

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY  
Held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025 @ 7.30 p.m.  
In the Dorothy Grainger Room, Community Hall, Silverton

**Apologies**

Cllrs Emily Chanter, Lewis Ward & Gavin Donovan

Eliza Newton (Yoga), Simone Stanbrooke-Byrne (Poetry)

8 members of the public attended the meeting

**Present**

8 members of the public attended the meeting along with Cllrs Simon Hedges (Chairman), Ruth Harrison, Vicki Maylan and Josh Wright (also District Councillor)

The Parish Chairman chaired the meeting and he welcomed those present and confirmed copies of the Agenda and last year's Minutes were available.

The Chair explained that the Annual Parish Assembly was not a Parish Council meeting although the Parish Chairman chaired the meeting if present. He gave an outline of the Agenda of the meeting.

**1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 20.05.2024**

Mr Peter Smith proposed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 be accepted as a true record. A vote was taken with 4 in favour and 8 abstentions

Mr Peter Smith queried the current position regarding the Cobbled Path in New Barn Lane. He explained there was a possibility of an archaeological dig throughout the village in the future and if there were any areas the Parish Council felt could be included in the Parish Survey to let him know.

**2. Annual Report by Chaiman of Silverton Parish Council**

(a) The Chair explained that the Parish Council continued to be present each month at the Silverton Mini Market to take comments from the public, and advise them of appropriate channels to raise issues affecting the Silverton, Ellerhayes and other parts of the Parish.

(b) The Parish Council had been consulted on a number of planning matters over the last year although he stressed the Parish Council is only a consultee and not a decision making body but it tries to convey the feelings of parishioners. As always, the

Parish Council encourages individuals to put forward any comments they have direct to Mid-Devon (the decision making body) as this carries as much weight as the comments made by the Parish Council. It is often found that Mid-Devon District Council will approve an application that the Parish Council opposes. A full panning statement for all such situations is available on the Mid-Devon planning website.

(c) The 2024/25 Annual Audit was successful with no major concerns raised. Some minor changes in practice will be put in place as a result. Thanks were given to the Clerk for her continued hard work and diligence.

(d) The Parish Council had concerns about the state of the roads in general. The message from DCC has been that this is a County wide issue and there is a severe lack of funds available. Generally speaking potholes are to be reported on the DCC website, if they fit the criteria they are filled within a reasonable time period. The concerns regarding the condition of Church Road have been raised with DCC and a further update is awaited. The Parish Council are looking into the DCC road warden scheme where DCC will train volunteers to patch potholes and carry out other highways maintenance but so far this has not progressed due to a lack of volunteers.

(e) Parsons Landscaping were awarded the contract for grass cutting in the village last year and have made an excellent job. The areas which are owned by the Parish Council have been beautifully maintained by Parsons. The Parish Council is still looking at a project for regeneration of the historic lime trees on the Bury.

(f) Parish Handyman– changes to our agreements with our handyman has taken place to undertake some work which is properly the responsibility of DCC . These include, for example clearing blockages in the Leat and this has led to an improvement in the village.

(g) The Parish Council are happy to have supported the SEC with their new youth worker, and has agreed to renew the funding grant for another year.

(h) The football field is still being regularly utilised and the Parish Council are supporting new Silverton Football Club with their aims to improve facilities. Thanks are due to the Manager and his team.

(i) Unfortunately, due to over prescriptive limits on the use S106 funds, we were unable to access them for the purposes of implementing bug hotels on the Big Rec, but the Parish Council are proceeding without the use of these funds. The Parish Council

has provided draft wording to Mid Devon District Council for all future S106 funds to enable these to be used more widely and effectively in the village.

(j) On top of all the above the Parish Council has continued to deal with day to day administration and maintenance for the parish working closely with local groups and District and County Council.

(k) The next two or three years will lead to significant changes in local government structures and responsibilities. Parish Councils will be retained, the abolition/amalgamation of Mid Devon District Council is highly likely, and the County Council too is likely to be significantly affected.

(l) As Chair, I would like to thank my predecessor, Sarah Cross, for her work during the first part of this year before she had to resign as she moved away from the parish, and with her advice as she handed over to me. I would also like to thank Sheila Woodland our Parish Clerk without whose advice and guidance I, and the rest of the Parish Council would be lost, and also to my fellow councillors who work so hard for the parish.

### **3. Reports by representatives of Local Organisations**

Reports were given by the following Organisations:

Silverton Football Club report read out. The Chair asked for the meeting's thanks be recorded and this was agreed

District Cllr Josh Wright (MDDC)	Street Market
Friends of Wyndham House	Silverton Link Up
Silverton Community Hall	St Mary's Church
Silverton History Society	Richard's Educational Charity
Silverton Parochial Trust	Silverton Day Trips
Silverton Evangelical Church	

### **4. Public Forum**

None

Closed 20.19