

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON
TUESDAY, 10TH APRIL 2007 AT 7.00PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL**

246. Present

The Chairman (K Browse), Vice-Chairman (B Lane-Smith) Cllrs Cooper, Gibbs, Radford, Saunders, Mesdames Fisher and Jepps, C.Cllr Des Hannon, Sgt Kitcherside and PC Dodd

247. Public Forum

No questions were raised

248. Apologies

Cllrs Mesdames Armstrong and Hull and Judy Austin

249. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meetings of 13th March 2007 were approved and signed

250. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- i. It was understood that only one street name was now required for the former Townsend House development, `Greenacre`, which the PC had previously approved.
- ii. Cllr Saunders advised that he had still not been contacted by DCC about the problems of large vehicles driving through Brithem Bottom, despite the Clerk requesting on two occasions for this to be carried out. The missing name sign adjacent to 14 Cross Parks had not been replaced either, despite a request by the Clerk. C.Cllr Hannon asked the Clerk to forward him details of the aforementioned in order that he could chase these matters up.
- iii. The Chairman would chase up Julie Woolley at TDCTA regarding a formal request for a donation from the PC, as the Clerk had still not received this.
- iv. The Clerk had not received a reply from Orbital Signs re the sign for the Rec`. She had sent the PC's specifications and had requested a formal quote but nothing had been received to date. She would chase up the Company.

251. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman was pleased to see that work had started on the affordable housing development at Pethertons. The level of water had dropped significantly in the canal due to a leak which had now been plugged. Water had been pumped back into the canal to bring the levels back to near normal. Cllr Mrs Jepps indicated to the Chairman that although she had prepared the buffet for last year's Annual Parish Meeting (which was excellent!) she was quite happy for Judy Austin to prepare it this year. The Clerk to ask Judy whether she would be willing to carry out the task. The Chairman advised that a road closure order would be in place for the Mid Devon Show but buses would still be allowed to operate. The Chairman read out a letter of resignation from Cllr Mrs Fisher and a note of apology from Cllr Mrs Hull as to why she would be unable to attend her final PC Meeting. The Chairman explained that he wanted to speak later on in the meeting about the Cllrs who would not be standing for a further term.

252. Police Matters

PC Dodd and Sgt Kitcherside were present at the meeting. PC Dodd apologised to the PC for the tone of his e-mail regarding the speeding situation in Halberton. In order to take the matter forward he explained that a further traffic survey would be carried out and this would be by mechanical means which would provide a more realistic picture of the speed of vehicles travelling through the village. The equipment would be discretely sited and would be in situ for a minimum period of 1 week. The PC expressed its appreciation for this course of action. PC Dodd was still

of the view that the speeding problems would be reduced if a pavement was constructed along specific sections of the High Street. However members of the PC advised that when officers from DCC's highways dept had inspected the area some time ago with a view to the possibility of laying a pavement, they had concluded that the width of the road was too narrow to accommodate a pavement and also it would not be possible to construct a pavement in the vicinity of Willand Road as it would be too close to the road bend and the junction. Mr Slack, parishioner, had suggested that the speed problems in Halberton should be highlighted further by the publication of articles in the local press. However the Chairman was of the view that the results of the mechanical speed check should be considered initially before taking any further action. The PC confirmed its consent to this. PC Dodd advised that there had been complaints received concerning noisy youths in the village on two specific occasions. The crime figures so far this year, matched the numbers of the previous year. Sgt Kitcherside provided information about neighbourhood policing, with the introduction of Police Community Support Officers. A PCSO would be working alongside PC Dodd. PCSOs were intended to provide visible reassurance and proactively prevent crime, disorder and anti social behaviour. Sgt Kitcherside did however indicate that the numbers of PCSO's were less than what had been initially promised by the government.

253.DCC Matters

1. Cllr Hannon asked that the Clerk e-mail him details of the following problems which he would look into:-

- a. The hedge running from 26 High Street, which needed cutting
 - b. Potholes in the road at Muxbeare Road which required filling in
2. It was noted that the unclassified road from Rowridge Cross – Crosslands – The Old School Ash Thomas would be closed from 14th – 25th May due to works being carried out by South West Water. The alternative route would be Rowridge – Pigsfoot – Crow Green - Ash - Ash Thomas

254. igh Street, which had raised various safety issues.

Mid Devon District Council

- i. The Clerk had received a response from Ms Stainwright, Planning Officer of the Forward Planning and Conservation Division, regarding the PC's suggestions for possible land usage in Halberton. Ms Stainwright had made various points about the PC's request for consideration to be given for land to be used as a car park. She seemed to be unaware that the PC had already been liaising with Alison Fish, Planning Officer about this matter. It was suggested that the Clerk write to Ms Stainwright to advise her of this and suggest she spoke to Ms Fish to seek the up to date position which would confirm that the PC was negotiating with DCC, was about to have plans drawn of the intended scheme, have the land surveyed and was actively seeking funding. The PC was also seeking the formal support of the school and the church authorities in respect of the scheme.
- ii. Tewkebury Borough Council was seeking the support of local councils to support the motion that the Government should reinstate the free parcel delivery service to British Forces and their families who were stationed overseas. Des Browne MP, the Secretary of State for Defence had already responded to MDDC's letter of support, by giving full information as to what free services British forces and their families already received and that in view of all these provisions and benefits that there was no plans to extend the free packet scheme. There was much discussion by the PC and although it was resolved by the PC to support the motion, Cllr Mrs Jepps and Cllr Cooper abstained from voting on the issue.

255. Newsletter

The Clerk advised that she had made a miscalculation regarding the income from the Newsletter for the year end figure and in fact the statement she had made in the March PC minutes about the Newsletter likely to be in deficit was incorrect. The Clerk had spoken to Judy Austin about the matter and had apologised for the error. The Newsletter had in fact made a profit of £235.50. However, Judy recommended that there should still be a small increase in advertising rates. The PC on this recommendation resolved that the Newsletter rates be increased to the following:-

Full Back Page	£13.25	(Increase of 65p)
Full inside page	£11	(Increase of 50p)
Half Page	£6	(Increase of 25p)
Quarter Page	£3.30	(Increase of 15p)

256. Cemetery

i. Ian Quance, Assistant Bereavement Services Manager at Exeter City Council, had enquired as to whether PCs in the south west were interested in setting up a discussion group at which various issues could be raised eg unsafe and abandoned memorials, the reusing of graves etc. There was much discussion by the PC and it was concluded that although the PC was quite interested in a group being formed, it was suggested that this should be a web site forum whereby members could log in and raise comments/ideas/suggestions. It was considered that as people led busy lives, attending formal meetings was often not an option and a web based forum would be a sensible, cost effective and time-saving option.

ii. The Clerk had received a request from Alan Norrish regarding the placing of a small stone tablet on grave number 32. The PC raised no objection to this request.

257. Pond Area – Safety Issues

A toddler had recently fallen into the pond and a parishioner had expressed concern about safety issues following the incident. There was much debate about this matter by the PC. The PC had been troubled by the incident. However the pond was privately owned and therefore its hands were tied as to what action it could take. It was noted that this was the first recorded incident of its kind and also it had occurred at night. The PC concluded that it was a most unfortunate accident and the situation would continue to be monitored.

258. Equipment for the Rec` - Revised Quotes

The Clerk advised that she had not submitted the quotes as yet to MDDC for consideration, as she had had to raise a number of queries regarding the quotes with Graham Isaac and also arrange for proper formal quotes to be obtained rather than relying on e-mail quotes which she considered would not be satisfactory for MDDC. In addition, the quote of £10,065 which Mr Isaac had stated at last months meeting for FRC was an error. In order to simplify matters the Clerk produced a table of all the quotes received. The PC considered them and confirmed that the quotes (shown in bold print) were agreed and accepted (and which totalled approx £15946) and that the Clerk could now submit all the details to MDDC for consideration

Quotes for safety surfacing

Supplier	Product	Quantity	Price	Delivery Cost	Vat	Total Cost
*Tebbutt Asso	Kiddibounce	15.2 tonnes	£2584	£420	£525.70	£3529.70
Dunweedon	Rubber	As Above	£5,700	Included	£997.50	£6697.50

	Chippings			in cost		
Ecoscope	Rubber mulch	15 tonnes	£12,000	£675	£2218.12	£14,893.12

Quotes for Swings

Supplier	Product	Price	Vat	Total Cost
*FRS	2 x Swings, barriers and installation	£1681.68	£294.30	£1975.98
SNC Exeter	As above (inc delivery)	£1950	£345.80	£2295.80
Kompan	As above	£2450	£428.75	£2878.75

Quotes for Main Play Equipment

Supplier	Product	Price	Vat	Total Cost
*FRS	Junior Tower and sit on springer	£10600	£1855	£12,455.00
Kompan	Crazy Gander and Combination Structure	£14,310	£2504.25	£16,814.25
SNC Exeter	Ellesmere Unit and Spring Rocker	£8,235	£1441.13	£9,676.13

Ground Work

*I J Webber & Sons	Removal of existing surfacing etc	£660	£115.50	£775.50
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Mr Isaac was thanked for all his help and assistance with the project.

