relevant dates and it was RESOLVED the Parish Council accept the offer. Proposed by the Chair and agreed by a show of hands.

**Minute 114005**      **Consider Road Warden Scheme Agreement**

The Chair felt it would be useful to draft up a specification in relation to a Road Warden volunteer which could be available for interested people at the Mini Market. Clerk will draft a specification for consideration.

**Minute 114006**      **Update re Broad Oak Working Group**

No meeting had taken place since the last Parish Council meeting.

**Minute 114008**      **Correspondence**

- (a) Email received from County Cllr Squires re Devon Highways Winter Preparation.
- (b) A letter had been received from Mrs C Donovan who explained she had recently fallen whilst walking in Church Road. She pointed out the road was very uneven with potholes and no street lighting. She explained that she had been shaken by the experience and suffered badly bruised knees. She asked if the Parish Council could look into resolving this current problem.

**Minute 114009**      **Matters brought forward by the Chairman**

None

Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.