

## **MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2003 AT 7.30PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL**

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### **216. Present**

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Radford, Mesdames Armstrong, Fisher, Jepps, Lunn and five Members of the Public

### **217. Apologies**

Cllrs Mrs Hull, Hugill and Payne

### **218. Public Forum**

- i. Mr N Geach made representations about the manner in which the village was being re-developed and his dissatisfaction with certain aspects of it. The PC was appreciative of his input in this matter.
- ii. Mr R Stevens Vice-Chairman of the Halberton Village Hall Ctte was grateful to the PC for its support regarding its applications to various agencies for funding. He explained that the funding the Ctte required from Uffculme Environmental now looked promising. A detailed report compiled by the Ctte outlining its vision for the future had been submitted to Uffculme Environmental. The Ctte should hear in a few weeks the amount of monies secured for the development of the hall. He would keep the PC informed of all developments.

### **219. The Minutes of:-**

- i. The Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> February 2003 were approved subject to the amendment in Para 208 i - 'Bycroft' should be deleted and 'Bycott' to be inserted.
- ii. The Policy and Finance Ctte Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2003 were approved at the February PC Meeting. However it was agreed that the following provision should be included in these Minutes as they had been omitted. **'The total sum of £500 each year (or other sum as agreed) to be earmarked for Village Hall expenditure'**

### **220. Matters Arising**

- i. The Clerk advised that she had approx 16 people interested in attending the First Aid course which would be run at the Village Hall on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April from 10.00am – 1.00pm. She would contact all participants shortly to advise them of the cost of £8 per person. Payment to be made prior to the course date. She advised that in view of the numbers now wishing to attend it would be necessary for St Johns Ambulance to bring two trainers along.
- ii. The Vice-Chairman had met Mr Densham (MDDC) on site about the positioning of the Interpretation Board. Mr Densham had advised that an order had been placed with a contractor for its erection. The mesh panelling to the railings would be undertaken and completed soon. He explained that other issues like planters, works at Orchard View/Rock View would continue to be progressed as far as possible within financial constraints. The budget for local improvement schemes for next year had been further reduced and he could see no realistic possibility of any new work being undertaken for the time being.
- iii. The hedge running from the cemetery to the canal had been trimmed.
- iv. Cllr Radford advised that the matter of the trimming of the over grown hedges running from the end of Pethertons up to the bus shelter (Bycott Farm) was in hand.

- v. Richard Buscombe (MDDC) would organise for one of his Officers to arrange for the trimming back of brambles in the vicinity of Hillhead Flats.
- vi. The overgrown hedge at 3 Lower Town was being dealt with
- vii. Mr A Mitchard (DCC) had advised that he had arranged for the Parish Lengthsman to deal with tidying up the path which ran from the cemetery to the Jubilee tree site and from the tree site to Halberton Court
- viii. B Whiting (MDDC) was dealing with the problem of the crockery and glass which had been left on the bank of the culvert at Lower Town.
- ix. Mr P Hancock (MDDC) had asked for the PC's proposals regarding the problems at Tiverton Parkway which he would then insert in a letter. The draft letter received from Mr Hancock was handed to the Vice-Chairman. It was agreed that he together with Cllr Hugill would bring their ideas to the next PC Meeting.
- x. Cllr Payne had prepared a letter to go to Mr G Langworthy requesting a contribution towards traffic calming measures. The letter to be signed by both Cllr Payne and the Chairman. However as Cllr Payne was not present it was decided the matter would have to be deferred until the next meeting.
- xi. Cllr Saunders had removed the dead tree in the cemetery and had repaired the water tap.
- xii. Cllr Payne had booked the Village Hall and arranged the catering for 22<sup>nd</sup> April at which prospective PC and District Councillors for the area could attend and meet parishioners.

#### **221. Chairman's Announcements**

There were none.

#### **222. Grass Cutting Contract**

Tenders had been received from Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance, Mr A Tindle and Mr P Bryant.

It was resolved to accept Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance tender for the recreational ground £23.80 per cut + vat and the Meade £28.60 per cut + vat (15 cuts in total during the growing season. Total cost £786). It was further resolved to accept Mr Bryant's tender for the cemetery – 16 visits @ £55 per visit + one hedge cut at £70. Total cost £950.

#### **223. Newsletter**

The Clerk reported the following:

**INCOME FOR PERIOD 1/4/02 – 28/02/03 £1516.04**

**LESS £688.75 in respect of advertising arrears payments for 2001/02**

**LESS £68.57 paid in advance for advertising April 2003/04**

**LESS £960.19 production and other associated costs of the Newsletter (Expenditure)**

**DEFICIT: £201.47**

There were payments of £22.50 still outstanding and when these were collected the deficit would be reduced to £178.97

Concern was expressed about getting a replacement editor if Cllr Payne was unable to continue in this role. It was requested that the Newsletter Ctte should meet asap to discuss the problem. The matter to be an item for the April Agenda.

#### **224. Licensing Bill**

The Clerk advised that the Licensing Bill was currently before Parliament. Alun Michael, the Minister for Rural Affairs and Urban Quality of Life, in response to concerns raised, had advised that where a premises licence authorises the sale of alcohol the normal licence fee would be payable. This would be in line with existing arrangements. In addition, those wishing to use village, church and parish halls, and other community buildings would all be able to take advantage of the simple and easy notification procedure that the Bill provides for, for temporary events.

#### **225. Devon Enterprise**

The item to be deferred to the April Agenda.

#### **226. The Parish Plan**

The Parish Plan was progressing. The Open Day would be going ahead on 12<sup>th</sup> April. Posters were being designed and would be displayed around the Parish. In addition a flyer would go to every address in the Parish two weeks before the event. There would be continued consultation with various organisations/agencies about the future development of the Parish. A projected budget had been drawn up for the cost of the Project:

Halberton Parish Council	5.1%	£270
DCC	9.3%	£500
Countryside Agency	75%	£4,020
Cash Income	89.4%	£4,790
In Kind Conts	10.6%	570
<b>TOTAL PROJECT VALUE</b>		<b>£5,360</b>

It was resolved that the PC would contribute £270. The matter to be an item for the April Agenda.

#### **227. Crossparks**

The Clerk advised that she had e-mailed Catherine Kenny re Crossparks informing her that there had been no progress made in this matter. As Mrs Kenny would be present at the Parish Plan Open Day it was agreed that she be approached again about the matter.

#### **228. Police Matters**

Cllr Mrs Lunn reported that mud had been splattered on her house in the village. However she didn't wish to pursue the matter further.

#### **229. MDDC Matters**

- i. Paul Edwards had advised that BT was proposing to remove the payphone at Pethertons. The Clerk to write to BT on behalf of Halberton PC to strongly oppose the removal and advise that a survey would be undertaken to gauge local reaction. In addition a notice to go in the Newsletter requesting that parishioners register their objection with the Clerk.
- ii. A Recycling Roadshow would be taking place at Phoenix Lane Tiverton on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2003 to raise awareness of recycling issues and improve recycling and rubbish reuse in Devon.
- iii. James Ayling was updating a database of properties flooded in the Parish. He was predominantly interested in property that had flooded from watercourses. It was agreed that the subject should be published in the Newsletter requesting residents to contact Mr Ayling.

- iv. A Public Entertainment Licence application in respect of the Barge had been received.
  - . The PC had no comments to make.
- v. Details of The Common Players Summer Tour 2003 had been received. MDDC was prepared to contribute towards the cost of the performance. The Clerk to pass the information to the Village Hall Cttee.

### **230. Devon County Council Matters**

- i. The PC was aware that vehicles could not travel between Way Cross and Cruwysshayes, Halberton from 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> March due to highway drainage works.
- ii. It was resolved that in response to a request from Mark Baker (Ranger) that the PC would pay £155 towards the cost of two dog mess bins along the canal. However DCC had suggested that the locations should be at Crownhill Bridge and Manley Bridge. The PC would request one bin to be sited at Greenway (not Manley) but was happy for the other to be sited at Crownhill. In addition the PC to ask whether a bin is to be sited at the Tiverton Road bridge. Cllr Radford to investigate funding for the bins from MDDC.
- iii. The Devon County Waste Local Plan – First Deposit Version had been received. Representations to DCC had to be submitted by 25<sup>th</sup> April 2003. The Plan would be circulated amongst the PC for consideration prior to the next meeting. The matter to be an item for the April Agenda.
- iv. An explanation as to why the council tax portion payable to DCC had increased substantially had been received. The Vice-Chairman retained the letter in order that he could consider it fully.

### **231. Meetings Attended.**

- i. 18<sup>th</sup> February 2003 Standards Board for England – Taunton  
The Vice-Chairman attended this and found it most informative.
- ii. 19<sup>th</sup> February 2003 - 5.15pm Tiverton Council Chamber  
MDDC - Removal of Close Season for Fishing on the Canal  
The Vice-Chairman and Cllrs Mrs Hull and Radford attended. Vicky Thomas had left. There were staff changes taking place. There was not a closed fishing season anymore. However DCC could close sections of the canal for environmental reasons if necessary. Dog fouling was being clamped down on.

