

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH  
COUNCIL ON MONDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2005 AT 7.30PM AT  
ASH THOMAS VILLAGE HALL

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**146. Present**

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Gibbs, Lane-Smith, Radford, Saunders, Mesdames Armstrong, Fisher and Hull

**147. Apologies**

Cllr Mrs Jepps

**148. Public Forum**

There were no members of the public present.

**149. Approval of the Minutes of:**

- i. The Amenities Cttee Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> November 2004. These were approved without amendment
- ii. The Planning Cttee Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> December. These were approved subject to the following amendment:  
Minute 6 Planning Applications  
Delete 'All the above applications were approved' and insert 'All the above applications were approved with the exception of 04/00273. This application was objected to on the grounds previously submitted by the PC'
- iii. The Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> December 2004. The Minutes were approved subject to the following amendment:  
Minute 130 (iii) Delete 'Grabham' and insert 'Graham'

**150. Matters arising from the aforementioned Minutes**

- i. The Clerk advised that she would chase up MDDC about a replacement computer and possibly a scanner
- ii. Despite repeated e-mails to Mr Cook of MDDC about providing further information about grass cutting matters, relating to his initial letter the Clerk had received dated 21<sup>st</sup> October 2004, the Clerk still did not have all the requisite information from him. The cut off date for the Clerk to respond to Mr Cook's letter had passed some weeks ago and it was decided that the Clerk should not waste any further time on the matter.
- iii. The Clerk had been informed by MDDC's Electoral Officer that there had been no request by electors for an election and the vacancy which had arisen through Cllr Hugill's resignation could be filled by Co-option. The Clerk had taken advice from Lesley Smith of Devon Association of Parish Councils who had informed her that it would be good practice to advertise the position. It was agreed that it should be advertised in the Parish Newsletter as well as on posters around the Parish. Interested persons to apply to the Clerk providing a brief summary of why they were applying and to be invited to attend the March PC Meeting.
- iv. Due to lack of funds, MDDC was unable to provide a replacement litter bin for the one which had been damaged in the Rec'. The Clerk also advised if the PC was to claim on its insurance policy there would be a £100 excess which would also result in an increase in premiums. The matter to be left in abeyance for the moment.
- v. Steve Densham of MDDC had advised that with regard to the requested adoption of Orchard View there were several reasons why at the present time the adoption

could not go ahead – these being: i. concerns by some residents, ii. no specific budget for improvements to estate roads to achieve adoption and iii. that there had been no commitment by MDDC to fund the work. Mr Densham further advised that plans were for planters around the village signs on the three approach roads. He stated there had been difficulties establishing a suitable location on the Willand Road and when funds were available the work would be undertaken.

- vi. Tenders had started to arrive in respect of the grass cutting.. The item to be included on the February agenda.

### **151. Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman advised that the Parish Christmas tree had been provided by Anthony Stevens free of charge to the Parish. The PC was very appreciative of this generous gift and it was agreed that the Clerk would send him a letter of thanks on behalf of the PC. The Chairman had been approached by the Halberton Newsletter about whether or not an advert for 'Soulfire' should be included in the next edition free of charge. It was agreed that any community group or non profit organisation could have their initial adverts free of charge. Cllr Mrs Armstrong would also speak to the Newsletter personnel about increasing advertising rates and the provision of concessionary rates and bring the information to the next PC meeting. The item to be included on the February agenda.

### **152. Precept 2005/06**

It was resolved to accept the recommendations of the Policy and Finance Cttee that the Precept be increased by 6% (from £8959 to £9496)

### **153. Police Matters**

PC Dodd had provided a summary of crimes committed between 6<sup>th</sup> September until 7<sup>th</sup> December 2004. The crimes committed in the Parish included common assault, burglary and theft. It was reported that a woman was in the district posing as a representative from one of the Utilities in an attempt to gain entry to properties to steal property and money. A fire had been reported at Ash Thomas.

### **154. Parish Web Site**

It was agreed that the Vice-Chairman would speak to Tim Hugill about the Web site. The Clerk was concerned that as Mr Hugill had now left the PC he may not wish to continue to manage the Web site. If this was the case, then it would be necessary for the PC to decide what action it needed to take.

### **155. The Parish Plan**

The Clerk had advised that Lesley Smith of DAPC and the District Auditor had raised concerns about the PC charging for copies of the Parish Plan on the Internet in view of the document having to be in the public domain to maintain interest. She further advised that unless the PC had very good reasons for making a charge then it should refrain from so doing. Cllr Mrs Armstrong advised that the Plan was now on the Parish Web site available free of charge to download. To date, she had posted one hard copy to a parishioner. Katherine Gardner from the Countryside Agency had provided the relevant forms to enable the PC to obtain the final part of its promised grant. This was passed to the Vice-Chairman for his attention. The Clerk had prepared an up to date income and expenditure account which she would submit to Ms Gardner. Cllr Mrs Armstrong advised that there would be some minor expenses still to come but these would be for small amounts. The Clerk stressed that it was important that the form was completed as soon as possible in order that the money could be received before the end of the current financial year.

Representatives from the PC had met with Bill Holman and his colleague from DCC regarding Cordwents. Mr Holman indicated that the way forward was to have a meeting to look at the Plan's findings, which should be followed by a half day workshop. He further advised that the PC should proceed with the car park and the footpath up to the canal. Plans would need to be drawn up incorporating the community's requirements.

**156. Rights of Way Improvement Plan**

This item to be placed on the February Agenda as not all the PC Members had had an opportunity to look at the document and make comments.

**157. BT Payphones**

The payphone at Crossparks had now been removed by BT and it was now asking the PC to reconsider its previous objection to the removal of the payphone at Pethertons. BT had provided figures indicating that its usage remained very low and it considered that the payphone could be removed without having a negative effect on the local community. It was agreed that the Clerk should place a notice in the Newsletter requesting parishioners to submit to her, their comments/objections to the proposals by a certain date. If any were received then these would be considered by the PC at its March meeting and a reply submitted to BT based on the responses.

**158. Affordable Housing Strategy**

This had been received from MDDC. MDDC had advised that affordable housing was one of the four key objectives of the Council. A site programme had yet to be agreed. The new Housing Strategy was in the process of being updated as the previous Strategy would run out in March 2005. Cllr Mrs Armstrong would look at the document in depth and comment fully at the February PC Meeting. The PC could then make a full response to MDDC. The item to be included on the February agenda.

**159. MDDC Matters**

Cllr Terry Snow had been nominated by MDDC as its member Champion for Local History. As part of his role he hoped to: i. encourage networking between existing local history groups across the district ii. encourage people with an interest in local history to form new groups iii. encourage interest in a range of local history issues e.g. genealogy, the local built environment, rural crafts etc iv. encourage information sharing about potential sources of information and potential speakers and v. stimulate ideas for further research and projects. Cllr Snow was also intending to organise a group visit to the new Devon Records Office at Great Moor House, Sowton, Exeter once it opened in February 2005. He would be sending out further information about the visit once the details had been arranged. The Clerk to let Eileen Hugill have this information and for it to be placed in the Parish Newsletter so that it reached a wide audience.

**160. Meetings Attended**

Several members of the PC were on site to meet up with Mr Mitchard of DCC regarding the placing of the 20mph speed restriction signs at specific points in the parish. The locations were agreed and the matter should now progress. It was understood that Mr Mitchard did not consider it feasible to implement PC Dodd's suggestion whereby the pavement be extended towards the village centre past The Barge, or alternatively putting in some traffic calming to assist pedestrians walking that way.

**161. Dates of Future meetings**

27<sup>th</sup> January 2005 – Mid Devon Police Authority Liaison Meeting at Queen Elizabeth's Community College, Crediton

## **162. Planning Matters**

### Applications

04/002358/FULL	Mr R Luxton	67 High St, Halberton	Conversion of existing garage with store over to form living room with bathroom over
04/02502/FULL	G W Persey	Hitchcock`s Farm Halberton	Erection of cattle shed

**The PC had no objections to the aforementioned applications but application 04/02502/FULL was subject to adequate screening being provided.**

### Planning Decisions

04/02262/FULL Mr and Mrs Pledger, 2 Chapel Close, Halberton  
Permission granted by MDDC subject to three conditions

### Miscellaneous Planning matters

The Clerk advised that despite further e-mails the Planning Dept had still not responded to queries raised, by the Clerk some weeks ago, in respect of various planning issues. Cllr Radford had taken the matter up with MDDC`s Chief Executive but this had still failed to result in a response. Cllr Radford would again chase the matter up.

## **163. Committee Reports**

### Cemetery

The Clerk had ordered the grave markers before Christmas but had not heard anything further from the suppliers. She would chase up this matter.

### Amenities

Cllr Lane-Smith had obtained quotes from different suppliers for replacement playground equipment. It was resolved that the quote from FRS at £2173 be accepted in respect of the steel swings which were coated. Cllr Lane-Smith would liaise with the Clerk about her writing to Dave Scott at MDDC to apply for grant monies to cover the cost of the swings.

### Footpaths

Active Lifestyles training would be taking place on 27<sup>th</sup> January. The Vice-Chairman would arrange for information about this to be forwarded to appropriate persons.

### Highways

The pavement at Orchard View was cracked and it was understood that this was caused by MDDC`s refuse lorry. The Clerk to request MDDC carry out repairs as soon as possible.

### Policy and Finance

A Policy and Finance meeting to be arranged shortly to discuss the terms of the Clerk`s new Contract and rates of pay.

## **164. Accounts**

*RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> – 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2004:*

<i>Bank Interest</i>	<i>18.74</i>
<i>Newsletter</i>	<i>52.00</i>
<i>Cemetery Grant 2004/05</i>	<i>447.00</i>
<i>Churchyard Grant 2004/05</i>	<i>50.00</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>£567.74</i>

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> - 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2004: £287.76

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Cheque No	Amount	VAT	Total	Details
SO	21.00		21.00	MDDC – Cemetery Rates
100895	221.91		221.91	Mrs C McIntyre – Salary Dec/Jan (less tax deductions)
100896	19.74		19.74	Petty Cash
100897	3.73		3.73	Mrs P Armstrong – repayment of admin costs re Parish Plan

The above invoices were approved for payment

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	10,901.53
Plus receipts for period 1 <sup>st</sup> - 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2004	567.74
	TOTAL £11,469.27
Minus payments made for the above period	287.76
	TOTAL £11,181.51

Made up as follows:- High Interest	9,968.33
Current	1,213.18
	TOTAL £11,181.51

VILLAGE HALLS FUND	£1,410.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	£1,741.72
PARISH PLAN FUND	
*GENERAL FUNDS	£8,029.79
	TOTAL £11,181.51

\*Awaiting a grant payment re Parish Plan of £1,254.64 to be repaid to General Funds

NEWSLETTER :

Income for period 1/4/03 – 31/12/04 £1108.50 minus expenditure £938.82  
= NET PROFIT £169.68

**165. Members Business**

The Vice-Chairman advised that progress was being made regarding the Community Responders. Grants could be available for the funding of this service.

**166. Miscellaneous Matters**

The Clerk had received notification from Mr Voce that the Halberton Consolidated Charity had officially been wound up and grants made to various local organisations from the monies held in the Charity's bank account. The Clerk to write to Mr Voce on behalf of the PC to thank him for all his hard work in the matter.

**167. Next Meeting**

A Meeting of the Council's Planning Cttee would take place on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2005 at 7.00 pm at Halberton Village Hall followed by an Ordinary Meeting of the PC at 7.30pm

The Meeting closed at 9.45pm

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CHAIRMAN

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DATED

