

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2011 AT 7.32PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

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**182. Present**

Cllr Browse (Chairman), Cllrs Mesdames Cuthbert, and Graham and Cllrs Britton (Vice-Chairman), Corden, Hand, Radford and Saunders and CCllr Des Hannon and PCSO Jonathan Sims

**183. Apologies**

Cllrs Mesdames Jepps, Johnstone and Cllrs Gibbs

**184. Public Forum**

There were no members of the public present

**185. Approval of the Minutes**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010 were approved and signed accordingly

**186. Matters Arising from the Ordinary Minutes**

- i. It was understood that the driver of a bus who lived at Five Bridges was still continuing to leave this vehicle at his home address. It had been noted that the vehicle had been left on the premises for approximately 6 days since the start of the New Year. Concern had also been expressed at the last PC meeting that the driver had apparently been washing off oil and grease from the vehicle which was flowing into the mill stream which could have pollution implications. The Clerk to refer this matter again to MDDC`s Enforcement Officer
- ii. AON had advised that with regards to the PC using volunteers eg to assist with the litter picking, that volunteers could be used to carry out certain duties, but any equipment used would have to be supplied by the PC. In addition if a risk assessment was required, then the PC must arrange for this to be carried out
- iii. DCC had confirmed that it would arrange for the `road narrows` warning sign along the High Street at the junction with Willand Road, to be removed

**187. The Chairman`s Announcements**

The Chairman would be attending the Town and Parish Council Open day being held at MDDC on 13<sup>th</sup> January. Later on in the day there would be discussions about the `Big Society` and public sector cuts. The Chairman would be interested to learn as to what services could be devolved to parish councils and specifically Halberton PC.

**188. Police Matters**

PCSO Jonathan Sims advised that there was little to report. He advised that a vehicle was seen in suspicious circumstances on a farm. No criminal offence appeared to have been committed but details of its registration plate had been logged. Speedwatch had last been carried out on 12<sup>th</sup> November. Over a period in excess of an 1 hour, 132 vehicles entered Halberton from Willand, out of which, 12 were travelling in excess of the speed limits at Greenacre. Jonathan advised that there was another speed check point at the Farmshop. However there were difficulties in setting up a Speedwatch due to vetting requirements of parishioners who were prepared to get involved. He hoped that the matter could be progressed whereby a Speedwatch would take place manned by PCllrs and parishioners once the vetting process had been completed. He also reported that a milk lorry had been stuck in the Parish due to the adverse weather conditions and similarly, there had

been a number of RTAs and abandoned vehicles due to the weather conditions. Rural crime was on the increase and warned that any farm equipment should be kept locked away and made secure and if possible not left at any isolated locations. Cllr Hand advised that vehicles were parking on the ramp on the high street which was causing problems. He would let Jonathan have details of the vehicle registrations in order that he could pursue the matter further. The investigations concerning the damage to the church were on-going.

### **189. DCC Matters**

- i. The hole in the road at the Cordwents end up to the school, had still not been filled. CCllr Hannon would pursue the matter further
- ii. Cllr Corden thanked CCllr Hannon on behalf of the Lower Close residents for the provision of grit during the adverse weather conditions. It was agreed that a number of PCllrs would check salt bins sited in the Parish to ascertain the levels of contents. CCllr Hannon was prepared to fund the cost of two grit bins for the Parish or to provide funding for something else that the Parish required. It was agreed that the matter be an item for the February meeting.
- iii. The issues which had been raised previously concerning the possibility of irregularities involving the issuing of bus tickets by a bus company which served the Parish, had been referred to DCC. It was understood that other persons unconnected with the Parish had also raised these concerns. However DCC had carried out an investigation and it was understood that the company concerned was not making any financial gains despite a number of bus tickets stating incorrect information.
- iv. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert advised that BT ducting was resulting in water being discharged onto the highway by the hump on the highway, (opposite the Farm Shop) whenever it rained. CCllr Hannon indicated that DCC should insist upon BT resolving this problem and requested that the Clerk e-mail him the details
- v. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert raised the question of the height of the hedge on entering Halberton (where the restriction sign was sited) as a health and safety issue. The Vice-Chairman would follow this up
- vi. Cllr Corden suggested the siting of a sign adjacent to the Farm Shop stating `Traffic Restriction Ahead`. However CCllr Hannon was of the view that it was likely to be ignored by motorists.

### **190. MDDC Matters**

- i. MDDC's `Customer First` team had successfully completed a review of the Customer Service Excellence Accreditation which was awarded last year
- ii. MDDC was holding a series of Information Evenings across the district about how to become a District Cllr. There would be an Information Evening taking place at Phoenix House on 31<sup>st</sup> January at 6.30pm
- iii. MDDC had provided an update on the PC's allocation of S106 monies which currently stood at £31,704 (which included £5743 interest). This amount did not include the Cordwents money
- iv. Cllr Radford advised that MDDC's budget was causing concern as there were less monies coming from central government than expected. However as far as he was aware spending reductions should not result in compulsory redundancies

### **191. Cemetery Matters**

The Clerk provided a plan of the cemetery showing the consecrated and unconsecrated areas. The Clerk agreed to supply Cllr Corden with a copy of the plan/deed. It was understood that a parishioner had specifically requested that her ashes (at the appropriate time) be interred in the bank, rather than the main section of the cemetery. There was much discussion about this. The PC agreed to the request, subject to the parishioner and her family understanding that there was

no guarantee that the ashes could remain in that location, if there should be redevelopment in the future and further, that no memorial stone could be erected at this site. In addition the same fee would have to be charged, as if exclusive rights of burial had been granted.

Cllr Corden would liaise with Simon Tucker about the spacing between each cremation plots. The numbering `CR` would be used. It was resolved that a quantity of grit/salt be purchased for the cemetery to be kept in the shed. The Vice-Chairman to arrange for the purchase. It was understood that there had been issues with the burial of the late Mrs Skeet. The Clerk advised that the transfer of burial rights had had to be effected before the burial could go ahead. The Clerk had fast tracked the paperwork with Mrs Skeet's son (who had contacted her on 19<sup>th</sup> December) and it was all finalised on 23<sup>rd</sup> December in order that the funeral could go ahead on 30<sup>th</sup> December, the original date requested by the undertaker. However the Clerk was subsequently advised by the undertaker that the funeral would be taking place a week later and she assumed that this was due to the adverse weather conditions. In addition, the application form for burial which the PC requires to be used by families for burials, quite clearly states that "the PC can only authorise the opening of the grave if ownership has been transferred to someone who can legally prove that they are entitled to receive the ownership rights". Therefore the PC could not authorise the grave to be re-opened until the paperwork was in place. The Clerk also advised that Cemetery income this year, to date, was significantly higher, due to there being an increase in the number of burials taking place and that fees were now being charged for the transfer of burial rights etc.

### **192. Housing Survey Update**

The Housing Needs Report had been circulated to the PC. It was not ready for publication at the present time. John Scott would be attending the February PC Meeting and the PC would prepare a number of questions resulting from the Report contents, to raise with him at this meeting. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert was intrigued as to where he had obtained the photograph which had been used for the front of the Report. The Clerk would investigate!

### **193. Consultation on School Admissions**

The Clerk advised that a consultation regarding school admissions and transport would be available up to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011. Comments from the community were welcome. The Clerk advised that the relevant website was:- [www.devon.gov.uk/admission](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admission) arrangements

### **194. Exercise Watermark**

The Clerk had circulated details of the national flood exercise which would be taking place from 4<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> March. The Environment Agency was co-ordinating the exercise on behalf of DEFRA. Communities were being encouraged to become involved with the exercise. However as Halberton was not currently in a high risk area it was considered that the PC did not need to pursue the matter further

### **195. Tiverton Town Football Club Offer**

The Football Club had offered the PCllrs the opportunity to attend a football match free of charge in its attempts to build closer links with the Mid Devon Community. The PC was delighted with

the offer and agreed that their choice of match would be on 26<sup>th</sup> February at 3pm. The Clerk to request the Club to supply 10 tickets.

### **196. Parish and Town Council Elections**

The PC would hold an Open Evening on 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 7.30pm, after the Planning Cttee meeting. Refreshments would be organised for the event. The Clerk had already provided information to be included in the February edition of the Newsletter. It was agreed that an Agenda be prepared in accordance with the suggested format supplied by the South West Conference of Local Councils Associations and this to also be included in the Newsletter and displayed around the Parish. The Clerk to also obtain a DVD from the Associations which could be shown at the Open Evening. In addition the Clerk to obtain a number of spare election packs from MDDC, for potential candidates to take away from the Open Evening.

### **197. Car Park/New Footpath Update**

It was requested that the Clerk chase up Chris Liversidge of NPS for an update on this matter

### **198. Meetings Attended/Dates of Future Meetings**

26<sup>th</sup> January 2011 – Planning and Localism in the South West – University of Plymouth  
Cllrs Hand and Corden would attend the Seminar. The Clerk to advise the course organisers and also to forward copies of the details of the seminar to the Cllrs attending  
9<sup>th</sup> March 2011 – Hogco - Growing Diverse and Delicious Gardens – 9.30am – 2.30pm  
Embercombe, Haldon Hill Forest

### **199. Committee Reports**

#### Pond Area

The matter of the litter bin would be dealt with by Cllr Hand shortly

#### Footpaths

There were still some footpaths to be surveyed. An issue was raised concerning stiles in the Parish which may not be dog friendly. Cllr Mrs Graham would investigate and report back

### **200. Clerk's Report**

The Clerk had nothing to report

### **201. Accounts**

#### **RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> - 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2010:**

Bank Interest	1.24
Newsletter	99.50
Cemetery	507.00
MDDC – Cemetery Grant	300.00
MDDC – Churchyard Grant	50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£957.74</b>

#### **PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> - 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2010 £1057.57**

#### **PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED**

<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Vat</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Details</b>
SO	25.00		25.00	MDDC - Cemetery Rates

1465	50.00		50.00	St Andrew`s Church – grant for churchyard
1466	353.51		353.51	Mrs C McIntyre – Salary
1467	17.56		17.56	Mrs C J McIntyre – repayment of: cost of postage

<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Vat</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Details</b>
1468	5.20	0.91	6.11	Ottery Office & Computer – photocopying & stationery
1469	100.00		100.00	Mr N Cuthbert- work in cemetery
1470	60.39	10.57	70.96	Mrs J Cuthbert – hosting website
1471	88.73	15.52	104.25	Halberton Village hall Ctte – Hire of Hall

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	27276.83
Plus Receipts for period 1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2010	957.74
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£28234.57</b>

Minus Payments made for the above Period	£1057.57
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£27177.00</b>
Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	25011.94
Current A/c	2165.06
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£27177.00</b>

<b>VILLAGE HALL FUNDS</b>	<b>3420.00</b>
<b>PARISH PATHS FUND</b>	<b>1688.00</b>
<b>VILLAGE OF THE YEAR PRIZE</b>	<b>252.00</b>
<b>DONATION FROM PARISHIONER</b>	<b>1949.00</b>
<b>PARISH PLAN FUND</b>	<b>434.00</b>
<b>CAR PARKING</b>	<b>3500.00</b>
<b>TRAINING</b>	<b>165.00</b>
<b>RECREATIONAL GROUND</b>	<b>412.00</b>
<b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>	<b>15357.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£27177.00</b>

**Halberton Newsletter: Income to date £2209.09 - less expenses of £2225.75**

**= deficit of £16.66**

## **202. Miscellaneous Matters**

i. Active Devon had secured funding from Sport England and DCC to implement Devon Active Villages programme throughout the seven rural districts of the County. The concept was being introduced so that people living in remote areas could be involved with sport and physical activity. It was intended to help increase sports participation in rural communities by supporting village-based activities. Funding would be available to set up new activities and it could be used for training, coaching, equipment and facility hire. Tone Leisure would be the Local Delivery Partner who would be providing Sports Development Support to the targeted communities of which Halberton had been selected to be in Phase 1 of the scheme due to start this month. Emma Higgins the Active Villages Community Co-ordinator would be pleased to assist the communities concerned. There was much discussion. It was understood that from the end of

April the Snooker Club would have available a large room which could be used for activities. It was also agreed that the Clerk should arrange for information to be inserted in the Newsletter with a request for parishioners to come forward with ideas/suggestions. The Clerk to also send a copy of the details to the school. It was also requested that the Clerk arrange for Emma Higgins to attend a PC meeting and the Clerk would liaise with her about this

ii. The Clerk advised that the Government was now pushing ahead with its reformed Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), even though in opposition the Conservatives had vowed to scrap it! Neighbourhoods would now get a direct cut of the cash paid by developers to councils- to spend how they wished to benefit the community, from parks and schools to roads, playgrounds and cycle paths. Section 106 agreements would continue to fund affordable housing and would remain scaled back so that they directly related to the proposed development

iii. The Queen`s 2012 Diamond Jubilee would be celebrated from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2012. There was much discussion about this and the PC was very keen to mark the occasion. The Clerk would circulate the e-mail about the event to the PCllrs for information purposes.

iv. The Royal British Legion was hoping that local communities would organise `Poppy Parties` around the country between 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Cllr Hand would read the literature and report back to the PC about this matter at the February PC Meeting

### **203. Future PC Meetings**

25<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Planning Ctte Meeting (provisional)

8<sup>th</sup> February 2011

7.00pm - Planning Ctte Meeting

7.30pm - Ordinary PC Meeting

The Meeting closed at 9.30pm

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**CHAIRMAN**

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**DATED**



