

Minutes of the meeting of Silverton Parish Council

Held Monday 4th December 2017

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

Minute 112812 Apologies

None

Minute 112813 To consider applications for co-option as a Parish Councillor

None

Minute 112814 Meeting open to members of the public – 15 minutes

Mr Wise asked for an update on the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr J Roach confirmed there had been a meeting today and various items were being checked and screened, some of the wording requires amendment. The Plan will then need to be submitted after which a consultation will take place in March. The final consultation is due to statutory time limits. Mr Wise acknowledged the time and effort the Committee had put into a brilliant presentation at the Silverton Hall & Lamb Inn.

Minute 112815 Discussion with Cllr Peter Heal, Chairman of Mid Devon District Council

Cllr Heal informed the meeting he was visiting to see if there was anything which needed to be taken back to MDDC. Cllr G Barrett asked why when the Parish Council recommended refusal of a planning application it is given approval. Cllr Heal stated that MDDC had to adhere to the national framework when ultimately making its decision.

Discussion with Cllr Heal regarding the sequence of events surrounding the planning application at Oak Meadow and consequences on neighbouring properties and land.

With regard to MDDC's 5 year land supply plan he believes the inspector would be looking at this in March.

Discussion re MDDC Local Plan hold up

Minute 112816 To approve Minutes of meeting held on 6 November 2017

Minute 112796 – final sentence was amended to Read “... *relation to the impending transfer*”

Minute 112805 (Garden behind War Memorial) was amended to include a final sentence “*Before having this as an Agenda item a telephone call would have sufficed and Cllr Roach could have explained the position*”. Cllr J Roach proposed subject to the amendment the Minutes be accepted as a correct record Cllr G Barrett seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

Minute 112817 To review public participation in a meeting

Cllr J Roach informed the meeting she had asked for this Agenda item following last month's meeting when many Councillors considered resigning as a result and one Councillor had

resigned. Some of comments made at the meeting stating she had misled the Council she felt were disgusting and she had reported herself to the District Councillor. The Monitoring Officer would not accept a self-report and therefore if anyone else wishes to make a formal report against her to MDDC they are able to do so.. Cllr J Roach confirmed she had taken legal advice from the Monitoring Officer with regard to public participation in a meeting and she had provided the Clerk with a copy of the response received.

There are several issues with regard to public participation (a) people coming to the public section of the meeting and demanding their statements are minuted in full. Members of the public do not have a right to have a statement minuted, any such minuting must be as a consequence of a resolution of the Council and this was not recommended as any such statement could be incorrect, misleading, defamatory or not in the Council's best interests etc. (b) people attend month after month raising the same issues. Cllr Roach pointed out Councillors are volunteers and they are doing the best they can in such matters as transferring the website. She said she was totally in support of public participation but people cannot keep revisiting the same issues month after month when these will take time to put into effect.

The Monitoring Officer had also recommended that the Parish Council re-consider having "Matters Arising" on the Agenda and this is a classic for re-opening debates. It was agreed to discuss this suggestion at the at January meeting.

Minute 112818 Minuting of meeting where public statements have been made at a Parish Council meeting

This item was covered by the above Minute.

Minute 112819 Matters arising from the Minutes of 6.11.2017

War Memorial – Nothing further heard from the War Memorials Trust – Clerk to chase.

Website – MDDC are to provide one to one training of its Web Content Management System during normal working hours. Clerk intends having training either Tuesday 16th or Tuesday 23rd January.

Grass Cutting – response received from MDDC circulated to all Councillors

Christmas Tree – this had been ordered and should be delivered either Friday 12th or Saturday 13th December. Willing volunteers are required to decorate and erect the tree in the Little Rec.

Additional lighting has been obtained

CPR/Defibrillator Training - The Practice Manager had responded to the letter sent to Dr O'Brien in which he confirms the Surgery are interested in assisting a training session with the British Heart Foundation. If there is any training for small groups the Surgery can assist with use of their Common Room.

Speeding in Village/Senior Officer attendance A request for a Senior Officer to attend a meeting has been passed to Sgt Warriner to respond – no response as yet.

With regard to speeding in the village, PCSO Anna Roberts is keen to set up a Neighbourhood Speed Watch and Community Speed Watch group in the village. The Parish Council did try to set up such a group some years ago with no success.

