

Minutes of the meeting of Silverton Parish Council
held Monday 6th January 2025 at 7.30 p.m. in the Silverton Community Hall

Present: Cllrs Gavin Donovan, Chris Eveleigh, Ruth Harrison, Simon Hedges (Chair), Olivia Kennard, Vicki Maylan, Lewis Ward and Josh Wright

District Councillor Rhys Roberts

Minute 114010 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from the Clerk who could not attend due to being cut off by flooding and a road closure and also Cllr Margaret Squires who also could not attend due to flooding issues.

Minute 114011 **Consider any applications to be co-opted onto Parish Council**

Applications had been received from Emily Townsend and Alan McManus.

Emily Townsend was a teacher and had extensive knowledge and experience in education and had organisational skills honed through years of school management. Emily would like to help and represent the community.

RESOLVED that Ms Townsend be co-opted onto Silverton Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Eveleigh and was unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

Alan McManus had lived and farmed in Silverton for nearly 58 years and had worked for Mr Robert Seward at Symonds Farm for 42 years and is currently farm manager. Mr McManus will be taking over the tenancy of the farm in due course from Mr Seward.

RESOLVED that Mr McManus be co-opted onto Silverton Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Maylan and was unanimously agreed by a show of hands

Minute 114012 **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 114013 **Meeting open to any questions from members of the public**

None

Minute 114014 **Minutes of the Meeting held on the 2nd December 2024**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd December 2024 be accepted as an accurate record. Proposed by Cllr Maylan and agreed by a show of hands.

Minute 114015 **Review of Action Plan**

(a) Action Plan Review

100 Traffic, Travel and Transport

110 Road conditions and repairs

- 111 Park Road repairs – No update as yet.
- 112 Park Road Easement - No update.
- 113 Road Warden Scheme - Will be followed up and discussed at the February meeting.

120 Traffic and Pedestrian Safety

- 122 Pedestrian safety on Upexe Lane - Discussion as to whether it should be the Parish Council, Highways or MDDC's decision as to where signs are situated. Cllr Maylan suggested the Clerk contact Steve Tucker from Highways to ascertain who is responsible for location of signs. Cllr McManus offered to have them situated in the hedges or on his land. Cllr Wright has requested MDDC to paint warnings on the road surface, but was told that it could not be done. He also asked if there are contractors who put signs up, but has not had an answer so far.

RESOLVED to ask the Clerk to contact the Local Highways Officer for guidance on appropriate signs/location and suitable contractor. Proposed by Cllr Wright and unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

130 Public Transport

- 131 Subsidies - No update
- 134 Bus stop outside The Meads and all village bus stops – Devon County Council are investigating the ownership of land on which they stand continues.

200 Community Spaces and Activities

- 212 'No Ball Games' signs for Children's Play Area - to be carried forward.
- 213 Damaged gate to play area – ongoing
- 214 Smart meter in tennis hut – no update
- 215 Skate park surface replacement – no update
- 217 School bug hotels – Cllr Eveleigh confirmed he had the completed bug hotels and had asked the school if it could confirm where the children would like to see these erected, within reason.
- 219 Request by football club to install an electric point in the tennis hut – no update.
Public protection order. Cllr Wright is still working on this and will update the council at the February meeting. RESOLVED that Cllr Wright continues to instigate the amendments as requested by the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Ward and unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

230 Berry and Environs

231 Maintenance of trees on Berry – The Clerk had still not heard from Mr Webster regarding disposing of the cuttings on the Church bonfire. It was noted that Mr Webster need to confirm the position to the Clerk in order that this can be formally accepted.

Quote from Handyman – On agenda

232 Lime tree regeneration – Take forward

235 Installation of EV charging points – A draft letter by the Chair to MDDC was discussed. Cllr Wright had spoken to MDDC about this. Silverton is on the levy scheme and is scheduled to have chargers but there is up to a two year waiting list. National companies install them but then take any profit. He said there is possibly money available at MDDC to install them, but they would then keep the profits. Discussion ensued as to whether the Parish Council could put the cost on the precept and keep the profit. Permission would be required from County Highways for installation. Therefore there are three options. (1) wait up to two years and get them installed by MDDC and have half and half on the profit. (3) the precept is raised considerably and the Parish Council arrange installation and retain the profits. Cllr Maylan asked if car parking spaces with chargers would have to be bigger, but that is not the case. Cllr Townsend asked if it is known how many people in the village would be interested in having EV points. Cllr Roberts joined the discussion and said we need to know which charger is needed as there are three distinct types and cost goes up accordingly. The Chair will research detailed cost indicators from supplier companies and take it to MDDC.

240 Square, Fore Street and High Street

243 Ownership of Pond Site land – No update

300. Admin, Finances and Miscellaneous

301 S106 funding – the Clerk and Chair had met with Mr Snowdon to ask about the possibility of a path from the Little Rec crossing his land adjacent to School Road to make it safer for pedestrians walking down the road. He has volunteered to be a member of a footpath sub-committee to investigate possible ways of making School Road from the Square down to the footpath safer. RESOLVED a Sub Committee be set up to investigate traffic safety within the village. Proposed by Cllr Wright and unanimously agreed by a show of hands. Cllrs Ward and McManus volunteered to be on a Sub-Committee with Mr Snowdon with the Sub-Committee following proper procedure as advised by the Clerk.

302 Review of banking system - Completed successfully.

306 Community Land Trust Facebook poll - Chair published a Poll on the Parish Council page on 6.1.25 and will publish it on the Community page and possibly Next Door shortly, to gauge interest within the community.

307 Emergency Plan - Take forward to next meeting,

308 Purchase of printer and scanner for Clerk - Chair had researched and shared his findings with Councillors who had agreed the purchase of a new printer at the December.

b) Review Leads for each section of the Plan
To be carried forward

Minute 114016 **Discussion with District Cllrs Roberts & Wright on any relevant issues**

- Cllr Roberts congratulated newly co-opted councillors for volunteering.
- MDDC Leisure who operate leisure centres, plan to invest money in them over the coming year.
- Housing – Homes England have asked all authorities to unlock sites in their areas to enable faster development. In the new Local Plan MDDC are required to find 33 new traveller sites and 19 sites for itinerant show people. Tiverton urban area extension - Cabinet have allocated more land and the building of a new primary school.
- Waste – introduction of mandatory food waste collection. MDDC waste performance is one of top 10 in the country for successful recycling.
- Financial – In the last audit rent anomalies appeared from the 1999 affecting 5,000 to 6,000 tenants who have either overpaid or underpaid. This comes to approximately £1.8 - £2M. The council has cash reserves to cover this amount, but it will mean national funding reduced.
- Devolution white paper published.
- Cllr Wright – There will be a debate on the newly published White paper the second week in January. There has been a lack of preparation before the White Paper was published which means local authorities could lose planning authority.

Minute 114017 **Planning**

Applications:

24/01767/CAT – Notification of Intention to reduce the side limbs a group of mixed species to give a 3m clearance and reduce and rebalance 1 Magnolia tree by 1m within the Conservation Area – 4 Tiverton Road, Silverton

RESOLVED the Parish Council support the above application. Proposed by Cllr Maylan and agreed by a show of hand

(b) Approvals / Refusals by MDDC

APPROVAL – Retention of first floor annexe and ancillary uses at ground floor in association with Little Dorweeke Farm – Annexe, Little Dorweeke, Silverton – 24/01332/FULL

APPROVAL – Erection of a stable block and shelter – Land and building at NGR 295461 102808 (Symonds Farm) Silverton – 24/01157/FULL