259. Donation Request by Shelter

After some discussion it was agreed to make a donation of £50 to the organisation.

260. Car Park/Footpath Update

The site meeting of 19th March was attended by Mark Copleston of Midas Homes, Alison Fish of MDDC, Meg Booth and Tony Matthews of DCC, CCLr Des Hannon and representatives from the PC. It was a most productive meeting. It was clear that the PC would have to justify the need for the project to satisfy MDDC. Alison Fish had sent a follow-up e-mail in which she made various points including the fact that the whole of the site was located in the conservation area and that she had various concerns including access to and from the site, the number of proposed car parking spaces and the visual impact of cars being parked at the location. She suggested that the PC should contact DCC's Archaeological Services to enquire whether it would require an archaeological investigation as part of any planning process. It was resolved that the Clerk should make enquiries in this respect. It was also understood that the Clerk had received two quotes from surveying firms in respect of a land survey. It was agreed that the quotes should be considered at the next PC meeting when by then the third quote should have been received. In addition, the Clerk to write to the headmaster of Halberton School, the Secretary of PCC, and Sue Nelson of Halberton Primary School Association to request formal letters of support for the project in which they would need to provide evidence of need. The Chairman also advised that the Exe Valley Plan proposals indicated a requirement for a car park in the area so the Plan organisers would be very much supportive of the PC's proposals for a car park scheme. The Chairman would follow up this matter with Neil Hamlyn of the Exe Valley Project to see if there would be any funding available

261. Planning Applications for consideration

<u>Planning App No</u>	<u>Name/Address</u>	<u>Details</u>
07/0422/FULL	Mr N A Worden, Heron`s Bank , Five Bridges	Replacement dwelling

PC`s COMMENTS: The PC objected to the application on the grounds that the proposed dwelling would be a visual intrusion, it would be against planning policy, it would be development in open countryside and further, there appeared to be no agricultural or forestry need for the erection of the dwelling

07/00505/FULL	Mr A Woodman, The Rookery, Mountstephen Farm	Alterations, installation of fittings and change of use of redundant farm building to live/work unit
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PC`s COMMENTS:- The PC had no objection to the application subject to MDDC considering the property as being worthy of conversion

07/0510/FULL	Mr S W Persey, Langlands Business Park	Erection of general purposes building for B1, B2 and B3 use
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PC`s COMMENTS:- The PC had no objection to the application as long as the square footage of the building did not exceed the total square footage of the site previously granted

262. Planning Decisions received from MDDC

<u>Planning Ref</u>	<u>Name/Address</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>No. of Conditions</u>
07/00111/FULL	Mr S Burge, 3 High St, Halberton	Granted	4
07/00153/CAT	Mr & Mrs Nuttall-Owen, The Forge	Granted	
07/00215/FULL	C J Parish & Sons, Mountstephens Farm	Granted	3
07/00221/FULL	D H Foot Ltd, Old Bridwell, Uffculme	Granted	5
06/02643/FULL	Mr & Mrs M Stanley, Sunnymead Five Bridges	Granted	7

263. Miscellaneous Planning Matters

i. Planning App No. 07/00008/FULL – Mrs D J Squire, The Annexe, 64 High St, - Change of use of annexe to permanent dwelling

Mrs Squire had now submitted an Appeal in respect of MDDC`s decision to refuse the above mentioned application. The appeal would be decided on an exchange of written statements.

ii. Mid Devon Boat Hire Advertisement Sign

The Clerk had contacted Alison Fish about the advertising sign. Ms Fish was currently investigating the matter.

iii. Hartnoll Farm

Cllr Radford had spoken to Clive Dines, Planning Officer at MDDC about the PC`s concerns that there was possible industrial use of some of the units at the farm, taking place, without the relevant planning consents being obtained. Mr Dines had advised that at present there were 22

tenants at the farm complex , with 15 more on the waiting list for units. In the future, agriculture could change significantly which could mean tenants being permitted to apply for change of use of the units from agricultural to industrial use. Mr Guscott had also stated at the last meeting that he would get his Enforcement Officer to check out the current situation at the units but to date the Clerk had not heard further from him. She would chase up the matter.

iv. Planning Time Limits for PC to submit its comments re planning applications to MDDC

With regard to Cllr Mrs Jepps concerns and dismay with the planning deadlines operating at MDDC with regard to the response times for the PC to submit its comments, (in particular with regard to Mrs Squires` application aforementioned), it was agreed that if any controversial applications were received which needed a decision prior to any Ordinary PC Meeting then it would be necessary to hold an extra planning meeting. This would then ensure that the PC`s comments would be received by MDDC before any cut-off dates and would be taken into account in the planning process.

