

## **MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007 AT 7.40PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL**

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### **88. Present**

The Chairman (K Browse), Vice-Chairman (B Lane-Smith), Mesdames Cuthbert, Jepps and Johnstone, Cllrs Britton, Corden, Gibbs, Radford, Saunders and Wooding, CClr Des Hannon, and 6 Members of the Public

### **89. Public Forum**

A parishioner expressed concern at the continuing problems of speeding traffic going through Halberton. He advised that vehicles were also transgressing the white lines alongside the road which were creating serious health and safety issues. He had been in contact with PC Dodd about the matter and was extremely concerned and unhappy with PC Dodd's response. PC Dodd had indicated to him that the last speed survey he had carried out did not suggest any serious speeding issues and that it had been a "boring exercise". The Clerk had been advised by DCC that due to staff changes there was a backlog of work and requests by parishes for speed surveys would be dealt with as soon as DCC was able. In addition the Clerk had been advised that as part of a Section 106 Agreement the speed limit in Willand Road would be extended. However the short length of road was covered by a 30mph speed limit and DCC thought that there may be no suitable location for a check to be done. It was understood that there is a national policy for the police not to enforce 20mph speed limits. CClr Hannon would investigate further. It was understood that there was a point of contact at DCC who was involved in this matter and the Clerk would supply CClr Hannon with this information.

### **90. Apologies**

PC Dodd and G Isaac

### **91. Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meetings of 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007 were approved and signed

### **92. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

- i. The Clerk had contacted the grass cutter and had passed on the complaint about the grass cutting problems in the cemetery
- ii. With regards to the legality of the Minutes of the Amenities Cttee Meeting dated 1<sup>st</sup> March, the Clerk advised that these were drafted when the previous Council was in session (prior to April 2007) and a number of Members who had attended that meeting had since stood down from the PC. Therefore only two Members of the previous PC could confirm that the Minutes were a true and accurate record. The Clerk advised that in the circumstances the signed Minutes would have to be acceptable.
- iii. Mr Herlihy of Ash Thomas Village Hall had advised that funding had now been obtained from the Lottery Awards for All scheme which would allow the renovations to the Village Hall to proceed. Once the work had been completed the PC would provide the Village Hall Cttee with the agreed sum of £300 towards the costs.
- iv. Vitalise (a charity which provides breaks for disabled persons and carers) had advised that a person in the Parish had been provided with a holiday, courtesy of the organisation. The PC considered that the Charity provided an essential service and it was resolved to make a donation of £50.
- v. A ditch at Corner Lane had been cleared by DCC's Parish Lengthsman but the work was not yet completed.

- vi. The school sign in Lower Town would be replaced but with a bigger post as DCC's Highways Superintendent had advised that the ground in the area was very soft, hence the reason for the smaller sign, falling out.
- vii. The hedge between Greenway and Halberton Court Farm shop had now been trimmed back to ensure the priority sign was visible
- viii. Mrs Fisher had been contacted by DCC about the missing name sign adjacent to 14 Cross Parks. It was hoped in view of this that DCC would progress this matter without further delay.
- ix. The Clerk had reported the problem of the overflowing recycling can bank to MDDC to deal with. It was understood that Cllr Mrs Johnstone was contacting MDDC to remind them to empty the bank on a regular basis. It was understood that persons were leaving bags full of rubbish at the side of the banks which was annoying and unhygienic. Cllr Corden was intending to erect signs reminding people not to do this.
- x. Mrs Erasmus had sent a letter of thanks for the M&S vouchers she had received from the PC in recognition of her carrying out an internal audit of the PC's accounts.

### **93. Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman was delighted to announce that Halberton had won the Devon Calor Village of the Year Competition 2007. He commented on the Judge's Report which highly commended the Village. It was agreed that this was an excellent result and the whole community should be justifiably proud. The award would be presented to the PC at "The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Village" Conference on 17<sup>th</sup> October, which was being held at the Village Hall. It was agreed that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should attend the Conference for the full day at a cost of £25 per member. (The Clerk would see if she could negotiate a cheaper rate in view of the fact that the members attending had been invited to attend part of the day with lunch provided, at no cost). It was understood that the PC could now enter the National Calor Village of the Year Competition. Regional judging of the national competition would take place in the Spring of 2008, with further judging of selected villages in the summer. The Trail Boat Festival on the canal would be taking place in 2008. The organisers were looking to have a barbeque at Greenway at the end of the event and were seeking volunteers. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert may be able to provide a field for the event. It was also suggested to combine the barbeque with a boules event.

