

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY, 12th APRIL 2005 AT 7.30PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

215. Present

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Gibbs, Greenhill, Lane-Smith, Radford, Mesdames Armstrong, Fisher, Hull and Jepps, MDDC Cllr Dennis Knowles, Des Hannon of the Lib Dem Party and five Members of the public

The Chairman welcomed new PCllr Rod Greenhill to the meeting, together with Cllr Dennis Knowles, Des Hannon and the other members of the public who were present

216. Apologies

Cllr Saunders

217. Public Forum

Rod Stevens advised that a further £6,000 had been granted by Uffculme Environmental subject to the Village Hall Ctte managing to obtain a £600 contribution from a third party. He advised that the work to the hall was progressing well and a number of people were giving up their time voluntarily to assist with the project. Mr Stevens was seeking the PC's continuing support in respect of the project. In response to questions raised by Mrs Onley-Gregson, the Vice-Chairman advised that DCC had until 2025 to carry out the Definitive Map Review. However he was constantly reminding DCC to speed up matters, in the hope that Halberton would be next on 'the list' of priorities. The footpath brochure was high priority and the Vice-Chairman was hoping to give it his attention shortly. The PC would not be carrying out an annual inspection of the public rights of way in the Parish this year because a footpath inspection had already been carried with regard to the Devon Public Service Agreement. Des Hanlon thought the work carried out to the Village Hall to date was excellent and significant improvements had been made already. He said that credit should be given to all those people who were involved with the project. He also thought the speed warnings lights now installed in the village were excellent but the sign at Millstream Gardens was not working. He also said that some motorists were ignoring them. Cllr Gibbs was dealing with the matter and also advised that the signs should not have been switched on yet in any event. Cllr Knowles advised that Alan Mitchard of DCC was 'on the case'. The Clerk to contact Alan Mitchard to request the signs be switched off until the painted signs were in place. Mr Stevens advised that the Parish Plan Steering Group was meeting tomorrow evening. He stressed that the hard work was about to start with implementing the action points of the Plan and to secure funding. It was important to keep the momentum going.

218. Approval of the Minutes of:

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 8th March 2005 were approved with the following amendments: In Minute 196 the name 'Colin Carey' should be amended to 'Colin Constable'

219. Matters arising from the aforementioned Minutes

The Clerk had e-mailed Tim Hugill about keeping the Web Site up to date with the Minutes etc. She would check the Site again and if it was still out of date send a reminder to Tim.

220. Chairman's Announcements

There were none.

221. Declaration of Acceptance of Office

The new PCllr, Rod Greenhill made his declaration in the presence of the PC and other persons present. The Clerk duly witnessed his acceptance of office on the form of declaration.

222. Police Matters

Cllr Radford advised that PC Dodd had informed him that burglaries had taken place in the district but none had taken place in the Parish. There was general concern about the lack of information forthcoming from PC Dodd. Concern was expressed about PC Dodd failing to inform the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator about matters affecting the Parish. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact PC Dodd informing him of the importance of keeping the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator up to date with relevant issues and to also let the Clerk know of matters affecting the Parish if he was unable to attend any future PC meetings. A member of the public also expressed dismay at the manner in which PC Dodd had handled information passed to him, naming the possible culprits responsible for the spate of vandalism in the village. Cllr Mrs Hull reported that a vehicle involved in a police chase had damaged fencing on her property. A burnt out vehicle had been found at Remberton and a police helicopter had been used to locate an individual who had jumped bail

223. Request for funding by Halberton Village Hall Ctte

The background information to this request had already been provided by Rob Stevens in Public Forum. It was resolved that a further sum of £600 be provided by the PC towards the project

