

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 11TH APRIL 2006 AT 7.30PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

210. Present

The Chairman (K Browse), Vice-Chairman (B Lane-Smith) Cllrs Gibbs, Saunders, Mesdames Armstrong, Fisher, Jepps and Hull, CClr Des Hannon, Catherine Simmons – Rural Housing Development Officer and three members of the public

211. Public Forum

Nothing was raised.

212. Apologies

Cllrs Cooper and Radford

213. Low Cost Housing

Catherine Simmons gave a very informative and factual talk about low cost housing. She advised that the Pethertons site, subject to agreement with the landowners, should result in the erection of 10 dwellings. Hastoe Housing would fund the development and the dwellings would be for local people only. There would be a mix of 2, 3 and 4 bed dwellings and it was hoped that they would be built this financial year. Four of the dwellings would be shared ownership and the remainder would be for rental. A public consultation exercise would be taking place in May-June. A problem with drainage had been discovered on the site but it was hoped the problem would be ironed out on Wednesday. Catherine also confirmed that planning permission had now been given for the re-development of the Townsend House site. The virtual footpath had been re-designed which was now to the satisfaction of the planners at MDDC. The dwellings would consist of 7 affordable houses consisting of 4 x 1 bedroom dwellings for rental and 3 shared ownership dwellings. MDDC would provide grant funding for the development. The Devon and Cornwall Housing Association would be responsible for the properties. The houses would be allocated on need so would not necessarily be allocated to local persons. The virtual footpath included in the scheme had now been re-designed to the satisfaction of the planners. Several questions were raised by members of the public, such as whether the site at Pethertons would have a play area. Catherine advised that she would look into this. Catherine stressed that anyone interested in the properties needed to ensure that they were registered on the housing list. Catherine also advised that changes were being made to the housing list whereby persons seeking accommodation would be banded bronze, silver or gold according to their individual circumstances. Catherine was thanked for attending the meeting and for providing such useful information.

214. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 11th March 2006 were approved and signed accordingly

215. DCC Matters – CClr Des Hannon

It was agreed that as CClr Hannon had another meeting to attend that some of the DCC matters could be discussed at this point.

- i. CClr Hannon advised that he was very unhappy with the decision of Stagecoach to stop the Pethertons bus service on 27th May due to safety issues. He would be challenging the decision. He was intending to arrange a site visit, accompanied by PCllrs with the bus in situ. He would liaise with the PC again in due course
- ii. CClr Hannon mentioned the Devon County Committee which Cllr Radford had talked about at the last PC meeting. CClr Hannon had approx £9,300 to distribute throughout

the division over the coming year. Any worthy cause would be considered and it would be a matter of asking him for an application form in the first instance.

- iii. Cllr Hannon provided an up to date leaflet on the Devon Wide Concessionary Travel Scheme. Reference was made to the poor service provided by Stagecoach – buses failing to turn up, passengers missing appointments because of the cancellations. Cllr Hannon agreed that on occasions the bus service was poor.
- iv. Library consultations were taking place throughout Devon to consider the future of a number of libraries and whether or not they should remain open. In addition the extension of opening hours of specific libraries was also being considered. Cllr Hannon confirmed that there were no issues relating to the libraries in Mid Devon.

216. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- i. Letters had been received from Mrs Sue Lane Smith and Sue Hutter in response to PC Dodd's e-mail regarding the cancelled trip to Dartmouth. The contents of each letter were read out and noted and it was agreed that the Clerk should send a suitably worded reply to each writer. Mrs Lane-Smith had also made a request for further funding for Club 17. It was agreed that this should be an item for the May agenda.
- ii. It was understood that despite Hastoe Housing writing to the PC requesting potential tenants to register their interest at MDDC for the new development at Pethertons, the accommodation had already been let
- iii. Willy Pike from DCC had carried out a site inspection accompanied by the Chairman, of the pot holes at Church Path. The work to rectify them would be carried out asap. It was understood that there was a huge pot hole in the road at the entrance of Crossparks, past the old telephone box. The Clerk would report this to DCC. Mr Pike also looked at the footpath at Corner Lane and would check whether provision for repairing it came under footpaths or highways. The road surface at Greenaway/High Street was in a poor state of repair but the Chairman believed it would be repaired shortly.
- iv. The Clerk had not received a response to her advertisement in the Newsletter for someone to assist with the Parish Website. A suggestion was made for an approach to be made to East Devon College for a trainee who could gain experience by managing the site. Tim Hugill had now updated the PC's Minutes on the Website.
- v. The Clerk had again contacted Colin Carey at MDDC about a replacement bin for the Rec'. Again he had given an assurance that this would be forthcoming but as far as the PC was aware it had still not arrived. The Vice-Chairman advised that he would collect the bin direct from MDDC.

217. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman advised that a letter had been received from Halberton School, requesting sponsorship for a poetry competition; permission for the erection of a sculpture on the highway and signage indicating the location of the school. There was much discussion. It was agreed that the concept of the sculpture was excellent and the children should be encouraged with this venture. However the proposed location on the corner, opposite the road turning down to Lower Town, was not considered suitable. The site of the forecourt of Mr Stevens farm shop was suggested, although that would need Mr Steven's agreement. If the PC's plans to construct a car park came to fruition then perhaps a sculpture could be sited at that location. The school would initially have to approach MDDC about obtaining planning permission. The PC required more information concerning sponsorship of a poetry competition. However, members of the PC would be pleased to judge the competition and it was suggested that the winning entry could be published in the Newsletter. Cllr Gibbs also asked that the school write to him C/O Friends of

Pannier Market regarding the poetry competition. The school would need to approach Dave Huxham at DCC about signage. The Clerk to write to the school about the aforementioned.

218. Resignation of PCllr

Rod Greenhill had resigned due to pressing work commitments. The Clerk would write to him on behalf of the PC to thank him for his contribution to the PC. The Clerk to also advise MDDC about the vacancy in order that it could be advertised.

219. Police Matters

Julia Ryder, the new Community Safety Officer would be attending the June PC Meeting. It was understood that Brian Wooding was still happy at the way Neighbourhood Watch was progressing. It was reported that tractors were the latest targets to be stolen and owners of these machines were being advised to keep them out of sight and locked up. In Tiverton a number of car wing mirrors had been reported as stolen. PC Dodd had given notice about a proposed road closure on 1st May, at Bridwell Avenue, Uffculme, the day of the Uffculme Show. He had provided a copy of a letter which he had sent to MDDC with a cheque for £100, requesting the closure. However the PC could not understand why he had done this. DCC was the highway authority and presumably he would need to obtain their consent, rather than MDDC. The PC made the point that if the road was to be closed that signs should be erected to ensure visitors to Coldharbour Mill were aware of an alternative route to the Mill.

220. DCC Matters Contd

- i. It was understood that with regard to the future of Orchard Lea, that the Executive Member for Adult Services, had decided that further discussions should take place with short listed independent sector providers in the first instance, in preference to the withdrawal of services from the site, to establish the feasibility of the proposals. It was understood that a final recommendation could be made in the summer as to the future of Orchard Lea.
- ii. Temporary road closures would be taking place at the following locations/dates
 - a. Thurlescombe Cross – 17th April for 2 weeks
 - b. Cloggs Hill to High Beers – 1st to 5th May inclusive
 - c. Crown Hill to junction with C769 – 1st to 5th May inclusive
 - d. C272 Curham Lane to Crossparks – 1st to 5th May inclusive

221. Mid Devon District Council

- i. MDDC could arrange for an Officer to visit a PC Meeting to provide an update on the alternate weekly organic waste collection scheme. It was agreed that this be arranged for the July PC Meeting at Ash Thomas. The Clerk to advertise the talk in the next edition of the Newsletter.
- ii. MDDC's Community Services Cttee was considering a recommendation that all households should be offered a kerbside recycling collection service. If this was approved, Mid Devon Community Recycling would extend its recycling box service to all rural households during 2006. The cost of extending the service would be offset by increased funding from the government and from savings made in other areas of its recycling budget.

222. The Clerk's Computer

After much discussion it was resolved that the PC purchase a computer through Uffculme School which was cheaper than the quote the Clerk had obtained. The system would cost in the region of £550. The Chairman would arrange to order the item after the Easter holidays.