### **94. Consideration of Duration and Frequency of Parish Council Meetings**

It was agreed that in view of the increasing amount of business to be discussed, that members should make their points of view swiftly and not prolong discussions about various items. It was not in anyone's interest to have long and laborious meetings as people became bored and disinterested in items being discussed. It was agreed that the new arrangement of planning applications being viewed by members at their leisure, at the Village Hall had been a great success. This method had saved valuable time in the Planning Cttee Meetings as members had already viewed the applications. All they needed to do was simply provide their comments/observations. It was agreed that this arrangement would continue for the time being. The Clerk would also inform Members of the PC of all planning applications received by her, in order that members could also view the applications on MDDC's Planning Portal. This would allow members who were not able to get to the Village Hall to simply view the applications from the comfort of their armchairs!

### **95. Emergency Planning**

It was agreed to place this item on the October Agenda, as there was insufficient time to discuss it at this meeting. It was understood that the current Emergency Plan did not incorporate the suggested provisions contained in the package developed by MDDC and DCC and this needed to be addressed.

## **96. Public Rights of Way Consultation Document**

The document was still being circulated amongst PClls. The item to be placed on the October Agenda.

## **97. Village Post Office**

The Clerk had received further correspondence regarding the Government's proposals to close 2,500 post offices and to create up to 500 new 'outreach' services in rural areas (such schemes were already operating in Sticklepath & Torcross) Cllr Mrs Johnstone advised that Sunday collections were being stopped from October and postal workers would be starting work an hour later which would mean later delivery times. It was understood that the public consultation process on the Post Office Closure Plan for Tiverton/Honiton would commence in April 2008. PO Ltd intended to specifically consult with parish and town councils.

## **98. Police Matters**

Terry Snow had advised by letter, that he was the new Chairman of the Community Safety Partnership Local Action Group. The aim of the group was the reduction of crime, fear of crime and anti social behaviour. There would be meetings held to raise and address these issues and it was important to get local support. The Clerk handed each member a list of useful contact numbers which could be used to report various Anti Social behaviour issues. PC Dodd had advised by e-mail that in response to safety concerns for pedestrian safety, that along the length of road from the Barge towards Sampford Peverell (the safety barrier had been damaged recently) he considered a pavement should be constructed. He was of the view that this would aid pedestrian safety and also prevent people parking at this location. Once the parked cars were removed, road markings could possibly be improved to prevent a re-occurrence of cars hitting the barrier. It was understood that in the meantime the safety barrier had been repaired. He also advised that PCSO Mel Smith has commenced duty at Cullompton Police Station. The news that she was to be covering Halberton was warmly greeted. It was considered she would be a definite asset to the community as she was a "people's person" PC Dodd intended that Mel would visit all households in the Pethertons area offering the residents reassurance and also asking them to contact the police if they saw individuals acting anti-socially. He hoped that either the offending would stop, or persons would come forward as witnesses to enable positive action to be taken against the offenders. Since July the following crimes had been reported. i. Damage at the school; ii. 4 crimes relating to one incident at the Barge; iii. Vehicles broken into at the canal; iv. 2 damage offences in the High Street area v. 2 damage offences in Pethertons area (arrest imminent) vi. theft of cycle vii. 1 domestic; viii. 1 child protection issue. Cllr Wooding advised that problems with cars being parked at Millstream Gardens were continuing. Recently, due to the number of vehicles parked, a parishioner was almost killed as her vision was obscured. It was understood that property owners were prohibited from parking their vehicles on this road as their property deeds contained restrictive covenants preventing this. However other persons who didn't live at the location were using the area to park their vehicles as there were no other areas in the village available for this purpose.

