

## **Minutes of the meeting of Silverton Parish Council**

**held Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017**

Present: Cllr J Barrett (Chairman), Cllrs G Barrett, A Lawson, K Faulhaber, J Roach, & S Roach

5 members of the public

Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed the meeting that sadly Mr Roger Tucker had passed away since the last meeting. Cllr Lawson gave a resume of his life in Silverton and his commitment to the village. A minute's silence was held in Mr Tucker's memory.

### **Minute 112779 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs F Derbyshire, O Kennard, A Hill & District Cllr B Deed  
County Cllr Margaret Squires had apologised as she would be late attending the meeting.

### **Minute 112780 To consider applications for co-option as a Parish Councillor**

None

### **Minute 112781 Meeting open to members of the public – 15 minutes**

Mrs Hilary Lawson addressed the meeting and confirmed she had attended the meeting on behalf of the application for the Garage planning application which was on the Agenda for discussion this evening. Mr Wise queried if this area was covered by the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr J Roach confirmed it will not be in Neighbourhood Plan but would be included in the MDDC Local Plan. By way of an update Cllr J Roach confirmed a copy of the draft Neighbourhood Plan had been submitted to MDDC who had raised certain queries on its content. These have been answered and the final version of the Plan will be submitted formally to the Local Authority in due course.

Mrs Clare Matthews addressed the meeting as an objector to the Garage planning application. She said she had two main objections (i) overdevelopment of the site which had a knock-on effect about road safety. The road was very busy with commuter traffic and she would not want to see cars parking on this narrow road. She was also concerned as the proposed development is a 3-storey building making it look like a block of flats. The main water pipe runs along the land and she has access to it for maintenance etc. She said her water pipe had already been damaged and it was repaired without her knowledge at the time. Cllr Faulhaber stated he felt it may be useful to have designs showing how the proposed development would look from different areas of the village.

Mrs Ross Bennett confirmed to the meeting she also agreed with comments made by Mrs Matthews

Mr Matthews stated that although the proposed dwelling was 3 storeys one storey was proposed in the eaves of the roof.

### **Minute 112782 To approve Minutes of meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

Cllr J Roach proposed the Minutes be accepted as a true record. Cllr G Barrett seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 5 in favour and 1 abstention

**Minute 112783****Matters arising from the Minutes of 4.9.2017**

Silverton Football Club – no correspondence from Football Club

War Memorial – Nothing heard with regard to the Pre-Grant Form submitted but can take up to 8 weeks for a response.

Grass Cutting re Street Market – Due to the mix up our Contractor has agreed to waive the fee for the grass cut made immediately prior to the Street Market

Annual Subscription to DALC – response received from DALC has been circulated to Councillors

Defibrillator First Response Volunteers

Clerk spoke with the Training Officer at South Western Ambulance Service on 28 September (had been trying to speak with him since 24<sup>th</sup> July and he apologised for the difficulty in contacting him but he had been away and also been very busy training). He confirmed that at the moment SWAS have no capacity to carry out any further training for Community First Responders. He felt it would be at least 12-18 months before any further volunteers can be trained as there were no finances available to set up new Groups (all First Responders have to be attached to a Group). The Parish Council would not in any event instigate the training as this is advertised through the NHS Jobs page – normally 4 times a year. Currently they would look for volunteers who could be attached to existing Groups.

SWAS do provide annual defibrillator training for any interested people when a machine is purchased through them but this is only on an “awareness session” basis where the training aims to give people confidence to use the defibrillator. These volunteers would not be added to the list of Community First Responders. The training would be similar to that previously provided by the British Heart Foundation.

Email from Friends of Wyndham House

Clerk has seen a draft of a letter asking Parish Council to take over responsibility for the seats when in. An unhappy resident has telephoned to say he was not happy with the siting of the tree on the Triangle as people would be walking on his land – he had been told the Parish Council were installing the seats and Chairman has spoken with him.

