

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 10TH JANUARY 2006 AT 7.30PM AT ASH THOMAS VILLAGE HALL

146. Present

The Chairman (K Browse), Vice-Chairman (B Lane-Smith) Cllrs Cooper, Gibbs, *Radford, Saunders, Mesdames Armstrong, Fisher and Hull and Ruth Tucker of the `5X30` Project
*Cllr Radford left the meeting early due to another engagement

147. Apologies

Cllr Mrs Jepps, Cllr Greenhill, CCllr Des Hannon, PC Dodd

148. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present

149. Devon County Council Matters

It was understood from Cllr Radford that due to a severe overspend by Social Services, DCC with immediate effect, was not recruiting any more staff at the present time other than for specific posts, such as social workers etc, where there would be a significant risk to members of the public if these posts were not filled.

150. Talk by Ruth Tucker 5x30 Project

Ruth Tucker was warmly welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman. Ruth explained that the purpose of the project was to encourage and support people to be more active in their everyday lives. The World Health Organisation recommended that a person should accumulate at least 30 minutes of physical activity at least five times a week – hence `5X30` Project. Exercise could take the form of walking, jogging, kick boxing etc. Older people could even participate in exercising from their armchairs! The Vice-Chairman enquired about funding available for activities for the Halberton Youth Club. Ruth would look into this and would also look into the question raised by Cllr Gibbs about a proposed walk being sponsored. Ruth`s talk was very informative and the Chairman thanked her for this.

151. Townsend House

Cllr Radford was absent and Cllr Mrs Hull and the Chairman left the room whilst this item was being discussed in accordance with the Model Code of Conduct. It was agreed that the Vice-Chairman and Cllr Gibbs would attend the Site Meeting on 18th January at 11.15am arranged by the Planning Ctte of MDDC and would reiterate the views of the PC regarding this development. The Clerk had carried out a search of the Index Map to ascertain whether the two areas of land of interest to the PC were registered. However only a tiny section of the land was registered. Local knowledge had revealed the identity of the landowners, to whom the Clerk had written. She was now waiting responses to her request for a meeting with these parties, at which the PC`s proposals for the land could be considered. It was agreed that no further action could be taken by the PC at the present time.

152. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 13th December 2005 were approved subject to the following amendments:

Min. 133 iii Delete `February` and insert `January`

Min. 140 Delete the name `Jill Johnstone` and insert `Jo Cuthbert`

153. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- i. The Clerk confirmed that she had sent a letter of thanks to Mr A Stevens for supplying the village Christmas tree
- ii. The path near the Church had not been properly cleared of leaves. The footpath from Church Path to Corner Lane was overgrown and needed to be cut back. The sharp bend in the road just past Thorn Park in the direction of Remberton, was regularly flooded and it was likely the ditch needed clearing. White lines had appeared in the road between the pond and Cpt Cornish's property which suggested that work would be carried out shortly to the road surface, however nothing appeared to be happening with the pot holes at Church Path. The Clerk was concerned that despite sending repeated e-mails to Bob Wigley and Alan Mitchard, these problems were not being resolved. It was suggested that she e-mail Bob Wigley and Alan Mitchard again but this time to copy in Cllr Des Hannon. The Parish Lengthsman could possibly deal with these matters when he was next in the area. The Clerk to obtain the dates of his next visit. In addition, in response to a request made by CCllr Hannon, the PC confirmed it would be keen to be involved in publicising the Lengthsman service.

154. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman advised that the 9.57am bus service, from Halberton to Pethertons had failed to arrive today. This had caused much to distress to a parishioner who was relying on the bus service to get her to Tiverton Hospital for a hospital appointment. She subsequently missed her appointment. The aggrieved parishioner subsequently contacted the Chairman who in turn contacted First Travel, DCC and Ring and Ride, about the problem. It was understood that if a bus failed to arrive passengers should in the first instance contact 01392 382800 where the complaint would be looked into. Any extra costs incurred, eg the hiring of a taxi, should be reimbursed to the passenger. The Chairman was of the view that there should be an increased bus service at Pethertons in any event and he would therefore be attending the TW and Exe Valley MCTI Transport Water and Waste Disposal Focus Group on 12th January to express these views.

155. Police Matters

PC Dodd had been unable to attend the meeting but had sent a report containing details of incidents which had occurred in Halberton - theft of a vehicle, vehicle interference, burglary and nuisance telephone calls. The offences had been committed during the latter part of 2005. PC Dodd may also be organising a residential trip to Dartmoor for local secondary age children. He was seeking funding from the PC towards the cost of the trip. It was agreed this item should be included on the February agenda for discussion. A table tennis competition was discussed as a possible means of raising funds.

156. Mid Devon District Council

- i. An annual report of the Standards Committee had been produced by MDDC which the Clerk circulated amongst the Members. The intention of the Ctte was that the Report would keep Parish and Town Councils in touch with matters which had occurred during the year.
- ii. The Clerk had now submitted the PC's Precept requirements to MDDC in response to the request she had received.
- iii. The PC was of the view that the response it should give to the Local Development Framework Consultation documents (i. Core Strategy and ii. Statement of Community Involvement) that in all aspects of the future development of the Parish.

the contents of the Parish Plan should be taken into account. The Clerk also provided details of public exhibitions which would be taking place in each of the main towns in the District.

157.Exe Valley Plan Newsletter

The Clerk had received an e-mail from Neil Hamlyn of the Exe Valley Plan Steering Group advising that Halberton was part of the Exe Valley Plan . This was a community led strategy that would create a regeneration plan for the Exe Valley, spanning the next 20 – 30 years. The Market and Coastal Towns Initiative and local authorities had granted £58,000 to produce a plan that would incorporate numerous regeneration projects within the Exe Valley. Under the Plan, Halberton could submit a regeneration project to be considered for funding eg a children's play area . If the project met the Exe Valley's regeneration vision then funding could be granted. In addition Exe Valley was seeking members of the community to input ideas and assist with creating a Plan. It was agreed that PC Members would be willing to distribute Newsletters and the Clerk would inform Mr Hamlyn of this. The Clerk would also inform Jan Johnstone of the Village Hall Ctte about the possibility of obtaining project funding. It was suggested that information should be published in the Halberton Newsletter.

158.Grass Cutting Tender

Three tenders had been received from i. Grahams Gardening Services ii. Gardencare and iii. K J Thulborn. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Fisher and seconded by Cllr Cooper to accept Gardencare's tender in the total sum of £2,584 for the grass cutting of the Cemetery, the Rec and the Mead. The proposal was carried unanimously. It was noted that the contract price was an increase of 1.90% on last year's figure.

159.Orchard Lea Residential Home

A meeting to discuss the future of Orchard Lea would be taking place on 13th January, at the residential home between 10.00am – 12noon and 2.00pm – 4.00pm.

160.Affordable Housing in Halberton (Pethertons)

The Clerk had received a letter from Catherine Simmons, Rural development Officer, advising that a feasibility study was being carried out on a field behind Pethertons for ten houses. Centre Line Surveys would be going on site shortly. She advised that the provision of affordable housing in Halberton was still at the initial stages and when she had some more information she would be in touch again. It was suggested that a public meeting be held on 7th March at which Ms Simmons be invited to attend. It was also suggested that Mr Glen Crocker from MDDC's Planning Enforcement team also be asked to attend. Members of the public could then raise questions relating to affordable housing and planning enforcement issues. The Clerk would contact the relevant parties to check their availability.

161.Cemetery and Churchyard Grants from MDDC

The Clerk advised that the Cemetery grant had been drastically reduced for 2006/07. The grant payment of £300 had been reduced by £147 to £153 for 2006/07 as MDDC had miscalculated the 2004/05 grant figure. The PC had also asked for a Churchyard grant of £100, but MDDC was only prepared to provide £50. MDDC had indicated that due to severe financial pressures it was unlikely that matters would improve for 2007/08.

