

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 12TH APRIL 2011 AT 8.00PM AT
HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

247. Present

Cllr Browse (Chairman), Cllrs Mesdames Cuthbert, Graham, Jepps and Johnstone and Cllrs Britton (Vice-Chairman), Corden, Hand, Radford and Saunders, Emma Higgins from Active Village Funding and two members of the public

248. Apologies

CCllr Hannon, PC Katie Rich and PCSO J Sims

249. Public Forum

Mr Payne suggested that the missing Jubilee tree be replaced with something similar in time for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. He also suggested that the PC should take the lead in organising an event to commemorate a parishioner's forthcoming 100th Birthday. His suggestions were noted.

250. Presentation by Emma Higgins re Active Village Funding

Emma provided a most informative presentation about the availability of funding for the village in respect of Devon Active Villages, a concept which was being introduced across Mid Devon so that people living in rural areas could become more involved with sport and physical activity. The funding could be used for training, coaching, equipment and facility hire etc and Emma was the Active Village Community Co-ordinator appointed to be the point of contact. Emma was invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 3rd May to be able to meet the community and advise on the project and to get feedback as to the ideas the community had in this respect. She indicated that she would be delighted to attend.

251. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 8th March 2011 were approved and signed accordingly

252. Matters Arising from the Ordinary Minutes

- i. The Clerk advised that Kevin Finan MDDC would be attending the Annual Parish Meeting. It was also understood that Paul Tucker of MDDC and Mark Baker of DCC would also be attending
- ii. DCC would be repairing the fence at the pond shortly. However there might be a mixture of concrete and wooden posts which may not be aesthetically pleasing!
- iii. CCllr Hannon had advised with regards to the Sat Nav issues at Old Bridwell that the last DCC administration had directed DCC officers to continue and increase work with Sat Nav programmers as the only effective way of reducing the misdirection problem at source. A formal decision was taken at Cabinet and CCllr Hannon couldn't recall a reversal of this decision, although he hadn't heard about this matter recently. Tony Matthews at DCC should come back with further information shortly.
- iv. The Chairman was liaising with Nick Page re the works required to make the stiles in the Parish dog-friendly

253. The Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman expressed his appreciation to the PCllrs who were standing down - namely Cllr Mrs Cuthbert and Cllrs Radford and Gibbs. He expressed thanks on behalf of the PC as to their commitment over the years and for their hard work and time they had given in tackling Parish issues. It was understood that Cllr Radford had stood down in order to prevent a Parish election

thus saving the PC an election fee. His gesture was warmly appreciated. Cllr Radford would remain as a District Cllr as his nomination was unopposed. The Chairman was looking forward to the first PC Meeting of the new Council session in May and meeting the new members. He welcomed Martyn Parker who was present at the meeting and whose term of office as a new PCllr would commence in May

254. Parish On-Line Evaluation Mapping System

The PCllrs had been offered a free trial of the system. Not everyone had trialled it but the PCllrs who had, were suitably impressed including Cllr Corden who had now changed his mind completely about the system and appeared quite enthusiastic! It was resolved that the PC pay the setting up fee of £20 followed by annual payments of £10 until further notice

255. Consideration of Purchase of Aerial Photograph showing the Parish of Halberton

It was resolved that the PC would pay £20 towards the cost, this being half the cost, as the remainder had been paid by the Village Hall Committee. It was agreed that the £20 be deducted from the Village of the Year funds. Cllr Corden declared a personal and prejudicial interest and left the room whilst the matter was being discussed

256. Police Matters

PC Katie Rich would be commencing maternity leave from 24th June. From the 26th April to the start of her maternity leave she would not be covering Halberton as the Neighbourhood Beat Manager. PC Custance would cover Katie's patch until the 19th May but would then be leaving Cullompton on that date. PCSO Jon Sims would remain as the PCSO for the area and would now be the sole point of contact.

Katie had sent to the Clerk a police report which the Clerk had read out in her absence. There were a number of reports of 'strange males' being spotted in the Parish. There had been reported an attempted burglary on a dwelling in Lower Town, a walk-in burglary in Fisher's Way and a similar incident the next day in Willand. There had also been a theft of batteries at Orchard Farm. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert advised that she had also been a victim of burglary – a computer had been stolen from her property. The PC's picnic table at the pond had also been stolen. It was also reported that there had been a lot of police activity at the canal recently

257. DCC Matters

DCC had joined forces with Somerset CC to bid for millions of pounds of government funding to bring superfast broadband speeds to the vast majority of businesses and households in the area

258. MDDC Matters

- i. Cllr Radford advised that the litter pick had been a success. He confirmed that the necessary forms had been completed by the litter pickers to comply with MDDC's insurance requirements.
- ii. Kevin Finan had assumed the role of MDDC's Head of Paid Service on 11th April following the departure of Chief Executive Gerald Hirsch who was moving to Ecuador
- iii. A new free fleet recognition scheme - ECO Stars had been designed to provide operational support for fleet operators in Mid Devon. The ECO Stars (Efficient and Cleaner Operations) Fleet Recognition Scheme will help Mid Devon's HGV, LGV bus and coach fleet operators gain recognition for their commitment to improving efficiency, reducing fuel consumption and reducing emissions – all helping to improve local air quality
- iv. A new initiative developed by MDDC's Licensing Team for handling suspected fraudulent identification documents now forms the basis for new Home Office guidance

v. The PC resolved to adopt the Charter between MDDC and the Town and Parish Councils in Mid Devon. The Clerk had examined the Charter and couldn't see that it contained anything too onerous!

259. Cemetery Matters

Thanks were given to the members of the PC who had given up their time to tidying up the areas of the cemetery. Concrete and other materials had been removed. It was noted that older ladies of the community were pleased with the works as they had had concerns previously about entering this area. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert had plants available for the cemetery and it was agreed to take up her offer. It was requested that the Clerk contact Richard Grant to get the two stones CR1 and adjacent stone re-aligned to a straight line as they were currently at an angle. It was agreed that the shed roof be inspected as it had partially lifted at one section. Cllr Saunders would be progressing the erection of the fence. It was noted that the new trees now had tubes placed around them.

260. 2011 Elections

Concern had been expressed as to the attitude of some members of the election staff at MDDC. It was understood that some candidates had allegedly been spoken to in a disparaging fashion. However Cllr Mrs Graham advised that her experience of the Election staff had been very good as she had been treated in a courteous fashion at all times. Cllr Radford would take the matter up on behalf of the PC and report back

261. Newsletter

The Clerk advised that she had had to deal with a very abusive advertiser over a situation which had been of the advertiser's own making. The advertiser had accused the Clerk of delaying the paying in of the her cheque to the PC's bank account, for the advertising fee (£20) resulting in the delay of the payment being taken out of the advertiser's bank account. The Clerk had also received rude e-mails from the advertiser. The chain of e-mails between the Clerk and the advertiser had been forwarded to the Chairman by the Clerk. The e-mails showed that the Clerk had provided the advertiser with a full sequence of events including the fact that as the advertiser had incorrectly addressed the cheque, (resulting in the cheque having to be returned to the advertiser for correction), that this had resulted in delaying the cheque being paid into the PC's bank account by the Clerk. It was agreed that the Clerk should not be subjected to this type of behaviour and that for the small amount of revenue involved it simply wasn't worth it. It was agreed that the Chairman would contact the advertiser about the matter. It was resolved that the WI could have a free advertisement in the Newsletter for their pudding party on 18th May. It was agreed that a Newsletter Meeting be arranged for 14th June at 6.00pm and also the Newsletter to be an item for the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on the same date. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert was concerned as to the printing quality of the Business Directory and also the question of colour printing needed to be considered.

262. Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

The Clerk together with other PCllrs would look at souvenir items for the Jubilee and come back to future PC meetings with the information. It was also agreed that the community should have some input and it was decided that they could write ideas on post-it stickers and place them on a board at the Annual Parish Meeting

263. Housing Needs Survey

The Clerk had provided each member with a hard copy or e-mail version of the survey and the results had been included in the latest edition of the Newsletter

264. Car Park/New Footpath Update

The Clerk had seen a copy of the drafted Permissive Path Agreement but in view of the format decided it was in the PC's interests for the agreement to be re-drafted, which she had carried out. Steve Gardner from DCC who had drafted the original agreement was appreciative of the Clerk's assistance and would get back to her in the next few days with his comments.

The Clerk had received bad news from Dan Meek, Principal Land Agent for NPS South West, regarding the PC's proposed car park/footpath. The Housing Survey had shown that there was an identifiable need for only 2-4 more affordable housing in the next five years and this demand had already been provided for within the 'Old Dairy' Scheme. It would therefore be unlikely that DCC would be successful in any planning application for a small scale village development required to generate the capital receipt needed to pay for the new access road. Mr Meek also advised that although the Government had produced its White Paper relating to the Localism Bill it did not provide clarity and would do little to assist DCC's case regarding securing planning consent for the proposed development before November 2011. In conclusion, DCC advised that with no current justification or need for the proposed small-scale development outside the existing village envelope, it would be contrary to policy. It was agreed that the Clerk should acknowledge receipt of Mr Meek's letter but to also advise him that the PC would be monitoring the Old Dairy Scheme to see whether or not it was progressed. Cllr Corden would also liaise with Cllr Radford about affordable housing issues. Mr Meek also advised that he intended to seek members approval to the proposed new footpath running through part Cordwents Farm (from the cemetery to the Grand Western Canal) at the next meeting of the County Farms Estate Cttee on 12th May 2011.

Cllr Mrs Jepps expressed concern that unless steps were taken the S106 monies that the PC required to progress the carpark/footpath project would be lost as the cut-off point was November. She suggested that some of the monies could be used for a more expensive form of safety surfacing in the Rec.

265. Dates of Future Meetings

22nd September 2011 – NALC Meeting – London

The Chairman would be attending this

266. Meetings Attended

10th March 2011 – 7.00pm Exe Room, MDDC

The Clerk attended this

267. Committee Reports

Amenities

The Clerk had received the Rospa Report. There was no major work to be carried out this year and items were found to be satisfactory with just some minor issues. The Clerk had investigated the cost of MDDC carrying out the task of inspecting the play equipment on behalf of the PC in future years. MDDC would be able to offer a monthly inspection of the equipment but Adrian Cook of MDDC had advised that MDDC was not geared up to carrying out annual inspections equivalent to Rospa inspections. Cllr Mrs Graham reported concern about a bin containing dog faeces which badly needed emptying because of the foul smell.

268. Clerk`s Report

The Clerk had nothing to report.

269. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST - 31ST March 2011:

Bank Interest	1.14
Newsletter	154.05
Cemetery	156.00
TOTAL	£311.19

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST - 31ST MARCH 2011 £734.91

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Cheque No	Amount	Vat	Total	Details
DD	25.80		25.80	MDDC – Cemetery Rates
1485	264.00	38.07	302.07	DALC Subs
1486	100.00		100.00	Hospiscare - Donation
1487	100.00		100.00	Vol Support Scheme – Donation
1488	353.71		353.71	Mrs C McIntyre – Salary
1489	459.06		459.06	Newsletter publication costs
1490	20.00		20.00	Mrs J Austin – Newsletter delivery costs
1491	24.23	4.85	29.08	Ottery Office – Photocopying Costs
1492	37.50		37.50	DCC – Mead rent ½ year
1493	63.00	12.60	75.60	Rospa Inspection
1494	425.00		425.00	N Cuthbert – grass cutting & other work
1495	5.67	1.13	6.80	Ottery Office – Photocopying Costs
1496	12.00		12.00	Mrs C Graham – repayment costs of flower seeds
1497	30.00		30.00	J & J Catering – cost of buffet for 22 nd February
1498	45.00		45.00	Halberton Village Hall Ctte – hire costs of hall
1499	49.00	7.55	56.55	Mrs J Cuthbert – repayt of cost of hedging etc

The above invoices were approved for payment

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	26003.47
Plus Receipts for period 1 st – 31 st March 2011	311.19
TOTAL:	£26314.66

Minus Payments made for the above Period	£734.91
TOTAL	£25579.75
Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	24016.06
Current A/c	1563.69
TOTAL	£25579.75

VILLAGE HALL FUNDS	3420.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	1688.00
VILLAGE OF THE YEAR PRIZE	252.00
DONATION FROM PARISHIONER	1949.00
PARISH PLAN FUND	434.00
CAR PARKING	3500.00
TRAINING	165.00
RECREATIONAL GROUND	412.00
GENERAL FUNDS	13759.75
TOTAL	£25579.75

Halberton Newsletter: Income to date £2584.14 - less expenses of £2701.18

= deficit of £117.04

270. Internal Auditor

Jenny Miller had very kindly agreed to carry out the PC`s internal audit of the 2010/11 accounts

271. Member`s Business

- i. Cllr Saunders told of the saga of the re-surfacing of the road at Brithem Bottom. However even though the road was closed for 5 days causing disruption there was now in situ a first class road surface!
- ii. It was understood that the new gate in the Mead was permanently open questioning whether or not it needed a new spring. Cllr Saunders would investigate
- iii. It was suggested that at the back of the telephone box at Ash Thomas there were a series of holes from where the equipment had been removed. It was suggested that perhaps a notice board could be erected there. Cllr Saunders would investigate
- iv. 10th May was the date of the launch of the `tramper` all terrains mobility buggy at the canal It was the official launch of the project but was understood not to be a public event

272. Miscellaneous

It was suggested that once the Cttes and other matters at the Ordinary PC Meeting in May had been decided, it should also be agreed at the same time as to who should take the minutes of additional meetings. This to be an item on the May agenda

273.Exclusion of the Public

It was resolved that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meeting) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following matter on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item”.

274. Confidential Item

A parishioner had requested a reduction in fees in respect of the erection of a memorial stone in the cemetery, in view of his difficult financial situation. There was much discussion, however the PC decided that this could set a precedent, if it was to waive part of the fees and reluctantly decided that it could not give consent. The Clerk had carried out research of various charities

which may be able to assist the parishioner and it was agreed that this information should be passed to him at the same time that she sent him the letter of refusal.

275. Future PC Meetings

26th April 2011 Planning (Provisional) – 7.30pm

26th April Amenities Ctte Meeting – 8.00pm

3rd May Annual Parish Meeting - 7.00pm

10th May 2011 Planning Ctte Meeting - 7.00pm

10th May Ordinary PC Meeting - 7.30pm

The Meeting closed at 10.15pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED

