

Minutes of the meeting of Silverton Parish Council
held Monday 2nd March 2026 at 7.30 p.m. in the Silverton Community Hall

Present: Cllrs Ruth Harrison, Simon Hedges (Chair), Olivia Kennard, Emily Chanter, Gavin Donovan, Josh Wright (also District Cllr), District Cllr Rhys Roberts and County Cllr Steve Keable.

Minute 114437 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Chris Eveleigh, Peter Kidds & Allen McManus

Minute 114438 **Application by Daniel Broom to be co-opted onto Parish Council**

Mr Daniel Broom attended the meeting as an observer having shown an interest in being co-opted onto the Parish Council.

He stated he was originally from Tiverton but had been to New Zealand for a couple of years and had then come back to the UK a couple of years ago. He said he had lived for a while at East Budleigh but liked the Mid Devon Area and now lived in Silverton where he knows quite a few people in the area. The Clerk confirmed he had completed the Eligibility Form.

The Chair welcomed M Broom to the meeting and stated he hoped that after observing the meeting he would confirm his willingness to be co-opted onto the Paish Council.

Minute 114439 **To note any declarations of interest:**

- (a) Pecuniary
None
- (b) Other Registerable Interest
None
- (c) Non-Registerable Interest
None

Minute 114440 **Meeting open to any questions from members of the public – 10 mins**

No members of public attended the meeting.

Minute 114441 **Discussion with County Cllr Steve Keable & District Cllrs Rhys Roberts & Josh Wright**

District Cllr Rhy Roberts informed the meeting that MDDC is issuing a free Community Hub Pack which is also available and on-line. Cllr Harrison pointed out that this is currently showing as “postponed” on the MDDC website and District Cllr Roberts is to make enquiries as to the reason for this.

MDDC leisure centre fees are to remain fixed for the forth coming year. There is a new MDDC App on which parishioners can manage their bookings.

The District Council has approved its budget with a 2.99% increase – details will be on website shortly.

Sunday 8th March 2026 is to be a Covid reflection day.

Cllr Roberts stated he had launched a personal website “Cadbury Ward Matters” which residents are invited to view.

School Lane in Thorverton is closed but the pedestrian access would be re-opening tomorrow.

County Cllr Steve Keable circulated an early draft of his March report. He asked that if there were any urgent matters if the Council could telephone him as he receives over 80 emails a day.

With regard to the DCC budget, the Adult Social Care continues to be County Council's biggest area of spending with the budget rising to £385.9m for the financial year 2026/2027. The Highways Maintenance budget will rise to £32.4m with £4m additional revenue funding for drainage, clearance, ditching, vegetation management and preventative works. From April there will be £15m additional capital for resurfacing, patching and serviceability and a further £10m matched-funding opportunity for parish & town councils is to be developed together with £0.5m to strengthen highways, inspection quality assurance, engagement and communications. Additionally over the next 5 years, £546.1m in total will be invested in highways. This figure includes an extra £55m over 5 years for preventative maintenance.

County Cllr Keable stressed that misleading stories of libraries closing are not accurate.

District Cllr Josh Wright pointed out that the MDDC leisure pools now have pods to assist those with disabilities.

District Cllr Wright pointed out that with regard to Business Rates, support is available at MDDC

With regard to the Local Government Reorganisation, this is beginning to move forward with officers meeting with officers of other areas etc.

Tiverton Panier Market has a couple of additional electric car chargers.

Cllr Donovan stated that completing forms for people with disabilities or who are in care is very difficult. The Chair recommended he contacted Citizen's Advice who may be able to assist.

Minute 1144412 **To approve Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd February 2026**

RESOLVED the Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd February 2026 be accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Harrison. A vote was taken by a show of hands with 6 in favour and 1 abstention (was not present at that meeting).

Minute 114442 **Action Plan**

A copy of the Action Plan had been circulated to all Council members prior to the meeting.

Traffic, Travel & Transport

124 – Pedestrian Signs in Upexe Lane – No update as yet.