224. The Parish Plan

The Clerk had received from the Countryside Agency the sum of £ 1,279 as the final payment towards the Parish Plan. This was £600 less than what the PC had expected. The Clerk had queried this with the Agency who had advised that this was due to the in-kind contributions being significantly higher than was expected. The PC expressed concern about this and the Vice-Chairman agreed to pursue the matter further. The Clerk to pass to the Vice-Chairman all relevant paperwork. The Chairman then referred to Cordwents and the suggestion of it being used for car parking. He gave a brief summary of the history and problems with the site and referred to meetings etc which had taken place some months ago with officers from DCC and other interested parties.. Cllr Mrs Armstrong was very concerned at the lack of progress being made in the matter. She indicated that some months ago the Chairman and Cllr Radford at a Parish Council meeting had agreed that they would be responsible for taking the project forward. To date nothing had been done, according to Cllr Mrs Armstrong. The Chairman refuted the allegation and went on to say that a firm plan was needed as to how to develop the site. The entrance/exit would need to be agreed, visibility needed to be considered, the street light may need to be removed, drawings were also required and another meeting was clearly needed to firm up ideas. Malcolm James, Roger Folley and Dave Huxham were mentioned as contacts who may be able to get things moving. The Chairman would contact Dave Huxham to arrange a meeting. Cllr Mrs Armstrong advised that the Parish Plan Steering Group was very disappointed at the lack of attendance from certain members of the PC at previous Steering Group meetings. The Steering Group and PC needed to work together in order to get the Parish Plan operational. Cllr Lane Smith suggested that a timetable should be set up in order to get people focussed and it was agreed that an Extraordinary Meeting of the PC be arranged for 7th June in order to progress matters. The Vice-Chairman advised that he had attended a DAPC meeting at which Roger Grainger had given a presentation regarding Parish Plans and how Councils could deliver the requirements of their respective Plans. The Devon Local Area Agreement provided for more flexibility for parishes, the potential for Councils to have access to funds and to form partnerships with DCC. Mr Grainger could suggest ways in which parishes could avoid their Parish Plans running out of steam. Mr Grainger would be writing to the Clerk but the Clerk would contact him in any event.

225. Future Legislation affecting Parish Councils

The Clerk had circulated the following documents:

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill, Review of The Code of Conduct, 'Citizen Engagement and Public Services: Why Neighbourhoods Matter', Vibrant Local Leadership' and MDDC's Corporate Priorities

There were no points/issues raised by PCllrs

226. DCC Matters

The Clerk had details about DCC's Minerals and Waste development Framework available to any Member who wished to have sight of the paperwork

227.MDDC Matters

- i. Renewal applications had been received from The Barge Public House and Ash Thomas Village Hall in respect of their Public Entertainment Licences. The PC raised no objections to either application.
- ii. The Annual Meeting of the District Council would take place on 4th May at the Council Chamber at Tiverton Town Hall. The Chairman would attend
- iii. The Annual Meeting of Town and Parish Clerks would take place on 28th April. The Clerk would try to attend.
- iv. Phil Talbot had advised that there were problems in finding a replacement for Tim Hugill who was formally on the Standards Cttee. It was understood that a nomination was required from the Mid Devon Association of Local Councils of which Wally Burke was the Chairman and if this was unsuccessful then a nomination from DAPC would be sought. Cllr Lane-Smith indicated he would be happy to be considered for this position. The Clerk to contact Wally Burke about progressing this matter and to also let Phil Talbot know the outcome.
- v. Cllr Terry Snow had arranged a guided tour around the newly opened Devon Records Office in Sowton on Monday 23rd May at 2.00pm. Cllr Mrs Fisher wished to attend. It was also suggested that Irene Hugill and Alan Voce may be interested. The Clerk to make the arrangements.
- vi. Peter Brown, Emergency Planning Officer had provided an update as to the development of self-help emergency plans. It was understood that after Mr Brown had given a presentation several months ago at one of the PC meetings he was intending to update the PC's plan. However to date, nothing further had been heard from him. The Clerk to chase up.

228. Meetings Attended

15th March 2005 Parish Councillor Training at Crediton re Model Code of Conduct

Cllr Greenhill attended the Boniface Centre at Crediton on 15th March. However when he arrived he found there was no meeting arranged. The Clerk to look into the matter.

21st March 2005 – DAPC

The Vice-Chairman attended this. (Please refer to Minute 224)

22nd March 2005 – Canal Advisory Cttee Meeting

The Vice-Chairman attended this and advised that tow path work was now being undertaken in the Parish.

229.Dates of Future meetings

13th April 2005 – Parish Plan Steering Group Meeting, 7.30pm – Halberton Village Hall

24th May 2005 – South West Regional Conference for Clerks and Councillors, Plymouth

7th June – Halberton Village Hall – 7.30pm – Extraordinary Meeting re Parish Plan

15th June 2005 , Exeter – New Chairman Training

29th June 2005 – Tiverton – New Councillors Training Day

230.Committee Reports

Cemetery

Cllr Mrs Fisher had collected the new grave markers. She brought in a marker to the meeting and it was noted that the finished product was slightly disappointing and very expensive. Gardencare had damaged a brick surround, during grass cutting work. The Clerk to contact Mr Vincent and ask him to repair it. A parishioner had also been distressed by the fact that flowers she had placed on a grave had been accidentally strimmed so that the flower heads were missing. The Clerk to also speak to Mr Vincent about this matter. The diseased trees in the cemetery were the responsibility of the PC to remove and not DCC's. The Clerk had checked the licence agreement for verification on this matter. Cllr Mrs Fisher indicated that she would make arrangements to have the damaged trees removed and said that most of them had been

removed in any event. The Home Office had forwarded the Clerk a Burials Ground Questionnaire to complete. The form was now completed and could be returned.

Amenities

The Clerk had only received a copy of the report of the Amenities Ctte meeting of 5th April today and therefore had not had sufficient time to type it up. It would be ready for the next meeting. Rospa's report had been received and Cllr Lane-Smith read through the recommendations regarding the work required to be undertaken to the items of play equipment. There was nothing of an urgent nature requiring attention and what work was required, could be done voluntarily, in due course. Rospa had also confirmed that the rubber chippings met all specified safety requirements.

Highways Ctte

Cllr Gibbs had already mentioned the relevant matters earlier on in the meeting. However he added that the cracked centre road by the man hole cover near the Post Office could prove a hazard to cyclists and pedestrians so he had also reported this to Alan Mitchard at DCC.

231. Clerk's Report

The Clerk had attended an On-Line training event held at the offices of the Inland Revenue at Exeter, for filing the PC's tax returns on line. She had found the training session useful and very informative. She had now filed the tax returns on line and the PC would receive payments totalling £800 over the next four years from the Inland Revenue. This sum was being paid to all companies/individuals as an inducement to file returns in this manner. The Clerk also reported that she would be leaving MDDC at the end of the month to take up a post in DCC's legal department. She explained this would not affect her position as Clerk with the PC and she would remain as such for the foreseeable future.

232Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST – 31ST MARCH 2005:

<i>Bank Interest</i>	<i>14.27</i>
<i>Newsletter</i>	<i>89.95</i>
<i>Countryside Commission</i>	<i>1279.26</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>£1383.48</i>

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST - 31ST MARCH 2005 : *£524.57*

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

<i>Cheque No</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>VAT</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Details</i>
<i>100912</i>	<i>150.00</i>		<i>150.00</i>	<i>Tiv & District trans – Donation</i>
<i>100913</i>	<i>500.00</i>		<i>500.00</i>	<i>Ash Thomas Vill Hall – Donation</i>
<i>100914</i>	<i>59.00</i>	<i>10.33</i>	<i>69.33</i>	<i>Playground Management – Eqt Inspection</i>
<i>100915</i>	<i>246.56</i>	<i>43.15</i>	<i>289.71</i>	<i>Education Matters – Newsletter Publication</i>
<i>100916</i>	<i>10.00</i>		<i>10.00</i>	<i>Mrs J Austin – Delivery Costs</i>
<i>100917</i>	<i>15.00</i>		<i>15.00</i>	<i>Devon Playing Fields Ass 2005/06 Subs</i>
<i>100918</i>	<i>255.50</i>		<i>255.50</i>	<i>DAPC – 2005/06 Subs</i>
<i>100919</i>	<i>15.79</i>		<i>15.79</i>	<i>T Hugill – Anti -virus Subs re Computer</i>
<i>100920</i>	<i>221.91</i>		<i>221.91</i>	<i>Mrs C McIntyre – Salary Dec/Jan (less tax deductions)</i>
<i>100921</i>	<i>600.00</i>		<i>600.00</i>	<i>Halberton Village Hall - Grant</i>
<i>100922</i>	<i>187.77</i>		<i>187.77</i>	<i>Inland Revenue – 3 mths tax (Jan – March)</i>
<i>100923</i>	<i>317.00</i>	<i>55.48</i>	<i>372.48</i>	<i>Gardencare – Grass Cutting – March</i>
<i>100924</i>	<i>12.00</i>		<i>12.00</i>	<i>Royal British Legion</i>

The above accounts were approved for payment

<i>Balance of bank accounts carried forward</i>	11,299.93
<i>Plus receipts for period 1st - 31st March 2005</i>	1,383.48
	TOTAL £12,683.41
<i>Minus payments made for the above period</i>	524.57
	TOTAL £12,158.84

<i>Made up as follows:- High Interest</i>	8,014.33
<i>Current</i>	4,144.51
	TOTAL £12,158.84

<i>VILLAGE HALLS FUND</i>	£1,410.00
<i>PARISH PATHS FUND</i>	£1,581.72
<i>GENERAL FUNDS</i>	£9,167.12
	TOTAL £12,158.84

NEWSLETTER :

Income for period 1/4/03 – 31/03/05 £1381.15 minus expenditure £1151.93
= NET PROFIT £229.22

233. Next Meeting

The Annual Parish Council Meeting would take place on Tuesday, 10th May at 7pm (it would incorporate Planning Matters) followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.15pm

The Meeting closed at 9.45pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED