

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of Silverton Parish Council
held Monday 4th January 2021 at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom

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

District Cllr B Deed

Minute 113277 **To note any Declarations of Interest**

None

Minute 113278 **To note any apologies**

Apologies were received from County Cllr M Squires

Minute 113279 **Meeting open to any questions from members of the public – 10 mins**

No members of the public attended the Zoom meeting

Minute 113280 **Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th December 2020**

The Chairman proposed the Minutes be accepted as a true record. Cllr Derbyshire seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all members present in favour.

Minute 113281 **Review of Action Plan**

Cllr Perkins informed the meeting the bus shelter was leaking from the flashing to the left of the chimney breast tracking down. Clerk to contact the Contractor to ask if they would inspect, preferably on a rainy day.

Cllr Maylan indicated that she felt 5 new “No Dogs” signs would be required for the entrances to the Recreation Field but after discussion it was felt that 4 would probably be sufficient.

With regard to the asset transfer of grass areas in the village the Chairman confirmed a response had been received from Steve Densham at MDDC. Mr Densham had indicated the Parish Council could either have a lease over the areas or a Licence with a right to maintain. Clerk to ask Mr Densham to provide further details with regard to the options available.

Cllr Steer stated that he felt the maintenance of the roads in the parish should be added to the Action Plan - it was pointed out that this item was already included. Cllr Steer stated that he felt the Action Plan needed a structure and suggested the possibility of traffic light system showing items either falling into a red, amber or green category as he felt this would ensure items do not get

overlooked. It was agreed the Chairman and Clerk would liaise with regard to a method of colour coding the Action Plan.

Minute 113282 **Discussion with District Cllrs J Wright and B Deed and County Cllr M Squires**

District Cllr Wright and County Cllr Squires were not present at the meeting.

Cllr Deed stated that the main forthcoming priority would be a legal requirement to balance the budget for the current financial year - it would be necessary to find a deficit of £490,000.00.

With regard to the Covid-19 pandemic he said he felt that a new National Lock Down was required due to the current figures. Hospitals were overrun and the predicted spike from Christmas had not yet been seen.

With regard to highway issues, he felt that the Parish Council may like to consider approaching the Cabinet Member for Highways.

Minute 113283 **Planning**

(a) Applications:

20/01910/HOUSE - formation of roof terrace with glazed staircase enclosure and associated work – Queen Anne House, 5D Fore Street, Silverton

After discussion Cllr Steer proposed that the Parish Council request the Planning Officer to ask the Applicant to provide more detailed plans and a final visual in order that the Council can make an informed decision. Cllr Perkins seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with 8 in favour and 1 abstention

(b) Approvals / Refusals

APPROVAL – Conversion of integral garage to ancillary accommodation and erection of a garage – Egremont, Silverton

APPROVAL – Erection of single storey side extension – 1 Ellerhayes

TREE PRESERVATION APPROVAL – reduce height of 1 English Oak Tree by 2-3m, pruning back to growth points and a radial reduction of up to 1.5m – Treneere, 22 Church Road, Silverton

(c) Any other Planning matters

None

Minute 113284 **Finances**

(a) Monthly invoices

It was noted that the cost of the Parish Christmas tree this year exceeded the agreed £100 due to additional delivery costs of £25.00. Cllr Derbyshire proposed the Parish Council also pay for the delivery cost. Cllr Maylan seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

Chq 002459 Mrs S Woodland – Clerk’s wages (£583.30)

Chq 002460 Mr D Marsden – Contractor’s monthly invoice (£300.00)

Chq 002461 Cancelled

Chq 002462 HMRC – Clerk’s Tax & NI (£437.60)

Chq 002463 Sutcliffe Play South West – new roundabout (£5,400.01)

Chq 002464 Mr A Campbell – honorarium re winding parish clock (£200.00)

Chq 002465 St Mary’s Church – contribution to Newsletter costs (£250.00)

Chq 002466 A.D. Isaac – Parish Christmas tree (£125.00)

(b) Other financial matters

(i) **Grass cutting – Jubilee Gardens update**

The Contractor had confirmed he would include this area into his schedule at no extra cost. It was noted the grass was now long especially in the Children’s Play Area and the Clerk will ask the Grass Contractor to cut this as soon as possible. If the Grass Contractor is unable to do this it was agreed to ask the Village Contractor if he would be able to carry out a one-off cut.