125 – Speeding at Ellerhayes – No update as yet.

126 – Drop Kerbs in Applemede – County Cllr Keable pointed out he needs clarification as to specific locations. The Clerk indicated this information had been emailed to him and it was agreed the Chair and Clerk would check the content of that email and revert to him.

127(a)/127(b) & 127(c) – The Chair had provided a draft of the proposed Poll to be uploaded to the Parish Council and Silverton Community Facebook Websites and Councillors agreed they were happy with content of Poll. RESOLVED the Poll to be placed on the Facebook websites. Proposed by the Chair which was unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

Public Transport

131 – Bus shelter on both sides of A396 at junction of Upexe Lane – Cllr Harrison had contacted Mark Phillips at DCC who had told her that was going to contact the Clerk. The Clerk confirmed she had not received any communication to date regarding this. Cllr Harrison stated that it appears too difficult to site a bus shelter on the side opposite the junction as there is a ditch behind the verge. After discussion it was agreed not to proceed with a northbound shelter.

With regard to the southbound stop, any proposed bus shelter has to be approved by DCC. Cllr Harrison has carried out some research and there is a slimmer shelter which could be suitable for the southbound stop.

County Cllr Keable stated he had spoken with Mark Phillips that morning and the information he was given appears to be different and he will follow up and revert to the Parish Council.

132(a) – Request for a bus bay outside the Meads. County Cllr Steve Keable confirmed he would chase for a response.

132(b) – New bus timetable holder in the Square - a key has now been received and the bus timetable will be erected shortly.

Recreation Field

219(b) – Football Club using lights – no update. Remove from plan

219(d) – New key for Tennis Hut – this was ongoing.

220 – Public Protection Order for the Recreation Field – District Cllr Wright confirmed there was no update.

222 – Potential community orchard on MDDC land in Recreation Field – no update.

224 – Cycle trail –The Chair confirmed that an email had now been received from the youths suggesting dates for a meeting in Broadclyst. Cllrs Chanter & Kennard would contact the youths and arrange a meeting and report back to the Parish Council. The Chair reminded the meeting that no finances had been ring-fenced for this project for the forthcoming year.

It was noted that the MDDC Safety Reports indicated there was not a padlock for the gate that gives access to Children's Play Area. RESOLVED the Clerk to get quotes for a padlock. Proposed by the Chair and unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

Square, Fore Street and High Street

241 – Informative sign on Old Fire Station – this is currently on hold but was subject to the wood from the Old Oak being seasoned. It was necessary for the Committee to meet again to move matters forward. A query was raised as to what had happened to the saplings which had been grown from Old Oak acorns in previous years. Cllr Kennard would follow up with the Old Oak Committee.

Admin, F/finances and Miscellaneous

312 – Parish Council Debit Card - Clerk to fill in forms and Chair will print out as there is currently a problem with the Council printer.

320 – Possible transfer of MDDC land to Parish Council - Nothing has happened yet.
RESOLVED – the Parish Council would like to explore the possibility of adopting assets from MDDC particularly the Village Car Park and the element of the Recreation Field currently owned by MDDC. Proposed by Cllr Wright. A vote was taken by a show of hands which was unanimous. Clerk to write to MDDC and copy in Cllr Wright.

Minute 114443 **Planning**

Cllr J Wright took no part in the following planning discussions as he is a District Councillor for the Silverton Ward and wishes to remain independent of the Parish Council so as to be able to represent parishioners if asked.

