

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON
TUESDAY, 11th JULY 2006 AT 8.10PM AT ASH THOMAS VILLAGE HALL**

49. PRESENT

Cllrs Mesdames Armstrong, Fisher, and Jepps, The Chairman – Cllr Browse, The Vice-Chairman – Cllr Lane Smith and Cllrs Cooper, Radford and Saunders, CClr Des Hannon, Julia Ryder – Community Safety Officer and two Members of the Public

50. APOLOGIES

Cllr Mrs Hull and PC Dodd

51. PUBLIC FORUM

Barry Corden had advised the Chairman that he was concerned about the recycling bins overflowing in the Village Hall car park. It appeared that MDDC may be making a charge for any excess rubbish collected. Cllr Radford would take this issue up with MDDC.

52. INTRODUCTION OF JULIA RYDER – COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICER

Julia Ryder talked about the work of the Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership and her role as the Community Safety Officer. The aim of the Partnership was to reduce crime and disorder in Mid Devon, not only by policing, but also by joint work to prevent crime. This included work with licensees to reduce alcohol related disorder, support for CCTV, work to reduce drug misuse and improved security for homes and businesses. The Community Safety Partnership included the police, local authorities, PCT, Youth Offender Team, Probation Service, Devon Fire and Rescue and representatives from schools and Social Services. Julia had forms available which parishioners could complete and on which they could report to her any areas of concern in the Parish eg anti social behaviour, criminal activity etc. The forms would be placed in the Post Office, Farm Shop, The Barge and Village Hall, subject to obtaining the relevant approvals from the owners of these premises. The Vice-Chairman was of the view that all parishioners required was a police presence – a bobby on the beat, which he considered in itself would be a deterrent to potential anti-social behaviour etc. Concerns were expressed as to the current low level of policing in the Parish and the methods of policing currently employed.

53. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 13TH JUNE 2006

These were approved without amendment

54. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE AFOREMENTIONED MINUTES

- i. The Clerk had not received a response from Officers at MDDC to attend the September PC Meeting to talk about Waste Management, or about the provision of litter picking equipment for Club 17. The Vice-Chairman also confirmed that he had not been contacted, despite the Clerk requesting MDDC to do so. The Clerk would chase this matter up.
- ii. Glen Crocker, MDDC's Enforcement Officer had still not been in contact with the Chairman about the use of land in the village as a motorbike track. The Clerk, to chase up this matter.
- iii. Cllr Gibbs had still not received a copy of the Mid Devon Association's accounts. He would continue to pursue this matter. No further meetings had been arranged in any event and the future of the Association was unclear
- iv. The Vice-Chairman had forwarded the completed questionnaire to Bennett Leisure and Leisure Ltd. The information it contained would assist MDDC in seeking the relevant amount of developer contributions in order to make improvements in the parish.
- v. Cllr Mrs Armstrong provided the Clerk with names and telephone numbers of contacts at the school in the event of an emergency
- vi. Areas in the Parish which were causing concern with regard to overhanging tree branches etc were noted to be at Cordwents fields, the cemetery hedge, the Vicarage hedge and Lower Town

area. The Chairman would speak to Willy Pike at DCC about taking appropriate action to address this problem

vii. The Clerk advised that she had not received a reply from Victim Support in response to her e-mail requesting a speaker to attend a future PC meeting. Cllr Mrs Jepps was not overly surprised by the lack of response. The Clerk would make one final attempt to secure a speaker.

viii. The splay at the Jubilee bend had now been trimmed back by the Parish Lengthsman.

xi. The Clerk had spoken to Mr Vincent, the grass cutter and it was noted that the grassed areas at the cemetery, and also the Mead and the Rec` were in good order. The cemetery would be discussed again later on in the meeting.

x. The Clerk had not heard further from Roger Folley at DCC about the car park provision. Mr Folley was dealing with the matter but it would take some time.

xi. In view of Stagecoach withdrawing its service at Pethertons, alternative transport provision would be available for persons living at Pethertons, through the Ring and Ride Bus and the Voluntary Car Scheme. Details had been circulated

xii. The Chairman had been unable to attend a presentation of the Exe Valley Project, due to other commitments.

xiii. Halberton was one of eight villages in Devon which had been short listed for the Calor Village of the Year 2006 Competition. Judges would tour the village on 17th August. It was agreed that at the conclusion of tonight's PC meeting, plans would be made as to the format of the judges tour etc.

55. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised that an emergency had occurred during the week when the canal embankment just past Swingbridge nearly collapsed. The problem was discovered at 5.00am by Mrs Browse. The Chairman immediately dealt with the emergency together with the DCC's Canal Services. Stock planks were used to contain the bank together with clay. By 10.00am the steps taken had contained the problem. The Chairman advised that it is likely that this section of the canal may need to be re-lined. The Chairman was thanked for his prompt handling of the emergency. Cllr Mrs Jepps and the Vice-Chairman expressed great concern that they had not been informed of the emergency when it had been discovered. Cllr Mrs Jepps was named on the Emergency Plan and stated that it was vital in any emergency that she should be contacted. The Vice-Chairman again suggested the importance of cascading information to members of the PC. The Chairman in response advised that at the time, his priority had been to deal with the emergency there and then, to ensure the safety of the Parish and apologised that he had not contacted the members on the Emergency List.

56. PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

It was understood that only one candidate nomination paper had been received – from Mr Colin Constable. He would be elected uncontested with effect from Thursday 20th July. Mr Constable was present at the meeting and was welcomed. However he could not assume his official capacity of Councillor until 20th July. He was advised that there was no August meeting and that his first official attendance would be at the September PC meeting. The Clerk would deal with the necessary paperwork and forward it on to him. A letter had also been received from Mr Alan Marks giving his reasons as to why he had decided not to contest the election. He also offered his services to become fully involved with village life and also outlined various ideas he had, to ensure the viability of the village. The Chairman was very appreciative of the letter which would be responded to. He also suggested that Mr Marks would be very welcome to attend PC meetings to keep abreast with all developments and issues.

57. POLICE MATTERS

In his absence PC Dodd had e-mailed the Clerk the following information:- "There are considerably more than 48 PCSO's being recruited to cover the Devon area. 136 are to be posted to the Exeter,

Mid Devon, East Devon, Torridge and North Devon District Council areas. Exactly how many go to each District Council area has yet to be decided”

58. DCC MATTERS

Cllr Hannon advised of the following matters:-

- i. He was aggrieved as to Stagecoach`s antics regarding pulling out of operating a bus service at Pethertons. Ed Chorlton the Director of Environment had now been put on notice as to how Stagecoach were able to so easily withdraw bus services which clearly had adverse effects on local communities. Julie Woolley, of Tiverton and District Community Transport Association would be able to assist transporting parishioners through the Ring and Ride Bus and the Voluntary Car Scheme
- ii. The Lengthsman service was continuing to receive good reports from the various parishes although at one point, the continuation of the service was questionable. The Lengthsman for the area would be retiring shortly and it was essential he was replaced in order to preserve the service
- iii. The Devon Local Service Groups would be reduced from 7 to 3. One of the affected depots to close would be at Broad Lane, Tiverton. 100 middle managers would also be made redundant by the end of the year.
- iv. The first grant to be issued from the County Fund was £500 for the Village Hall
- v. He considered that the Chairman of the PC had carried out a fantastic job of the emergency at the canal and should be commended for all his hard work and effort. He then questioned as to whether the PC considered that the canal was suitably managed. There was no adverse comments made by PCllrs, to suggest otherwise.
- vi. He attended the Exe Valley Project at which items which were already happening were discussed. The project had a Parish Plan feel although it was long term planning of 20 years hence. Matters considered were agriculture, out of school hours etc.

59. MDDC MATTERS

- i. Cllr Radford advised that MDDC`s Local Plan would be adopted. There was a shortage of industrial land and any industrial land in and around Halberton and Sampford Peverell would be limited. There would be no development outside the settlement line before 2026.
- ii. MDDC`s Licensing Officer advised that the Government had issued a Supplementary Guidance to the original Guidance issued under S182 of the Licensing Act 2003. This meant that parish councils had now been added to the list of interested parties and could make representations on applications under the Licensing Act 2003

60. MEETINGS ATTENDED

6th July 2006 - Market and Coastal Towns Initiative

The Chairman attended this meeting

10th 2006 - Standards Cttee Meeting of MDDC

The Vice-Chairman attended this meeting. The meeting focussed on the training available for new Cllrs and suggested that this may be of use to Mr Constable.

61. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Communications, Footpaths and Environment

Cllr Mrs Armstrong advised that it would be necessary to know the width of the path from the cemetery to the canal if it was going to be used as part of the National Cycle Network . .

Roger Folley at DCC had confirmed that the prices quoted in his 2002 letter re fencing specification etc would remain and not be increased.

ii. Amenities

It was understood from the Vice- Chairman that Cllr Mrs Hull had obtained some quotes from various companies for play equipment but still needed to obtain more. A meeting of the Amenities Cttee would be arranged when there was something further to discuss. There were numerous complaints about the state of the paths in the cemetery. They were riddled with weeds which spoilt

64. APPROVAL OF 2005/06 ACCOUNTS

The Clerk advised that the accounts had already been circulated at the Annual Meeting in May and had in fact been approved by the PC at this meeting. Mrs Erasmus had subsequently completed the internal audit of the accounts. However it was necessary for Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2006 to be approved. The Clerk subsequently went through the statements with the PC and it was resolved as follows:-

- i. to approve the accounts as set out in Section 1
- ii. to approve the `Statement of Assurance` as set out in Section 2

The Clerk would now arrange for the Annual return to be submitted to the District Auditor

65. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

- i. It was understood that concern had been expressed about a parishioner who was leaving his refuse outside his property immediately following collection of the previous week`s refuse. Health issues had been raised. Members of MDDC`s Environmental team had visited the parishioner and the matter was being dealt with.
- ii. The Vice-Chairman was unhappy about the manner in which planning applications were being considered by the PC and felt that insufficient time was being given to them. After some debate it was decided to proceed with the Clerk`s suggestion to consider planning matters as part of the Ordinary PC Meeting, rather than in a separate meeting. With effect from September, the Ordinary PC Meeting to commence at 7.00pm. The meeting to be adjourned at 8.20pm to allow members of the public and Cllrs to examine planning applications which they may not have seen previously. The Ordinary PC Meeting to resume at 8.30pm but with Planning matters/applications to be discussed at this point, as part of the Ordinary Meeting. Once planning matters had been dealt with, the other non-planning matters on the agenda (if any remained), to be discussed. It was agreed that as there was no Ordinary PC meeting in August, there would still be a separate Planning Meeting only, on 8th August at 7.00pm.

66.FUTURE MEETINGS

8th August 2006 at 7.00pm – Planning Meeting of Halberton PC at Halberton Village Hall

The Meeting closed at 10.05pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED

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