(ii) **Consider Electric Car Charging Points**

Cllr Perkins reported that recent changes in Government policy provided that sales of new diesel/petrol cars would be banned from 2030 with new hybrid cars being banned from 2035 as a means of accelerating decarbonisation of transport. He pointed out there are an increasing number of electric cars in the village and it may become difficult to charge these in the future due to the lack of charging points. He felt the Parish Council needs to consider how to make best use of the facilities in the village such as the Community Hall. Cllr Steer pointed out there were grants available to off-set the cost of installing a home charging system.

The Chairman reminded the Council that Standing Orders permits residents to be co-opted onto Parish Council Sub-Committees and the Parish Council may wish to consider a Sub-Committee to consider the options. It was agreed Councillors should bring forward items to the Budget Meeting which they feel are important and which can be “Themes” for the Parish Council for 2021/2022.

(iii) **Consider Community Car Sharing Scheme**

It was noted that Co-Cars in Exeter were extending its scheme of electric vehicles and bikes to Pinhoe and it was suggested this might be a consideration for the Neighbourhood Plan Committee.

(iv) **Consider enhanced re-cycling in the Parish**

This item to be considered at the Budget Meeting.

Minute 113285 **Consideration of adopting the telephone box**
(Requested by Cllr Maylan)

Cllr Maylan confirmed she had been in communication with British Telecom and the cost to have the telephone box transferred to the Parish Council would be £1. She stressed that if the telephone box was transferred to the Parish Council British Telecom would not retain the public telephone in the village and this asset would be lost. There are some repairs required to the box but British Telecom would not agree to undertake these prior to transferring the telephone box. As the telephone box is a Listed Building it may be possible to obtain a grant to carry out the necessary repairs. With regard to any re-painting, it was felt that the paint colour would have to remain as present.

It was agreed before the Parish Council took any action it was essential that an initial consultation of the village took place with maybe a leaflet drop, notices in the telephone box, Parish Council noticeboard and the Parish Magazine. The Clerk pointed out the next Parish Magazine would not be distributed until 7th February.

After discussion Cllr Maylan proposed the Parish Council takes ownership of the telephone box and re-purpose this for the use of the community subject to the outcome of a public consultation exercise. Cllr Cross seconded the proposal. A vote was taken with all Councillors present in favour.

The first phase of the consultation to be an article in the Parish Magazine and posters in public places and social media with responses back to the Clerk. It was agreed to further consider the proposal at the March meeting with a view to a further consultation.

Minute 113286 **Update re “20 is Plenty” Campaign**

Cllr Perkins stated there would be no updates until after the Covid restrictions had been lifted and face to face meetings could take place.

Minute 113287 **Neighbourhood Plan update**

The Neighbourhood Plan Committee had been advised there was a Neighbourhood Plan Champion based at Broadclyst. She had been contacted and had attended the last Zoom meeting and come back with ideas on how the Committee could move forward. She is happy to continue to assist the Committee.

Minute 113288 **Correspondence**

No correspondence to report

Minute 113289 **Matters brought forward by the Chairman**

The Chairman reminded Councillors that the Budget Meeting would take place on Monday 18th January at 7.30 p.m.

Cllr Perkins reported 2 bollards had been lost – one on the corner of Tiverton Road and one in Fore Street.

Cllr Cross brought to the Council's attention the continuing inconsiderate parking at Ellerhayes Bridge with people moving the cones in order to be able to park. The Clerk confirmed that she had noted from the Ellerhayes Facebook Page that the National Trust were aware of this problem and were trying to address it.

Cllr Trebble informed the meeting that tractors with large trailers were parking on the Pond Side blocking the pathway whilst one tractor collected soil from the building works in Butterleigh Road. Damage was also being caused to the bank in Butterleigh Road and there was mud on the road which was being carried down to the top of High Street.

Meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.