

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH
COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY 2009 AT 7.30PM AT
HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

200. Present

The Chairman (Cllr Browse), Vice-Chairman (Cllr Britton), Cllrs Mesdames Cuthbert, Jepps and Johnstone, *Corden, Gibbs *Radford and Saunders, CCllr Des Hannon, Beat Officer Katie Rich, DCC Assistant Area Engineer – Darran Queenan and three members of the public

*Cllrs Corden and Radford had to leave the meeting early due to other engagements

201. Apologies

There were none

202. Public Forum

There were no issues raised.

203. Introduction of Darran Queenan – DCC Highway's Officer

CCllr Hannon introduced Darran to the meeting and advised that he would be the officer who would be covering Halberton. Darran advised what his role would involve and that he had already walked around the village and had taken note of outstanding matters in the village which required appropriate action. These included:-

- i. trimming of hedges
- ii. the paving slabs around Church Path were slippery and the whole surface of the road near Willhayes had deteriorated
- iii. there were still no signs in situ at Brithem Bottom warning large lorries not to use the lanes (if they drove their vehicles along the lanes in error there was no place to turn round and then they had to reverse all the way back!)
- iv. Part of the white lines from the virtual pavement were missing

It was understood that if there were any other highway matters which required attention, in the first instance the PC to contact 'My Devon' but if no action was subsequently taken then Darran should be e-mailed. The Chairman thanked Darran on behalf of the PC for attending the PC Meeting

204. DCC Matters

- i. The Clerk advised that the Secretary of State for Local Government and Communities, Hazel Blears had extended the deadline by which the Boundary Ctte must provide its advice on local government reorganisation in Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk from February 13th to 15th July 2009
- ii. It was agreed that the Bio Diversity Audit be circulated amongst the PC members and the item be included on the March Agenda for further consideration
- iii CCllr Hannon advised that the drains under Lower Town had been jetted and that DCC would re-dig the lagoon on the upper side of the road. It would an on-going matter and the drain would be checked regularly.
- iv. CCllr Hannon advised that he had now been provided with evidence from local residents about the incidents which had occurred at Willand Road and that a suggested site visit would be useful. It was understood that another vehicle had come off the road recently and had gone into a field

205. Police Matters

Katie advised that there had been very few incidents. During the adverse weather, snowball fights were causing problems but no actual damage had resulted. Cllr Corden unfortunately had had his trailer stolen. A driver had been spotted speeding down the High Street but so far had not been traced. A vehicle being towed, hit a property at Orpington Court. It was agreed that the Incident Sheet produced by Copplestone Parish Council whereby parishioners could record details of speeding vehicles would be included in the next edition of the Newsletter and in addition, a number produced for the Farm Shop. The sheet to be e-mailed to Cllr Mrs Cuthbert. The Neighbourhood Watch overall Co-ordinator position was currently vacant. Katie would bring the speed signs to the March PC Meeting ('This Neighbourhood is Watching Your Speed!') Katie needed to obtain authority for the signs and also to secure funding. Katie was booked into the Mid Devon Show. She would also arrange to visit the Methodist Youth Club and would be happy to visit the Lunch Club in the Village Hall. After some discussion it was agreed that the seat be removed from the bus shelter. It was agreed that if litter was still a problem in the vicinity of the bus shelter a litter bin would need to be installed.

206. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of 13th January 2009 were approved un-amended

207. Matters Arising

- i. Cllr Radford had obtained information about the type of bins available for the cemetery. It was still unclear as to what would be the most appropriate type. It was understood that if the PC had a domestic 240 litre brown wheeled bin the rubbish would be collected free of charge every two weeks. However if it had a commercial bin this would take flowers, grass cuttings etc. The Clerk to ascertain from Mr Pilling at MDDC how often the commercial bin would be collected, the costs involved and what could be placed inside it.
- ii. The Clerk had been advised by Dan Meek at DCC that he had not been able to make contact with the tenant about the caravan presently sited on the farm at Cordwents but had left a message for the Tenant to contact him when available
- iii. The Clerk had received details of Mr Smale's insurance cover. The tender specification had stated £5,000,000 public liability cover. Mr Smale's insurance cover specified – Public Liability £2,500,000 and Products Liability £2,500,000. The PC indicated that this would be sufficient.
- iv. The Clerk advised that notices had been displayed around the village advertising for two councillors to be co-opted onto the PC. The cut off date was 28th February but so far she had not received any formal responses. She suggested that if any PCllrs were aware of any parishioners who may be interested in applying to let them have the details and to make them aware of the cut off date.
- v. The Clerk had made enquiries about other safety inspectors carrying out the inspection of the play equipment but it appeared that Rospa was possibly the cheapest organisation to carry this out. The PC agreed that it would continue to use Rospa for the present time.
- vi. Cllr Saunders advised that work was in progress for the layering of the hedge at the pond
- vii. The keys for the Cemetery and the Rec had now been returned
- viii. The Chairman would follow up the matter of the overgrown shrubs etc which were obscuring a light at Pond Hill, with the landowners
- ix. The old oak tree in Ash Thomas was estimated to be over 100years old but sadly now appeared to be in want of replacing. Cllr Saunders would canvas the residents in the area as to their thoughts about the matter.

- x. Cllr Saunders advised that the small Victorian light outside the small chapel at Ash Thomas had been provided by Mr Bill Bowman for the benefit of the churchgoers.
- xi. A written list was needed to be produced for the Community Services Team (the Clerk would check the previous minutes about items which needed attention and also to obtain contact details for the Team)
- xii. Gordon McGovern from MDDC had advised that the race organiser at Upplowman had assured him that all efforts would be made including signs and announcements to dissuade visitors from emptying their chemical toilets in hedges etc in the vicinity of the racetrack during or after future meetings. He was told that the organisers considered this to be a serious matter and a practice that was considered unacceptable. He will monitor the situation throughout the year and take any appropriate action.

208. Chairman`s Announcements

There were none

209. Mid Devon District Council Matters

- i. To help support the government initiative to get children more active, the Exe Valley Leisure Centre in Tiverton was opening up their swimming lesson programme to newcomers, especially those that could not swim or were not confident enough to use swimming pools regularly. Exe Valley Leisure Centre would offer them free swimming during public sessions for the duration of the course they were enrolled on. The cost of the 10 week course was only £40.50 and there were limited spaces
- ii. A recent research project into Tiverton Parkway railway station had been a great success, with over 500 survey responses being returned. Mid Devon Transport Group would consider key issues after receiving a final report at end of February
- iii. Mid Devon householders were being urged to continue sorting their waste for recycling despite reports from elsewhere in the UK that local councils were having to stockpile recyclable materials due to lack of demand. Mid Devon Community Recycling, (the company that operated the district's recycling collections) was continuing to sell glass paper metals plastics and textiles for recycling into new products
- iv. Local businesses were encouraged to take advantage of advice and assistance being made available by MDDC to help them during the current recession which included advice clinics at Phoenix House. An experienced Business Link Advisor would be able to give a business a thorough Health Check etc. It was suggested that this information be advertised in the Newsletter

210. Replacement Dick Drew Seat

The Chairman was pleased to report that Mr Alan Hunt had completed the making of the replacement Dick Drew seat. The Chairman advised that Mr Hunt had made an excellent job and the PC was most appreciative of his hard work and effort which he had very kindly given voluntarily. The seat would be sited in the same spot as the original seat and Mark Baker, Canal Ranger would be arranging this. The Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Mr Hunt. A note would be placed in the Newsletter to advise about the seat and to make reference that it was in memory of the late Dick Drew. It was understood that Mr Hunt would be happy to carry out any other projects on behalf of the PC. It was noted that the seat at Cloggs Hill required repairs and Cllr Saunders would check this out

211. Formation of Historical Society

A meeting was taking place on Friday, 20th February at 7.30pm. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert would be pleased to put together a website for the society.

212. Village of the Year Prize Money

There had been various suggestions for the spending of this money. However, it was agreed that this item be placed on the March agenda for further consideration

213. Maintenance of Picnic Table at the Pond

The table needed a good clean and tidying up. The Clerk would contact Steve Densham again to see whether he had effected the repairs to the seat.

214. Royal Garden Party – 7th July 2009

It was agreed that the Chairman and his wife should have their names submitted for this event

215. Parish Plan

The Emergency Plan forms had been completed and dispatched together with various suggestions. It was agreed that an Emergency Plan Ctte Meeting would be held at Cllr Cuthbert's home on 2nd March at 7.30pm. The Clerk to remind members of this Ctte, of the date and venue in due course

216. Committee Reports

Amenities/Cemetery

- i. A decision would be taken about composting at the next Cemetery Working Party which it was agreed should take place on 19th February at 10.00am
- ii The Clerk reminded the PC that Rospa would be carrying out its annual inspection of the play equipment in March and therefore it was important that the paths were pressure washed and any other works carried out in readiness for the inspection

Footpaths

The footpaths forms needed to be completed and returned to DCC

217. Clerk's Report

The Clerk had nothing to report .

218. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST - 31ST JANUARY 2009:

Bank Interest	1.02
Newsletter	156.37
Cemetery	330.00
TOTAL	£487.39

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST - 31ST JANUARY 2009 £524.12

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Cheque No	Amount	Vat	Total	Details
1269	348.88		348.88	Mrs C McIntyre – salary Feb/March
1270	727.65		727.65	Education Matters – publication costs for Dec and feb Newsletter

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Cheque No	Amount	Vat	Total	Details
1271	30.00		30.00	Mrs J Austin – delivery costs of Dec and feb Newsletter
1272	16.22		16.22	Education Matters – Newsletter photocopying
1273	9.67		9.67	Mrs C J McIntyre – repayment of postage costs
1274	134.21	18.13	152.34	Mr A Hunt – repayment of costs of materials used to construct replacement seat

The above invoices were approved for payment

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	20038.30
Plus Receipts for period 1 st – 31 st Dec 2008	487.39
	TOTAL £20525.69
Minus Payments made for the above Period	£524.12
	TOTAL £20001.57

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	18140.59
Current A/c	1860.98
	TOTAL £20001.57

VILLAGE HALL FUNDS	1500.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	1738.79
VILLAGE OF THE YEAR PRIZE	500.00
PARISH PLAN FUND	433.54
CAR PARKING	1500.00
GENERAL FUNDS	14329.24
TOTAL	£20,001.57

Halberton Newsletter: Income for Period 1st April - 31ST Jan 2009 = £1726.88 less expenditure £1470.92 = Credit £255.96

219. The Newsletter

The Clerk advised that when the Newsletter invoices, which the PC had approved this evening, were taken into account, the Newsletter would have a deficit of £518. The Clerk advised that there should be no further expenditure during this current financial year and she estimated that projected income should reduce the deficit to approximately £250. Concerns were expressed by the PC that publication costs had risen by approximately 1/3rd and in addition the PC was no longer given a 5% discount on costs. However efforts had been made to secure more advertisers which appeared to be yielding results. The Clerk reminded the PC that it had a duty to obtain best value for any service it was purchasing in view of the fact that public monies were used to fund the publication of the Newsletter. It was suggested by a member of the PC that perhaps the PC should therefore consider going out to tender for publication costs.

220. Cemetery and Churchyard Grants

The PC had received grants from MDDC of £300 and £50 for the cemetery and churchyard respectively. It was resolved that the PC would match the £50 payable to St Andrews Church for the churchyard

221. . Miscellaneous Matters

- i. Cullompton Town Council had issued an invitation to attend a Data Protection Act 1998 & Freedom of Information 2000 training event on 26th February from 7.00 – 9.00pm at Cullompton Town Hall
- ii. A meeting was being held on 12th February at Ash Thomas village Hall at 7.45pm to discuss the proposed gypsy site
- iii There was a huge pot hole between Five Bridges and Brithem Bottom which the Clerk would report to DCC
- iv. The Clerk to contact Sally Gabriel regarding Cllr Mrs Cuthbert role with the Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Ctte . The Chairman advised that a Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Committee Meeting was taking place in March

222. Next PC Meetings

i. 24th February 2009

7.00pm Planning Ctte Meeting

7.30pm Cemetery Meeting with Ian Quance

ii. 10th March 2009

7.00pm Planning Ctte Meeting of Halberton Parish Council

7.30pm Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

The Meeting closed at 9.32pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED