

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 11TH OCTOBER 2005 AT 7.30PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

84. Present

The Chairman (K Browse), Vice-Chairman (B Lane-Smith) Cllrs Cooper, Gibbs, Saunders, Mesdames Armstrong, Hull, Jepps and Fisher and two Members of the Public

85. Apologies

Cllrs Greenhill, Radford and PC Dodd.

86. Public Forum

Mr B Corden explained that much of what he had intended to say had already been discussed in the Planning Cttee Meeting. However he explained that he and a number of parishioners who had been present at the Planning Meeting of 27th September, and whom he was representing were dismayed and alarmed at the fact that the representatives from Midas Homes and Turner Holden had not had sight of the Parish Plan. However, he felt what was more worrying was the fact that Mrs Fish, Principal Planning Officer from MDDC had admitted publicly that "she had not looked at the Plan for some considerable time...". He understood that the Parish Plan was a tool that would be taken into account by MDDC's Planning Officers when new planning applications were being considered. He wondered in the light of Mrs Fish's comments whether in fact the Plan had been referred to when the 'Sunnyside' application had been decided, as MDDC had granted permission despite there being 22 letters of objection, according to Mr Corden. He was worried that parishioners views as contained in the Plan stating as to how they would like to see the Parish develop were being ignored by MDDC, which he feared would continue to be the case with regard to the Townsend House proposed development and other developments. He concluded by saying that Mrs Fish should be severely reprimanded for her lack of knowledge with regard to the Plan and also the fact that she was agreeable to the number of dwellings proposed for the Townsend site to be increased significantly which would have implications for Halberton, eg increased traffic movements, road safety issues etc. He thought her actions to be most unprofessional and that representations should be made to the Head of Planning at MDDC about her conduct. He also asked that 'large scale development' should be defined. The Chairman advised that he had taken matters up with Defra with regard to Parish Plans. It seemed that money was available to communities to enable them to draw up a Plan but no financial support or assistance seemed to be available with regard to developing the ideas and wishes of parishioners once a Plan was completed.

87. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 13th September 2005 were approved subject to the amendment of Min. 83. (iii) - 7th October should be amended to '4th October'

88. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- i. Cllr Mrs Armstrong advised that problems had occurred with MDDC's new waste collection service. Refuse from parishioners at Corner Lane and Church Path had not been collected for two weeks. It appeared that MDDC had encountered problems with its composting scheme resulting in a backlog of waste collections. The Clerk would remind MDDC to collect at Corner Lane and Church Path.
- ii. The Clerk had received an acknowledgement from County Cllr Des Hannon that he was looking into the question raised by the PC about the Mead. She had not heard anything further from him and hoped, if he attended the November PC Meeting that he would have some news.

89. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman wished to express his thanks to the Village Hall Cttee for staging the magnificent Village Hall re-opening event last Saturday. He felt that everyone had enjoyed it, the food and speeches were excellent and it was a truly memorable day. The Clerk to write a letter of thanks on behalf of the PC to the Village Hall Cttee.

90. Police Matters

The Clerk had been contacted by PC Dodd who indicated he would be willing to attend various locations in the Parish with Cllr Radford where speeding by motorists was most prevalent. Cllr Mrs Armstrong confirmed that PC Dodd had been sighted carrying out checks in the Halberton area. PC Dodd had also sent a report providing details of recent crimes committed in the Parish which included three thefts, criminal damage, and a burglary

91. British Legion – Donation

It was agreed that the annual donation for Remembrance Day should be increased from £12 to £15. The cheque to be sent to Colin Constable who had taken over from Cpt Cornish. It was agreed that Cllr Cooper would lay the wreath on behalf of the PC at the Remembrance Day Service. Cllr Mrs Armstrong advised that children from the school would be having a service on 11th November at the Church and hoped that as many Cllrs as possible would attend

92. Approval of Halberton Children's Recreation Charity Accounts and the Parish Council Ordinary Accounts 2004/05

It was agreed that these would be dealt with at the next meeting.

93. Committee Rules/Membership

The Clerk had drawn up a list of proposed rules for the new PC Cttees which she had circulated to all Parish Cllrs and which, if agreed could then be circulated to the Lay Members. However it was understood that the Lay Members of the Amenities Cttee had no wish to enter into the Code of Conduct, which was a requirement of MDDC. Failing to comply with this requirement meant they would effectively be precluded from serving on the PC Cttees but could still attend meetings as members of the public and participate by raising any matters in the Public Forum part of the meeting. It was confirmed that the Clerk would simply advertise meetings of all Cttees on the noticeboards as she had done previously. It was hoped that former Lay Members would attend and contribute to proceedings. It was agreed that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the PC should be on all Cttees. The Clerk to check if Cllr Radford was intending to remain on the Amenities Cttee. Cllr Cooper wished to remain on the Cemetery Sub-Cttee but not on the Amenities Cttee. This request was agreed.

94. Cemetery/Churchyard Grants 2005/06

MDDC required estimates of costs for 2005/06 in respect of the Cemetery. The Clerk advised that MDDC had made a mistake in its calculations for 2004/05 and the PC had received an overpayment of grant which would reduce the amount of grant it would receive for 2005/06. It was difficult to estimate the costs for 2005/06 but more work may be required to some of the headstones, a gate needed to be installed and there was the ongoing grass cutting costs. It was agreed that the likely costs would be in the region of £3,000. It was resolved that the PC's contribution towards the running costs of the churchyard be increased from £50 to £100. MDDC should also contribute £100 towards this cost. Cllr Mrs Fisher was seeking volunteers to help with the collection of waste from the cemetery during October through to March. If no one was

able to help then it was something that the grass cutting contractor may be able to attend to. Cllr Mrs Armstrong indicated that she would be willing to assist and was thanked for her offer.

95. Devon County Council Matters

There was nothing to report

96 Mid Devon District Council

There was nothing to report

97. Meetings attended

i. 17th September 2005 Tiverton Hotel from 9.30am – 2.30pm - Tiverton and Exe Valley Market and Coastal Town Initiative

Cllr Gibbs attended this and explained about the formation of Focus Groups etc.

ii. 28th September 2005 – MDDC – Local Forum

Cllr Gibbs attended this and explained that the Forum had taken a slightly different format in that MDDC and the Devon & Cornwall Police Authority held, for the first time, a joint meeting. The first part of the meeting concentrated on police matters and the second part concentrated on MDDC matters such as the introduction of the new waste disposal scheme.

iii. 1st October 2005 DAPC – AGM at County Hall, Exeter

The Chairman attended this

iv. 4th October 2005 - Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Cttee

The Chairman attended this. He explained that the dredging work had been completed.

98. Future Meetings

'Moving Parish Plans Forward' Tuesday, 1st November 2005 at Broadclyst Village Hall

A previous meeting had already been attended by Cllr Mrs Armstrong about this subject and it was considered that attending a further meeting was unnecessary.

99. Committee Reports

i. Amenities (including the Cemetery)

The Vice-Chairman read out the Minutes of the Amenities Cttee of 4th October 2005.

Cllr Gibbs had been researching the possibility of having short mat bowls in the Parish.

Cllr Cooper agreed to take on this project from Cllr Gibbs. The Vice-Chairman advised that the meeting with Dave Huxham from DCC had been most productive. An inspection of possible sites for car parking had been examined and the following conclusions drawn:

i. **Site behind the Village Hall** – this was a possibility but would be costly and possible drainage problems

ii. **Greenway (Lay -by style car park)** - there would be considerable difficulty in implementing this as land purchase and the removal of a wall would be involved

iii. **Bus Stop** – DCC would not support the idea of a car park being at this location but would not totally oppose it either

iv. **Land near Cllr Radford's Property** – There would be visibility problems

v. **Orchard View** – This would be a very viable option. An approach would need to be made to the landowner to purchase the land for a car park

vi. **Cordwents** – This would be viable

The Vice-Chairman explained that it would be necessary to approach Roger Folley to ascertain whether it would be possible for the PC to have a car park at Cordwents in the first instance. A design would need to be drawn up and a survey undertaken, the costs of which would be in the region of £5,000 - £6,000. The estimated costs of constructing a

car park on this site would be approximately £100,000. It was resolved that the Clerk should now contact Roger Folley requesting a site visit with him, attended by the PC's Working Party consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Mesdames Armstrong, and Fisher, Cllrs Cooper, Gibbs and Saunders. It was also understood that signage on the roundabouts could be carried out but sites would need to be identified and the project costed. A new bin for the Rec` had been promised by Mr Carey of MDDC but the Vice-Chairman had not had sufficient time yet to check to see whether it was in position. He hoped that the remains of the old bin had been removed. Cllr Mrs Armstrong requested that MDDC's refuse operatives be reminded to empty the bin when they were in the vicinity. The next Amenities Ctte meeting would be on 1st November

Environment

A meeting would take place on 25th October. Items on the Agenda to include: Election of Chairman, Highways Matters, Hedge Maintenance, the Canal, Speeding in Halberton and erection of more signs/road markings in the Willand area

Communication

A meeting would take place on 1st November. Items on the Agenda to include: Election of Chairman. It was pleasing to hear that Judy Austin was recovering from a minor operation but for the moment would be unable to deal with the Newsletter. Wendy would be handling a lot of the Newsletter matters in the interim.

