

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

**held Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

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

District Cllr B Deed & District Cllr J Wright

No members of the public had asked to attend the meeting

**Minute 113168**      **Meeting open to any questions from members of the public**

No members of the public present

**Minute 113169**      **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr S Roach & County Cllr Margaret Squires.

**Minute 113170**      **Minutes of the Meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020**

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

**Minute 113171**      **To note amendment to legislation whereby the Annual Parish Council meeting will not take place until May 2021**

The Chairman confirmed that unless there were any objections the current Chairman and Vice-Chairman would remain in post until the Annual Parish Council meeting in May 2021. No objections were made.

The Annual Parish Assembly was also postponed until 2021

It was also noted the deadline for the submission of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return had been extended to the end of July. The Clerk confirmed the paperwork was almost ready to be inspected by our Internal Auditor and it was hoped these would be available for consideration by the Parish Council at the June or July meeting.

**Minute 113172**      **To note May 2020 report received from County Councillor Margaret Squires – circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting**

This report was noted

**Minute 113173**      **Discussion with District Councillors J Wright and B Deed**

District Cllr Wright praised MDDC for the work it was carrying out for the community during the Covid 19 lockdown and he was sharing the information as best he could on the Silverton Community Facebook page.

With regard to the blockage on Tiverton Road there had been a standoff between South West Highways and South West Water but the drain had now been jetted by South West Water - although it may be necessary to have a camera inspection in due course.

With regard to the planning application at Silverdale the report had been submitted by MDDC and Cllr Wright will send a link to everyone. A further highways report had been commissioned and District Cllr Wright confirmed he had sent in amendments to the initial report which MDDC had taken on board. There was no update as to the timing of a decision.

District Cllr Deed confirmed MDDC were doing a lot of work on behalf of the Government with monies being available for small businesses. Unfortunately the funds were not being distributed as quickly as they would like as MDDC do not have all the relevant contact details for some smaller businesses in the District.

District Cllr Deed pointed out MDDC have a responsibility for housing people who are on the streets and they have housed all but one person who declined the opportunity to be housed. He pointed out that in the current climate MDDC are losing income from various sources including their car parks and application fees for planning applications.

The Chairman thanked District Cllrs Wright and Deed for all the work they are doing during this uncertain time.

#### **Minute 113174**      **Review of Action Plan**

Item 2 – Bus Shelter – the Clerk had asked Cllr Steer if he would arrange for a quotation to be sent to her but this had not been received

Item 3 – Transfer of grass areas by MDDC - a meeting would be arranged with MDDC in due course

Item 6 – Refurbishment of Parish Clock - awaiting scaffolding quote and Clerk to chase

Item 7 – Clerk and Chairman to arrange a meeting with Lloyds Bank in due course when Government guidelines are lifted

Item 8 – Access to Little Rec - awaiting a response from MDDC

Item 9 - Wildflower Areas – no report had been received it was agreed this item would be removed from the Action Plan

Item 10 – Parish Lengthsman – awaiting response from DALC

Item 11 - Park Rd/Red Cross – it was agreed this item would be removed from the Action Plan as Devon County Council now had a plan in place for repairs/reinstatement of the road

Item 12 – Speedway Garage – awaiting final response from MDDC. District Cllr Deed confirmed MDDC do have power to ask the applicant to reduce the height of the building if this proves to be too high. The Applicant can submit an application within 28 days of the ruling by MDDC requesting consent for the building as built.

Item 14 – New roundabout - Clerk to review previous decision as to roundabout to be purchased.

Item 15 - Recreation Field trees – works not yet carried out by Hi-Line.

Item 16 – Local Government Review – this item to be removed from the Action Plan as Parish Council submission made to Boundary Commission

Item 17 – Development at Silverdale – this item to be removed as Parish Council's representations made to Planning Inspectorate

**Minute 113175**      **Planning**

(a)      **Applications**

**Declaration of Interest**

Cllr Derbyshire declared a personal and interest in the following application and was placed in the "Waiting Room" whilst discussions took place

20/00221/FULL - change of use of part of orchard to form new driveway and removal of existing drive to serve Great Pitt Granary Great Pitt Stables and dwellings approved under 19/00131/PNCOU

An email received from Miss P Hawkes (applicant) setting out various points in relation to the application was read to the meeting by the Chairman.

After discussion Cllr Faulhaber proposed the Parish Council does not support the above application due to the impact it would have on the existing hedgerow and the visual impact on the landscape/area with the increased access points. Cllr Perkins seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

Cllr Derbyshire re-joined the meeting at this point

20/00641/CLU – Certificate of Lawfulness for exiting use of an agricultural barn as stables in excess of 10 years – Underleigh Farm, Butterleigh, Cullompton

The Chairman proposed the Parish Council supports the above application. Cllr Maylan seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

20/00663/CAT – notification of intention to remove one Portuguese Laurel and two Holly trees within a Conservation Area – 17 Exeter Road, Silverton

Cllr Maylan pointed out that the plan referred to in the application had not been made available to view on the Planning Portal and it was therefore difficult to make a decision if all the documentation was not available. Cllr Faulhaber stated he felt the Parish Council should make a decision as the applicant was requesting consent to remove the trees.

After discussion the Chairman proposed the Parish Council asks the Clerk to revert to MDDC pointing out the Parish Council did not feel able to make any observations as not all the documents were on the Planning Portal. Cllr Maylan seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous. It was agreed the Clerk would forward a copy of the letter to District Cllr Wright.

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

**APPROVAL** - erection of 2 storey extension (revised scheme) – White Cow Cottage, Silverton

(c)      **Any other planning matters**

**WITHDRAWN APPLICATION** – prior notification for the change of use of an agricultural building to 1 dwelling under Class Q – land and building at Underleigh Farm, Butterlgith

**Minute 113176**

**Finances**

<b>Chq No</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Amount</b>
002424	Mrs S Woodland	Clerk's wages - £583.50		
002425	Mr D L Marsden	Contractor's monthly invoice - £300.00		
002426	Thomas Westcott	Annual Accountants fee - £170.40		
002427	Miss F Derbyshire	Padlocks/Chains for play areas - £59.04		
002428	Zurich Municipal	Annual insurance - £388.92		

Cllr Maylan proposed the above accounts be passed for payment. Cllr Cross seconded the proposal A vote was taken with 7 in favour and Cllr Derbyshire abstained.

- (i) To note the following payments made in April 2020 as agreed via email:

<b>Chq No</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>
002557	Mrs S Woodland	Clerk's wages - £582.26
002558	Mr D Marsden	Contractor's monthly invoice - £300.00
002559	HMRC	Quarterly payment re Clerk's Tax and NI - £441.32
002560	DALC	Annual Subscription - £457.90
002421	DALC	Fee for Chairman's attendance at planning meeting - £48.00
002422	Julie Walker	Silverton Community Angels printing costs re leaflets distributed in Parish - £65.60
002423	Silverton PCC	Churchyard grass cutting grant - £1,50000

- (ii) To note receipt from Western Power in the sum of £38.71 – wayleave

Noted

- (iii) To note April payment of precept by MDDC of £13,250.00

Noted

- (iv) Consider replacement of Lime Trees which have been felled on the Bury

Cllr Faulhaber gave a resume of the tree planting scheme he had prepared and explained he

felt the English Oaks would have a better impact on wildlife than Limes.

The Chairman stated he felt it was a good idea to plant more trees in the village but wondered whether or not planning consent would be required as the planting would be in a Conservation Area. Cllr Perkins pointed out planning permission was only required in a Conservation Area when trees reach a certain size and are felled. It was noted that the anticipated planting would be on an historic burial ground and this could potentially cause problems. It was noted the cost of the trees included the planting. It was also suggested the Primary School might like to help plant the trees and the Parish Council should consult with parishioners as to whether or not they were in favour of the trees being planted.

Cllr Faulhaber proposed a public consultation of 6 weeks takes place in relation to the proposed planting of 3 English Oaks on the Bury in the position set out in the draft scheme. Cllr Derbyshire seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

(v) Update re Parish Clock

The Chairman reported that the work as specified on the clock face had been approved by the Diocesan Advisory Committee and an application for a faculty had been sent to the Chancellor. The statutory period of the public notice would expire in the middle of June and it is hoped the faculty will be issued soon after and the work can commence as soon as circumstances permit.

(vi) Consider current Lease granted to Silverton Football Club

The Clerk confirmed she had contacted both the Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer as currently noted on the Devon & Exeter Football League site. The Chairman had responded to say he had not been involved with the Club for over a year and confirmed the men's team had disbanded and the women's team had transferred to Bradninch. The Secretary/Treasurer confirmed he had left the Club in September.

Cllr Cross stated that the main problem appears to be getting someone to take responsibility for the Club. Ideally the Parish Council would look to the previous Chairman to sign a Surrender of the Lease with one of the original Signees/Trustees. Cllr Cross confirmed she would draft a letter for the Clerk to forward.

The Chairman proposed the Parish Council progresses a Surrender of the Lease by the Football Club. Cllr Trebble seconded the proposal. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

(vii) Consider grass cutting of Football Field

The Clerk had contacted the parishioner who had volunteered to cut the grass confirming the Parish Council would like to take him up on his offer.

(viii) Update re quotation to repair bus shelter roof

It had previously been noted that a quotation had not been received. Cllr Perkins informed the meeting that he had recently cleared the gutters of the bus shelter and had retrieved a slipped slate which he had retained.

(ix) To note the work being carried out by the Silverton Community Angels during the lockdown period and consider possibility of the Parish Council Bank Account being used to receive any grants received by the Angels

The Parish Council expressed its gratitude for the self-arranging and coming together of

members of the parish to form the Silverton Community Angels during the lockdown and for the invaluable work it had carried out.

The Chairman stated that he, the Vice-Chairman and Clerk had discussed during the past month the possibility of the Silverton Community Angels being able to hold any grant monies received in the Parish Council account. However, the Chairman was not aware of any grants having either been applied for or received by the Silverton Community Angels

**Minute 113177**      **To note Parish Council response, as agreed by email, to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in respect of proposed boundary changes**

It was noted a response had been sent to the Boundary Commission in line with that agreed in email correspondence. The points made were (a) Silverton is a large ward with sufficient electorate to have a single representative at Mid Devon Council (b) directly electing one councillor ensures public accountability to the community whereas a shared ward would remove this (c) the village has unique requirements that need direct representation (d) there are two natural borders (river Exe and the A396) and it was felt the Silverton Ward should only be amended to include the North part of the ward which is currently in the Cadbury ward as this unifies the Parish (e) the original plan to merge the north of the Parish Ward would more fairly represent the village and its surroundings and not the current draft plan (f) the original proposed merged Silverton Ward would be within the 10% variance providing electorate equality. Cadbury, Thorverton and Bickleigh are a unique Ward and should retain their directly elected District Councillor.

It was noted the consultation period had not ended and a response from the Boundary Commission was awaited.

**Minute 113178**      **Post Covid-19 recovery traffic impacts on Silverton (requested by Cllr Perkins)**

Cllr Perkins informed the meeting that parishioners were now using and experiencing the village in different ways to that pre-Covid-19 be that walking, running or cycling. He thanked the Spar Shop for the service it provided. He noted that drivers however were not adhering to traffic lines. Cllr Perkins felt that, although there was no data available and it was purely his observation, the quality of life had improved in the village and he wanted to discuss what items the Parish Council could push forward post Covid such as 20mph restrictions.

District Cllr Wright stated he felt the traffic was far less and going slower and this needed to be retained if possible. "20 is plenty" would be a good start.

Cllr Trebble confirmed the Neighbourhood Plan does not really cover speed limits in the village.

The Chairman suggested that Cllr Perkins takes this to the next step and report to the Parish Council at the July meeting with some proposals/details. He suggested a Task/Finish Group, to include parishioners, be set up along with input from District Cllr Wright. Cllr Perkins confirmed he would arrange that.

**Minute 113179**      **Update re Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Trebble confirmed the Neighbourhood Plan consultation had been postponed and the Committee had been informed there would be no Neighbourhood Plan Referendum until at least the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (although this date may be reviewed in the future). The Committee had been in touch with MDCC who will prepare the pre-advice and they are waiting for a response which in the current climate may take some time

**Minute 113180**

**Matters Brought Forward by the Chairman**

Cllr Derbyshire stated, in her capacity as Footpath Officer, that the footpath from Quarry Lane to Keywise Garage is almost impassable for horses and not passable for pedestrians. Devon County Council are aware of the problem and they have stated that the only solution is to infill and alter the current levels. However, at present they do not have the finances to be able to carry out this work.

Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

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