Green Bins – MDDC supplied replacement bins as the originals were never located. MDDC confirmed we could do whatever was felt appropriate in order that the replacement bins were not stolen/borrowed again

Minute 112820 **Discussions with Police Representatives, County Cllr M Squires and District Councillors J Roach & B Deed**

County Cllr M Squires informed the meeting she had attended the Town and Parish Meeting. She confirmed Skanska had been awarded the contract for highways but will adopt the South West Highways logo.

Community Enhancement Fund – this covers highway issues and is matched funding. Road Warden Scheme can be used for clearing drains, filling potholes etc if the Parish Council has a volunteer in the village who is willing to undertake the training. If the Parish Council had a Snow Warden it could apply for salt for the Winter.

Cllr Squires informed the meeting potholes can be reported on DCC website but need to be 14mm deep with a vertical edge and be 300mm across. The Clerk to email Cllr Squires re the slippery road as you leave the village towards Killerton and recent accidents.

Speeding – Parish Council can ask for a Scarf report and Cllr Squires can arrange a site meeting. It was agreed any meeting needed to take place at peak times and in particular Park Road & School Road. A copy of the Notes of the recent walk around the village were given to Cllr Squires.

District Cllr B Deed informed the meeting that the concerns re planning are not personal to Silverton and many parishes feel the same.

He pointed out that Councillors as a body run DCC and delegate to the officers. The Leader is responsible for what happens re changes in policy.

District Cllr J Roach reminded the Councillors of issues earlier in the year when officers were going into the car park asking residents if they would be willing to pay to park. One of the officers had categorically stated that the enquiries had not been made at the behest of MDDC. She said the issue of car parking charges might come up again and she has pre-empted this by asking who pays for the resurfacing of the car park as some residents contribute towards this cost.

With regard to the grass cutting of DCC verges District Cllr Roach stated that since the receipt of the invoice from MDDC she had made enquiries. MDDC have now set up a working group to look at the situation regarding grass cutting generally. She said she doesn't believe the Housing Fund has been contributing towards grass cutting which was its responsibility. There was still an issue over the Recreation Field. She confirmed she had asked Mr Beer at MDDC to look at the invoice received by the Parish Council and the Clerk confirmed she had received confirmation that this will not be paid until the Council had heard further from him.

The reports for October and November by PSCO Roberts were noted

Minute 112821 **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

17/01751/FULL – erection of 6 dwellings – land to the south of 5 Old Butterleigh Road, Silverton

As the copy planning application was with Mr Faulhaber and Cllrs J and G Barrett had not as yet seen the paperwork Cllr S Roach proposed this item be adjourned to a an extraordinary meeting. Cllr G Barrett seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

17/00848/FULL – change of use of agricultural building to pottery manufacturing place (Class B2) – Dunsmore, Silverton

This application had been decided by MDDC

(b) Approvals/Refusals (received from MDDC)

- **APPROVAL**- The Oaks, Thorverton – Erection of 2 extensions, enlargement of one dormer window and installation of two dormer windows
- **NO OBJECTION** – intention to fell 1 Sycamore tree within the Conservation Area – land at NGR 295793 103378 Coach Road, Silverton
- **APPROVAL** – Change of use of agricultural building to pottery manufacturing place (Class B) – Dunsmore, Silverton
- **NO OBJECTION** – intention to remove 1 Eucalyptus tree within the Conservation Area - High Bullen House, 30 High Street, Silverton

The above Decisions were noted

(c) Any other planning matters

17/01813/PNCOU PN – change of use of agricultural building to hotel (Use Class 1) under Class R – Pound Farm, Butterleigh (*For information purposes only – consultation comments are not invited on these types of applications*)

Minute 112822

Finances

Monthly invoices:

Chq No	Payee	Amount	Income	Amount
002321	Mr D Marsden	Lock/Chains for Green Bins (£20.)		
002322	Mrs S Woodland	Clerk's wages (£551.44) +£1.29 expenses		
002323	Mr D L Marsden	£250.00 (contractor)		
002324	Mr N Backhouse	Christmas Tree re Little Rec (£50 + VAT)		
002325	RBL	Poppy Remembrance Wreath (£18.50)		
002326	Society of Local Council Clerks	Annual Sub (£128.)		
002327	Hole & Pugsley	Research re deeds (£75.00 + VAT)		
002328	CANCELLED			

002329	Mrs G Barrett	Christmas lights (£84.97) + Tent pegs re tree anchorage (£10.99)		
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Cllr J Roach proposed the above invoices be accepted. Cllr S Roach seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

The Clerk reported that she had been notified during the month of the Golden Wedding of Mr and Mrs Newton. She had sent a card to them and arranged for flowers to be delivered at an approximate cost of £30.00 – the invoice was awaited.

(b) Other Financial matters

(i) Grass Cutting

Clerk to contact MDDC to see if they will provide a quotation to carry out one grass cutting quote as per the Notes of the recent site meeting. Clerk to also obtain further quotes for this work

(ii) To discuss any projects eligible for TAP Funding

It was agreed to put forward the following

(a) Youth Club

(b) Lettering on War Memorial if a grant was not available from the War Memorials Trust

(c) Defibrillator at Ellerhayes

(iii) Ownership of Recreation Field and submission of First Registration Application to Land Registry

The Deeds had been located at Home & Pugsley, Solicitors, in Tiverton. The Clerk confirmed the land was unregistered and she would need to submit a First Registration application to the Land Registry. The quotation for legal fees £200 + VAT + Index Map Search. A valuation needs to be obtained on a community valuation basis and not commercial.

(iv) To set date for Budget Meeting 2018

It was agreed to hold the Budget Meeting at 7.30 p.m. on Tues 16th January 2018 subject to hall availability

(v) To consider tenders received re Tennis Hut refurbishment

Only one tender had been received which was a tender from Dave Langdon at a cost £1,079.00. Cllr Lawson proposed the Parish Council accepts this tender and also requests that the colour of the paint be changed from white to dark green. Cllr J Roach seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 5 in favour and 1 abstention.

(vi) The Chairman reported he had received an email from Chris Sleep who had replaced approximately 150 rivets at the BMX Skate Park. He had indicated he did not wish to be paid for this work but would appreciate a donation being made to the Force Cancer Trust. It was pointed out that if the donation was made direct to Mr Sleep he could Gift Aid and this would result in a higher figure for the Trust. Cllr Lawson proposed a donation of £50.00 be paid to Mr Sleep. Cllr G Barrett seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

Minute 112823 **To consider request from Silverton Youth Club to have a representative on Committee**

It was questioned why a Parish Councillor be a representative on the Committee. There were no volunteers to sit on the Committee as due to the Council being presently under-subscribed no-one was available to give their time.

Minute 112824 **To consider outcome of walk around the village to assess cleanliness**

It was agreed to ask the Contractor to carry out any of the works he was able to do.

With regard to weed clearance in the village County Cllr Squires pointed out that DCC will not carry out weed clearance and she suggested the Parish Council could contact the Community Payback Scheme. A general discussion arose regarding the amount of Council Tax paid by parishioners and the lack of service provided. The County Council expected the Parish Council to carry out this work which meant it would need to increase the Precept in order to be able to do this and it was felt this was “double-taxation” on its residents.

It was agreed this item be placed on the Agenda for the Budget meeting.

Minute 112825 **Neighbourhood Plan update**

The update had been given earlier in the meeting.

Minute 112826 **Speed Watch**

The Chairman stated that he appreciated insufficient volunteers had come forward when the Parish Council have previously attempted to set up a Speed Watch. He confirmed a minimum of 6 volunteers was required and he was happy to put himself forward as a volunteer. It was agreed an advert be placed in the Parish Newsletter and also approach the Pre-School and PTA Committees.

It was agreed that if a senior Police Officer did not attend a meeting to discuss speeding in the village the Parish Council would ask the Police Commissioner to attend a meeting.

Cllr Faulhaber attended the meeting at this point and apologised for being late due to unavoidable circumstances

Minute 112827 **Parish Council Emergency Plan**

Note in Parish Mag asking for anyone who has special skills which could be used in an emergency. Anyone who has generators. Farmers who would be willing to use their tractors

Minute 112828 **Update on Air Ambulance Night Landing Site**

A cheque had been received from Wester Power Distribution in the sum of £2,130.81 – Clerk to enquire why this sum had been returned.

The current position was that the provision of the electricity supply by Western Power Distribution was still awaited – Clerk to obtain an update as to when this work was anticipated.

Minute 112829 **Matters brought forward by the Chairman**

It was noted cars for sale were being parked in the Square which were taking up spaces. It was agreed to contact Trading Standards

There was fast food rubbish close to the main road on Dunsmore Lane – MDDC to be informed

It was noted that the seat in memory of Stan Chilcott had been placed under the tree by the bus stop in School Road where it was muddy

The meeting closed at 9.24 p.m.

DRAFT