(a) Applications

26/00201/TPO & CA – Notification of intention to remove 1 Salix tree and 4 Conifer trees within the Conservation Area – 25 Fore Street, Silverton

RESOLVED the Parish Council supported the above application Proposed by Cllr Kennard. A vote was taken by a show of hands with 7 in support and 1 abstention (Cllr Wright)

26/00206/HOUSE – Replacement of existing single storey elevation – 17 Ellerhayes, Exeter

RESOLVED the Parish Council supported the above application Proposed by Cllr Kennard. A vote was taken by a show of hands with 7 in support and 1 abstention (Cllr Wright)

6/00212/TPO – Application to remove 1 Lombardy Poplar tree protection by Tree Preservation Order 97/00010/TPO – 1 Prispfen View, Silverton

RESOLVED the Parish Council supported the above application Proposed by Cllr Chanter. A vote was taken by a show of hands with 7 in support and 1 abstention (Cllr Wright)

25/01685/PNCOU – Revised Plans re Prior Approval for the change of use of an agricultural building to 2 dwellings under Class Q – Land and Building at NGR 296483 101769 (Hayne Lane) Silverton

It was noted this application had already been considered by MDDC.

(b) Approvals/Refusals (received from MDDC)

25/01685/PNCOY - Prior Approval for the change of use of an agricultural building to 2 dwellings under Class Q - Land and Building at NGR 296483 101769 (Hayne Lane) Silverton Devon

Cllr Kennard stated she had noted that the comments allegedly submitted by the Parish Council refers to the comments made in relation re the Ruffwell application. It was agreed the Clerk to inform MDDC of the error. The same comments had also been noted in the Ruffwell application.

(c) Any other planning matters

None

Minute 114444 **Finance**

(a) Monthly invoices

- Mrs S Woodland – Clerk’s wages/expense reimbursement (£772.40) + Microsoft invoice for January (£12.10) = £784.50
- Mrs S Woodland – refund of annual sub to Society of Local Council Clerks - £158.00
- Mr D Marsden – Handyman’s monthly invoice = £673.00
- Mr D Marsden – additional work carried out in February (installation of bench at Pond Site (£170.00 and pointing steps in Children’s Play Area £70.00) = £240.00
- E-On Next – Electricity supply to Air Ambulance Site (January) - £23.62
- E-On Next – Electricity supply to Air Ambulance Site (February) - £17.42

RESOLVED the above invoices be paid by BACS. Proposed by the Chair and unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

The monthly Direct Debit payment to Westcotts (SW) LLP of £30.00 was noted

With regard to the E-on Next payment, it had been agreed with Silverton Football Club that it would take over the payment of the electricity bill from January 2026. However, the Parish Council has a 3 year agreement with E-on Next and the invoices will be sent to the Clerk. If the Football Club paid the Parish Council the full amount, the Council reclaims the VAT element of the the bill. The Clerk has contacted the DALC asking if it would be in order for the Football Club to pay the nett figure with the Parish Council then reclaiming the VAT element of the bill.

(b) Any other invoices received since date of agenda

None

(b) Other Financial Matters

(i) To note February 2026 Bank Reconciliation

The clerk apologised that she had overlooked preparing the Reconciliation. Agreed this be deferred to the April meeting.

(ii) To approve cost of Conservation Area Consent planning application re work on trees in the Little Rec and The Berry

The Chair proposed that the meeting was opened to the public to permit a contribution from Daniel Broom, and this was unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

The Clerk indicated that the research she had carried out seems to imply there will be no fee.

Cllr Donovan proposed the meeting be closed to members of the public. A vote was taken by way of a show of hands which was unanimous.

iii) To consider tenders relating to work required to fence in Recreation Field adjacent to Coach Road

Two quotations had been received from DB Fencing:

- (a) To dig in & concrete 15 concrete spur posts to strengthen existing posts. Bolt spurs through existing posts. Concrete spurs 100mm x 100mm x 1,2m - £1,207.20 + VAT (£241.44) – £1,448.64
- (b) Take down existing fence & replace 15 posts & re use existing rails - £1,949.40 + VAT (£389.28) = £2,339.28

One quotation had originally been received from D Marsden although he had not seen the official specification - £1,200.00

Specifications had also been sent to Andy Isaac (who had confirmed another contractor was

probably more suited to this work), Marcus Riggs Landscaping (no response), Steve Land (no response) and Hawkins Tree Services (no response).

