

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 12th DECEMBER 2006 AT 7.00PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

138. Present

The Chairman (K Browse), Vice-Chairman (B Lane-Smith) Cllrs Constable, Cooper, Gibbs, Radford, Saunders, Mesdames Fisher and Hull, CCllr Hannon, Cllr D Pugsley, Leader of MDDC Council

139. Public Forum

Nothing was raised

140. Apologies

Cllrs Mesdames Armstrong and Jepps and PC Dodd

141. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meetings of 14th November 2006 were approved and signed accordingly

142. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Cllr Cooper was thanked for sorting out the problems with the tree lights.

143. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Pugsley, the Leader of MDDC, to the meeting. Concern was expressed at the proposals to close thousands of post offices in the country. It was considered that the Post Office in Halberton was the focal point of the community and there would be dire consequences if the community was to lose this facility. It was resolved that the Clerk should write to Angela Browning indicating the PC's opposition to any proposals of this nature.

144. Police Matters

It had been noticed today that a car appeared to have been abandoned at Greenway. The Clerk had received notification from PC Dodd that in view of the PC's concerns Special Constables had been tasked with surveying the speed of traffic through Halberton on certain week days at 4.00pm and between 9.30pm and 11.00pm. PC Dodd also stressed that in the event of any problems occurring in the village such as criminal damage, burglary etc that it was essential that parishioners contacted 08452 777444 to report such matters. He also advised that in the last three months in the Parish two domestics had been reported, four damage offences and one burglary

145. DCC Matters

- i. Cllr Radford advised about the cost implications of Job Evaluation which had recently been completed at DCC.
- ii. DCC advised of its intention to remove emergency telephones along the A361 North Devon Link and A39 North Atlantic Highway, due to lack of use. It was understood that in 2005/06 the rental costs amounted to almost £6,000 and repair costs of £700. Over this period, call charges amounted to a total of £7.19, identifying very low usage for calls from these telephones.

146. Mid Devon District Council

- i. It was understood that MDDC was introducing a Choice Based Lettings Scheme to replace the current points based scheme in allocating its properties. Information sessions had been arranged in January 2007 for Clerks and Tenants Representatives. However the

dates/times were not convenient for the Clerk so she would request an information pack which she would bring along to the next PC Meeting.

- ii. It was understood from Peter Brown, Emergency Planning Officer, that all districts had now entered into partnership arrangements with DCC in an attempt to pool both resources and expertise to ensure that PCs obtain the best and most up to date advice in emergency planning matters. However, Mr Brown, as District Emergency Planning Officer, would remain the first point of contact for advice or assistance in respect of parish emergency planning in Mid Devon
- iii. Cllr Hannon advised that there was concern that MDDC may be pulling funding from the Grand Western Canal in view of financial problems. He would be keenly monitoring the situation.

147. Car Park/Footpath update

There was much discussion. It was agreed that it would be necessary to decide on the amount of land the project would require for car parking spaces (it was suggested possibly 30 –40 spaces) plus a possible play area, grassed area for ball games, picnic site etc. Before progressing the project further it was considered sensible and good manners to consult with school and church representatives to have their thoughts and comments. Once these were known then plans could be drawn up and the extent of land required from DCC negotiated. Midas Homes was prepared to offer the services of its architect to draw up the plans at no cost to the PC. The Clerk considered it necessary seek advice from MDDC to ascertain that in accepting this offer the PC would not be in breach of the Code of Conduct. MDDC had been very helpful and had advised that it would be necessary for Midas to confirm the offer in writing and to specify that it was being made as a gesture of goodwill to the local community and without any prejudice to any future council business affecting Midas. The Clerk had written to Midas on this basis but was still waiting to receive a reply.

148. Grass Cutting Tender

The Clerk had advertised the 2007 grass cutting tender on Mole Valley's web site as the cut off date for the insertion of an advert in Mole Valley's magazine had passed. The Clerk had also circulated tender details around the Parish. Cllr Mrs Fisher suggested the slight re-wording of the tender document. After some discussion the form of re-wording was agreed.

149. Replacement Play Equipment/Rospa Inspection

The slide had been dismantled. Thanks were expressed to all those members of the PC who had assisted with this task. There were now only two sets of swings in situ and the basketball court. It was intended to replace the dismantled slide with a new slide and climbing frame shortly. The estimated cost would be in the region of £11,000. It would be necessary to obtain three quotes from three separate suppliers and this task was already being progressed. The Clerk to contact Dave Scott to ascertain how soon the PC would be able to acquire the S.106 money to purchase the replacement play equipment. The question of signage required in the Rec` was also raised. It was suggested that the Clerk contact MDDC in the first instance to enquire as to the type of signage it generally used. In addition, this to be an item for the next Amenities Ctte Meeting. It was agreed that the next Amenities Meeting should be held on 23rd January 2007 at Halberton Village Hall at 7.30pm. The Chairman of the Ctte (Cllr Lane-Smith) to let the Clerk have a copy of the notes of the Amenities Ctte Meeting of 27th January 2006 in order that she could prepare the Minutes. It was also understood that Rospa would be carrying out safety checks of the play equipment in March 2007.