## **99. DCC Matters**

1. There were still a number of highway matters which had not been dealt with:-  
i. Problem raised by Mr Butchers re condition of lane between Thurlescombe and Rowridge  
ii. Cllr Saunders had still not been contacted about the sign required at Brithem Bottom ("Road Unsuitable for Large Vehicles") despite the Clerk supplying DCC with his contact details on previous occasions

- iii. The Clerk had been advised by DCC that the condition of the footpath between Church Path and the bottom of Corner Lane (re-surfacing poor and area left untidy) should be referred to Balfour Beatty, (the contractors who had previously carried out works), as the footpath was not public highway. The PC maintained that this was not the case and the footpath was the responsibility of DCC and therefore DCC should pursue the contractor to rectify matters
- iv. Problem raised by Mr and Mrs Gray of 30 High Street regarding the unsatisfactory resurfacing of the road adjacent to their property
- v. It was understood that notice had been served on the occupants at 26 High Street to trim back the hedge at the property, but to date they had not complied.
- vi. The Clerk had still not heard from Senior Managers as to whether they had given the go-ahead to carry out works to the drain at Springfield Court.

CCllr Hannon would investigate these outstanding matters on behalf of the PC

- 2. The PC had been invited to comment on the Bus Information Strategy 2006 -11 . It was suggested that a request be submitted for the withdrawn Pethertons bus to be re-instated. However CCllr Hannon was of the view that it was unlikely that this would be agreed to as the bus had been withdrawn for safety reasons.
- 3. The PC's requirements for the Parish Lengthsman to visit the Parish would now have to be routed through the Area Highway Management team at Sowton . The Lengthsman would next be in the Parish from 18th – 21<sup>st</sup> December and on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2008
- 4. Copies of DCC's Waste Local Plan were available in hard copy form or by accessing it on DCCs Web site

### **100. Cllr Des Hannon Updates**

CCllr Hannon advised of the following:-

- i. DCC's Waste Plan was a huge document and it was advisable to look at the relevant sections on line rather than obtain a hard copy
- ii. He offered warm congratulations to the Parish Council on Halberton winning the Devon Village of the Year Competition
- iii. He confirmed that his position would not be compromised by the fact he had been appointed Chair of the action group who were campaigning against the redevelopment of Hartnoll Farm
- iv. The plan for rebuilding street furniture in Tiverton would now be going ahead. There would be rolling disruption from Lowman Green to the Twyford for several months. The work would commence in the autumn.
- v. He had now become a full time CCllr and provided details of his changed mobile number

### **101. Mid Devon District Council Matters**

- i. Gerald Hirsch would shortly be taking up the post of Chief Executive of MDDC
- ii. The Area Development Plan documents were still being circulated. The Clerk to put this item on the October Agenda.
- iii. Question 10 of the Members Register of Interests had been revised and the Clerk provided details of the amendment
- iv. The Licensing Policy was now subject to the statutory three year review. The consultation period had started and would end on 28<sup>th</sup> September. Comments were sought. It was understood that the Government was proposing to remove the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003 which required:-
  - a designated premises supervisor to be specified on every premises licence authorising sales of alcohol; and
  - every sale of alcohol at such premises to be authorised by a personal licence

holder, for categories of premises including village halls, church halls, chapel halls and similar community buildings

v. MDDC were considering revising its democratic arrangements and had proposed three possible options:-

1. A directly elected mayor with an executive
2. A leader and an executive
3. Committees and scrutiny panels

After much debate the PC agreed to Option 2. The Clerk would pass the PC's views to MDDC

vi. Problems had been occurring with refuse collections. Some residents were not having refuse collected on the days they understood were their collection dates. It was understood that MDDC's Web site was still showing incorrect information, despite the Clerk making representations for this to be corrected. Cllr Radford would obtain a letter from Kevin Finan of MDDC detailing collection days. This information could be inserted in the Newsletter for the benefit of Parishioners.