162. Parish Plan Grant

'SWAN' had taken over the administration of parish plan grants on behalf of Defra in the South West from the Countryside Agency in April 2005. The Government Office of the South West

had undertaken a review of completed plans and has discovered that on the Halberton Parish Plan there had been an underspend, which could entitle the PC to a further grant of £500. If the PC required this grant it would have to send a letter signed by the Clerk, stating how it intended the money to be spent to support its Parish Plan. The PC warmly welcomed the funding news and there was much discussion. It was agreed that the Clerk should submit a copy of its Plan together with a letter advising that the PC would be seeking funding to support projects for the elderly and young of the Parish. In addition, for some of the funding to be used, possibly towards the cost of a footpaths brochure. The Clerk to state in the letter that certain aspects of the Plan had already been implemented eg lunch club and that further funding should enable other aspects of the Plan to reach fruition. Note: The Vice-Chairman was not present in the room whilst facilities for the Youth Club were being discussed.

163. Committee Reports

Amenities (including the Cemetery)

The next meeting of the Amenities Ctte would be held on 7th February at 7.30pm. Cllr Lane-Smith to let the Clerk have an agenda shortly. The Clerk to chase up Roger Folley about the land issue. Cllr Cooper would speak to Colin Carey again about the bin for the Rec`.

Environment and Cemetery Cttes

There was nothing to report

Communications

The next meeting would be held on 28th February at 7.30pm. Cllr Gibbs would e-mail the Clerk an agenda. Review of advertising rates would need to be included on the agenda.

Footpaths

The Chairman was intending to submit the Footpaths Grant application form to DCC shortly. He had provided the Clerk with an agenda in readiness for the proposed Footpaths Ctte Meeting on 24th January 2006.

164. Clerk's Report

The Clerk advised that in accordance with the terms of her contract of employment, (salary increases to be awarded in accordance with the rates set by the National Joint Council) her annual salary would increase by £111 wef 1st April 2006. She was still awaiting receipt of the invoice for the new office chair and filing cabinet. She advised that she had now transferred all the Parish Council files out of the old filing cabinet into the new cabinet. The old cabinet would be used as a storage facility for past papers.

165.Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST - 31ST DECEMBER 2005:

<i>Bank Interest</i>	<i>18.29</i>
<i>Newsletter</i>	<i>228.60</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>£246.89</i>

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD: 1ST - 31ST DECEMBER 2005 £1172.30
(This includes £3.75 bank charge)

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

<i>Cheque No</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>VAT</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Details</i>
SO	22.00		22.00	MDDC – Cemetery Rates
100983				
100984	13.68		13.68	Mrs C J McIntyre- repayment postage costs
100945	236.51		236.51	Mrs C McIntyre – Salary Dec/Jan (less tax deductions)

The above accounts were approved for payment

<i>Balance of bank accounts carried forward</i>	12,856.92
<i>Plus receipts for period 1st – 31st December 2005</i>	246.89
	TOTAL £13,103.81
<i>Minus payments made for the above period</i>	1,172.30
	TOTAL £11,931.51

Made up as follows:- High Interest 9696.65
Current 2234.86
TOTAL £11,931.51

VILLAGE HALLS FUND	£360.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	£1,846.72
GENERAL FUNDS	£9724.79
TOTAL	£11,931.51

NEWSLETTER :

Income for period 1/4/05 – 31/12/05 £1,542.12 less expenditure to date of £1,273.57 = Net Profit £268.55

166. Future Parish Council Meetings

- i. 24th January 2006 – Footpaths Ctte Meeting – 7.30pm
- ii. 7th February 2006 – Amenities Ctte - 7.30pm
- iii. 14th February 2006 – Planning Ctte Meeting – 7.00pm
- iv. 14th February 2006 - Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council – 7.30pm
- v. 28th February 2006 – Communications Meeting – 7.30pm

7th March 2005 (Date still to be finalised) – Public Meeting re Affordable Housing and Planning Enforcement

The Meeting ended at 9.15pm

DATE

CHAIRMAN

