

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 10TH DECEMBER 2002 AT 7.30PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

156. Present

The Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Hugill, Payne, Radford, Saunders, Mesdames Armstrong, Fisher, Hull, Jepps and Lunn, and four Members of the Public

157. Apologies

The Chairman

158. Introduction of New Parish Councillors

Cllrs Mrs Pat Armstrong, and Mrs Brenda Hull, recently co-opted onto the PC were warmly welcomed to the meeting by the Vice-Chairman who chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chairman. At this point membership of the PC's various Committees was reviewed and adjustments made.

159. Public Forum

Concern was expressed as to the extent of dog fouling in Ash Thomas. It was unlikely that action could be taken to stop this problem but the Clerk to contact MDDC's Environmental Health Dept for guidance. Mr Barrie Corden and others of the Village Hall Management Cttee expressed grave concern about the suggestion that the PC and others may be looking into the possibility of having a new village hall built on the edge of the village near the cemetery. He expressed disquiet at the fact that a meeting to discuss the matter had taken place on 2nd December without the Village Hall Mgt Cttee being invited. Jan Johnstone of the Cttee stated that some of the £250,000 funding that the Cttee had managed to secure to carry out extensive modernisation work to the existing hall may well now be lost. It was also understood that 5 years ago parishioners were consulted about having a new village hall built on the edge of the village. Most parishioners at that time indicated that the hall should be in a central location. Cllr Mrs Armstrong read out the notes she had taken at the meeting of 2nd December at which there had been representation from various agencies. At the meeting it was understood that DCC had surplus land in the vicinity of the cemetery which it was suggested could be developed in an innovative way. Any development would have to be for the benefit of the community and there would have to be an overall plan (not piecemeal) for such development to take place. 'Commitment, Clout and Capital' would be required to get scheme off the ground. There would also have to be full public consultation. A further meeting had been arranged for 19th December at the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Officers from MDDC and DCC would be attending. Mrs Armstrong would ensure that an invitation was sent to the Village Hall Mgt Cttee as well as Mr Bodley Scott and all Members of the PC.

160. The Minutes of:-

- i. The Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 12th November 2002 were approved subject to the following amendments:
 - Para 153 (iii) delete the remainder of the sentence after 'sherry' and insert 'for the next Parish Council Meeting'
 - Para 154 The spelling of Mr Ardwick's name was incorrect. Remove 'Ardwick' and insert 'Adwick'
- ii. The Cemetery Cttee Meeting of 26th November 2002 were approved
- iii. The Amenities Cttee Meeting of 26th November 2002 were approved
- iv. The Highways Cttee Meeting of 26th November 2002 were not available

161. Matters Arising

- i. Mr Buscombe of MDDC had advised that investigations were being carried out to ascertain whether the wire mesh fencing at the Mead/Pathertons was MDDC's responsibility; the abandoned sofa had been referred to the Operations Dept to be collected; letters had been sent out to tenants at Crossparks to clear rubbish away from their gardens; the grounds maintenance request for Rock View was passed to Ian Quance of MDDC to deal with
- ii. Cpt Cornish, Chairman of The Royal British Legion acknowledged receipt of the PC's donation.
- iii. Mr Densham of MDDC advised that Contract Payments for the Local Improvement Scheme amounted to £13,825 and staff time allocations amounted to £2,672. He also advised that proofs of the Interpretation board had been received from the printers. These had been confirmed as satisfactory and final copies would now be produced; the Housing Dept., had written to residents of Orchard view seeking their views on the adoption of the road and footways as public; land ownership enquiries were being made regarding the relocation of the village sign on the Willand road; stone for the planters around the village signs would be sourced as for the Pond Hill planter as agreed with the Vice Chairman; work to the planters would not commence until the PC had consulted with DCC about the provision of village signs. The offer of land for car parking had been concluded without it being pursued further.
- iv. Mr P Williams, Chairman of the Grand Western Canal Advisory Board had acknowledged receipt of the Council's donation of £200 towards the cost of the opening footbridge at the Tiverton Road Bridge Car Park.

162. Declarations made by new Parish Councillors

Mrs Armstrong and Mrs Hull both made their declarations of Acceptance of Office of Councillor in the presence of the Parish Council in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

163. Chairman's Announcements (made by the Vice-Chairman in the Chairman's absence)

- i. A quote of £200 plus delivery charge of £70 had been obtained in respect of rubber safety granules for the playing field. It was agreed that other quotes should be obtained and the item placed on the January Agenda for further discussion.
- ii. A parishioner from Boyes Close had complained about a horse fouling on the footpath near her home. The Vice- Chairman thought he might know the identity of the horse's owner and would speak to her about the complaint.
- iii. The Chairman and Ctte of the Halberton Village Carol Festival had invited all members of the PC to their Carol Service on Sunday, 22nd December at 6.00pm at the Parish Church.

164. Ash Thomas Village Hall

A request for funding towards the cost of work which had been carried out would be considered at the Precept Meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Tuesday, 14th January 2003 at Ash Thomas Village Hall.

165. Tiverton Town Council

The Town Council was intending to draw up a Parish/Town Plan and within the exercise would be considering the matter of local transport adequacy. It wished to seek the views of the PC and whether or not it wished to be involved in initial discussions etc. The Clerk to reply that the PC

was interested and for the Town Council to keep it informed of developments. However at the same time to advise that the PC was intending to draw up its own Parish Plan.

166. Mid Devon Community Planning Alliance

The item to be considered at the January Parish Council Meeting.

167. Police Matters

The Clerk had copies available of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary and Police Authority Joint Annual Report for 2001/02, for any persons interested.

168. MDDC Matters

- i. A letter had been received from MDDC's Corporate Public Relations Co-ordinator encouraging persons residing in the District to consider standing as a Councillor. The Clerk had details available for any persons interested.
- ii. The Clerk advised about the Devon Local Network Fund which was a government grant making programme targeted towards children and young people up to 19 yrs. Grants of between £250 and £7,000 were available for projects tackling economic disadvantage etc. The Clerk had full details available for interested persons.
- iii. Dave Scott from Forward Planning had written again about the funding available for the provision or improvements of Play Areas or Public Open Spaces. The Clerk to ascertain from him whether the installation of rubber safety granules would constitute an improvement and also to ascertain the latest possible date of when funding had to be claimed.

169. DCC Matters

A copy of DCC'S Local Bus Information Strategy was available from the Clerk to all interested parties. The Clerk advised that a draft document was made the subject of consultation earlier this year by DCC, involving approximately seven hundred and fifty consultees. However only twenty seven responses were received.

170. Meetings Attended

- i. Culm Area Committee – 13th November 2002 at 7.00pm at Hemyock Primary School Hall
The Vice-Chairman attended this.
- ii. Mid Devon Association of Local Councils – 25th November 2002 at 7.30pm at Tiverton Town Hall
Cllr Hugill attended this
- iii. NHS Trust Meeting – 26th November 2002
Cllr Mrs Fisher attended this. She advised that no decision about the surgery at Halberton would be taken until Dr Sheridan returned in January. The plans for the new Tiverton Hospital were on display on 10th December in the Pannier Market. The proposed completion date of the new hospital was 2004. Scans were now being carried out during longer working hours at Exeter to reduce the waiting list. The amalgamation of the North Devon and Exeter Trusts was still being considered.
- iv. The Opening of the Tiverton Footbridge – 30th November 2002
The Vice-Chairman and other members of the PC attended this
- v. Parish Plan Meeting – 5th December 2002 at 7.30 at Halberton Village Hall
John Bodley Scott presented the meeting which was attended by some of the Members of the PC. The subject to be an item on the January Agenda.
- vi. Parish Paths Partnership Christmas Event – 7th December 2002 at the Peter Chalk Centre
The Vice-Chairman and Cllr Mrs Lunn attended.

171.Future Meetings

- i. Canal Advisory Cttee Meeting – 7th January 2003 at Tiverton Town Hall
- ii. Culm Area Committee – 29th January 2003 at 7.00pm at the Duchy School

172.Committee Reports

i. Cemetery

Cllr Saunders would look at the problem of the headstones and consider what action needed to be taken. The Clerk would make an application to MDDC for the removal of the dead fir tree as it was situated in a Conservation area. Cllr Mrs Fisher to deal with disposal of waste from the cemetery

ii. Amenities

The quote prepared by the Halberton Flower Group for the raised garden down at the pond was too expensive. The Clerk to contact the organiser to request a cheaper quote. Cllr Hugill was the only PCllr who had remembered to turn up to walk along the canal on 1st December, to consider which amenities in the Parish close to the canal should be signed. Cllr Hugill would liaise with Members to arrange another date. MDDC would need this information by 7th January. Cllr Payne would advertise in the `Newsletter`, MDDC's request for any willing landowners to consider giving up a small area of land close to the Canal Bridges in view of the lack of parking places. This would then enable layby type parking for 2/3 vehicles. It was agreed that the PC would enter the `Best Kept Village` and the `Village of the Year` competitions for 2003.

iii. Footpaths

A parishioner had reported a damaged sign on Footpath 10. The matter would be investigated. It was noted that some signs on other paths had either `disappeared` or had been damaged. The Footpath Surveys needed to be undertaken soon.

iv. Highways

Cllr Payne had met with an Officer from DCC to examine further the highway matters in the village, particularly along the High Street which included the area outside number `26`. It was suggested that a request to the developers of Millstream Gardens and Orpington Court be made requesting they make a contribution towards the cost of traffic calming works required to the High Street, as the developments had resulted in extra traffic movements in the village. A letter would be prepared to this effect to be brought to the next PC Meeting for consideration. Complaints had been raised about users of the Village Hall not using the designated car park but parking their vehicles in areas which were causing a nuisance. The Vice- Chairman would bring the matter to the attention of the Village Hall Cttee. It was considered that the proposed adoption of Orchard View would ease traffic parking problems. The provision of restricting all traffic to 20mph limit in the village was being pursued.

173.Clerk`s Report

- i. The Clerk advised that St Johns Ambulance Training had obtained funding from the Learning Skills Council to allow it to offer 3 hour basic First Aid Awareness courses at a reduced rate for a limited period. The Clerk had attended a course recently which she highly recommended. The cost would be £10 per candidate + vat. However for a group of 8 – 12 persons, the course would be £50 + vat. It was agreed that the course should be advertised around the village and in the Feb/March Newsletter to gauge the interest.
- ii. The Clerk had full details of various workshops running from January – March by the Community Council of Devon, if any member was interested. The courses were

entitled 'Consulting with Communities', 'Toolkit Training – Community Planning' and 'Toolkit Training – Community Profiles and Engaging with your Community'.

174.Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST – 30TH NOVEMBER 2002:

Bank Interest 17.55
TOTAL £17.55

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST – 30th November 2002 £843.85

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

<i>Cheque No</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>VAT</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Details</i>
100657	208.73		208.73	Mrs C McIntyre – Salary (less tax deduction)
100658	80.00		80.00	A Tindle – Grass Cutting Cemetery Oct
100659	10.00		10.00	Education Matters – reimbursement delivery fee
100060	48.00		48.00	SLCC – Membership Fee
100061	74.60		74.60	Mrs C McIntyre – Quarterly Expenses (Internet, Telephone and mileage)
100062	4.71		4.71	South West Water – water charges re cemetery
100063	161.36		161.36	Education Matters

The above were approved for payment

Balance of bank accounts carried forward 13,611.37
Plus receipts for period 1st – 30th November 2002 17.55
TOTAL £13,628.92
Minus payments made for the above period 843.85
TOTAL £12,785.07

Made up as follows:- Current 216.33
High Interest 12,568.74
TOTAL £12,785.07

VILLAGE HALLS FUND £ 4,000.00
PARISH PATHS FUND £1,518.72
GENERAL FUNDS £7,266.35

NEWSLETTER : *Income for period 1/4/02 – 30/11/02 = £607.08*
(£688.75 has also been collected but this is in respect of previous years advertising fees)
Expenditure for above period = £634.22
DEFICIT £27.14

175.Members Business

- i. The dumping of items near the railway bridge was raised but it was understood that as this was on private land, no action could be taken.
- ii. It was noted that Cullompton Area Development Initiative (CADI) hosted a 'Vision Day' on 23rd November at Cullompton Community College which was held as part of the consultation process for the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative which would provide a gateway to significant funding opportunities for the Cullompton Area. The Initiative covered Halberton. The Clerk had informed each Councillor of the event in advance.
- iii. Cllr Saunders was thanked for obtaining a Christmas tree for the village.
- iv. The Clerk to request from Mrs Onley-Gregson an updated governors report on the school's progress for the PC's February PC Meeting.

176.Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.35pm. The next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting would be on Tuesday, 14th January 2003 at 7.30pm at Ash Thomas Village Hall. A Precept Meeting at 7.00pm would precede it.