After discussion it was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would accept quote (a) above from DB Fencing. A vote was taken by a show of hands with all Councillors present in favour. It was noted that it was DB Fencing that had installed the fencing originally.

(iv) Road Warden Scheme update

4-5 possible volunteers had come forward and Cllr Ward confirmed he would like to move forward asap. It was noted that training is necessary and it was suggested that Cllr Ward should carry out the training which appears to be a 2 day training course at DCC. Agenda item for April. There was some confusion as to exactly how much training of which type for how many people, so Cllr Ward was asked to follow up, progress, and come back to the Parish Council at the next meeting with details.

(vi) Improvements to the Little Rec – report of meeting between Chair/Clerk and Miles Snowdon and Christine Pryke

A copy of the notes had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and the Chair gave a resume of the meeting. He explained there were S106 monies available to spend on the Little Rec and the Street Market has asked for an electricity supply from the Old Fire Station. He stressed the Parish Council rented the Little Rec from the Richard's Educational Charity. S106 monies would not be available any improvements to the Square.

The Chair asked for the agreement of the Parish Council to go ahead with the provision of electricity to Old Fire Station and Saddle Planters over the wall. RESOLVED the Parish Council continues discussions with The Street Market Committee, Richards Educational Charity (REC) and Miles Snowdon & Christine Pryke. Proposed by the Chair and unanimously agreed by a show of hands. Cllr Kennard, who is a member of the REC would raise with them.

Minute 114445 **Annual Review of Financial Regulations**

The draft updating Financial Regulations had not been completed as the Chair had been unwell. A draft will be prepared as soon as possible and circulated to Councillors for consideration at the April meeting.

Minute 114446 **Draft Parish Emergency Plan (Cllr Harrison)**

Cllr Harrison confirmed that Cllr Eveleigh had responded on behalf of the The Lamb Inn but not for the Silverton Inn. She had asked if he could reach out to Silverton Inn but had not heard back as yet. Cllr Macmanus had been asked if he could contact local farmers. It was agreed an Emergency Plan Working Group was needed to progress the Emergency Plan. Cllr Harrison confirmed she would be happy to be Chair of the Working Group and Cllrs Chanter and Ward agreed they would sit on the Working Group.

The Clerk agreed she would contact all relevant persons to see if they were willing to have their details included in the Emergency Plan

Minute 114447 **Review of February 2026 Mini Market Rota**

The report of the February Mini Market had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and this was reviewed. No further action required.

Minute 114448 **Set date for Annual Parish Assembly and consider its format**

RESOLVED the Annual Parish Assembly would take place on Monday 18th May 2026 at 7.30 p.m. Proposed by the Chair and unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

Minute 114449 **Proposal for Rowan Trees at Village Car Park entrance and High Street Pond Site (requested by Chair)**

The Chair indicated he was willing to personally cover the cost of purchasing and planting two Rowan Trees on the Pond Side. This was unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

The Chair proposed he would also cover the cost of Rowan Trees each side of the entrance to the village car park. After discussion it was agreed this would be an Agenda item for April.

The Chair noted that the meeting was now going to overrun the 2 hour slot and he proposed the meeting should continue for a period of 10 minutes. Unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

Minute 114450 **Neighbourhood Plan and Design Statement Awareness for Developers and review of application for compliance (requested by the Chair)**

Agreed to defer this item to April meeting

Minute 114451 **Potential Planning Sub-Committee for urgent planning applications (Requested by Chair)**

Agreed to defer this item to the April meeting

Minute 114452 **Correspondence**

(a) Road Closure Notice from DCC – Tuesday 7th April to Thursday 7th May 2026 (inclusive). Works to take a maximum of 5 days – road from Exeter Road to Newcourt Road – National Grid – Pole changes

(b) Road Closure Notice from DCC – Tuesday 7th April to Thursday 7th May 2026 (inclusive) – road from Newcourt Road to Church Road, Silverton – National Grid – Pole change

Minute 114453 **Matters brought forward by the Chair**

None

Meeting closed at 21.33 p.m.