

SILVERTON PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, August 21st, 2015

@ Silvertown Community Hall

Present: Olivia Kennard (Chair), Bill Croome, Janet Campbell, Liz Gilbert, Olive Milward, Prue Nichols, Jenny Roach, Sally Sleep, Jon Smye, Liz Trebble, Richard White.

1. Apologies: Gill Barrett.
2. No members of the public attended the meeting.
3. Minutes of the meeting held on June 23rd were agreed as correct.
4. Tenders for further work on the Neighbourhood Plan had been received from two consultants, Jacqueline Houslander and Paul Weston, and these were discussed.

It was decided unanimously that the tender from Jacqueline Houslander should be rejected on the grounds that the estimate for the work involved was too high, there would be considerable additional costs, and the consultant's previous experience was in urban rather than parish planning.

The tender from Paul Weston had advantages. He was known to us, had done previous work for us, had the relevant experience, and was less expensive. However his fee of £7,980.00 for 19 days work would take the whole of the £8000 grant we hoped to get for the work, and was therefore too high. Other expenses of the Plan had to be budgeted for. It was also felt that his detailed estimate of the work he proposed was unclear and possibly excessive.

It was therefore agreed that detailed queries should be put to Paul Weston about timings and cost estimates to see if he could reasonably reduce his fee. Four members of the Committee were proposed to meet Paul for a face-to-face discussion: Olivia Kennard, Liz Trebble, Bill Croome, Jon Smye. Olivia would contact Paul to arrange a meeting.

There remained the possibility of finding another consultant. The Devon Association of Parish Councils would be consulted and Jenny Roach agreed to approach MDDC for suggestions.

5. Budget Items. Jenny Roach agreed to prepare a list of costs which she will circulate to members of the Committee. One of the costs will be that of local consultation. It was thought that another consultation session in Community Hall was probably the best option, but that in face of the absence of a Parish website, the use of Facebook might be helpful in engaging the interest of younger people.

6. A.O.B. Jenny Roach commented on the new Government planning proposals to allow the building of starter homes on rural exception sites. She will try to find out about the proposals in more detail by writing to MDDC. Bill Croome raised a query about the possibility of the Three Tuns becoming a community asset.

A decision on the date of the next meeting was deferred.