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

Present: Simon Hedges, Peter Kidds, Josh Wright, Ruth Harrison, Olivia Kennard & Chris Eveleigh

Minute 114562 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Gavin Donovan & Sarah Gooding & County Cllr Steve Keable. It was noted that Cllr Keable's apologies for the October meeting had not been recorded although they had been sent.

The Chair confirmed that Cllr Emily Chanter has regrettably resigned from the Parish Council due to time constraints.

The Chair noted that we had has 3 resignations recently, with one more in the offing, and that the Council could do with more active, contributing councillors to help spread the load.

Minute 114563 To note any declarations of interest:

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

Minute 114564 Meeting open to any questions from members of the public – 10 mins

No members of the public attended the meeting.

Minute 114565 Discussion with District Cllr Josh Wright on any relevant issues

With regard to the Local Government Reorganisation, the decision had been pushed back to after Christmas. Current Districts will remain until 2027, Shadow Councils to 2028 and Unitary Councils to 2029.

The planning system is changing with a Councillor's right to "call in" an application being taken away.

The Mid Devon Local Plan had now passed the Gateway 1 stage.

Minute 114566 To approve Minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2026

It was noted that in Minute 114556(a) the payment figure shown to Parsons Landscaping was £1,202.74. This was incorrect and the figure should be **£1,303.74**.

Cllr Harrison proposed, subject to the above amendment, that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th October 2026 be signed as a correct record. A vote was taken by a show of hands with 4 in favour and 2 abstentions.

Minute 114567 **Action Plan**

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

131 – Bus shelter at junction of Upexe Lane and A396 – A query was raised as to whether or not the agreed bus shelter included solar lighting. An update was awaited from County Highways and the Clerk to chase in the middle of November if none received by that time.

132a – Road sign on A396 at bottom of Upexe Lane – the Parish Council understood this sign was ready to be erected and the Clerk to chase for an update as to when the works will be carried out.

220 – Public Protection Order for Recreation Field – The Clerk had met with MDDC to discuss the positioning of "No Dog" signage and it was hoped these would be erected within 6-8 weeks.

221(b) – Replacement/repairs to fence in Recreation Field adjacent to Coach Road – Cllr Kennard has chased DB Fencing for an update and it had been confirmed the ground was currently too hard for the works to commence. Cllr Eveleigh confirmed he would chase for a further update.

224 – Pump Track – There was currently no update. It was agreed that this item would be put on hold pending any further enquiries.

225 – Rospa Reports – It was agreed this be removed from the Plan as it is covered under 226.

240 – Length of grass on Berry – It was noted this has now been cut and this item can be removed from Plan

241(b) – Conversion of Fire Engine House to café - Agenda Item

307 – Emergency Plan - Agenda Item

321 – Audio Visual for Dorothy Granger room – Cllr Wright confirmed there was no update as yet.

322 – Parish Council new website - Agenda item

324 – Electricity supply to Tennis Hut and Air Ambulance - Agenda Item

It was noted that due to Cllr Chanter's resignation some responsibilities would need to be revised. RESOLVED to ask Cllr Chanter if she would like to continue on the Richard's Educational Charity as the Parish Council representative, and also if she could assist with continuity regarding the proposed Pump Track, should further communication on that matter be received. Proposed by the Chair and unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

Minute 114568 **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**

26/01391/LBC – Listed Building Consent for replacement of garage doors – 8 Fore Street, Silverton

RESOLVED the Parish Council supported the above application. Proposed by Cllr Kennard. A vote was taken with 5 in favour and 1 abstained (Cllr Wright)

(b) Approvals/Refusals (received from MDDC)

APPROVAL- substitute plans relating to alterations to the roof – 76 Wyndham Road, Silverton (26/00926/HOUSE)

(c) Any other planning matters

None

Minute 1145569 Finance

(a) Monthly invoices

- Mrs S Woodland – Clerk's wages/expense reimbursement - £934.01 (includes £183.78 back pay) + expenses (£12.10 October Microsoft payment) = £946.11
- Mr D Marsden – Handyman monthly invoice = £673.00

RESOLVED the above invoices be approved for payment. Proposed by the Chair. A vote was taken by way of a show of hands which was unanimous.

(b) Other Financial Matters

(i) To note Direct Debit payments during October 2026

Direct Debits

- Lloyds Bank PLC – monthly fee re Lloyds credit card - £3.00
- Unity Trust PLC – Service Charge £7.00
- Westcotts - monthly fee - £36.00

(ii) Update re new Parish Council website – report from Website Committee

A written report had been provided by the Website Committee prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors. It was noted that Aubergine had been recommended by other Parish Clerk's but the Committee felt that Pigeon was cheaper and provided a good website. Links had been provided to enable Councillors to view other Parish Council websites hosted by Pigeon.

RESOLVED that a domain name of "silverton-pc.gov.uk" be requested. Proposed by Cllr Wright and unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council request Pigeon to create a new website for the Parish Council using the "Classic" subscription. Proposed by Cllr Eveleigh and unanimously agreed by a show of hands. Clerk to make the initial contact with the website provider and check if the initial fee covered the transfer of the Parish Council's current documentation.

(iii) Update re electricity supply to Air Ambulance Landing Site

The Clerk reported that no response had been received from the Utility Agent and it was RESOLVED that the Parish Council continue with the monthly payment to E-on and review as and when a response is received. Proposed by the Chair and unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

(iv) To note Bank Reconciliations for October 2026 – circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting

Noted and agreed.

(v) Parish Council Training – recommendations from Vice-Chair

An email prepared by the Vice-Chair had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Being a Good Councillor 2/Powers, Duties and the Precept - this was an evening on line course in January 2027 at a cost of £18 per Councillor.

Being a Good Councillor 2: Powers, duties and the Precept – an evening course in March 2027 – Zoom Webinar at a cost of £18 per Councillor. RESOLVED to offer this course to Councillors Gooding and Kidds being relatively new Councillors. Proposed by the Chair. A vote was taken by a show of hands which was unanimous.

Planning Enforcement, Appeals and Planning Obligations including S106 – Zoom webinar in December 2026 at a cost of £42.00 per Councillor. Agreed to leave this in abeyance for the time being.

Cllr Kennard has asked to attend the updating Neighbourhood Plan on-line course and the Chair indicated he may also like to attend this course . RESOLVED that two places be agreed at the cost of £42.00 per Councillor. Proposed by the Chair. A vote was taken which was unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

(vi) Email from Secretary FOSS re possible funding towards larger-scale projects

Updating email read from FOSS in which it was confirmed a meeting was scheduled within a couple of weeks to explore a number of potential projects and priorities. Once the meeting has taken place FOSS will be in touch with the Parish Council setting out the project details etc.

(vi) Major Items of Note for upcoming additional meeting

With regard to the upcoming additional meeting on the 23rd November 2026 the Chair put forward potential major spends for Councillors to consider:

(a) Potential car park – legal fees and expand budget to cut back the hedge.

(b) Possible café – assume the Parish Council will break even on this project.

(c) Skate park – suggests funds to repair and not rebuild

(d) New noticeboard – original notice board cost £4,000 – current noticeboard needs repair

(e) No funding for pump track

(vii) To note receipt of S106 monies in the sum of £1,315.00 in relation to new table/seating for the Little Rec

Noted. The Chair thanked the Clerk for all the work she had to do to obtain these funds.

Minute 114570 Review of Policies

(i) Dignity at Work Policy
(ii) General Privacy Policy

Copies of the Policies had been available to view on the shared file prior to the meeting. RESOLVED that the above Policies be adopted by the Parish Council. Proposed by the Chair and unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

Minute 114571 Fire Engine House update – Report by Fire Engine House Committee

The Vice-Chair confirmed the project was moving forward. An application for Planning Permission was being submitted by Ellen Cocking. The rental had been agreed by the Committee as circa £25.00 to cover Parish Council expenses (hire of hall) and to take into consideration all the work and repairs the Tenant was going to have to carry out to make the project viable. The draft Lease had been submitted to the Council's Solicitors and a response was awaited.

Minute 114572 Update re Emergency Plan

Defer to December meeting.

Minute 114573 Correspondence

- Email from DGT Trees re tree surveys – it was noted that the Parish Council currently have outstanding work to be carried out by Hi-Line. It was agreed to ask DG Trees to make contact again in February.
- Email from Mrs Maylan re a child on a motorbike riding at speed around the paths of the Recreation Field – noted.
- Email re Fire and Rescue Service Consultation re five-year plan – closing date for comments being 4th January 2027 - the Chair confirmed he had personally responded and Cllr Eveleigh encouraged other Councillors to personally respond.
- Email from General Manager at Killerton. A planning application had been submitted to EDDC for a new car park the result of which is expected in the near future. The National Trust is also in the process of submitting a Prior Approval notice to demolish a number of buildings all of which either sit or are on the edge of the flood plain. Given their position and high risk to flooding, coupled with the condition of the buildings, it was felt these would not be an effective use of charitable resources to invest in their repair.
- Email from Gwen Duchesne – Lewis Dyson would like to meet for 15 minutes to discuss Emergency Community Hubs. Clerk will email to see if he would like to meet with Chair/Vice or full Council

Minute 114574 Matters brought forward by the Chair

It was noted there was an additional meeting on Monday 23rd November 2026 when finances will be discussed.

It was noted a new Bank signatory will be required to replace Cllr Emily Chanter. Cllr Eveleigh volunteered to take on this role and this will be an Agenda item for the December meeting.

It was noted problems had arisen with people feeding the cat which sits in the bus shelter. The owner had confirmed that due to health reasons the cat is on a special diet and other people feeding it is making it ill. Agreed a notice will be placed in the Bus Shelter and on Facebook asking people not to feed the cat.

Meeting closed at 21.15