223. Car Parking

The Vice-Chairman advised that a site meeting at Cordwents had taken place on 17th March at 9.00am. Following on from this it was resolved that the Clerk should now write to Roger Folley at DCC advising of the area that the PC was interested in leasing; to ascertain the amount of rental payable; whether an area could be sub-let to generate an income until part of the site was developed as a car park etc. It was agreed that the Vice-Chairman would supply the Clerk with full details in order that she could write to Mr Folley. It was also agreed that on the June Agenda 'Funding' be included as an item for discussion. The Clerk to also ask CClr Des Hannon for an application form in relation to the Devon County Ctte.

224. Draft Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan

The Clerk had responded to the draft document and had received a reply from Sue Warren at MDDC which she read out. Ms Warren had made the following points:

- i. There was no suggestion that the traffic calming scheme be removed. The Management Plan had merely suggested ways of reducing the visual intrusion of the scheme
- ii. The final document would be amended to take into account the ownership of the school fence
- iii. Direct consultation letters were only sent to occupiers of property that was subject of proposals for either inclusion or removal from the conservation area boundary. Previous appraisals for other conservation areas had had the same consultation period of one month
- iv. Proposals within the Management Plan eg possible enhancements, would be the subject of a public meeting in the village
- v. Any factual matters which needed to be amended could be sent by the PC within the next 4 – 6 weeks
- vi. A couple of aerial photographs supplied by the Chairman would be used in the final document.

The Clerk then reported that she had received a further letter from Ms Warren, stating that a report on the consultation responses was made to the Planning Ctte of MDDC on 29th March, where it was decided to adopt the document as planning guidance, subject to minor amendments to the text, to take consultation replies into account. All the proposed boundary changes were approved with the exception of Corner Close (Lower Close) which the Ctte had decided to leave in the Conservation Area. The revised document would be sent to the PC shortly.

225. Villages In Action

MDDC had cut the Charity's funding by £2,000 in 2005/06 and in view of this the Charity would possibly have to cut its levels of activity in Mid Devon. Cllr Mrs Armstrong expressed concern at the grant cut, as she considered that VIA brought high quality professional performing arts to local communities and it would be very much a loss if the Charity was no longer able to do this. It was resolved that the Clerk write to MDDC and copy in VIA expressing the PC's concern at the grant cut.

226. Mid Devon Association of Local Councils

The Chairman advised that a copy of the Constitution and Minutes of the Meeting had not been supplied by the Secretary of the Association, as requested by the Clerk. The Clerk then advised

the PC that the Secretary had refused to send them to her. She had also received correspondence from the Secretary which she read out to. The Secretary had made a number of untrue allegations about the Clerk, to which the Clerk was now seeking advice from DAPC as to how to deal with the situation. It was also understood that the Secretary had now resigned from the Association. The Clerk wanted the PC to be fully aware of the full facts of the matter particularly if there were further meetings of the Association and again these allegations were raised. It was also understood that no recent accounts of the Association had been circulated which was cause for concern

227. Public Transport Problems at Pethertons

The matter had been discussed earlier on in the meeting. Cllr Gibbs provided more background information and advised that Stagecoach had introduced reversing of the bus, as this manoeuvre used less time which had been a consideration in the contract tendering process. Concern was raised that with the provision of low cost housing in the vicinity that more people than ever before would require the provision of this bus service and the decision to stop the service was contrary to the Governments initiative for more people to use public transport. It was noted that CCllr Hannon would be taking further action but in the meantime it was resolved that the Clerk should write to DCC to inform it of its opposition to its plans.

228. Future Meetings

The Chairman would attend the Annual Meeting of MDDC on 3rd May at the Town Hall at 7.00pm

229. Notice of proposed amendment to Standing Orders re Restructuring of Committees

In accordance with the PC's Standing Orders notice was given to the proposal that Sections 41 – 48 of the PC's Standing Orders be amended and a resolution agreeing to the proposed following amendment be given at the May PC Meeting.

The proposed amendment to the Standing Orders was that the following Cttes of the PC should be formed and that all PCllrs should sit on all of the Cttes

- i. Planning Ctte
- ii. Policy and Finance Ctte
- iii. Amenities (to include the Cemetery)
- iv. Communications, Footpaths and Environment

Other Associations and Cttes which members of the PC sat on, would remain as before, with the following amendments:

Canal: the Vice-Chairman to be a reserve

CADI: Cllr Gibbs no longer wished to be on this Ctte and no one else was wishing to commit to it.

