

# MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 25<sup>th</sup> MAY AT 8.00PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

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## **1. Present**

The Chairman, Cllrs Mesdames Armstrong, Fisher, and Hull, Cllrs Gibbs, Hugill, Lane-Smith, Radford, Saunders and ten members of the public

## **2. Public Forum**

As a number of members of the Public wished to raise matters concerning Halberton Club, the following PC Members declared an interest and left the room: Cllrs Hugill, Lane-Smith, Hugill and Radford. Mrs Lane-Smith advised that Halberton Club had formed a Steering Group and had had discussions with DCC. DCC according to Mrs Lane-Smith was supportive of the Club's aims to have a Sports Club. She was questioned about the term 'Sports Club' as it was understood in previous correspondence from Halberton Club that the proposed project had been referred to as a 'Community Centre'. She advised that the proposed project was now referred to as a 'Sports Club'. She also advised that as the Sports Club project and the Village Hall project would be considered to be two completely separate projects, with no over-lapping, then this would not affect the funding or other matters relating to them. Barry Corden expressed concern that there could be a duplication of services if the Sports Club went ahead, as Halberton Club was emphasising the provision of 'Community Services' in previous correspondence. However a representative from the Club advised that predominantly it was trying to provide sporting facilities for the village. Figures provided from the Parish Plan questionnaires, as to the need for sporting facilities, indicated that aerobics was the most favoured pursuit. However there was disagreement between Cllr Mrs Armstrong and Mrs Lane-Smith as to how the final figures had been gauged in respect of other activities. Mr Corden also expressed concern about the provision of a car park in the village being linked with a Sports Club. He believed the car park should be in the public domain and not in the domain of a private club.

## **3. Apologies**

The Vice-Chairman and Cllr Mrs Jepps

## **4. Parish Plan**

The Minutes of the Parish Plan Steering Group of 28<sup>th</sup> April had been circulated. It was proposed and carried that all the recommendations were carried. The next meeting was on 26<sup>th</sup> May when John Bodley Scott would meet with representatives from the Topic Groups.

## **5. Conduct of the Meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> April 2004**

A letter had been received from Mr P Brewer of Halberton Club advising that as far as he and Mr Stoneman were concerned (they had both been present at the meeting), they considered that the meeting had been properly conducted and chaired. A letter from Mr M Bull who supported the Village Hall project, and who was not present at the meeting questioned as to how the meeting had been conducted. A further letter had been received from Halberton Club responding to the points made in Mr Bull's letter. The letter was from Cllr Lane-Smith (in his capacity of Club Secretary). He had received permission from the Club to respond to the letter. However the letter would be considered in full at the June PC Meeting. Cllr Mrs Armstrong expressed concern that she had been unhappy with certain aspects of the meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> April. Her concerns which included Members of the PC only declaring interests when asked and not before (with the exception of Cllr Lane-Smith) had previously been discussed at the Ordinary PC Meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> May and minuted accordingly. She did however accept that no decisions had been made at the

meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> May. Cllr Mrs Armstrong wished to have it placed on record that she did not contact Mr Bull about any aspect of the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April. The Chairman advised that although there was no intention for the PC to act improperly it was up to individual members to declare their interests and the Clerk had in fact issued each member with a reminder of the Code of Conduct.

#### **6. Halberton Club`s Proposed Project of a Sporting Club and Car Park Facilities**

Concern was expressed by Cllr Mrs Armstrong about the Club`s proposal to have a car park in conjunction with the proposed Sports Club and she questioned as to whether this would be a private car park or a community car park. She considered that the car park scheme which she and her team had been working on and had obtained permission for, was in danger of being hi-jacked by the Club. She was most unhappy about this in view of the work which had gone into the project and particularly now, when progress was being made in getting it off the ground. Mr Stonemen advised that the car park would belong to the village and would not be restricted to Club members only. After more discussion it was proposed and seconded that in order for Cllr Mrs Armstrong`s project to proceed further that the Clerk would contact Roger Folley at DCC. He had previously met with the Chairman and Cllr Radford about the matter. She needed to remind him to supply the promised rough drawing of the proposed entrance at Cordwents and for the drawing to be supplied in time for the June PC Meeting.. It was further discussed that the provision of the car park would result in problems with the vicarage wall. It was suggested that the wall may be `listed` so it may not be possible to remove it. Other alternatives were discussed. The Club maintained that the provision of a Sports Club would be an advantage for the village; the facility would not harm the Village Hall project and its aim was simply to provide sporting facilities for the village. The Club would deal solely with the project. Cllr Mrs Armstrong questioned why the Club considered now to be the right time for the project when it had only recently renewed its lease. It was understood that the Club had for some considerable time wished to expand and although the lease had recently been renewed, there were break clauses in it, to allow it to terminate the lease before the term had expired. As far as the Club was concerned an opportunity had arisen and it wanted to act on it accordingly. The Chairman advised that the PC hoped that the Village Hall Cttee and the Club Steering Group could work together and any differences be put aside. He indicated that the PC had no wish to involve itself with either project, although if the Club submitted a planning application then the PC would at that stage be able to make comments about the application. After more discussion Cllr Mrs Armstrong made the following proposition which was seconded `The Club as a private organisation, would need to go through the procedures and processes which any private organisation would have to go through, in respect of a build project` .

The meeting closes at 9.00pm

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**CHAIRMAN**

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**DATED**