

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 10th NOVEMBER 2009 AT 7.50PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

127. Present

Cllr Browse (Chairman), Cllrs Mesdames Cuthbert, Graham, Jepps and Johnstone and Cllrs Britton, Corden, Gibbs, Hand, Radford and Saunders, CCllr Hannon, Richard Spurway Public Rights of Way Officer (DCC) and one member of the public

128. Apologies

PCSO J Simms,

129. Public Forum

Mr T Payne advised of the following:-

- i. Hedges in certain areas of the Parish had still not been cut effectively (matter discussed later in meeting)
- ii. Parking on the virtual footpath outside 57 High Street was still occurring. The Traffic Order needed to be checked for clarification. Cllr Radford would talk to Tony Matthews at DCC
- iii. The Welcome Pack for new residents had been revised. Copies would be kept in the Village Hall
- iv. An updated list of Parish organisations had now been completed
- v. A projector could be made available to the PC for displaying agendas etc at meetings. The PC would bear this in mind but as the precept for 2010/11 had now been set it was unlikely that it could consider such an item before 2011/12

130. Introduction of Richard Spurway – DCC's Public Rights of Way Officer

Richard gave a very interesting and informative talk about the Public Paths Survey and other matters relating to the public rights of way in the Parish. He was warmly thanked by the PC for attending the meeting as they considered it had been a very useful exercise

131. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 13th October 2009 were approved and signed without amendment

132. Matters Arising from Minutes

- i. Colin Constable on behalf of Halberton Royal British Legion, had sent a letter of thanks for the PC's donation and provided details of the Remembrance Day services
- ii. The Clerk had advised MDDC that the PC was not opposed to the phone equipment being removed from the telephone box at Ash Thomas and that it wished to adopt the phone box. The consultation process which MDDC was required to go through was being implemented and the PC would be contacted by BT at the appropriate time to progress the adoption
- iii. The trees growing within a garden of a property at Pond Hill had been removed
- iv. Cllr Saunders comments concerning the hedge/trees at Merrimead having not been satisfactorily trimmed and which were causing problems to farm traffic would be pursued by CCllr Hannon.. It was believed that DCC was now in dispute with the contractors regarding the trimming. The matter was ongoing.
- v. The diverters across the pond were still in situ. However the Chairman was in the process of writing to Western Power to try and bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion
- vi.. The planning application for the removal of trees in the cemetery would go ahead. The Clerk advised that there would be no fee

vii. The Chairman advised that there may now be a change of plan in the Primary School requiring the use of the Rec` whilst improvement works were being carried out to the school. It was possible the school would now be using its own land for storage of materials etc in view of the PC`s requirements for the security of the Rec etc

viii. The agreed works at the pond area would be carried out shortly on a dry day

ix. Agnieszka Romaszko, Community Planning Support Officer at MDDC had approached Alison Fish, Planning Officer – MDDC on behalf of the PC to deal with the matters requested by the PC in relation to the proposed car park/footpath project. However the PC had still not heard from Mrs Fish. The Clerk to pursue.

133. Chairman`s Announcements

The Chairman had received a very touching letter from Mr P Skeet expressing his grateful thanks for the refurbished notice board in memory of his sisters Jill and Wendy. It was agreed that a copy of the letter be passed to Roy Leader who had carried out the work. The Chairman had also received a letter of thanks from Emily Spurway for the PC providing excellent facilities, and hospitality, in which she was able to present her talk on the Definitive Map on 3rd November.

134. Precept 2010/11

It was resolved that this should be £11,353. This would be an increase of £140 (1.25%) from last year

135. Proposed Street Light for Pethertons

Cllr Corden would be liaising with parishioners in the vicinity, about the proposed siting of the street lamp. It was also agreed that he would indicate on the plan, which the Clerk had provided, where the street light should be sited. The matter to be an item for the December PC meeting.

136. Home Grown Community Owned (HogCo)

HogCo was a five year programme working with rural communities across Devon to support local food initiatives. HogCo would help groups join together to develop skills and seek opportunities to grow their own food. Cllr Browse had been in contact with Jo Winterburn, the HogCo Community Projects Officer who had advised that she was very excited about the project. A further meeting to be arranged for Wednesday, 9th December at 7.30pm

137. Consideration of MDDC`s Planning Protocol for possible adaptation by the PC

The Clerk had circulated to all members, details of MDDC`s Planning Protocol. There was considerable discussion about this. It was agreed that Cllr Corden would prepare a protocol for consideration by the PC. The matter to be an item for the December agenda

138.MDDC Matters

i. Cllr Radford had been elected Deputy Leader of MDDC for the remainder of 2009/10. He was warmly congratulated by the PC

ii. Paul Tucker has been named as the Best Grants Officer in the South West and had won the George Award. The Clerk to congratulate Mr Tucker on behalf of the PC

iii. Recycling services in Mid Devon would soon be run directly by MDDC. The service had been run by Mid Devon Community Recycling since its introduction in 1992 but would transfer to the local authority in the New Year.

iv. Free Parking was being introduced in the run-up to Christmas – Six hours free parking at long and medium stay car parks in Tiverton Crediton and Cullompton on the last four Fridays before Christmas and free all-day parking on Sundays in December in the multi-storey car park, Tiverton

139. MDDC's Allocations and Infrastructure Development Plan Document

There was much discussion about this matter. It was agreed that the Clerk should submit the following comments:-

“The PC supported MDDC's recommendations in relation to matters affecting Halberton and would like to see them carried forward in particular:- no building to the east of Manley Lane; the protection of the Grand Western Canal corridor and protection to road users through Halberton on C769. Further it would welcome that any additional industrial development should be sited nearer to junction 27 of the M5 if and when the need existed”

140. Parking Provision required at Pethertons

Cllr Corden was in the process of contacting the tenants about this matter. The item to be placed on the December agenda

141.DCC Matters

- i. Follow up notes had been provided by DCC in respect of the P3 Summer Workshops 2009 and also the Parish Paths Autumn Newsletter. The Clerk had these available if any member was interested. The Parish Paths Partnership Event was taking place on 25th November at 9.30am at Halberton Village Hall. It was hoped a number of PCllrs would attend
- ii. An invitation had been issued to meet John Hart the Leader of Devon CC on 9th December at 6.30pm at the New Hall, Barrington Street, Tiverton as part of a countywide listening exercise
- iii. The road closure proposed for Turnpike - Battens Bridge to Willand Road – Slough Farm, from 30th November to 11 December, had been cancelled
- iv. Simon Chapman Project Manager of the Countrymile Road Safety Project had provided an update of the Project to date. He also advised that there would be a series of driver training days to support local drivers using the A377 this winter. Free practical instruction with the project's Community Driver Instructor, Mike Hull would be taking place on six days in November.
- v. Cllr Hannon advised of the following:-
 - a. A Road Safety Audit had been instigated by him in relation to the pedestrian facilities and calming. The audit recommended that the tactile paving at the junction of High Street and Orpington Court be re-aligned; fencing to be erected to protect the drop outside 89 High St; the reconstruction of the priority system in line with drawings so that the inter-visibility could be obtained in relation to the new kerbed footway outside nos 51 – 53 High St; the new section of footway outside 51 – 55 to be provided with a contrasting colour to the footway surface; to ensure all road signs in the High Street were clear from foliage and fully visible to all road users
 - b. Clarification of the status of the road traffic order in relation to the virtual footpath outside of no.57 High Street was required. If the order was enforceable CCllr Hannon would take the matter up with the PCSO. If not, there was the option of taking a traffic order through HATOC – if the PC could provide an agreed position on behalf of the village in consultation with residents. Cllr Radford would be investigating the matter
 - c. CCllr Hannon requested that the Clerk e-mail him a reminder, re the problems concerning the missing bus stop sign and the buses failing to stop for passengers due to this. Cllr Mrs Graham provided CCllr Hannon with background information relating to this problem
 - d. A meeting needed to be arranged with residents, regarding speeding vehicles along Willand Road.
 - e. Locality money would pay for a new adapted trike for people with disabilities at Abbotshood Farm
 - f. Money had been obtained (£240,000) due from part of the proceeds of the sale Exeter Airport sale, for a Visitors Centre at the canal. It would take a couple of years for the project to be completed. CCllr Hannon's efforts in securing this funding was much appreciated by the PC

g Cllr Hannon suggested that with regards to the trimming of hedges, that members of the PC talk to the offenders and if they were not prepared to trim, that a list of offenders with details of the locations of the hedges be submitted to Cllr Hannon at the next PC meeting.