150. Report of Calor Village of the Year Competition

The Report from one of the Judges involved in the Competition, highly commended the `lively village of Halberton` and its outstanding features. The village was particularly commended on the Parish Welcome Pack, the Website, Quiz, Dog Training classes, charities etc. The judges were delighted to visit the `marvellous farm shop and tea room`, the Parish Plan was also mentioned. The only adverse comment received, concerned the completion of the `Building Community Life` form which had not provided full information and did not do credit to all the excellent services and activities in the village. When the PC entered the competition again in 2007 it would ensure that the Ctte fully and properly completed the form.

151 Meetings Attended

i. 17th October 2006 – Training Day for Councillors

Cllr Constable attended this and concluded that it was a reasonably adequate course

ii. 28th November 2006 Kentisbeare Village Hall - DCC Footpath Workshop

The Chairman attended this

iii. 6th December 2006 - Exeter - `Go Green This Christmas` - Environment Agency Event

The Chairman participated in the event, by handing out biodegradable bags to get the message across about the importance of recycling

152. Future Meetings

There were none noted

153. Committee Reports

i. Amenities and the Cemetery

Amenity matters had already been discussed earlier in the meeting. A white thorn tree had blown over in the cemetery. Cllr Saunders would cut the limbs of the cherry tree when convenient as they were overhanging and creating a nuisance.. Cllr Mrs Fisher advised that Grave No.9 would accommodate three bodies as it had been checked by the undertaker for capacity.

ii. Communications, Footpaths & Environment

The Clerk was still waiting for a copy of the Minutes of the Meeting of 2nd November. The Chairman to attend to this outstanding matter. The survey of the footpaths would be carried out shortly.

154. Clerk`s Report

The Clerk had nothing to report, other than she was hoping to get costings of office equipment etc.

155. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST – 30TH NOVEMBER 2006:

Bank Interest	27.28
Newsletter	245.40
Repayment of	200.00
P.Plan money	
by Club 17	
Repayment of	50.00
grant money	
by Club 17	
Cemetery	318.50
TOTAL	£841.18

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST – 30TH NOVEMBER 2006 £922.71

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Cheque No	Amount	Vat	Total	Details
SO	22.00		22.00	MDDC - Cemetery rates
1060	30.00		30.00	Mrs C McIntyre – Contribution towards Broadband for 3 months
1061	243.88		243.88	Mrs C McIntyre – Salary Dec/Jan
1062	21.48		21.48	Repayment to Mrs C McIntyre re postage
1063	15.00		15.00	Mrs J Austin – Newsletter delivery costs
1064	246.55	43.15	289.70	Education Matters – Newsletter production costs
1065	10.13		10.13	Water Charge re Cemetery
1066	206.34		206.34	Inland Revenue – Clerk`s Tax deductions Oct – Dec
1067	50.45		50.45	A Cooper – Repayment of cost of tree lights and padlock

The above invoices were approved for payment

The above accounts were approved for payment

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	16984.65
Plus Receipts for period 1 st – 30 th November	841.18
	TOTAL £17825.83
Minus Payments made for the above Period	922.71
	TOTAL £16903.12

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	14556.48
Current A/c	2346.64
	TOTAL £16903.12

VILLAGE HALL FUNDS	400.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	1828.79
PARISH PLAN FUND	500.00
GENERAL FUNDS	14174.33
TOTAL	£16903.12

Halberton Newsletter: Income for Period 1st April – 30th November = £1353.54 less expenditure of £1048.22 = £305.32 net profit

156. Members Business

There was nothing to report.

157. Miscellaneous Matters

- i. The Clerk advised that the Devon Primary Care Trust was taking steps to balance its budget as it had a deficit of £7.6 million which needed to be addressed by 31st March 2007. The steps included reducing the opening times of hospitals in the area. Tiverton Hospital was currently open on a 24 hour basis but in future the hours of opening would

be from 8.00am to 10pm. It was understood that any changes proposed would be interim and would last only as long as they need to: however it was understood that these steps would be in force until the new financial year.

- ii. Cllr Pugsley gave background information as to his role as the Leader of the Council and various matters he was involved in. He also explained the importance of net working, particularly as some councils appeared to be quite vulnerable to possible take over bids by other councils.

Cllr Radford took over the `Planning` part of the meeting

158.Planning – Public Forum

Nothing was raised.

159. Planning Applications for consideration

<u>Planning App No</u>	<u>Name/Address</u>	<u>Details</u>
06/02347/CAT	Mr K Fenwick, Box Tree Cottage, Halberton	Intention to fell tree in Conservation Area

PC`s Comments:- No objections

06/02456/FULL Mr S Burge, 3 High St, Halberton Ext to house, change of use of part of workshop etc

A letter had been received from Mrs Lane-Smith with various points she wished to raise, in respect of the application. The Vice-Chairman declared a prejudicial interest and left the room whilst the application was being discussed.

PC`s Comments:- No objections

160. Planning Decisions received from MDDC

<u>Planning Ref:</u>	<u>Name/Address</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>No. of Conditions</u>
06/02095/FULL	Mr & Mrs G Isaac, The Pethers, Crown Hill,	Granted	3
06/02098/FULL	G W Persey, Craddock House	Granted	1
06/02158/CLU	Mr & Mrs Clark 9 & 9A Crossparks	Refused	
06/02214/CAT	Mr A Rhodes, Halberton	Granted	

161. Miscellaneous Planning Matters

There were none

162. Next Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday, 9th January 2007 at Ash Thomas Village Hall at 7.00pm

The Meeting ended at 8.40pm

DATE

CHAIRMAN

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