

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 11th JUNE 2002 AT 7.30PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

46. Present

The Chairman, Cllrs Anderson, Payne, Radford, Saunders, Stevens, Mesdames Fisher and Lunn, PC Auger and two Members of the Public

47. Public Forum

There were no matters raised other than that Mr T Hugill wished to be considered for the Parish Councillor vacancy.

48. Apologies.

The Vice- Chairman and Cllr Mrs Jepps

49. The Minutes of:-

- i. the Parish Council Meeting of 14th May 2002
- ii. the Planning Committee Meeting of 23rd May 2002
- iii. the Amenities Committee Meeting of 23rd May 2002

were approved subject to the following amendments in the Parish Council Minutes of 14th May Para 40 v. After the word `reported` delete the remainder of the sentence and insert `that on the approaches to the bridges, the towpath was not wide enough for disabled access`

50. Matters Arising

Concern had been expressed by a Member of the Parish Council about the consumption of alcohol in the Village Hall, whilst the May Annual Parish Meeting had been in progress. The Clerk to ascertain from MDDC as to whether this would constitute a breach under the Model Code of Conduct

51. Chairman`s Announcements

- i. The Chairman wished to thank everyone who was involved with the Golden Jubilee celebrations. A lot of hard work and effort had gone into making the parties and activities a great success and he very much appreciated this.
- ii. It was agreed that membership of the Council`s Committees remain the same, (with the exception of Jason Lejeune who was no longer a Councillor) and Chairs of each Committee would be elected at subsequent meetings.
- iii. The Chairman would be attending a Playground Safety Course in Exeter during the month

52. Police Matters

It was reported to PC Auger that a dog owner had been exercising his rottweiler dogs along the canal. However the animals were creating problems with other dogs who were being exercised in the same location. Details of the owner were passed to PC Auger for appropriate action.

An incident which had occurred some months previously was raised. It was understood that a parishioner`s property at Pethertons had been pelted with eggs by youngsters. When the parishioner retaliated by pelting one of the youngsters with an egg, it was alleged that he was nearly arrested for his actions. PC Auger could understand the apparent unfairness of the police to act in this manner, particularly as the parishioner had had to endure the misery of his property being defaced. However as the actions of the parishioner could have constituted an assault, the police had had to act accordingly.

53 MDDC Matters

- i. Mr Densham advised that he was not able to give an answer yet regarding health and safety implications of the railings as he was waiting to hear from DCC. With regard to the suggested car park project, adequate highway visibility would be required for vehicles exiting any car park access road. Again this would be a matter for DCC to examine. It may be necessary for DCC to undertake further traffic calming in the vicinity of the proposed site to assist safe vehicle access and egress to and from the site. As soon as he was in receipt of further information he would advise accordingly.
- ii. An invitation to the District Council's Annual Church Service at St. John the Baptist Church, Sampford Peverell on Sunday, 7th July at 11.00am had been received. Cllr Mrs Fisher and her husband would be attending.
- iii. A Telecommunication Mast Seminar on Friday, 5th July at 9.30 would be taking place at the Tiverton Hotel at a cost of £10 per person. Cllr Radford would be attending.
- iv. A copy letter had been sent by MDDC from the 'Friends of War Memorials' requesting suitable war memorial sites for volunteer projects. The Clerk to pass the copy letter to the Village Hall Committee.
- v. Cllr Radford reminded the PC that if land in the village wasn't identified soon which could be used for the provision of a play area/open space then funding from MDDC would be lost. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Mr D Scott of the Forward Planning Dept to seek clarification on what constituted a play area/open space. The Chairman advised that he would shortly be having a meeting with Mr Mathias of MDDC, and Mrs Armstrong of St Andrews Church regarding parking problems near the Church. At the meeting the possibility of land being made available for the purpose of a play area would be raised.
- vi. Cllr Radford advised that MDDC's Local Plan provided that no further green field sites would be available outside the settlement line of the village. This stipulation would effect all villages in Mid-Devon.

54. DCC Matters

- i. The DCC monthly Newsletter was now available from the Clerk.
- ii. On 23rd May the Joint Committee responsible for updating the Devon Structure Plan 2016 agreed the policies and proposals for public comment over a nine week period. The nine week consultation period would commence on 4th July when the draft Plan was published. The deadline for comment will be 6th September. The draft Plan would set out policies and proposals for housing, employment, conservation of the environment, transport, tourism and recreation.
- iii. It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain the document "Tourism – Everybody's Business" for consideration by the PC. The PC would have to make its responses about the document to DCC by 12th July.

55. Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

The four candidates were Mr A Chick, Mr P Gibbs, Mr T Hugill and Mr.D Slack. A ballot of the Members resulted in Mr T Hugill receiving the majority vote. Mr Hugill signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk. Cllr Hugill was then handed information about the Model Code of Conduct. It was agreed that Cllr Hugill would serve on those Committees previously served on by Cllr Lejeune. In addition he would be involved with the 'Newsletter'. The Clerk to write to the unsuccessful candidates to thank them for their interest.

56. Parish Newsletter

The Clerk had circulated information to all Councillors (as per attached). Since October 2001, she had collected £2178.20 in back advertising fees. However Cllr Anderson expressed concern as to the reduced numbers of advertisers. The Clerk explained that due to advertising revenue not being collected for approximately two years, many advertisers when approached for back payments indicated that they no longer wished to continue advertising and several advertisers had 'disappeared'. Cllr Payne explained that the 'Newsletter' was in the process of building up the advertising side of the magazine in order to address the problem.

57. Request for a donation by the Grand Western Canal Advisory Board

It was agreed to make a donation of £200, with consideration for a further donation being made in the next financial year.

58. Meetings Attended/Dates of Future Meetings

- i. Mid Devon Rural Transport Forum, Tuesday, 21st May at the Boniface Centre, Crediton.
Cllr Mrs Fisher had been unable to attend this meeting
- ii. MDDC – Culm Area Ctte – 29th May 2002 – Toad Hall, Cullompton
Cllr Radford attended this. He attempted to get support for the PC's request that the flats at Hillhead should be occupied by persons over the age of 45 years only. However his proposal fell on 'deaf ears'. PC Auger suggested that details of any disturbances emanating from the flats should be reported to the police (WPC Lesley Valentine was a good point of contact) where a log of incidents could be kept which may be useful evidence to support the PC's case. Cllr Hugill was of the view that Area Cttes were simply a means of abolishing parish councils in the future.
- iii. Consolidated Charities of Halberton
A meeting had taken place with Alan Voce who required the signatures of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman in order that he could then process his enquires to ascertain the amount of money the charity held in its bank accounts..
- iv. NHS Trust Meeting – 18th June 2002
Cllr Mrs Fisher would be attending this.
- v. Mid Devon Police Liaison Meeting – 25th June 2002 at 7.30pm at Halberton Village Hall
PC Auger advised of this forthcoming meeting. He had no idea as to why the Clerk had received details of a Police Liaison Meeting at Copplestone and concluded that an error must have been made..
- vi. Mid Devon Association of local Councils – Wednesday, 17th July 2002 at 7.30pm at Tiverton Town Hall
The Clerk would pass details of this to the Vice - Chairman and Cllr Hugill.

59. Advertising PC Meetings

After much debate it was agreed that Parish Council Committee Meetings should take place 'as and when required', in accordance with the information displayed on the Parish Web Site. .

60. Twinning

It was understood that there was in existence the Sampford Peverell Twinning Association, which appeared to encompass Halberton. However it was agreed, at this stage that the PC should not get involved with pursuing the matter further.

61. Parish Boundaries Review

It was resolved that the Clerk should write to the Secretary of State, confirming its approval to MDDC's recommendations, with the exception of the recommendation which would result in the parish losing the Wilcon Estate. The Clerk to make strong representations to the Secretary of State as to the PC's objections to this.

62. Model Code of Conduct for Councillors

The Clerk handed to all members present, a pocket book entitled 'The Code to Protect You' and a handbook entitled 'How do I register and declare interests, and register gifts and hospitality'. The Clerk also passed to Cllr Hugill a video which contained full information about the Code in an easy to understand format. In addition the Clerk had received a consultation paper, which set out proposals for the framework within which allegations about misconduct by councillors could be handled by local authorities. It was available for any Councillor who wished to see it.

63. The Parish Web Site

It was agreed by the PC that all Minutes appearing on the site must be approved by the PC. It was agreed that in future the Clerk would E-mail minutes, agendas etc to all Councillors who had this facility.

64. Committee Reports

- i. Traffic Calming
Cllr Payne advised that the Traffic Calming Committee would in future be known as the 'Highways Committee' Cllr Payne would also deal with the matter of the trench hazard at Boyce Close leading into Pethertons.
- ii. Cemetery
There was nothing to report
- iii. Amenities
There was nothing to report
- iv. Footpaths
The Vice- Chairman had obtained a quote from Nicholas Page, Countryside Contractor, for work which was required on footpaths 4,6 and 15 in the sum of £145. In addition he had provided a quotation for summer/autumn maintenance in the sum of £270. It was resolved to accept both quotes.
- v. Emergency Committee
Cllr Saunders agreed to replace the former Cllr, Mr J Lejeune. The Clerk to inform Captain Cornish accordingly.
- vi. Policy and Finance
There was nothing to report

65. Clerk's Report

The Clerk advised that she had now received formal confirmation that the PC accounts presented to District Audit

At the beginning of March 2002 in respect of the financial year 2000/01 were satisfactory.

66.Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST - 31ST MAY 2002:

<i>Newsletter Advertising</i>	<i>277.27</i>
<i>Cemetery Fees</i>	<i>167.00</i>
<i>Bank Interest</i>	<i>21.28</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>£465.55</i>

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST – 31ST MAY 2002 ***£3129.35***

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

<i>Cheque No</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>VAT</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Details</i>
<i>100602</i>	<i>160.00</i>		<i>160.00</i>	<i>A Tindle – Grass Cutting Cemetery</i>
<i>100603</i>	<i>5.61</i>		<i>5.61</i>	<i>South West Water – Water charges – cemetery</i>
<i>100604</i>	<i>36.00</i>		<i>36.00</i>	<i>Mrs J Austin – Buffet Costs re Annual meeting</i>

100605	165.73		165.73	Mrs C McIntyre – Salary (£212.47 – tax £46.74)
100606	140.22		140.22	Inland Revenue – 3 mths tax deducted from Mrs McIntyre
100607	38.42		38.42	Mrs C McIntyre – Repayment of costs of travel/phone calls
100608	49.96	8.75	58.71	Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance
100609	200.00		200.00	Donation – Canal Awareness Group
100610	115.87		115.87	Halberton Village hall – room hire fees

The above payments were approved for payment

<i>Balance of bank accounts carried forward</i>				19,217.46
<i>Plus receipts for period 1st – 31st May 2002</i>				465.55
			TOTAL	£19,683.01
<i>Minus payments made for the above period</i>				3129.35
			TOTAL	£16,553.66

<i>Made up as follows:- Current</i>	94.70
<i>High Interest</i>	16,458.96
TOTAL	£16,553.66

VILLAGE HALLS FUND	£ 4,000.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	£1,713.72
GENERAL FUNDS	£10,839.94

67.Members Business

- i. The proposed suggestion of a shutter for the bus shelter was `ongoing`. The Chairman had obtained quotes. However if a shutter was fitted it would be necessary to find someone who was prepared to lock and unlock it each day.. The shutter could infact present a problem if children crashed their footballs against it which in turn, could create a worse disturbance. It was understood that recently the problems of youngsters congregating at the shelter and causing problems had improved significantly. However the situation would continue to be monitored.
- ii. Volunteers were urgently required by Cllr Payne to deliver the `Newsletter` around part of Uffculme

68.AOB

- i. Cllr W Brown (MDDC) had E-mailed parish councils expressing his concerns about insufficient notice of changes to bus timetables. If any member wished to see the E-mail in its entirety, it was available from the Clerk.
- ii. The Highways Agency had sent a copy of the A39 Detrunking Order for information purposes. The A39 in Devon and the A361 North Devon Link Road would be detrunked with effect from 1st July and responsibility for the roads would transfer to DCC.
- iii. The Clerk had details on future training courses organised by DAPCs (Financial Risk Assessment, `Meet the Auditors` and Planning for Parish and town Councils), if any member was interested.

69. Confidential Matter

In view of there being no Members of the Public present when the Council was about to discuss the Confidential

Matter it was not necessary for the chairman to request the public to leave the meeting (in accordance with Resolution 62 of the PC`s Standing Orders (admission of the Public and press to meetings). However the Clerk left the room whilst the item was discussed.

69.Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 10.45 pm. The next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting would be on Tuesday, 9th July, 2002 at 7.30pm at Ash Thomas Village Hall. A Planning Committee Meeting at 7.00pm would precede it.

CHAIRMAN

DATED

CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

After much debate it was agreed to pay the Clerk on salary scale SCP 19 (hourly rate of £7.423) for 8 hours = £3087.96 PA = £257.33 per month. In addition to pay the sum of £5 per month towards the cost of her private monthly internet charges of £15.99 in view of the fact that she was now using the Internet for part of her PC work..