

**Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of Silverton Parish Council**

**held Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020**

**Present:** Parish Cllrs A Melville (Chairman), F Derbyshire, S Cross, V Maylan, L Trebble, K Faulhaber, G Perkins, S Roach & S Steer

District Cllrs J Wright and B Deed and County Cllr M Squires

No members of the public had asked to attend the meeting

No Declarations of Interest to be declared

**Minute 113180      To resolve to adopt Supplementary Standing Orders in order to meet the statutory requirements for the holding of remote meetings**

A copy of the Supplementary Standing Orders had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. The temporary legislation which requires the Council to offer remote access to meetings remains in force until 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and also requires changes to the Council's current Standing Orders.

The Chairman proposed the Parish Council adopts the Supplemental Standing Orders. Cll Roach seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

**Minute 113181      Apologies for absence**

All Cllrs were present

**Minute 113182      Meeting open to any questions from members of the public**

No members of the public attended the virtual meeting

**Minute 113183      Approve Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

The Chairman proposed the Minutes be accepted as a true record. Cllr Derbyshire seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 7 in favour and 2 abstentions. The Chairman signed a copy of the Minutes in view of the Councillors

**Minute 113184      Discussion with County Cllr M Squires and District Cllrs J Wright and B Deed**

County Cllr Squires confirmed she had been attending meetings virtually. The County Council, jointly with others, were applying to the Government for additional funding to assist with Covid-19 expenses. She confirmed the numbers of infections and the numbers of deaths were currently reducing in Devon. She confirmed Devon had the lowest death rate in Care Homes in the South West Region.

County Cllr Squires stated that she would normally provide a grant each year to the Street Market but as this has had to be cancelled this year she would give a grant of £500 towards the purchase of a new roundabout.

District Cllr Wright indicated he had not attended many meetings but would be attending the Audit Meeting tomorrow. He pointed out that currently these were trying times for

MDDC. He currently has no update on when a decision will be made with regard to the Silverdale planning appeal nor any update regarding the Boundary Review.

With regard to the Public Space Protection Order consultation Cllr Wright indicated he was aware there were worries that this may affect responsible dog owners. He pointed out that neither the Football Field nor the Children's Play Area were currently included and he felt that these should perhaps be included under "Schedule D". It was noted the consultation period ended on the 17<sup>th</sup> July and therefore there was time for the Parish Council to consider its response at the July meeting.

Cllr Steer expressed his concerns regarding grass cutting in the village. He pointed out that when MDDC recently visited the village to cut the grass the workmen came in separate vehicles which he felt was not a good use of Council funds. He pointed out the grass was cut and not collected and the areas cut now look like scorched land. He said MDDC are saying it is short of funds and therefore he queried why grassed areas are being cut at all. He said he understands the necessity for visibility splays to be cut. He stated he had voiced his concerns on the Silverton Community Facebook Page and these had been backed by parishioners. District Cllr Wright pointed out that there is a formal Contract which needs to be fulfilled and this is the reason he presumes the grass areas are being cut. The Clerk pointed out that the Chairman and herself are due to meet with MDDC as soon as it is possible to do so with a view to the areas of grass in the ownership of MDDC being asset transferred to the Parish Council. The Parish Council will then be responsible for the grass cutting of the various areas and the cost of doing so.

The Chairman pointed out that he had seen Cllr Steer's Facebook post and there were opposing views to those of Cllr Steer noted on the website. Cllr Steer agreed this was correct.

District Cllr Deed stated that with regard to the workmen travelling in separate vehicles MDDC has a duty to safeguard its staff at all times. He pointed out the two vehicles used by the workmen would have been much smaller than the normal vehicle used. District Cllr Deed indicated that the recycling service had now been resumed and the same two or three workmen always work together to try and minimise any health risks.

District Cllr Deed confirmed that MDDC were working closely with all Districts in "Team Devon" to address all problems that may arise as a result of Covid-19. He felt the re-opening of the High Streets on the 15<sup>th</sup> June was going to be a big problem and in particular adhering to social distancing. He said he was hopeful a scheme would be in place by that date in order to keep everyone safe. MDDC are currently losing income of at least £400,000.00 per month. The Government has provided assistance but he hopes there will be further funds in the near future.

Cllr Perkins asked District Cllr Deed if there were any plans to reallocate road space in order to be able to adhere to social distancing. District Cllr Deed stated that this was still under discussion but there was a possibility that some roads in Tiverton could be closed and the District Council were in discussions with the three Town Councils to agree a sensible scheme in order to ensure the High Streets are safe.

#### **Minute 113185**

#### **Review of Action Plan**

Item 4 – Football Club – the Clerk confirmed that she had received no response from the current Secretary/Treasurer as listed on the Devon & Exeter Football website. Cllr Cross suggested that a follow up email be sent. She confirmed that the Parish Council could make an application to the Court to have the surrender formally completed but this would incur time and costs. Cllr Cross explained the terms of the current lease and said it could

be said that the Football Club had forfeited the lease by not carrying out the terms of the covenant to ensure the Football Field was cut.

It was agreed the Clerk would send a follow-up email to the current listed Secretary/Treasurer. In the meantime if anyone was aware of anyone who had the capacity to sign a Surrender of Lease on behalf of the Football Club they should let the Clerk know. The options available to the Parish Council will be considered at the July meeting.

It was agreed to update the Action Plan to reflect the Surrender of the Lease and not reference to a new Lease

**Minute 113186**      **Review of Risk Assessment to include cover of Covid 19 issues**

A copy of the proposed amendments to the Risk Assessment had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Cllr Trebble proposed the Council adopt the Risk Assessment as amended to reflect Covid-19 issues. Cllr Cross seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

**Minute 113187**      **Planning**

(a)      **Applications**

**20/00649/FULL – erection of an industrial unit – land and buildings at Dunsmore, Silverton**

After discussion the Chairman proposed the Parish Council supports the above application. Cllr Steer seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous

**20/00726/HOUSE – removal of condition 3 (doors/windows) of planning permission 18/01308/HOUSE – 15 Newcourt Road, Silverton**

After discussion Cllr Faulhaber proposed the Parish Council supports the above application. Cllr Derbyshire seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

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

None received

(c)      **Any other planning matters**

None

**Minute 113188**      **Finances**

(a)      **Monthly invoices**

Chq No	Payee	Amount	Income	Amount
002429	Mrs S Woodland	Clerk's wages - £583.50 + expenses - £39.89		
002430	Mr D L Marsden	Contractor's monthly invoice - £300.00		
002431	I.C.O.	Annual subscription – 40.00		

Cllr Roach proposed the above accounts be passed for payment. Cllr Derbyshire seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

(b) Other financial matters

(i) Purchase of new roundabout for Children's Play Area

Various items and prices had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The Chairman explained at the Budget Meeting a figure of £2,000.00 had been earmarked for a new roundabout, there was £607 in the reserve account and County Cllr Squires had given a grant of £500.00. The Chairman pointed out that the prices circulated are presumed to not include installation.

After discussion Cllr Maylan proposed the Parish Council purchase a "Whirly Bob" the cost of which in 2019 was £2,060. Cllr Perkins seconded the proposal. The Clerk will ask Sutcliffe Play for current cost to include installation.

(ii) Scaffolding quotation re Parish Clock

A copy of the quotation received from MCS Scaffolding in the sum of £975.00 for a hire of 4 weeks had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. The Chairman pointed out that there would be a payment due to the Diocese in relation to the approval and this was likely to be in the region of £300.00. It was noted that a total of £3,000.00 had been reserved at the Budget Meeting for the renovation of the Parish Clock.

The Chairman proposed the Parish Council accept the quotation from MCS Scaffolding. Cllr Roach seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

(iii) Consider grass cutting of Football Field

The Clerk confirmed that the parishioner had started working on the football field and had to date done an amazing job which parishioners had praised on social media. It was noted that the grass was so long that the initial cut had to be made with a strimmer.

(iv) Update re quotation to repair bus shelter roof

Cllr Steer indicated that he believed his brother-in-law was too busy currently to provide a quotation for the work but will ask him again if he wishes to quote. Cllr Maylan stated she could provide the Clerk with details of a roofing company who had carried work out on her property and it was agreed to contact the company to see if it would provide a quotation.

It was noted that Cllr Perkins had removed 2 tiles from the roof which had slipped and he pointed out the bus shelter was attached to a Listed Building. In times of heavy rain a puddle was forming at the back of the shelter on the seat and it was not known if this was due to the

slipped roof tiles or whether additional repair work to the replacement tiles would need to be carried out.

**Minute 113189**

**Update re Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Trebble confirmed the Neighbourhood Plan Committee had worked through the AECOM Environmental report and this has now been returned. Due to the current climate the Committee had not been able to meet and she thought it may be necessary to arrange a Zoom meeting in the near future.

**Minute 113190**

**Matters Brought Forward by the Chairman**

Cllr Faulhaber pointed out weeds were blocking up the Leat outside number 1 Fore Street.

Cllr Maylan requested that if any notices are to be placed on the Silverton Community Facebook page that all Councillors are informed prior to the posting.

Cllr Roach asked if there was any update from the Planning Department in relation to the building at Speedway Garage. The Clerk confirmed no further update as yet.

Cllr Trebble expressed concern at the speed traffic was travelling through the village to Butterleigh. This additional traffic was as a result of the A396 having been closed for major works. She said the diversion had resulted in a greatly increased volume of traffic which had also resulted in a large volume of rubbish apparently having been thrown out of cars. Cllr Perkins stated that when a diversion is put in place it appears the village always seems to suffer as there is no mitigation on a long term diversion. District Cllr Deed pointed out that anyone can use any public road and diversions are kept to similar roads if at all possible. County Cllr Squires stated that unfortunately due to Covid-19 cars do appear to be travelling faster and there is nothing much which anyone can do to prevent this.

Cllr Trebble also stated that a group of motorcyclists were travelling up and down Fore St/High Street/ Butterleigh Road yesterday with a group congregating on the junction of High Street/Fore Street. She had been informed by parishioners that when someone complained a motorcyclist drove straight at him. The incident has been reported to the police but she said people on their own are worried and felt intimidated by such behaviour.

County Cllr Squire gave her apologies for the July meeting and asked that any Highway matters be copied to her.

Meeting closed at 20.59-

<https://parish.middevon.gov.uk/silverton>