100. Clerk's Report

The Clerk had been unsuccessful in obtaining a chair and a filing cabinet at the recent auction of office equipment at Honiton but would try again at the next auction at the end of October.

101.Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST - 30TH SEPTEMBER 2005:

<i>Bank Interest</i>	<i>24.08</i>
<i>Newsletter</i>	<i>248.35</i>
<i>Cemetery Fees</i>	<i>350.50</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>£622.93</i>

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD: 1ST - 30th SEPTEMBER 2005 £1640.95

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

<i>Cheque No</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>VAT</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Details</i>
<i>SO</i>	<i>22.00</i>		<i>22.00</i>	<i>MDDC – Cemetery Rates</i>
<i>100964</i>	<i>258.08</i>	<i>45.16</i>	<i>303.24</i>	<i>Education Matters – Publication of Newsletter</i>
<i>100965</i>	<i>10.00</i>		<i>10.00</i>	<i>Mrs J Austin – delivery of Newsletter</i>
<i>100966</i>	<i>236.61</i>		<i>236.61</i>	<i>Mrs C McIntyre – Salary Sept/Oct (less tax deductions)</i>
<i>100967</i>	<i>317.00</i>	<i>55.48</i>	<i>372.48</i>	<i>Gardencare – Grass Cutting – September</i>
<i>100968</i>	<i>16.50</i>		<i>16.50</i>	<i>Mrs C J McIntyre- repayment postage costs</i>
<i>100969</i>	<i>330.00</i>		<i>330.00</i>	<i>N Page – Footpath Work</i>
<i>100970</i>	<i>15.00</i>		<i>15.00</i>	<i>Royal British Legion - Donation</i>

NOTE: £196.05 was due from the PC for income tax payments for the period June – Sept 2005. However, the sum of £250 has been credited to the Halberton PC Inland Revenue Account as a promised payment for filing the tax returns for 2004/05, on line. Therefore this quarterly payment is nil and the next quarterly payment will be reduced to £142.10.

<i>Balance of bank accounts carried forward</i>	15,307.26
<i>Plus receipts for period 1st – 30th September 2005</i>	622.93
	<i>TOTAL £15930.19</i>
<i>Minus payments made for the above period</i>	1,640.95
	<i>TOTAL £14,289.24</i>

Made up as follows:- High Interest 12,639.33
Current 1,649.91
TOTAL £14,289.24

VILLAGE HALLS FUND	£360.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	£2,176.72
GENERAL FUNDS	£11,752.52
TOTAL	£14,289.24

NEWSLETTER :

Income for period 1/4/05 – 30/09/05 £1,209.67 less expenditure to date of £737.41 = Net Profit £472.26

102. Members Business

- i. It was reported that a drain was blocked at Church Path The Clerk to refer this matter to Alan Mitchard.
- ii. Cllr Saunders was agreeable to having minutes and agendas sent to him by e-mail. Cllr Mrs Jepps was also agreeable to this method of delivery but requested that hard copies of these items be made available at all future meetings.
- iii. It was agreed that two spare keys be cut for the new entrance door to the Village Hall (one set for the Chairman and the other for the Clerk)

103. Miscellaneous Matters

- i. A notice had been handed to the Clerk via Mrs Johnstone which had been drawn up by an (unnamed) parishioner. The notice was to make aware, a minority of dog owners as to their responsibility for cleaning up their animals faeces rather than leaving them on pavements, grass verges, etc. The notice was very direct but the Cllrs agreed that it should be published unamended in the Newsletter in an attempt to get the message across.
- ii. The Clerk had been handed a number of slips by Mrs Johnstone about areas in the Parish which needed attention eg tree trimming, blocked drains, etc. The Clerk would pass these to Alan Mitchard at DCC requesting that the necessary work be implemented.
- iii. Cpt Cornish had written to complain about the potholes in the surface of the lane between the Pond and the Churchyard boundary in Pond Hill which required attention. A copy of Cpt Cornish's letter to be passed to Alan Mitchard.

104. Future Parish Council Meetings

- i. 25th October – Environment Ctte 7.30pm
 - ii. 1st November – Communications Ctte – 6.30pm
 - iii. 1st November – Amenities Ctte - 7.30pm
 - iv. 8th November – Policy and Finance Ctte 6.30pm
 - v. 8th November - Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council (to include planning applications)
 - vi. 24th Jan 2006 – Footpaths Ctte
- The Meeting ended at 9.18pm

DATE

CHAIRMAN

