

Minutes of the meeting of Silverton Parish Council
held Tuesday 25th November 2025 at 7.30 p.m. in the Silverton Community Hall

Present: Cllrs Ruth Harrison, Simon Hedges (Chair), Vicky Maylan, Olivia Kennard & Josh Wright (also District Cllr)

The Chair received the written confirmation from Cllr Maylan of her resignation from the Council as from the end of December 2025.

Minute 114387 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Gavin Donovan & Lewis Ward, Chris Eveleigh & Allen McManus together with County Cllr Steve Keable & District Cllr Rhys Roberts

Minute 114388 **To note any declarations of interest:**

- (a) Pecuniary
None
- (b) Other Registerable Interest
None
- (c) Non-Registerable Interest
None

Minute 114389 **Meeting open to any questions from members of the public – 10 mins**

No members of the public attended the meeting.

Minute 114390 **Review of proposed budget for 2026/2027 and current financial position**

A spreadsheet & Budget Report had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting which updated the figures given earlier in the year.

The Chair went through the points on the Budget Report with Councillors raising queries/observations.

The Chair stated that it had been assumed inflation would be in the region of 4% although this may go up or down after the Government Budget tomorrow.

The Chair explained the spreadsheet provided a forecast for the current financial year together with a draft budget for 2025/2026. The anticipated precept figures were shown in Section 2, starting at Row 138. The budget was being proposed for 2026/27, and would need to be finalised in January 2026 at which final the final decisions would be made. Between now and then some further reconciliation of costs would be undertaken, and the final spend for November/December 2025 would be known, and would have some impact.

With regard to the payment of the annual subscription to the Devon Association of Local Councils, which is deducted by MDCC from the first instalment of the precept, it was felt that this should be paid direct by the Parish Council as it would simplify the accounting in future.

F1a7 – training for Clerk and Councillors – it was agreed via the Civility & Respect Pledge that training would be made available, so budget was included for this.

F1a14 – the cost of an election is included in each annual budget to cover the eventuality that parishioners request an election to fill any vacancy.

F1a15 – Recreation Field maintenance costs – Cllr Maylan had read through the ROSPA reports which had just been received and circulated to Councillors. She pointed out that some items merely need monitoring but there are others where maintenance is required. She would produce a report making specific recommendations in time for the next Council meeting in early December.

Skatepark

With regard to the skatepark, rivets are again missing from the Half Pipe with Quarter Pipe Hips. The Clerk confirmed she had looked through old invoices from Evolution Skateparks but these did not specifically refer to replacing rivets. This piece of equipment appears to be shown as a high risk. It was agreed to ask Evolution Skateparks to clarify why this was shown as a high risk.

P1 – Basketball Post – the fact that there is no warning sign in relation to the basketball post (not intended for children under 36 months, no climbing on the framework or nets, not to hand on the ring, no jewellery should be worn and the name and telephone number of the Parish Council should be shown in case of an accident) had again been highlighted.

Playpark

It was noted the gate closing mechanism is still not closing properly. The Clerk confirmed a response had not been received from Rhino Play when an enquiry was made as to whether or not they had inspected the gate when they were last in the Recreation Field as they had indicated they were going to do.

With regard to the Agility Bridges, the timber is showing signs of decay. It was agreed to revert to Rhino Play sending them a copy of the report pointing out the decay.

With regard to the recreation ground a figure of £2,000 had been included. Cllr Wright proposed in order to maintain the standard of the play equipment a figure of £10,000 should be agreed on the draft Budget. The expectation was that over a 5 year period up to £50,000 might be required (we had spent £18k in 2025/26 for maintenance of the Big Rec). A vote was taken with 4 in favour and 1 abstention.

Cllr Harrison agreed she would investigate the possibility of opening a deposit bank account for the Parish Council in order to obtain interest.

It was noted fence repairs were required in the Recreation Field and a specification was being drafted in order to go out to tender.

Handyman contract. It was agreed that a 10% increase be given to this item, as the payment had not been increased for 2 years, and the contract would need to go out to tender in the upcoming year.

The Chair pointed out there was a £1,000 Miscellaneous Community Fund which had not spent this year, but should be retained (previously this had been spent on items like Jubilees and coronations, and was open to applications from parish organisations).

£1,000 Mixed Community Fund payment in respect of the Youth Worker was noted. Cllr Wright declared a non registerable interest in this payment as his children attended the Youth Club. Cllr Maylan confirmed this was going from strength to strength.

F3 – works required to the trees on the Berry and the Little Rec. Cllr Kennard stated she had tested the “dead trees” in the Little Rec which showed some “green” and she feels these trees are still alive, so would not need to be felled.

F4c –installation of replacement seat on the Pond Site. The Chair indicated it had been assumed a figure of £250 to install. The seat will probably need to be anchored but not paved (it was not previously paved, and there was no sign that it needed to be).

F4 total – repair to buildings owned by the Council. The budget last year was £3,000 and a total of £1,300 was spent. Proposing a sum of £2,500 for the next financial year.

F61a – installation of a new bus shelter on A396. It was noted a new, slightly larger concrete base would probably be required. A cost of £6,000.00 for a bus shelter, which includes delivery and installation, had been sourced.

On the current draft figures a Precept estimate currently stands at £16.14/23.7%.

It was noted that any Asset transfers under the Local Government Reorganisation is likely to take some time to agree, and so other than £250 for planning for this, it was expected that any expenditure would not occur until the 2027/28 financial year.

A discussion arose regarding EV chargers and it was agreed that the current financial position prohibits investment.

Minute 114391

Matters brought forward by the Chairman

None

Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.