

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY 2003 AT 7.30PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

196. Present

The Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Hugill, Payne, Saunders, Mesdames Armstrong, Fisher, Hull, Jepps and nine Members of the Public

197. Apologies

The Chairman, Cllrs Mrs Lunn and Radford

198. Public Forum

- i. Concern was expressed about the state of the canal towpath running through Halberton in that it was muddy and slippery for walkers and some areas were practically impassable. It was questioned as to why other sections of the towpath outside of the Parish had been improved and Halberton left out. The Vice-Chairman advised that steps had been taken to try and secure funding for improvements. However whilst funding was available this was to be spent on other areas of the canal regarded as 'priority cases'. If there was then any money left it would be used on the Halberton sections. A Footpath Survey form had also recently been completed indicating the extent of work required on the towpath.
- ii. The buses at Tiverton Parkway Station did not connect with train arrivals. Buses had also been spotted not bothering to wait for train passengers. It was suggested that as the bus companies received subsidies they should be more amenable to the needs of train passengers. The PC advised that it was actively pursuing the problems at Parkway and was raising the issue at all local meetings to increase peoples awareness of the problems.
- iii. Mr Rob Stevens provided background information re the Village Hall Committee's latest bids for funding. Draft letters had been prepared for consideration by the PC. The matter to be discussed more fully later in the Meeting.
- iv. Grave concern had been expressed by Mrs Byrne and a number of other residents from Millstream Gardens. Non residents had been parking their vehicles at the Gardens and had also been using the area as a turning point. Recently an emergency vehicle found it extremely difficult to gain access to a resident who later died in hospital. The residents wished to have 'No Turning' and 'Parking for Residents Only' notices erected. Cllr Payne would pursue the matter.
- v. The overgrown hedge at 3 Lower Town was causing concern. The Vice-Chairman to talk to the occupant of the property.
- vi. The path running from the cemetery to the Jubilee tree and from the tree to Halberton Court was overgrown. The Clerk to deal with.
- vii. The culvert at Lower Town had been cleaned out but crockery and glass had been left on the bank. The Clerk to approach relevant authority to remove it.

199. The Minutes of:-

- i. The Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 14th January 2003 were approved
- ii. The Policy and Finance Cttee Meeting of 14th January 2003 were approved

200. Matters Arising

- i. The Clerk advised that so far only two parishioners had indicated they wished to attend the First Aid Course to be run in April. A number of Parish Councillors then advised they wished to attend, in addition the Clerk to approach all the local organisations to suggest that they send members along.

- ii. The matter of dog fouling around Ash Thomas had now been looked into by MDDC. Cllr Mrs Fisher indicated that there had been an improvement in the situation.
- iii. The Clerk had been in contact with Matta Playground Surfacing. A representative would visit the site on Monday, 17th February. Cllr Mrs Jepps wished to be present and the Vice-Chairman would try and attend. The Clerk to make the arrangements.
- iv. It was understood that all the people who had helped with the opening ceremony of the Dudley Weatherly Jubilee Bridge in November should have now been formally thanked by the Grand Western Canal Advisory Board.
- v. Mrs Carol Onley -Gregson Chair of Governors of Halberton School had provided an up-to date progress report of the school (as per attached), which the Clerk read out at the Meeting. It was pleasing to note the progress and improvements which continued to take place at the school.
- vi. Mr Densham of MDDC re the Local Improvement Plan had advised the Clerk on 31st January that he would contact the Vice-Chairman about the Interpretation Board. However to date the Vice -Chairman had heard nothing further. He would attempt to contact Mr Densham. Mr Densham had also indicated that there was some work planned to be undertaken to provide planters around the three village signs. He understood that the PC would like the current signs replaced and it was to contact DCC about this. Until the signs issue had been concluded he would not undertake any work on the planters.
- vii. Mr Maunder had acknowledged the sum of £50 from the PC as a contribution towards the costs of the re-surfacing works at Corner Lane.
- viii. In response to a query raised, the Clerk advised that the number of Councillors required at an Ordinary Parish Council Meeting to constitute a quorum, was four.
- ix. `Involve` had thanked the PC for its pending donation of £50. It had provided details of the Carer`s support service. Cllr Mrs Armstrong would be attending a future Carer`s meeting

201 Royal Garden Parties 2003

Cllr Mrs P Armstrong was nominated to attend a Royal Garden Party.

202.Halberton Doctors Surgery

Notification had been received that Dr Sheridan upon his return to work wished to close the three Branch Surgeries at Holcombe Rogus, Westleigh and Burlescombe. In addition he wished to reduce the Halberton Branch Surgery to once a week on a Friday. He was seeking the views of his patients in order to reach a decision about the future of the branch Surgeries and these views needed to be sent to Mrs J Sanders, the Practice Manager at the Sampford Peverell Surgery. Cllr Mrs Fisher on the PC`s behalf would keep pressing on to maintain the Halberton Surgery.

203Devon Structure Plan 2001 – 2016

The Devon Structure Plan Deposit Draft was published on 4th July and placed on deposit until 6th September for public comment. The Joint Ctte agreed to some of the changes in wording of Policies and Proposals for public comment during a six-week The Deposit period commenced on 30th January 2003. The Clerk had full details available of where the copies of the proposals were located for public inspection up to 13th March which was also the latest date when comments/objections could be submitted by the public in respect of the proposed changes .

204.Request for a Donation – Victim Support – Exeter East and Mid Devon

It was resolved that for the financial year 2003/04 a donation of £20 be made.

205.Parish Plan

There had been an Inaugural Meeting on 28th January which had been well represented by various organisations. Minutes of the Meeting had been circulated. A further meeting was planned for 17th February to make the arrangements for a proposed Open Day on 12th April at the Village Hall. Every household in the Parish would receive an invitation to the Open Day as it was the intention that the whole of the Parish should be involved in the project

206. Parish Boundary Review

Members saw sight of the plan which showed the boundary changes. For election purposes the changes would take effect on 1st May 2003. For all other purposes the changes would take effect on 1st April 2003. The PC had no further comment to make.

207. MDDC Matters

- i. Details had been provided of a B & Q award scheme for Community projects eg decorating work etc. The information was passed to representatives of both Village Halls who were present. The Clerk to also provide the Flower Group with details.
- ii. Details of Grants for Play Area Improvements had been received. Applications had to be forwarded by 28th March.

208. DCC Matters

- i. The hedge running from the cemetery to the canal required trimming. The Clerk to contact Mr Holman to deal with the problem.
- ii. Hedges were overgrown from the end of Pethertons up to the bus shelter (Bycott Farm) The Clerk to request Cllr Radford to deal with the problem.
- iii. Brambles were overhanging down Pond Hill (Hillhead Flats). The Clerk to contact MDDC's Housing Dept
- iv. DCC was intending to plot on a map, locations where access to the internet would be available to members of the community. It was seeking details of any public access internet sites in the Parish. There were no sites known to the PC

209.Meetings Attended.

- i. Mid Devon Rural Transport Forum – 28th January 2003 at 2.30pm at Cullompton
Cllr Mrs Fisher attended this. Tiverton Parkway was discussed and also again the question of a bus for Crossparks. Catherine Kenny would be contacting the Clerk about the Crossparks matter in due course.
- ii. Culm Area Committee – 29th January 2003 at 7.00pm at the Duchy School
The Vice-Chairman attended this. Items discussed included Tiverton Parkway, Affordable Housing, Council Tax 2003/04, the cost of running Area Cttes etc. The Clerk had subsequently been contacted by Peter Hancock (MDDC) who indicated that the Ctte would be prepared to be supportive of the PC's concerns regarding Tiverton Parkway and suggested that both the PC and the Ctte formulate a joint response. The Clerk to obtain a draft letter for the PC's approval at the next PC Meeting .
- iii. Mid Devon Police Liaison Meeting on 30th January 2003 at Willand Village Hall
Cllr Mrs Fisher attended this. There were 20 murders in the County last year. Crime has gone down substantially, Devon was the most poorly serviced County in the Country with regard to the policing of it. However Devon was the safest place in the

Country to live. There were continuing complaints about the police telephone service.

iv. Mid Devon Community Planning Alliance – 31st January 2003

Two decisions of interest at the Meeting were that the Alliance would make representations about Tiverton Parkway (reduced number of trains, poor parking facilities, excessive parking charges) and that the Community Safety Group would extend its activity to include vandalism and anti-social behaviour. The Halberton Surgery problem had been too much of a local issue to raise at the meeting. However, Mr Thorpe-Tracey had passed it onto Dr Stein, the Primary Care Trust Director of Public Health. At the next meeting on 24th April it was hoped that there would be a presentation on Affordable Housing...

210. Future Meetings

i. 18th February 2003 Standards Board for England – Taunton

The Vice-Chairman will attend

ii. 19th February 2003 - 5.15pm Tiverton Council Chamber

MDDC - Removal of Close Season for Fishing on the Canal

Cllr Mrs Hull would be unable to attend this meeting now. The Vice-Chairman would try and attend. He would inform Simon Coombs of MDDC of the change in arrangements.

iii. 28th February 2003 – Renewable Energy

There was a cost of £10 per delegate. It was resolved that the Vice-Chairman and Cllr Hugill would attend.

iv. 26th March 2003 at 7.00pm – Culm Area Ctte Meeting – Halberton Village Hall

Cllr Payne would produce some posters to display around the village to advertise the Meeting. The Clerk to provide him with full information. It was noted that Members of the Public would be welcome to attend and could raise issues. The PC wished to have a question included on the Agenda asking whether the Area Cttes were working and to provide details of what they had actually achieved to date.

v. 24th April 2003 Mid Devon Community Planning Alliance

211. Committee Reports

i. Cemetery

Cllr Saunders was still considering the problem of the headstones and what action needed to be taken. The Clerk had provided an updated cemetery fee list to all PCllrs. Tenders had gone out for the grass cutting work. It was resolved that Cllr Saunders cut down the dead tree now that the PC had received permission from MDDC. There was a problem with the water tap. Cllr Mrs Fisher/Cllr Saunders would investigate and arrange a repair and, if possible, at the same time get it lagged.

ii. Amenities

Tenders had gone out for the grass cutting work in the `Rec` and the Mead. An Amenities Ctte meeting was arranged for Thursday, 6th March at 7.30pm. Items to be included on the agenda were: Playground surfacing (to include applications for grants), Rospa (the Rec. and the Mead would be inspected by Rospa in March), Best Kept Village Competitions, Misc. matters.

iii. Footpaths

The footpath survey Reports were now coming in. Other Footpath matters were progressing. The next Footpath Committee Meeting would take place on 4th March.

213.Members Business

- i. In response to Cllr Payne`s suggestion, it was resolved that an evening be arranged at the Village Hall whereby all local candidates standing for the District and Parish Council Elections could meet the electorate. Each candidate could give a presentation . The PC to pay for the hire of the hall and to provide refreshments. The cost not to exceed £50. A provisional date of Tuesday, 22nd April was agreed. An `Election Special` Newsletter would also be published.
- ii. Devon Enterprise – Cllr Payne advised that a member of the Enterprise was willing to come to a future PC Meeting if the PC agreed. The Clerk to place the item on the March Agenda for further consideration.

214. Miscellaneous Matters

- i. The request of the Village Hall Management Ctte for the support of the PC in respect of its application to the Countryside Commission and Uffculme Environmental for funding was further considered. The PC had considered fully the prepared draft letters submitted by Mgt Ctte Member, Rob Stevens. The PC resolved that as it had made funds available already towards improvements for both village halls, in principle it would agree to support a funding application. The PC accepted that a funding application had to be worded in a specific manner and therefore agreed to the proposed wording in both draft letters, subject to the provision in the letters regarding the PC`s annual contribution towards the funding of the village halls showing the correct figure. The Clerk to check this. The Clerk would then transfer both draft letters onto headed Parish Council paper. She would ensure both letters were passed to Mr Stevens within the next two days.
- ii. Mid Devon District Citizens Advice Bureau advised that last year it had over 10,000 client contacts and raised over £500,000 on behalf of clients and dealt with £2,000,000 in debts. It requested that a card which advertised the service be displayed on the Parish notice board.

215.Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 10.00pm. The next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting would be on Tuesday, 11th March 2003 at 7.30pm at Halberton Village Hall. A Planning Ctte Meeting at 7.00pm would precede it.

CHAIRMAN

DATE