264. Committee Reports

i. Communications, Footpaths & Environment

It was noted that on one of the public footpaths at Ash Thomas a sign had been erected by the landowner warning people about dogs in the vicinity. The path was a public right of way and in view of this, dogs should not be roaming around and the sign should be removed. C.Cllr Hannon would look into the matter. The Chairman advised that Stuart, Footpaths Warden, had recently surveyed the footpaths and had concluded that the paths in the Parish of Halberton were the best he had come across in any parish with regard to condition etc. The Chairman was of the view that the PC in conjunction with Mr Page who maintained the footpaths on the PC`s behalf, were obviously doing something right and he was very pleased with Stuart`s verdict!!

ii. Amenities

There had been no progress with the planters which for the moment would be put on the back burner.

265. Clerk`s Report

The Clerk had nothing to report other than she felt all the equipment which the PC had so generously purchased over the previous months, on her behalf , ensured that she was able to carry out her job as Clerk more effectively and efficiently. She was very grateful.

266. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST – 31ST MARCH 2007:

Bank Interest	23.96
Newsletter	224.11
Cemetery	100.00
DCC – Footpaths	385.00
Grant	
Inland Rev	250.00
Repy of tax	
2004/05	
TOTAL	£983.07

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST – 31ST MARCH 2007 £597.97

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Cheque No	Amount	Vat	Total	Details
1087	21.48		21.48	Mrs C J McIntyre – repayment costs stamps
1088	243.88		243.88	Mrs C McIntyre – salary April/May
1089	13.38	2.34	15.72	Education Matters – photocopying costs
1090	246.55	43.15	289.70	Education Matters – production costs
1091	15.00		15.00	J Austin – delivery of Newsletters
1092	50.00		50.00	Victim Support Devon – Donation
1093	331.00	57.93	388.93	Gardencare – grass cutting March
1094	11.52		11.52	Mrs C McIntyre – repayment of cost of postage stamps

All the above invoices were approved for payment

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	15468.29
Plus Receipts for period 1 st – 31 ST March	983.07
	TOTAL £16451.36
Minus Payments made for the above Period	597.97
	TOTAL £15853.39

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	13660.31
Current A/c	2193.08
	TOTAL £15853.39

VILLAGE HALL FUNDS	400.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	2113.79
PARISH PLAN FUND	433.54
GENERAL FUNDS	12906.06
TOTAL	£15853.39

Halberton Newsletter: Income for Period 1st April 2006 – 31st March 2007 = £1845.08 less expenditure of £1609.58 = net profit of £235.50

267. Accounts Matters

The Clerk advised that subscription renewal reminders had been received from DAPC and Devon Playing Fields Association in the sums of £229 and £15 respectively. After some discussion it was agreed that the PC should pay both subscriptions.

268. Members Business

i. The Vice-Chairman again advised of flooding problems near the speed hump adjacent to his property. CCllr Hannon would investigate.

ii. Cllr Gibbs advised that complaints had been received about the recent grass cutting of the Mead, in that it had been cut in such a way to make it unsuitable for playing football on. As it was possibly the first cut of the season it was considered that this may be the reason for the problem occurring. Cllr Gibbs would monitor the situation and report back at the May PC Meeting.

iii. The Vice-Chairman expressed surprise that due to cost cutting, officers from MDDC were now unable to come out and give advice regarding the cutting down/trimming of trees. It

appeared however that once a planning application was submitted by a landowner to cut down/trim a tree which was either subject to a TPO or in a Conservation Area then an officer would come and meet the landowner to assess the situation and offer advice at that point.

iv. Cllr Radford explained that an officer at MDDC was investigating land ownership of a road by Rock View which was in a poor state of repair but which was in an area in which a number of elderly persons lived. Age Concern apparently had highlighted this problem

v. The Cordwents hedge (travelling from Halberton to Canal Bridge) had still not been cut by the landowner. This should have been carried out before the end of March. CCllr Hannon would investigate.

vi. The school sign needed to be re-erected (it was currently laid on its side at Pethertons). CCllr Hannon would deal with the matter.

269. Chairman's Thanks

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Cllr Mrs Armstrong and Mrs Hull and also Cllr Constable for the help and support given during their time on the Parish Council. In addition he gave special thanks to Cllr Cooper and Cllr Mrs Fisher who had between them served the Parish Council of Halberton for over 60 years. They had made an enormous contribution and had served the Parish extremely well and effectively. They would be very much missed. A small buffet had been prepared in their honour by the Chairman and his wife to express the appreciation of the PC.

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iii. ugill

270. Next Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday, 8th May 2007 at Halberton Village Hall at

The Meeting ended at 9.30pm

DATE

CHAIRMAN

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