h. Cllr Hannon supported the comments made by the PC re MDDC's Allocations and Infrastructure Development Plan Document and would be writing to the Planning Inspector with similar comments. Cllr Radford confirmed he would also be writing to the Planning Inspector endorsing these views

142. Police Matters

PCSO Jonathan Sims had given apologies for absence but provided the following report for the past 30 days:-

NBM TEMPORARY POSTING

PC Katie Rich is now on maternity leave and will return as your Neighbourhood Beat Manager in Sept 2010, however whilst she is on leave I am pleased that we will have another Police Officer covering the patch, he is PC Graham Custance.

Graham is a very experienced officer who has over 10 years service serving with Thames Valley and Devon and Cornwall Police, Graham will be in post from January 2010.

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

This month we have had a spate of Anti Social Behaviour at the Play Park Church path, This has involved the following: Under age drinking, Noisy behaviour, littering and worst of all Criminal Damage.

Also linked to this were several vehicles revving engines, playing loud music and driving in an anti social manner.

On several of these incidents the Police tackled the individuals giving them a warning and seizing the alcohol, unfortunately we did not have any evidence to charge anyone for the criminal damage to the fence which has now been fixed.

May I thank the Parish Councillor for their prompt action to contact us and their help with this, I will be paying this area of the village extra attention.

Please call the Police if you witness any of the above in future.

SPEED WATCH

We in the neighbourhood team along with volunteers will continue to do this in and around the village. In October we did such an operation and a number of drivers were issued with fixed penalties for excess speed as they entered the village from Willand.

We are now rolling out the Police Volunteer Programme and I currently have several people being vetted by Police Headquarters, if you are interested and have not yet filled out an application form then please see Barry tonight* who will have some for you to fill out, once completed then please either email me or call me so that I can put them forward to HQ for vetting. Please do not send them in the post as I need to check them first.

I hope to have people fully trained very early in the new year so that we can fully role this out.

*Cllr Corden provided the forms at this meeting

PARKING

Parking on the pavements around the village hall continues to be a problem and we will continue to enforce this.

INCIDENTS

2/11/9 POLICE CALLED TO THE *BARGE INN TO DEAL WITH DRUNKEN MALE, (WARNING GIVEN)

***It was noted at this meeting that this incident did not relate to the Barge but was the result of a drunken male who had attended a private party (not at the Barge) but who had used the Barge's car park**

30/10/09 RTC OUTSIDE FARM SHOP ONE VEHICLE (DRIVER ARRESTED FOR DRINK DRIVING)

30/10/09 ASB AT THE PARK AS ALREADY MENTIONED

28/10/09 ASB AT THE SCHOOL YOUTHS LETTING OFF FIREWORKS (AREA SEARCHED NO TRACE)

17/10/09 POLICE CALLED TO COMPLAINT OF NOISY PARTY AT THE PETHERTONS (AREA SEARCHED NO TRACE)

16/10/09 COMPLAINT OF MUD ON ROAD EAST MANLEY LANE (RD CHECKED AND NO DANGER TO MOTORISTS)

CRIMES

DRINK DRIVER AS ALREADY MENTIONED.

143. Christmas Tree

Cllrs Mesdames Cuthbert and Johnstone would liaise with each other with regards to obtaining a suitable tree and arranging a date for it to be erected

144. Cemetery Matters

The Committee and Simon Tucker (W H Squires) were thanked for all the hard work and effort involved in producing a set of rules for the cemetery. The Clerk had followed this on by researching and subsequently drafting and producing a brand new set of application forms which reflected the rules for the cemetery. It was resolved to accept the rules and the revised forms in their current format. It was understood that there would need to be a record sheet for each grave. It would take quite some time for an all embracing record of all the graves to be produced and the Clerk advised she would be willing to do this but it would have to be carried out as and when she had the time. It was resolved that Simon Tucker be co-opted as a third person to allocate plot numbers in the absence of the Clerk and Cllr Mrs Jepps. Any costs incurred by PCllrs/Clerk associated with the printing of the forms/rules etc to be reimbursed. The Clerk would submit the new forms to undertakers/stone masons. In view of Cllr Mrs Cuthbert's hard work it was suggested that perhaps consideration could be given to her receiving an allowance. The item to be included on the January 2010 agenda. The Clerk indicated that she would be willing to attend more meetings but her hours of work would have to increase (note there were now 11 Ordinary Parish Council meetings, 1 Annual Parish Meeting, 24 Planning Committee meetings and approx 4 other Committee meetings (approx 40 meetings per year).

145. Meetings Attended

12th and 13th October 2009 – 8th Assembly of Standards Ctte, Birmingham

Cllr Corden attended this. Numerous issues were discussed including a number of parish councils feeling that their comments in relation to planning applications were not being taken into account by planning authorities. There was also real concern that members who were being investigated by Standards Cttes were not being involved at an early stage in the proceedings

27th October 2009 – Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Ctte

Cllr Hannon attended this. He was now the Vice-Chairman of the Ctte. There were no further reports of slippage on the canal. A rowing club had been granted a temporary period to use the canal

9th November at 6.00pm at Phoenix House. – Standards Training Workshop

A number of PCllrs had attended this and had found it useful. The Clerk had had to give her apologies due to problems with child care arrangements.

146. Future Meetings

i. 11th November 2009 – Parks and Play Seminar – Tiveton Hotel

ii. 17th November 2009 – Halberton Village Hall AGM

The Chairman would attend

iii. 17th November 2009 – Mid Devon Transport Stakeholder Forum – St George's Extension

Cllr Gibbs would try and attend this event

iv.24th November 2009 – Domestic Abuse Awareness Raising Experience – Sunningmead Community Centre

v. 25th November 2009 – Empowering Communities in Devon – The Kenn Centre, Exeter

147. Committee Reports

There were none

148. Clerk's Report

The Clerk was of the view that it was satisfying and somewhat reassuring that the cemetery now had rules and regulations to ensure that it was operated in accordance with relevant legislation. She thanked the members for their help in this matter.

149. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST - 31ST OCTOBER 2009:

Bank Interest	1.27
Newsletter	423.55
Cemetery	88.00
Goal Posts Grant	315.00
TOTAL	£827.82

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST - 31ST OCTOBER 2009 £1104.16

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Cheque No	Amount	Vat	Total	Details
SO	25.00		25.00	MDDC – Cemetery Rates
1341	8.89	1.33	10.22	Ottery Office & Computer Ltd – photocopying
1342	353.51		353.51	Mrs C McIntyre – salary Nov/Dec
1343	283.75		283.75	R Smale – grass cutting for Oct
1344	370.00		370.00	N Page – Parish Paths Work
1345	31.66	4.75	36.41	M Britton – repayment of cost of concrete

The above accounts were approved for payment

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	27194.81
Plus Receipts for period 1 st – 31 st November 2009	827.82
TOTAL:	£28022.63

Minus Payments made for the above Period	£1104.16
TOTAL	£26918.47

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	24689.69
Current A/c	2228.78
TOTAL	£26918.47

VILLAGE HALL FUNDS	2500.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	2493.79
VILLAGE OF THE YEAR PRIZE	500.00
DONATION FROM PARISHIONER	2186.00
PARISH PLAN FUND	433.54
CAR PARKING	2500.00
GENERAL FUNDS	16305.14
TOTAL	£26918.47

Halberton Newsletter: Income to date £1758.90 - less expenses of £1685.55 = credit £73.35

150. Members Business

- i. Thanks were expressed to all the members who had helped with the positioning of the goalposts. It was decided that a “Grand Opening” was required. Saturday, 16th January at 10.00am was agreed as the most appropriate date and a fun-event would be organised
- ii. “Shop Local Scheme” was requested to be an item on the December agenda

151. Future PC Meetings

- i. 24th November 2009 - 7.30pm Planning Ctte Meeting
- ii. 8th December 2009
7.00pm Planning Ctte Meeting of Halberton Parish Council
7.30pm Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

The Meeting closed at 10.15pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED