

Minutes of the meeting of Silverton Parish Council
held Monday 18th May 2026 at 8.30 p.m. in the Silverton Community Hall

Present: Cllrs Simon Hedges (Chair), Ruth Harrison, Peter Kidds & Lewis Ward

Minute 114485 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Gavin Donovan, Olivia Kennard, Chris Eveleigh, Allen McManus & County Cllr Steve Keable & District Cllr Josh Wright

Minute 114486 **Meeting open to any questions from members of the public – 10 mins**

No questions raised

Minute 114487 **Provision of a power supply to the old Fire Engine House**

Chair proposes open meeting to Dr Richard Osborne. A vote was taken by a show of hands and was unanimous.

A discussion arose regard the history of the electricity supply to the old Fire Engine House and the Clerk confirmed she would carry out some research and forward any information she has to Dr Osborne.

A discussion also arose regarding possible suppliers of electricity to the building.

RESOLVED: To proceed with the setting up of a power supply to the Fire Engine House using a prepayment meter operated by a key. This is expected to be procured through Good Energy, as the Street Market has previously been in contact with them but other quotes may be necessary. Proposed by the Chair and unanimously agreed by a show of hands

RESOLVED: The Street Market will cover the cost of this work, though the Parish Council will hold any account and initially pay any bills, so the Street Market Chair will be consulted prior to the work being given the go-ahead so that they can determine if the cost is too great for them to pay. If it is, the work will not proceed.

RESOLVED: The reimbursement of costs may, if requested by the Street Market Committee, be delayed until after the Street Market to aid with cash flow, but will be reimbursed to the Parish Council before 1st November 2026. Proposed by the Chair and unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

RESOLVED: To prevent inadvertent or unauthorised use of power, the Street Market will hold the prepayment key under normal circumstances.

RESOLVED: If there are any other significant uses of power known (other than the Christmas Tree and Street Market), then the Street Market and Parish Council will discuss and agree at the time, with a view that any arrangements are equitable. Proposed by the Chair and unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

RESOLVED: The Street Market will investigate the cost of having sockets being placed inside the Fire Engine House, using an appropriately certified electrician, and may proceed with the installation, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair who may object. This

will be funded by the Street Market. Proposed by the Chair and unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

RESOLVED: An account will be set up between Silverton Parish Council (SPC) and the electricity supplier, expected to be Good Energy. This account must have no standing charge, but as a result, a higher than usual unit cost. It may be that, if a prepayment key is used, the Street Market may buy the keys if this is feasible and simpler. They will inform the Parish Council of any costs they incur. Proposed by the Chair and unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

It was agreed the Clerk would obtain quotations re the installation of a prepaid meter

The meeting was then closed to Mr Richard Osborne

Minute 114488 **Consider quotations re Parish Council Public Liability Insurance**

The Clerk had spoken with Zurich who had pointed out it was a 5 year long term agreement which was coming to an end and not a 3 year agreement and this in part was the reason for the increase in the premiums given. Zurich has also stated that the public liability, material damage (fire engine house) and rate changes had all increased. As the Parish Council had been using Zurich for 10 years it was going to review the premium and revert to the Clerk by email. The insurance was due to be renewed on the 1st June but Zurich confirmed this would be automatically renewed with the Parish Council having a 14 day cooling off period and therefore this can be further considered at the June meeting.

The Chair suggested that if the new quote from Zurich falls considerably then the Parish Council continues with a 3 year arrangement but if not take out a 1 year agreement and investigate other Insurers for 2027.

Meeting closed at 21.03