MDALC: The Vice-Chairman and Cllr Gibbs to sit on this Ctte . Cllr Mrs Armstrong to be a reserve

230. Committee Reports

Amenities (including the Cemetery)

Debbie Whiteway gave a very informative talk about grants and funding at the Amenities Meeting on 23rd March. The Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Ms Whiteway. It was understood that the Foundation of Sports and Arts was a good source of funding to approach. Club 17 were keen to go ahead with the painting of the bus shelter with their various designs. The Chairman of the Amenities Ctte had entered Halberton in both Village Competitions (Devon Calor Village of

the Year and CPRE and MVF Best Kept Village in Devon). Information on planters had been received and the Chairman would be investigating this further. The Rospa report which had recently been received was quite pleasing. A few items required attention but these were fairly minor. The Chairman thanked everyone who had assisted with getting the Rec` in good condition in readiness for the Rospa inspection, as the hard work had obviously paid off. Cllr Mrs Armstrong advised that a parishioner had informed her that youngsters had left empty cans and bottles at the Rec` and that the slide and the swings had been deliberately taped up with industrial tape. She had removed the tape and debris and was thanked by the PC for her help in this matter.

231. Clerk`s Report

The Clerk advised that Judy Austin would be unable to prepare the buffet for the Annual Parish Meeting, as she would be on holiday. After some discussion Cllr Mrs Jepp`s agreed to take on this task. Cllr Mrs Armstrong kindly agreed to pass the end of year accounts to Mrs Erasmus for auditing.

232.Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST - 31ST MARCH 2006:

<i>Bank Interest</i>	<i>17.32</i>
<i>Newsletter</i>	<i>177.97</i>
<i>Cemetery</i>	<i>759.50</i>
<i>DCC P3 Grant</i>	<i>300.00</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>£1254.79</i>

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD: 1ST - 31ST MARCH 2006 £897.40

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

<i>Cheque No</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>VAT</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Details</i>
100997	10.00		10.00	J.Austin – delivery costs of Newsletter
100998	246.55	43.15	289.70	Education Matters – production of Newsletter costs
100999	7.00		7.00	Education Matters – photocopying costs
101000	60.00	10.50	70.50	Playsafety Ltd – inspection of play eqt
101001	5.00		15.00	Devon Playing Fields Ass – Annual subs
101002	219.00		219.00	DAPC – Annual Subs
101003	236.51		236.51	Mrs C McIntyre – March/April (less tax deductions)
101004	150.00		150.00	St Andrews Church – grant for 2006/07
101005	208.37		208.37	Inland Revenue – Clerk`s Tax deductions for Jan-March
1001006	14.88		14.88	Mrs C McIntyre – repayment of postage costs
1001007	29.00		29.00	Mrs C McIntyre – repayment of expenses Dec – Feb (internet and telephone calls)
101008	100.00		100.00	St Andrews Church – grant for 2005/06
101009	323.00	56.53	379.53	Gardencare – grasscutting

It was resolved that the above accounts be paid

<i>Balance of bank accounts carried forward</i>	<i>11,910.05</i>
<i>Plus receipts for period 1st – 31st March 2006</i>	<i>1,254.79</i>

Minus payments made for the above period

TOTAL £13,164.84
897.40
TOTAL £12,267.44

Made up as follows:- *High Interest 10,348.53*
Current 1,918.91
TOTAL £12,267.44

<i>VILLAGE HALLS FUND</i>	<i>£360.00</i>
<i>PARISH PATHS FUND</i>	<i>£2,128.79</i>
<i>PARISH PLAN FUND</i>	<i>300.00</i>
<i>GENERAL FUNDS</i>	<i>£9,478.65</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>£12,267.44</i>

NEWSLETTER :

Income for period 1/4/05 – 31/03/06 £1,889.89 less expenditure to date of £1,544.12 = Net Profit £345.77

233. Members Business

- i. Cllr Mrs Jepps raised the question of the Parish Emergency Plan in view of the recent scare concerning bird flu. It was agreed that this item be placed on the May agenda
- ii. It was agreed that Litter Picking be an item for the June agenda.
- iii. Cllr Mrs Armstrong gave her apologies for the May PC Meeting

234. Future Parish Council Meetings

- i. 9th May 2006 – Ordinary Meeting of PC (incorporating Planning) – 7.00pm
- ii. 9th May 2006 – Annual Parish meeting – 8 – 8.15pmpm

The Meeting ended at 10.10pm

DATE

CHAIRMAN

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