

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH
COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 18TH MAY 2004 AT 7.00PM AT HALBERTON
VILLAGE HALL

1. Present

K Browse, A Cooper, P Gibbs, T Hugill, B Lane-Smith, R Radford, Mesdames Armstrong, Fisher, Hull, Jepps, and fifteen Members of the Public

2. Apologies

Cllr Saunders

3. Public Forum

A parishioner queried as to why Halberton Club was getting involved in initiating steps to have a new community centre in Halberton. He considered that the intentions of the Club to extend its facilities and the provision of a community centre were two separate issues. The parishioner also raised the question of declarations of interest and hoped that those PC members who were also members of Halberton Club were declaring their interests and not taking part in any discussions or voting when this matter was raised at PC meetings. Cllr Cooper reassured him that all meetings were properly conducted in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Concerns had been raised by two parishioners as to rubbish and debris which was accumulating on land near the old railway cutting. The Clerk advised that the matter was now being dealt with by Mr G McGovern, MDDC's Environmental Health Officer.

4. Election of Chair and Vice –Chair

Cllr Cooper was proposed by Cllr Lane – Smith and seconded by Cllr Hugill, to be Chair. The proposal was carried. Cllr Browse was proposed by Cllr Radford and seconded by Cllr Mrs Fisher to be Vice-Chair. The proposal was carried.

5. Appointment of Committees and other Appointments

It was agreed that these would be dealt with at the June PC meeting

6. The Minutes of:-

- i. The Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 21st April 2004 were approved subject to the deletion of Minute 245 and the inclusion of an amendment annexed as `Amendment to Minute 245` (attached). This was requested by Cllr Mr Armstrong. Cllr Radford proposed the amendment. It was seconded by the Vice-Chairman. The motion was carried. Cllr Lane-Smith disagreed with Cllr Mrs Armstrong about the status of Halberton Club and was unhappy about comments relating to the conduct of the April meeting. The Chairman advised that there was insufficient time to deal with the concerns at this meeting but could be considered at a future meeting.
- ii. The Amenities Ctte Meeting of 10th May 2004 would be considered at the June PC Meeting.

7. Matters Arising

- i. Letters of thanks had been received from the NSPCC and Tiverton & District Community Transport Association for the PC's donations of £25 and £150 respectively.
- ii. The Community Council of Devon had agreed to credit the PC with £30 in respect of the Parish Project Course fee. The credit could be used towards the cost of a future training course.

- iii. Cllr Browse advised that matters had moved forward with regard to installing a gate within the vicinity of the Tiverton road bridge as a safety measure
- iv. Mr Hill, MDDC's recycling Officer would now be attending the July PC Meeting.

8. Chairman's Announcements

There were none.

9. Police Matters

The Clerk advised that PC Dodd would be the Neighbourhood Beat Officer for Halberton from the beginning of June. He would be based at Cullompton Police Station. It was reported that bogus gas contractors had been operating in Cullompton and other places in Devon. Tarmac contractors were also operating in the area. They were quoting for quantities of tarmac and then supplying a greater amount and demanding increased payment. Two burnt out cars had been left in Manley Lane.

10 Mid Devon District Council Matters

A copy of the new terms of understanding and reference for the Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Cttee had been received. The new terms would come into effect on 19th October 2004. Cllr Browse and Cllr Lane-Smith would continue to be the PC's representative and deputy respectively..

11.Devon County Council Matters

- i. A confirmatory letter had been received advising that the PC had been awarded its footpath grant of £1,000. Parish Paths rates had been increased to £50 per mile for footpaths and £75 per mile for bridleways for the parishes which had been in the scheme for three years or more. It was the final year of the Public Service Agreement and the aim was to achieve 90% of all rights of way being `easy to use` by spring 2005.
- ii. A number of highway matters had been referred to DCC for attention. Mr Pike of DCC had advised that with regards to the pot holes on the surface of Corner Lane outside Meadow Cottage, that this section of highway was not the responsibility of DCC to maintain as it was a private road . It would be the responsibility of adjoining landowners to repair.

12. Extraordinary Meeting

It was suggested that the matter of Halberton Club's proposal for a community centre, the Parish Plan etc should be discussed at an Extraordinary Meeting, to follow on from the Planning Cttee's meeting on 25th May. Cllr Hugill proposed that such a meeting should take place. He was seconded by Cllr Mrs Armstrong. The motion was carried.

13. BT Payphones in Parish

The Clerk advised that she had been in correspondence with BT regarding the proposed removals of payphones in the Parish. She had queried the removal of the payphone at Pethertons as BT had only a couple of months ago had given an assurance that it would remain in situ. BT's plans were also inaccurate as it showed the Pethertons payphone to be situated on the canal towpath. She was awaiting to hear further from BT and would update the PC as and when further information was available. With regards to the proposed removal of the payphone at Crossparks, it was agreed that the Clerk should send a holding letter to BT, whilst the PC conducted a survey of residents within the vicinity of the payphone, to ascertain whether any of them had strong objections regarding the proposed removal.

14. Meetings Attended

- i. Public Scrutiny Panel – 28th April 2004
Cllr Gibbs attended this.
- ii. The Mid Devon Association of Local Councils – 13th May 2004 – Tiverton Town Hall
Cllr Hugill attended. He was pleased to note other PCllrs were present at the meeting. Matters discussed included town and parish council precepts. The meeting was interesting and informative.

15.Future Meetings

- i.Mid Devon District Council: Local Forum 19th May 2004 Two Moors Primary School
Cllr Hugill will be attending.
- ii. The Mid Devon Association for Local Councils (AGM) 24th June 2004 Tiverton Town Hall
- ii.Mid Devon District Council: Local Forum 14th July 2004 Bow Village Hall

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16.Committee Reports

- i. Cemetery
With regards to the damaged memorial stones the Chairman explained about them being the responsibility of the next of kin. Cllr Mrs Fisher reported that an initial inspection had been carried out by a representative from Fine Memorials who had provided an idea of likely costs of repairs. However it was recommending that a visual and manual inspection be carried out of every headstone in the cemetery. The inspection charge and report would cost £880 plus vat. Fine Memorials had also suggested the PC implementing the NAMM code of working practice which would mean that all new memorials and those being replaced, after having been removed for a further inscription to be added, would be checked with an Anchor system. Once the Clerk had received written details from Fine Memorials the Cemetery Cttee to arrange a meeting. Cllr Mrs Fisher advised that during the inspection a large memorial stone was found to be in a dangerous condition. The Clerk had also been contacted by Richard Grant Memorials for consent to replace the memorial stone on the grave of the late Francis W Williams. No objections were raised by the PC. The Clerk had now received a quote from Gardencare in the sum of £135 plus vat for work which needed to be carried out to rectify the vehicle accident damage. The Clerk would contact the driver of the vehicle with a request for payment. A parishioner advised that honey fungus was growing in the cemetery. He was very concerned that it would spread to neighbouring properties. The PC would contact DEFRA about the matter.
- ii. Amenities
A meeting of the Amenities Cttee had taken place on 10th May. The minutes would be produced for the June PC meeting. Cllr Mrs Hull would look into the cost of signs, banning dogs in the recreational ground. It was resolved that the PC would pay for the signs and Cllr Mrs Hugill was given authority to proceed with ordering them. It was agreed that the rubber safety granules had greatly improved the safety aspects of the recreational ground.
- iii. Footpaths
Cllr Browse reported that it had been a good year. Work had been carried out on various paths resulting in a new stile at Sock Hill, gate and stile at Ash Cross. It was resolved that Mr Page be authorised to carry out further work on the paths. The PC was still keen to see a footpath running from the cemetery to the canal on the inside of the hedge. Funding in the sum of £5 - £6,000 was required for this project.

iv. Highways

Cllr Gibbs read out his report which would be inserted in the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

17. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST - 30TH APRIL 2004:

<i>Bank Interest</i>	17.07
<i>Newsletter</i>	464.50
<i>Cemetery Fee</i>	68.75
<i>Precept 2004/05</i>	8959.00
<i>VAT refund 2003/04</i>	742.57
TOTAL	£10,251.89

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST - 30TH APRIL 2004: £723.71

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

<i>Cheque No</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>VAT</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Details</i>
<i>SO</i>	<i>23.04</i>		<i>23.04</i>	<i>MDDC – Cemetery Rates</i>
<i>100828</i>	<i>364.25</i>		<i>364.25</i>	<i>Gardencare – Grass Cutting for April</i>
<i>100829</i>	<i>719.82</i>		<i>719.82</i>	<i>Allianz Cornhill Insurance –Ins Premium 2004/05</i>
<i>100830</i>	<i>216.24</i>		<i>216.24</i>	<i>Mrs C McIntyre – Salary (less tax deductions)</i>
<i>100831</i>	<i>125.00</i>	<i>21.88</i>	<i>146.88</i>	<i>DCC – Dog Bin for canal</i>

The above mentioned invoices were approved for payment.

<i>Balance of bank accounts carried forward</i>	10,539.92
<i>Plus receipts for period 1st – 30th April 2004</i>	10,251.89
	TOTAL £20,791.81
<i>Minus payments made for the above period</i>	723.71
	TOTAL £20,068.10
<i>Made up as follows:- Current</i>	2,295.83
<i>High Interest</i>	17,772.27
	TOTAL £20,068.10

<i>VILLAGE HALLS FUND</i>	£1,950.00
<i>PARISH PATHS FUND</i>	£2,428.72
<i>PARISH PLAN FUND</i>	£1,093.65
<i>GENERAL FUNDS</i>	£14,595.73
TOTAL	£20,068.10

NEWSLETTER :

Income for period 1/4/03 – 30/04/04 £464.50 minus expenditure £173.19
= NET PROFIT £291.31

18. Members Business

Cllr Lane-Smith requested that the conduct of the meeting of 13th April be an item on the Agenda for the Extraordinary Meeting of 25th May.

19. Next Meeting

A meeting of the Council's Planning Cttee would take place on 25th May at 7.00pm at Halberton Village Hall followed by an Extraordinary Meeting of the PC at 7.30pm. A meeting of the Council's Planning Cttee would take place on 8th June at 7.00pm at Halberton Village Hall followed by an Ordinary Meeting of the PC at 7.30pm

The Meeting closed at 8.15pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED

Appendix: Amendment to Minute 245

Parish Plan

The meeting of the Steering Group met on 23rd March and had accepted the recommendations of the Topic Groups. A full report was made to the Parish Council (copy on file). As only two Parish Councillors (Cllrs Mrs Armstrong and Cllr Lane-Smith) had attended the meeting on 23rd March, the volunteers on the Steering Group had suggested that another meeting should be arranged so that the Parish Councillors would have the opportunity to understand the reasoning and statistical evidence used in making the recommendations. This was arranged for 28th April at 7.30pm in Halberton Village Hall. A letter was produced by Cllr Lane -Smith – in his capacity as Secretary to Halberton Club – and he declared an interest. The Clerk read out the letter, the gist of which was that the Club was proposing a scheme to provide a car park in conjunction with a new community centre on land behind the cemetery. After some discussion Cllr Mrs Armstrong said that the provision of a new community centre was not in the Parish Plan and was not something specifically requested by parishioners in their `wish list` when the results of the questionnaires had been analysed. Cllr Mrs Armstrong then asked how many other Parish Cllrs present were also members of the Club. Cllrs Radford, Gibbs and Hugill then declared an interest. (Cllr Lane-Smith having already done so earlier). The Vice-Chairman also declared an interest as he was the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Cttee. Cllr Mrs Armstrong then asked what the official title of the Club was, as she understood that they had recently become `limited`. Cllr Lane-Smith replied that `the Club was a charity` but was unable to give the Registered Charity Number. Clearly the request in the letter would have to be considered in more detail at a future meeting and the Chairman said that it could be discussed at the meeting of 28th April. Due to an oversight no Member had attended the recent course `Moving Parish Plans Forward`. The Clerk would send an apology to the Devon Association of Parish Councils and request the refund of the course fee. It was understood that the Countryside Agency had announced significant changes to its Vital Villages programme. Wef 1st April the Vital Village grant scheme would be closed to new applicants. However the PC would be unaffected as it had already been allocated its funding.

Car Parking

The Chairman and Cllr Radford said that they had done nothing about arranging for plans for the car park behind the cemetery (as they had agreed in March). Cllr Mrs Armstrong expressed her concern and disappointment that this matter was being delayed yet again.