### **232 Future Meetings**

- i. 26<sup>th</sup> March 2003 - Culm Area Cttee Meeting – Halberton Village Hall  
It was stressed that as many PCllrs as possible should attend this meeting in view of it being held in the Parish. The Clerk had arranged for an item to be included on the Agenda.
- ii. 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003 – Halberton Charities Meeting, Methodist School Room, Halberton at 7.30pm  
The Chairman and Vice-Chairman to attend this.
- iii. 21<sup>st</sup> May 2003 – Mid Devon Transport Forum – The Town Hall, Cullompton at 2.30pm
- iv. 18<sup>th</sup> July 2003 – Primary Care Trust Meeting

### **233. Committee Reports**

- i. Cemetery  
Cllr Mrs Fisher was still considering the problem of the headstones and what action needed to be taken. In the first instance it would be necessary to contact next of kin of the deceased. The compost bins needed to be emptied.

ii. Amenities

It was agreed that the surfacing quote received from Matta was too expensive. It was agreed that the rubber granules previously suggested should be used instead. It was calculated that the cost of removing the existing bark from the playing field, filling with coarse sand, and then finishing with 150 mm deep of rubber granules x 5 tons would be approx £1,400. The Clerk to make application to MDDC for grant funding. The Clerk to obtain application form to enable Ash Thomas to enter the Best Kept Village Competition and cheque for £5 application fee to be drawn. It was decided that Halberton would not now be entering the Village of the Year competition. Cllr Radford was thanked for acting so promptly in carrying out the grass cutting of the Meade. The playing field equipment had been checked by the Chairman in readiness for the Rospa safety check.

iii. Footpaths

The footpath survey Reports had been submitted to DCC. The Clerk provided the Vice-Chairman with duplicate expenditure forms which he could now submit to DCC for processing. The Footpath Committee Meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> March had been cancelled as it clashed with another meeting..

iv. Highways

There was nothing to report other than reiterating the fact that Mr Geach, who had spoken at the Public Forum was concerned about possible modifications to the Local Improvement Scheme.

**234 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk handed to each Member a summary about salary expenditure in view of concerns expressed at the Policy and Finance Cttee Meeting in January. She hoped it would be useful to Members as it showed clearly as to how her salary was calculated, the expenses she received and the savings made to the PC in view of the fact that it had minimal overheads due to her working at home. The Chairman was fully supportive of the Clerk and requested that the Minutes should quite clearly state that the PC was extremely happy with the work she was carrying out and thought that she was doing a very good job.

**235. Accounts**

**RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> – 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2003:**

Bank Interest	15.46
Cemetery	40.00
Newsletter	136.98
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£192.44</b>

**PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> – 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2003 £1,073.89**

**PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED**

Cheque No	Amount	VAT	Total	Details
100680	208.73		208.73	Mrs C McIntyre – Salary (less tax deduction)
100681	62.96	11.01	73.97	Mrs C J McIntyre – repayment of cost of ink cartridges
100682	6.84		6.84	Postage stamps re Newsletter
100683	163.12		163.12	Hire costs of Halberton Village hall
100684	135.00		135.00	Swandhams Research

100685			CANCELLED
100686	15.40	15.40	Age Concern, Crediton – Photocopying costs
100687	54.44	54.44	Mrs McIntyre – expenses Dec-Feb Internet, telephone, travel
100688	88.24	88.24	Halberton Flower Group
100689	5.00	5.00	CRPE Entry Fee (Ash Thomas)

**The above were approved for payment**

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	11,871.40
Plus receipts for period 1 <sup>st</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2003	192.44
	<b>TOTAL £12,063.84</b>
Minus payments made for the above period	1,073.89
	<b>TOTAL £10,989.95</b>

Made up as follows:- Current	878.47
High Interest	10,111.48
	<b>TOTAL £10,989.95</b>

VILLAGE HALLS FUND	£ 4,000.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	£1,238.72
GENERAL FUNDS	£5,751.23

It was agreed that the Village Hall Ctte should be approached to contribute £40 towards the Web site as the PC had paid the total cost of Swandham`s Research invoice, (above).

**236Members Business**

The chain link fence running from Lower Town to Boyce Close, Pethertons was in a poor state of repair. The Clerk to contact MDDC about it.

**237 Miscellaneous matters**

The Clerk advised that Mr D Slack had e-mailed her about problems in the village. She had subsequently followed them up and reported as follows:

- i. The hole in the road west of Halberton Club (where the water main had burst) was getting deeper. Mr A Mitchard (DCC) advised that his street inspector was attempting to sort this out with South West Water.
- ii. In Pond Hill near the Leat, it appeared that a blocked sewer was causing offensive effluent which could head for the stream. The Clerk had contacted South West Water about this who assured her that immediate action would be taken.
- iii. Household rubbish had been dumped beside the road (heading west from Halberton). The Clerk had referred the matter to MDDC`s Environmental Health Dept.

**238.Next Meeting**

The meeting closed at 10.00pm. The next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting would be on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2003 at 7.30pm at Halberton Village Hall. A Planning Ctte Meeting at 7.00pm would precede it.

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**CHAIRMAN**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