Website – email from Mr Green circulated to all Councillors

Night Landing Site

Updated quote given by Western Power. The Chairman confirmed he and Cllr Hill had met with DAAT. Waiting for South Western Power to attend the site. It will take 1 to 2 days to install the equipment after the electricity supply had been installed to the Tennis Hut. Devon Air Ambulance Trust will require approx. 48 hours to sign off the work. Clerk to research cheapest supplier.

**Minute 112784****Discussion with Police Representatives, County Cllr M Squires and District Councillors J Roach & B Deed**

District Cllr J Roach confirmed the grass cutting discussion continues and had been put back to a meeting which was to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> November. She said that it appears that MDCC

fund the grass cutting for which they are responsible through two different accounts, a General Revenue Funding Account and the Housing Revenue Account. The Housing Revenue Account should pay for grass cutting in areas where there are council houses.

The Oak Meadow application goes back to Committee on Wednesday. There are issues which the Parish Council will need to discuss in a Part II session of the Council Meeting – to be on the Agenda for November

With regard to the MDDC Local Plan 5-year land supply, as the Plan has not yet been adopted then Developers are almost deemed to be able to develop at will. There was an error submitting some of the information to support the J27 part of the application and there are issues over that which is causing the delay in MDDC adopting the Local Plan.

The Chairman gave the monthly police report.

## **Minute 112785**      **Planning**

*Cllr J Roach took no part in the discussions as she is a District Councillor for the Ward and wishes to remain independent of the Parish Council so as to be able to represent the parishioners.*

### **(a) Applications**

#### **17/01458/HOUSE** – The Oaks, Thorverton – Erection of two extensions, enlargement of one dormer window and installation of two dormer windows

Cllr Lawson proposed the Parish Council supports the above application. Cllr G Barrett seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 5 in favour 1 abstention

#### **17/01395/FULL** – M H West & Son, The Garage, Silverton – erection of 5 dwellings with associated parking following demolition of industrial units

Cllr Faulhaber stated he felt that architecturally the building is acceptable and felt it would be useful for everyone to see what it would look like as you came into the village bearing in mind the public footpaths and the existing buildings. He felt if this was shown with trees with no leaves it would give a better overall impression.

After discussion Cllr Faulhaber proposed the Parish Council recommend refusal of the above application on the basis of overdevelopment and increased traffic use on a very narrow lane. Cllr Lawson seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 3 in favour and 3 abstentions.

#### **7/01521/CAT** - Bycott, School Road, Silverton – notification of intention to fell 4 Sycamore Trees, crown reduce 1 Eucalyptus by up to 5m and remove northern branch and crown reduce 1 Apple tree within the Conservation Area

Cllr Lawson proposed the Parish Council supports the above application. Cllr Faulhaber seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 5 in favour 1 abstention

#### **17/01548/CAT** -38 Fore Street – notification of intention to fell 2 Leylandii trees to ground level; reduce height of 1 Oak tree to 4m and pollard/reduce back 1 Silver Birch tree by 4-5 m from ground level with Conservation Area

Cllr Faulhaber proposed the Parish Council supports the above application. Cllr S Roach seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 5 in favour 1 abstention

### **(b) Approvals/Refusals (received from MDDC)**

- **APPROVAL**- 6 St Marys View, Silverton – Raising roof height of garage and installation of 2 dormer windows to form additional first floor accommodation
- **APPROVAL** – Christ Cross House, Silverton – retention of dwelling, erection of two-storey extension and change of use of agricultural land to form additional garden

(c) Any other planning matters

**16/01830/FULL** – Siting of 1 mobile home, 2 motor homes and a compost w.c – Oak Meadow, Silverton

The above application was due to be considered by the District Council Planning Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

Cllr J Roach declared an interest in following item:

**17/01450/NMA** – Public Conveniences, Wyndham Road, Silverton

Notice had been received that MDDC had granted permission to allow the roofing material to be changed from concrete tiles to slate and alteration of window arrangement on East elevation.

**Minute 112786**

**Finances**

<u>Monthly invoices</u>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Chq No</b>				
002310	Mrs S Woodland	Clerk's wages (£551.44 + £14 ink)	MDDC - Sept precept payment	£13,500
002311	Mr D L Marsden	£250.00 (contractor)		
003212	Zoll Medical UK Ltd	£284.40 (replacement Defib pads)		
003213	Mr G Hibbert	£860.00 (grass cutting x4)		

Cllr J Roach proposed the payment of £423.90 due in October in respect of the Clerk's PAYE be paid electronically. Cllr G Barrett seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

(b) Other Financial matters

(i) To consider whether to continue with the Parish Council Website

An email received from Mr Green had been circulated to all Councillors. Mr Green pointed out the website had only been updated sporadically with the exception of the Minutes and had not been used by members of the public as had been anticipated but queried if this was a reason not to continue with the site. Mr Green also pointed out that the possibility of opening a "Facebook" account had been discussed but no decision taken. He agreed the site had not been used to its full potential and was not kept up to date (there were notices relating to the Neighbourhood Plan which were out of date) but was a useful source for him to keep up to date with the Minutes and Agendas. He stated the Silverleigh Parish Magazine is a good

source of information for parishioners and felt the website could, and should, be a valuable tool to keep the public informed and promote activities and development of people and organisations in the village/parish. Mr Green asked that before agreeing not to continue with the website consideration is given to forming a team to work together for the development, promotion and maintenance of the site. This would not necessarily need to be Parish Councillors or the Clerk as the Parish Council could act as editor/proof reader prior to any information being uploaded.

Cllr Lawson confirmed she felt the Parish Council should have a website but it may have to re-think how it is run. Cllr S Roach pointing out that the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation on the front page is still asking for comments which is completely out of date, the second page refer to an update to be added regarding the Parish Council and this has never been done. Cllr S Roach informed the Council that MDDC will run a website on behalf of Silverton Parish Council for free and carry out one to one training for the person who is going to update/maintain the site. He said it is a good system having all the facilities the Parish Council requires including a diary. Cllr Faulhaber indicated that the problem with running a website is that the Parish Council needs a webmaster who would update the site two or three times a week as items become out of date very quickly. It was noted that the village now has an information website which is updated frequently and contains varied information on events etc.

After discussion Cllr S Roach proposed the Parish Council approach MDDC with a view to it running a website on its behalf. Cllr Lawson seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

It was agreed the site would need to be kept simple with information relating to Parish Councillors, Register of Interests, Minutes, Audit/Accounts + facility to leave comments/messages.

(ii) Jubilee Garden

Cllr J Roach proposed a site meeting to consider all options with regard to the maintenance of this area. Cllr G Barrett seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous – date of site meeting to be agreed

(iii) Cost of paint to re-paint tennis court lines

Cllr J Roach proposed £50 be earmarked for the purchase of appropriate paint. Cllr G Barrett seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

(iv) Devon Association of Local Councils – AGM

No volunteers

(v) Revised offer from Western Power re DAA Night Landing Site

A revised offer had been received from Western Power to supply electricity to the Tennis Hut of £2,130.81 which was an increase of £61.98 over the quotation given in January 2017.

Cllr J Roach proposed the Parish Council accept the revised quotation. Cllr S Roach seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

The Chairman informed the meeting that FLIXX Hairdressers had a donation box and £30.00 had been raised from this source.

The Chairman also informed the meeting that he had spoken with Peter Smith and Reverend Alan MacDonald and Silverton Parochial Trust had made a donation of £500.00 towards the cost of the Night Landing Site.

(vi) Tennis Hut Repairs

The Chairman reported that a very simple galvanised sheet metal door and frame with metal handle and lock was needed to secure the Tennis Hut together with the windows on each side being filled in with breeze-blocks. It was agreed a specification to be drafted.

(vii) Trees behind Tennis Hut area

The Chairman reported that roots from a tree at the entrance to the recreation field from Coach Road was breaking up the footpath. This tree was living and in good condition. There were also some dead saplings/trees situate behind the Tennis Hut.

Cllr J Roach proposed that the Parish Council ask Cathy Lynch at MDDC to have a look at the living tree and provide advice as to the best course of action. The dead trees to be removed. Cllr Lawson seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous

**Minute 112787**      **Community First Responders Training**

To be discussed at November meeting

**Minute 112788**      **BMX Park**

A lot of the rivets are now missing with one section having only one rivet remaining. The Chairman indicated that Chris Sleep had volunteered to do the riveting with the cost of the gun and rivets in the region of £20.00. Cllr Lawson proposed the Parish Council approve this cost and ask Chris Sleep to carry out the work. Cllr G Barrett seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

**Minute 112789**      **MDDC 10 Year Plan re fencing Play Area**

Cllr J Roach stated that the Parish Council does need to consider the 10 Year Plan as MDDC are proposing not to replace play area fencing and this could potentially affect Ellerhayes. Agreed Clerk would re-circulate the original email

**Minute 112790**      **Consider general condition of the village**

Cllr J Roach informed the meeting that the main problem is the number of weeds in the village especially in the area of the Leat. Cllr Faulhaber stated that he has cleared the leat outside his property but others do not. Cllr J Roach clears the sump in the Recreation Field when there is excessive rain. It was agreed to ask our Contractor to dig out the Recreation Field sump once a month and to remind him of his duties under contract. It was also agreed to write to Devon County Council regarding the number of weeds on the roads

**Minute 112791**      **Appeal Decision re Exeter Road**

Cllr J Roach confirmed she had asked for this item to be placed on the Agenda as there had been a considerable amount of unpleasantness to her personally. The application went to MDDC Planning Committee who carried out a site meeting and they were of the opinion the development was an overdevelopment of the site. The application went back to a Planning Meeting when it was agreed the proposed development was an overdevelopment of the site

and was refused. An Appeal was then lodged and was considered by an independent body who make a decision purely on policy. The Appeal was fair, transparent and open. The Inspector supported MDDC's refusal. Comments on Social Media were very unpleasant. As an Elected Councillor, District Cllr J Roach had taken a lot of personal abuse over something which she had no control whatsoever. District Cllr Roach pointed out she had no influence whatsoever over the decision save putting in a submission as did other parishioners.

**Minute 112792**      **Update on Neighbourhood Plan**

It was noted an update had been given earlier in the meeting.

**Minute 112793**      **Discussion with District Cllr M Squire**

District Cllr M Squires attended the meeting at this point. Cllr Faulhaber proposed the meeting be opened to District Cllr Squires. Cllr Lawson seconded the meeting. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

District Cllr Squires informed the meeting that MDDC and DCC were looking to appoint approximately 25 apprentices. She said it was beneficial to the Local Authorities to have apprentices working for them. Some apprentices would be looking after children and Members of the Authority also learn from the apprentices.

**Minute 112793**      **Matters brought forward by the Chairman**

The Chairman confirmed there was now a notice in the lid of the defibrillator that the Clerk should be notified when it is used. The Clerk confirmed she had received 3 spare sets of pads one of which the Spar had agreed to hold in order they could replace any used pads immediately. The Clerk informed the meeting she intended to give another spare set of pads to Cllr J Roach in order that there was a further spare set in the village should it ever be needed. The Clerk would hold the final set and would replace the pads in the village as and when necessary and re-order.

Emergency Plan – on Agenda for November.

Cllr S Roach pointed out Cllr Faulhaber was not listed on the website as a Councillor – Cllr Faulhaber will provide the Clerk with a photograph to upload to the site.

Agreed to include Oak Meadow planning application as a Part II item on the November Agenda