### **102. NHS Foundation Trust Consultation Document**

Devon Partnership had advised that it was applying to become an NHS Foundation Trust and would be embarking on public consultation on its proposed plans from 9<sup>th</sup> July – 29<sup>th</sup> September. In addition applications were sought from persons wishing to become members of the new NHS Foundation Trust.

### **103. Parish Website**

Cllr Mrs Cuthbert had made a marvellous job of updating the Parish Website and was thanked for her hard work.

### **104. Play Equipment and S.106 Monies**

There had been major problems with the safety surfacing. It was discovered to be a substandard product after it had been laid. The PC had had to make arrangements for its immediate removal and for the closure of the Rec`. The Rec` could not be re-opened until new safety surfacing had been laid. After much debate it was resolved that the Clerk proceed with ordering a replacement product from Dunweed in subject to it meeting the criteria of the PC. The cut off point for expenditure on the replacement surfacing was set at £6000 excluding vat. The Chairman would place an article in the Newsletter to update parishioners as to the current situation. It was agreed that the invoices for the new play equipment and the work carried out by the contractor to prepare the site for the safety surfacing could now be passed to MDDC for payment. These were in the sums of £12,281.68 and £660 respectively. The saga with the S.106 monies continued. The Clerk was continuing to dispute MDDC's statement that it was entitled to use monies intended for Halberton, to benefit other parishes. The Clerk had studied the documentation very carefully and she was of the view that it contained no authority for MDDC to do this. She was currently waiting a response from Kevin Finan of MDDC to her latest letter about this matter.

### **105. Bus Shelter**

Rubbish and broken glass had been scattered about the bus shelter. The Vice-Chairman requested help from anyone who had time to help with removing the debris. PC Dodd intended to liaise with the Chairman about repainting the shelter in conjunction with the Youth Club once the Youth Club re-commenced.

### **106. Parish Council Committees and Organisations**

Membership of outside organisations would be considered at the October PC Meeting.

### **107. Car Park/Footpath Update**

Then item to be discussed at the Amenities Ctte Meeting.

### **108. Mid Devon Local Development Framework**

It was agreed that this would be discussed at the Amenities Ctte meeting

### **109. Parish Notice board**

The Clerk had been contacted by a relative of a person in the Parish who had provided the notice board many years ago. It had been noted that the condition of the notice board had deteriorated and needed re-varnishing. Cllr Mrs Johnstone provided background information about the provision of the board. It was agreed that the item should be discussed at the Amenities Ctte Meeting.

### **110. Meetings Attended**

No details were provided.

### **111. Future Parish Council and Other Meetings**

- i. 13<sup>th</sup> September 2007 - Development Control Briefing at Tiverton Town Hall – 6pm (Cllr Gibbs will attend this)
- ii. 17<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at Halberton Village Hall at 7.30pm – Planning Ctte Meeting
- iii. 17<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at Halberton Village Hall at approx 8.30pm – Amenities Ctte Meeting
- iv. 19<sup>th</sup> September 2007 Cemetery Grants & Support for Parish Councils – Tiverton Town Hall – 2.30pm (Cllr Mrs Jepps will try to attend this)
- v. 29<sup>th</sup> September 2007 DAPC AGM at County Hall 10.30am
- vi. 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2007 Planning Ctte Meeting Meeting of Halberton Parish Council – Halberton Village Hall – 7.00pm
- vii. 4<sup>th</sup> October 2007 Police Liaison Meeting – Two Moors Primary School – 7.30pm
- viii. 9<sup>th</sup> October 2007 – Planning Ctte Meeting of Halberton Parish Council – Halberton Village Hall – 7.00pm
- ix. 9<sup>th</sup> October 2007 Ordinary Meeting of Halberton Parish Council – Halberton Village Hall – 7.30pm
- x. 25<sup>th</sup> October 2007 Police Liaison Meeting – Cullompton Community College – 7.30pm
- xi. 13<sup>th</sup> November 2007 Community Safety Partnership Local Action Group – Venue/Time to be confirmed

### **112. Committee Reports**

#### **The Cemetery**

Cllr Saunders would deal with the tree trimming at the cemetery.

### **113 Clerk's Report**

The 2006/07 accounts had been audited by the external auditor at Plymouth and had now been signed off as correct. The Clerk was very concerned about the on-going S.106 monies saga with MDDC but she was not prepared to give up without a fight!

## 114. Accounts

### RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY – 31<sup>ST</sup> AUG 2007:

Bank Interest	101.45
Newsletter	125.35
Cemetery	72.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£298.80</b>

### PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY – 31<sup>ST</sup> AUG 2007 £2750.13

#### PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Vat</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Details</b>
SO	23.00		23.00	MDDC – Cemetery Rates (July)
SO	23.00		23.00	MDDC – Cemetery Rates (Aug)
1122	15.00		15.00	Ash Thomas V Hall – Hire of hall
1123	15.89		15.89	Mrs C McIntyre – repayment of cartridges
1124	196.50		196.50	Halberton V Hall – Hire of hall
1125	662.00	115.86	777.86	Gardencare – Grass Cutting
1126	187.97		187.97	Allianz Insurance – additional premiums
1127	15.00		15.00	J Austin – delivery of Newsletter
1128	230.43	40.32	270.75	Education Matters - Newsletter production costs
1129	243.80		243.80	Mrs C McIntyre – salary Sept/Oct
1130	40.00		40.00	Mrs C J McIntyre – Cont towards Internet/phone calls – June - Aug
1131	22.18		22.18	Mrs C J McIntyre – repayment of postage costs
1132	206.28		206.28	Inland Revenue – 3 months income tax July – Sept
1133	35.92	6.29	42.21	K Browse – repayment of cost of materials for bus shelter
1134	15.00		15.00	DAPC – delegate fee
Balance of bank accounts carried forward			25694.07	
Plus Receipts for period 1 <sup>st</sup> July – 31 <sup>st</sup> Aug			298.80	
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£25992.87</b>
Minus Payments made for the above Period			2750.13	
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£23242.74</b>

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	22740.30
Current A/c	502.44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£23242.74</b>

<b>VILLAGE HALL FUNDS</b>	<b>600.00</b>
<b>PARISH PATHS FUND</b>	<b>2113.79</b>
<b>PARISH PLAN FUND</b>	<b>433.54</b>
<b>CAR PARKING</b>	<b>850.00</b>
<b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>	<b>19245.41</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£23242.74</b>

Halberton Newsletter: Income for Period 1<sup>st</sup> April - 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2007 = £869.39 less expenditure £520.36 = Profit £349.03

**115. Bank Mandate**

It was agreed that due to lack of time, the amendment to the Bank Mandate be discussed at the October PC Meeting.

**116. Members Business**

- i. Uffculme Environmental had agreed to provide funding towards the further re-furbishment of the Village Hall. It was understood that the Clerk would be contacted shortly by Rob Stevens to request the PC's agreed contribution towards the cost of the works
- ii. The trees at the lay-by at Halberton Court were obscuring the street lights. The Clerk to refer this problem to DCC
- iii. The Pre-School had been broken into over the previous weekend, which had caused damage and distress.
- iv. Persons were parking vehicles at Greenway Bridge which was obstructing access for some parishioners. The matter to be discussed fully at the Amenities Ctte Meeting.

**117. Miscellaneous Matters**

- i. The English Basketball Association had advised with regards to the basketball goals, that the PC had now met all its obligations in relation to the signed Conditions of Participation. Therefore the goals were now owned in full by the PC. The associated maintenance period and cover provided by the OBI for a period of 5 years from the date of installation had now been completed for the goals.
- ii. It was agreed that the Chairman should attend DAPC's AGM on 29<sup>th</sup> September at County Hall, Exeter. The PC would pay the delegate fee of £15
- iii. The Pethertons name sign had been demolished. The Clerk to ask MDDC to deal with the matter.
- iv. An increasing number of youngsters were driving around at high speed in "hot hatches" causing concern.
- v. The subscription fee proposed for the PC's membership of DAPC for 2008 – 2009 was £243. This would be an increase of £14 from the 2007 fee

The Meeting ended at 10.10pm

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**DATE**

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**CHAIRMAN**