(c) Any other Planning matters

None

Minute 114018 **Finances**

(a) Monthly invoices

Chq 002857	Mrs S Woodland – Clerk’s wages (£689.80) + expenses (£39.35) = £729.15
Chq 002858	Mr D Marsden – Handyman’s monthly invoice - £625.00
Chq 002859	HMRC – Clerk’s NI + Tax - £510.28
Chq 002860	Mr A Campbell – honorarium re Parish Clock winding - £200.00
Chq 002861	E-on Next – November electricity payment for Air Ambulance site £17.70
Chq 002862	E-on Next – December electricity payment for Air Ambulance site £18.23
Chq 002863	MDDC – second half yearly payment re Play Area Inspections - £302.40

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

(b) Other financial matters

(i) Consider quotation from Handyman to remove weeds from Number 7 Church Road to where The Berry starts

A quotation had been received from the Handyman to clear the weeds in the sum of £420. It was noted that this was not Parish Council land but the owner was unknown. The Handyman would dispose of detritus. RESOLVED to accept the quotation. Proposed by Cllr Harrison and unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

(ii) Consider ROSPA 2024 reports for the Children’s Play Area and Skatepark

Cllr Maylan had received a quote from Rhino play to replace the loose grips on the climbing wall. They have agreed to send the necessary pieces and the Parish Council could arrange the replacements. The quotation received from Rhino Play to install the loose grips was £520.00.

The Chair asked Cllr Maylan about the gate replacement which she thought was essential and it was noted the swing frame is also loose. Cllr Maylan to return to Rhino Play to ask for a quotation to fix all items in the playpark.

With regard to the re-surfacing of the skate park, the Clerk is looking into new companies to carry out the work. Cllr Harrison will circulate an email of links.

RESOLVED Cllr Maylan be authorised to obtain quotations or the work required in the Children’s Play Area and decide on the best Company to fix the swing frame, gate and other relevant items form the ROSPA report up to a maximum figure of £1,000.00. Proposed by Cllr Wright and unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

(iii) Consider follow-up tree inspections for The Berry and Recreation Field

Highline have quoted for a tree maintenance inspection on the Berry and the Recreation Field. RESOLVED Teign Trees be asked to provide a further quote. Proposed by Cllr Maylan and unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

Minute 114019 **Consider Contract received from Penny Clapham re appointment of Internal Auditor**

RESOLVED the contract received from Penny Clapham be accepted. Proposed by the Chair and

unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

Minute 114020 **Annual Review of Asset Register**

RESOLVED the Asset Register be accepted with no changes. Proposed by the Chair and unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

Minute 114021 **Annual Review of Standing Orders**

The Chair proposed the limit of quotes up to £500 currently accepted without going out to tender, should be raised to a £525 limit. Agreed this item be added to agenda for February.

Minute 114022 **Update re Broad Oak Working Group**

No update

Minute 114023 **Plans for January Mini-Market and consider cover for the 2025 Mini-Markets**

The Chair confirmed he would attend the Mini-Market on the 11th January. The Clerk to circulate the schedule for Councillors to sign up for manning the table over the coming year. Cllr Kennard agreed to attend February and Cllr Wright agreed to attend the March mini markets.

Minute 114024 **Correspondence**

(a) To consider MDDC Community Risk Register.

Deferred to February meeting.

(a) To note Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic on Thursday 13th February 2025 for a maximum of 5 days although anticipated finish is 13.2.2025. Road affected is School Road, Silverton. Road closure required to enable a pole replacement.

Noted

Minute 114025 **Matters brought forward by the Chairman**

Items to be considered at the meeting of the 17th January:

- Encourage volunteering. Possibly a stall at the street market.
- Professional handouts explaining what the groups do to be printed for mini market
- Look at creating website linking groups and business.
- Cllr Maylan mentioned the road closure in Ellerhayes which was never notified although these may have been emergency work. Clerk to enquire why not. She also gave her apologies for the February and March meetings.

Meeting closed at 9.41 p.m .