

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH
COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 10TH MARCH 2009 AT 7.45PM AT
HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

223 .Present

The Chairman (Cllr Browse), Vice-Chairman (Cllr Britton), Cllr Mrs Cuthbert, Corden and Saunders, CCllr Des Hannon, WPCSO Jonathan Sim and nineteen members of the public

224. Apologies

Cllrs Mesdames Jepps and Johnstone and Cllrs Gibbs and Radford

225.Public Forum

Cameron Harvey, Governor at Halberton School produced plans of the proposed development at the school. However Mr Harvey advised that the use of part of the Rec` would be required by the School, during the works. The matter was discussed in more depth later on in the meeting. Terry Payne raised the issue of overgrown hedges. He advised that this problem was particularly bad along the route to the Farmshop. The Clerk advised that she had repeatedly requested that DCC take appropriate action but to no avail. She would speak to Darran Queenan at DCC about this matter. Mr Payne also requested that a pathway be provided across the grassed area approach to the Farmshop. It was believed that this area may belong to the Farmshop and would need consent from the owners for this provision. Alternatively, if it was public highway, a request would have to be made to DCC. Mr Payne also raised the issue of the punctuality of Stagecoach buses. Stagecoach had provided Mr Payne as to reasons for the delays, although CCllr Hannon was slightly sceptical of these. He requested that Mr Payne provide him with evidence of times, dates etc of when the buses failed to arrive, or arrived very late and he would pursue the matter with Stagecoach on Mr Payne's behalf.

226. Police Matters

Jonathan Sims reported crimes which had occurred in the Parish during the month (some of these were already referred to, in the February PC Minutes). In addition there had been criminal damage to a vehicle and a tractor parked at Pethertons had caused problems. Mr Payne raised concerns about parking problems in the village. Jonathan advised that perhaps the way forward was to speak to the Civil Enforcement Officer to investigate. The question was also raised about vehicles parking alongside the Barge Public House. Cllr Corden however, advised that residents who lived opposite the Barge simply had nowhere else to park their vehicles.

227. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of 10th February 2009 were approved subject to the amendment of Minute 207 (ix). The word "oak" to be replaced with "lime"

228. Matters Arising

i. The Clerk had obtained costings as to the types of waste bins available for the cemetery. It was resolved that a brown bin in which flowers grass cuttings etc could be placed was the appropriate option as this would be at no cost to the Parish Council. A 240 litre brown bin would be provided free of charge by MDDC and would be collected fortnightly. The Clerk to make the arrangements with MDDC to put the bin in situ.

- ii. . The Clerk had provided all members with contact details of the Community Workforce and a written list of items in the Parish which required attention. The matter was being progressed by the Vice-Chairman
- iii. The Clerk was continuing to chase Steve Densham at MDDC about the replacement slat for the seat at the pond
- iv. The Clerk had been advised by Dan Meek at DCC that the caravan presently sited on the farm at Cordwents was being stored temporarily for a friend. However a further complaint had been received from a parishioner about the caravan as she considered it would set a dangerous precedent. The parishioner had been in contact with MDDC who had advised that the storage of the caravan was breaching planning laws as the land should be used for agricultural purposes only. The Clerk to contact Dan Meek again about this matter.
- v. Andy Ware, Area East Lighting Engineer had advised that the PC's request for additional street lighting in the footpath from Boyes Close to Lower Town could not be met, as DCC did not receive a budget for new lighting. The PC could fund the installation of streetlights and then DCC would consider taking them over after installation. Mr Ware also considered that one additional street light would not be acceptable and it would probably require two or three additional lights to light the footpath to an acceptable standard. The PC would not pursue the matter at the present time
- vi. It was understood that the various potholes reported at last month's meeting had now been made good.
- vii. . Cllr Saunders had completed the layering of the hedge at the pond. He was warmly thanked for his efforts by the PC.
- viii. . The Clerk to contact Mr Hunt to ask if he would mind having a look at the seat situated at Cloggs Hill to see whether it was repairable and to provide the PC with approximate costs of the repair

229. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman had received an anonymous letter. The letter was handwritten and the contents made no sense, although a reference to Hartnoll Farm was included. It was understood from CCllr Hannon that this may be connected with letters which had appeared in the Mid Devon Gazette. A letter of support had been published in the paper for the proposed development at Hartnoll Farm and CCllr Hannon had responded to it. An anonymous letter had also been sent to somebody else which referred to Hartnoll Farm. The Chairman was trying to establish another footpath in the village but it was too early yet for him to provide full details at this stage.

230. Co-option of new Councillors

The Clerk advised the PCllrs of the procedures for Co-option. Two parishioners had applied for the two vacancies namely Derek Hand and Carol Graham.

Cllr Mrs Cuthbert nominated Derek Hand and this was seconded by Cllr Saunders.

Cllr Corden nominated Carol Graham and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Cuthbert.

Both nominations were voted upon and the vote of the PC was unanimous in that both candidates should be appointed. The Chairman thanked members of the public for their interest and welcomed Mr Hand and Mrs Graham to the PC meeting. Their roles as PCllrs would not take effect until they had made their declarations at the April PC Meeting. The Clerk would send them both a 'Welcome Pack' and provide them with information regarding attendance at meetings etc.

231. Donation by Parishioner towards Parish Amenities

A parishioner had offered a large sum of money to the PC to provide for replacement nets and goalposts for the Mead and for any surplus monies to be used for any purpose the PC saw fit. The PC was extremely appreciative of this most generous gesture. The Vice-Chairman had already made some initial enquiries about costings and would make further enquiries. The Chairman would contact the parishioner to thank her personally for her generosity and to let her know the PC's intentions in this respect.

232. Mid Devon District Council Matters

- i. MDDC had successfully obtained a County Court injunction requiring that a couple and their family should cease the residential use of their agricultural land at Oakford and move their accommodation from the site. The couple has the ability to appeal the judgement and challenge a full injunction at a later hearing if they so wished.
- ii. MDDC had undertaken a radical overhaul of its Housing Service since it was inspected by the Audit Commission in 2006, when the Commission considered there were only 'poor' prospects for improvement. The Commission's inspection in 2008 found that the Council has 'increased prospects' for improvement.
- iii. MDDC set its budget and agreed a 2.5% increase in its share of council tax for 2009/10. This would mean that the average Band D household would pay £179.46 for 2009/10, compared to £175.08 for 2008/09

233. DCC Matters

- i. The Chairman had read the Bio Diversity report and advised that it was a very useful and informative document. He would complete the Questionnaire and return it to DCC
- ii. The Chairman had advised that he had received a further letter from Alison Fish MDDC's Planning Officer who had advised that after consultation with the Conservation Officer and DCC Highways, it was considered that the proposed siting for a car park at Lower Town would adversely impact on both the Conservation Area and the listed building. It may also involve third party land ie the frontage of Cordwents, whereby the PC would need to seek the agreement of the owner to carry out the works suggested by the Highway Authority. In view of this information it was considered by the PC that perhaps the original idea of having a parking area near the cemetery should be re-considered. Cllr Hannon would also liaise with the Chairman about this matter. This to be an item for the Amenities Ctte meeting
- iii. Cllr Hannon advised that the speeding traffic along Willand Road would be monitored and the treatment of pavements (slippery moss etc) would hopefully be dealt with shortly
- iv. DCC had been awarded a four star rating - the top mark possible - by the Audit Commission as part of its regular Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) inspection looking at the full range of council services and overall value for money. The County Council was also judged to have shown continued improvement over the past year and had demonstrated "significant progress" against key priorities, under the Commission's "Harder Test" regime that only County Councils and Unitary Councils undergo.
- v. DCC had been nationally recognised with Beacon Status for its ground-breaking work in ensuring children and young people got the services they needed. DCC's Children and Young People's Services won the prestigious Beacon Status - which was awarded jointly by three Government departments - at a special ceremony in London. The Beacon awards recognise local government's excellence and innovation in improving quality of life for their residents and communities
- vi. DCC had set its Council tax rate at 2.89%

vii. It was noted that DCC had cleared out the ditch at the Mead and had made an excellent job. The PC was very grateful

234. Halberton School

It was understood that the proposed development at the School was small scale and would only impact upon one third of the area of the Rec`. There was much discussion about it. The PC was of the view that an independent surveyor would need to be appointed to protect the PC's interests whilst the project was taking place and the costs of this would also need to be considered. The PC in principal was reasonably happy with the proposal to use part of the Rec` subjects to all proposed health and safety arrangements being satisfactory to the PC.

235. Newsletter

This was an item requested by Cllr Gibbs but unfortunately he was unable to attend the meeting to provide his views. It was understood however that there may have been some confusion in the past about national advertisers being unable to advertise in the Newsletter. The PC took the view that as long as an advertisement did not breach any law then there should not be a problem in accepting it, whether it was from a local or national advertiser, as this would generate much needed income.

236. Village of the Year Prize Money

There had been various suggestions for the spending of this money. Cllr Corden was keen to see a tree planting scheme as this would enhance the village as well as being a very environmentally friendly project. It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Cuthbert would include a request in the Newsletter seeking parishioners ideas as to possible locations etc.

237. Parish Plan

Cllr Mrs Johnstone was making good progress with the Plan

238. Meetings Attended

4th March 2009 Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Committee

It was understood from CCllr Hannon that following the success of the bid for earmarking £220k funding (from the sale of Exeter Airport) towards the Visitor's Centre project at the canal basin, there was now a need to prove that the project was deliverable and that match funding could be found. The long term maintenance of the canal also needed to be considered.

239. Next PC Meetings

i. 24th March 2008 7.30pm Ash Thomas Village Hall

Planning Committee Meeting to include meeting about proposed Gypsy Site at Ash Thomas

ii. 31st March 2008 - 7.30pm Halberton Village Hall

Amenities Ctte Meeting (to include Footpaths and Cemetery)

iii. 14th April 2009 – Halberton Village Hall

7.00pm Planning Ctte Meeting of Halberton Parish Council

7.30pm Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

240. Committee Reports

Amenities/Cemetery

The Cemetery Ctte Meeting of 24th February attended by Ian Quance, Exeter City Council's

Bereavement Manager was extremely helpful and informative. Substantial information had been passed to the Vice Chairman by Cllr Mrs Cuthbert. It was clear that a number of issues now needed to be addressed eg the PC needed a rules and regulations policy, a memorials testing regime policy and other related matters needed to be considered. It was agreed that an Amenities Cttee Meeting (incorporating Footpaths and the Cemetery) should be arranged for Tuesday, 31st March 2009 at Halberton Village Hall at 7.30pm. It was noted that the new contractor had carried out the first grass cut of the cemetery, the Mead and the Rec and the PC had been very pleased with the result. A note of thanks to Mr Nigel Cuthbert for all his help in the cemetery, for which the PC was much appreciative would be included in the Newsletter. It was noted in the Mead that the gatepost had been broken off; the chain link fencing required repair; two trees needed trimming and there was a hole in the ground that needed attention in view of health and safety implications. Cllr Saunders agreed to assist with addressing these issues.

Footpaths

Various footpath matters were reported:-

- i. FP1 Way markers needed at Mt Stephens
- ii. FP 6 Muddy gateway
- iii. FP10 Sock Hill – muddy gully
- iv. FP4 Stile broken – replace kissing gate
- v. FP5 Clear vegetation
- vi. Sign required

241. Clerk's Report

The Clerk had nothing to report.

242. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST - 28TH FEBRUARY 2009:

Bank Interest	1.02
Newsletter	243.10
Cemetery	500.00
MDDC – Church/Cemetery	350.00
Grants	
TOTAL	£1094.12

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST - 28TH FEBRUARY 2009 £1284.76

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Cheque No	Amount	Vat	Total	Details
1275	100.00		100.00	St Andrews Church – Churchyard Grant
1276	40.00		40.00	Mrs C McIntyre – Internet/Tel costs Jan – March
1277	261.80		26.80	HM Revenue & Customs – Tax deductions
1278	349.08		349.08	Mrs C McIntyre – salary Feb/March
1279	18.70		18.70	Mrs C J McIntyre – repayment of postage costs
1280	11.49		11.49	South West Water – water charges cemetery (Nov-Feb)

The above accounts were approved for payment by the PC

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	20001.57
Plus Receipts for period 1 st – 28 th Feb 2009	1094.12
	TOTAL £21095.69
Minus Payments made for the above Period	£1284.76
	TOTAL £19810.93

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	18141.61
Current A/c	1669.32
	TOTAL £19810.93

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	14138.60
	TOTAL £19810.93

Halberton Newsletter: Income for Period 1st April - 28th Feb 2009 = £1969.98 less expenditure £2244.79 = Debit -£274.81

243 . Miscellaneous Matters

- i. The Clerk had made enquiries of the Land Registry to ascertain whether the land that was next door to the Rec` was registered land which could in turn reveal boundary responsibilities. Unfortunately it was not registered and the Clerk advised that it would be a matter of speaking to the owner of the land to see whether he was prepared to check his title deeds for this information, or a matter of local knowledge of the site.
 - ii. The Clerk had received details of CPRE` s Best Kept Village Competition. The PC decided not to enter this year in view of other Parish projects that needed attention
 - iii. It was agreed that information about the Digital Switchover would be provided in the Newsletter
 - iv. There was a bad pot hole at Chaves Lane Corner, Brithem Bottom which required filling
 - v. There were quantities of water across the roads between Ash Thomas and Brithem Bottom indicating that the drains required clearing
 - vi. MDDC was offering disused skate park equipment for £1,000. There would be associated costs etc transportation costs and construction of a hard standing but in the first instance the Clerk to contact DCC about the possibility of siting the equipment in the Mead which the PC held under licence. Cllr Corden would deliver letters to residents who lived close by to the Mead to gauge opinion about a proposed skateboard area
 - vii. It was understood that the residents of Rock View were seeking a grit box in view of the difficulties they had recently experienced due to the winter weather, in accessing and egressing their homes, which problems were also experienced by delivery men. The Clerk to contact MDDC to request whether they would be prepared to supply a grit box at the bottom of the road. It was understood that the properties were situated on a private road so this could present a problem.
 - viii. It was reported that Alan Cooper, a former Parish Councillor and Chairman was presently in hospital. It was agreed that get well wishes be sent to Mr Cooper on behalf of the PC
- The meeting ended at 9.15pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED

