

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY 2008 AT 7.30PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

220. Present

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

221. Public Forum

Mr Broom, parishioner, advised of various concerns relating to the new Hastoe properties. These were as follows:- i. He understood that the septic tank serving nos. 28 - 38 (inclusive) which was to be removed was still in situ ii. The bottom of the gardens of Nos 24 and 26 had not been properly landscaped iii. Parking was an issue – access problems. The Clerk to contact Hastoe on behalf of Mr Broom. Mrs Grabham queried as to whether there were any restrictions that could be applied to large lorries which were travelling through Halberton at speed. She was informed that at present there were no such restrictions.

222. Apologies

Cllr Hannon, PC Dodd and PCSO Mel Smith

223. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 8th January 2008 were approved and signed unamended

224. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- i. It was agreed that the Chairman and Cllr Mrs Cuthbert be the initial point of contact for the judges in respect of the Village of the Year Competition. Thanks were given to Cllr Mrs Johnstone and her husband for agreeing to display the Devon Village of the Year Cup and certificates in the Post Office. It was considered that this would be a safe location and assessable to parishioners. The Clerk had heard from a Parish Council in Worcester that it was purchasing Village of the Year signs with the help of a small contribution from the District Council. Local traders had decided not to help with the expense. The total cost was £450. The PC considered that the cost of similar signs for Halberton were too expensive to fund out of the Parish precept.
- ii. Cllr Radford would cut the grass in the Mead shortly
- iii. The recycling bins had still not been moved. However Cllr Radford had advised that the delay by MDDC had been due to other work commitments in Sampford Peverell. The bins would be removed from the Village Hall car park very shortly and re-sited in Sampford Peverell. Cllr Corden considered the temporary signage provided by MDDC to be “pretty poor”. Cllr Radford had omitted to ask about the emptying of the litter bin in the Rec`. The Clerk would check MDDC`s policy on this.
- iv. The Vice-Chairman advised that he had managed to carry out the painting of one of the cemetery gates and hoped to be able to do the other shortly..
- v. Cllr Corden`s would be interviewed shortly by MDDC in respect of him seeking to become the PC`s representative on MDDC`s Standards Cttee.

225. Chairman`s Announcements

There were none

226. Police Matters

PC Dodd had been unable to attend the meeting.

- i. The Clerk advised that she had e-mailed PC Dodd about the vandalism near the new Hastoe properties. She had not received a response but Judith Dearlove of Hastoe was following up the matter. A parishioner had indicated that she may also be prepared to talk to Hastoe about the incident
- ii. The Clerk had reminded PC Dodd by e-mail about the painting of the village bus shelter with youngsters of the village. It was understood from the Chairman that PC Dodd would be organising this task with the youngsters shortly

227. 20mph Speed Limit and proposed 30mph Speed Limit Update

- i. DCC was intending to make a 30mph speed order on the C769 Willand Road from 80 metres southeast of the High Street, southeast for 466 metres
- ii. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert considered it would be beneficial if the latest type of speed gun was used in the village. The Chairman was in agreement with this but suggested in the first instance that the speed data be obtained. The Clerk advised that despite her previous e-mails to DCC, her request for data details had been ignored. It was suggested that the Clerk pursue the matter further through CCllr Hannon.
- iii. Meg Booth of DCC, CCllr Des Hannon and the Chairman were to be congratulated on the provision of the new white lines which had recently been painted along the main street. It was due to their hard work and effort that the lines were in situ. Although some vehicles may still speed, it was considered that the lines should encourage drivers to remain within them and therefore the area adjacent would provide a virtual pavement for pedestrians. There were still some works to be carried out but on completion of these the Chairman would formally thank the relevant parties for the much needed scheme

228. DCC Matters

1. In view of CCllr Hannon not being present at the meeting the Clerk was unable to obtain a progress report from him relating to the following matters:-

- i. A complaint had been received from Nr A Butler a resident of Lower Town about flooding which occurred from time to time in the area. CCllr Hannon would be arranging for a highway engineer to investigate the problem
- ii. DCC was having difficulties trying to deal with the problem of water coming off fields and flooding the lane between Thurlescombe and Rowridge due to an obstructive landowner
- iii. The footpath surface between Church Path and Corner Lane would be re-examined
- iv. Mr Butler a resident of Lower Town had complained about flooding in the area
- v. The sign for Brithem Bottom (requesting large vehicles not to use the lane) had still not materialised despite numerous requests. (It was understood that Meg Booth had been made fully aware previously of this problem)

It was suggested that these be re-referred to CCllr Hannon

2. DCC's Gypsy and Liaison Officer would be contacting the PC shortly to arrange a meeting to give a presentation about gypsies and travellers. It was agreed that a presentation of this nature should be welcomed. It would be a matter of the Liaison Officer arranging to book the Village Hall through Carol Graham, publicising the event etc.

3. The Village name sign would be removed and re-sited in connection with the extension of the 30mph speed restriction on Willand Road. The PC expressed a wish that that when the sign was re-positioned, that sufficient room was left underneath to ensure the planter could be placed underneath.

4. The Clerk had circulated information to all the PCllrs of the latest developments regarding the Unitary situation

229. MDDC Matters

1. The Clerk had been asked to complete a questionnaire specifying the strengths and weaknesses of a specific Senior Planning Officer. The Chairman had also been asked to supply the same information about a Cllr. Both the Clerk and the Chairman were not prepared to complete the questionnaires as they both considered that they were not in a position to comment on the attributes of these persons. The Clerk considered it was a total waste of MDDC's resources to spend money on London Consultants who had been appointed to co-ordinate this task, when the money could be better used by being put into local services.

2. Mid Devon residents were invited to attend various meetings during the month (the final meeting taking place on 27th February) to state their views about the Council 2008/09 budget. However Cllr Gibbs advised that the budget has already been set!

3. It was understood that elected Members and staff of MDDC had spent time on 18th January reviewing the progress MDDC had made with regard to improvements. It was understood that £750,000 would be spent by MDDC in making improvements including new financial systems, training for staff and elected members etc

4. The Clerk had available MDDC's Standards Cttee Annual report for any interested PCllr

5. MDDC had considered Unitary Structures in Devon at the Executive Meeting held on 10th January 2008. It was resolved that:-

(a) all existing partnerships and clustering arrangements continue

(b) the preferred option was not to support any unitary solution for Devon

© once the Boundary Cttee's terms of reference were known the Well Managed Council PDG to look at the following options:

(i) Mid Devon merging with East Devon with the rest of Devon being split as
Exeter, Teignbridge, Torbay
Plymouth and South Hams

North Devon, Torrridge and West Devon

(ii) Mid Devon merging with Torrridge and North Devon with the rest of Devon being split as:-

Exeter and East Devon

Plymouth

Torbay, South Hams, Teignbridge and West Devon

6. MDDC had now produced a draft corporate Anti-Social Behaviour Policy and was seeking comments and suggestions from key stakeholders, partner agencies and members of the community. The Policy could be accessed on line

230. Code of Conduct – Orders and Regulations

A consultation paper had been published. Views were being sought on the detailed arrangements for putting into effect, the orders and regulations to provide a revised more locally based ethical regime for the conduct of local councillors in England. The Clerk would obtain a copy for each PCllr so they could consider the document fully.

231. Cemetery/Churchyard Grant 2007/08

It was understood that there were several areas of the cemetery which required attention. These included a gap which needed to be blocked up where trees were previously sited; a gap towards Lower Town also needed to be blocked; kerbs had fallen; two gravestones needed attention; the compost area required attention. A Cemetery Cttee Meeting was arranged for Saturday 17th February at the Cemetery at 10.00am in order to carry out a proper investigation of works

required. It was agreed to ask for a grant of £500 from MDDC towards the cost of this work. In addition it was resolved that the PC request £100 grant towards the costs of the Churchyard. It was resolved that the PC would make a contribution of £50.

232. Best Kept Village Competition

It was agreed not to enter this competition as the PC was currently awaiting the result of the Village of the Year Competition (a different competition)

233. Housing Matters

The PC had been informed by Hastoe that the new development at Pethertons had been completed on 17th January. The PC was thanked by Hastoe for their help and support during the planning and development of the scheme. Hastoe had advised that 16 Pethertons had been let to a tenant from Tiverton.

234. Web Site Advertising Fees

It was resolved that advertisers should pay an annual sum of £5 for an image and a link to the Parish Website, if they wished to use this method of advertising and it would be subject to them in the first instance advertising in the Business Directory. The Clerk had revised the advertising letter and contract to provide for the new service.

235. South West Lifelong Learning Network Research Programme

The University of Plymouth had embarked on a major research programme in conjunction with Lesley Smith MBE Community Council of Devon. The role and functions of PCs will change considerably as a result of the Government's White Paper. The Public Sector Research Team had given a commitment to engage with the Councillors and Clerks of Devon Parish Councils. The first part of the programme would be for each councillor to complete a short questionnaire, followed by a series of individual interviews. The process would start during the first two weeks of February. To date the Clerk had not been contacted

236. Devon Climate Change Community Heritage Project

The Community Council of Devon was seeking participants to take part in the Devon Climate Change Community Histories Project.

237. Request for a Donation – Mid Devon Citizens Advice Bureau

It was resolved that the PC would donate £100, in view of the sterling work undertaken by the Bureau.

238. Car Park/Footpath Update

The Vice-Chairman's report detailing the meeting of 24th January had been circulated to PCllrs for their consideration. There was much debate. It was understood that Mark Copleston of Midas Homes was in the process of drawing up revised plans of the proposed development. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact CCllr Hannon to request that he spoke to Dan Meek of NPS South West to suggest a site meeting be held, attended by Mr Meek, CCllr Hannon and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the PC. The Vice-Chairman to be the point of contact in this matter.

239 Meetings Attended

Woodbury Park Hotel on 15th January 2008 - Presentation by the Army Presentation Team

The Vice-Chairman attended the presentation. He found it to be a very informative evening although he concluded it was a PR exercise on behalf of the Army.

240. Future Parish Council Meetings

Tuesday, 26th February 2008 – 7.30pm Planning Ctte Meeting – Halberton Village Hall
Tuesday, 11th March 2008 – 7.00pm Planning Ctte Meeting – Halberton Village Hall
Tuesday, 11th March 2008 – 7.30pm Ordinary Meeting of Halberton Parish Council
(at above venue)

241. Committee Reports

Amenities (to include the Cemetery)

The Chairman of the Amenities Ctte (Cllr Lane-Smith) advised that regular monthly inspections of the Rec` would be carried out. Cllr Lane-Smith suggested that any problems PCllrs became aware of were to be passed to him by telephone, e-mail or personal contact. It was reported that the gate in the Rec` required repairs to be carried out including some welding work. The Chairman of the PC would deal with this. It was resolved that the table be re-sited back beyond the senior swings. The witches hat pole also needed to be removed. Graham Isaac may be prepared to help with some of the works required. It was noted that some of the trees in the vicinity required light pruning. A further inspection of the board at the back of the basketball pole was required. Rospa had indicated in its report that it required attention but an inspection by the Chairman had not revealed anything amiss. The Chairman was thanked for replacing the tile on the roof of the bus shelter. The Clerk would deal with the Byelaw matter as a matter of priority. The Clerk had investigated with various sources as to whether there were any courses available for carrying out playing field checks to comply with health and safety regs. However Rospa seemed to be the only organisation that ran this type of course and it would be at a cost of £780 for a group of 6 persons and £75 per person thereafter. It was agreed that this was too expensive. The Clerk had obtained from the Devon Playing Fields Association Web Site information about Playground Inspections. She passed a copy to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for their information. The Chairman advised that the “No Parking” sign to be erected at Greenway, would be situated in the hedge, on land owned by Bales Charity (and not on highway verge). The Clerk would enquire as to whether planning permission would be required for the erection of the sign. The Clerk had reported to DCC the matter of the hedge alongside the roadside at Crownhill which needed trimming and which formed part of the Cordwents site. The matter was in hand. The Clerk advised that the hedges surrounding the Mead were the responsibility of the PC.

Footpaths

A number of PCllrs had agreed to assist the Chairman in carrying out inspections of the footpaths in accordance with the Parish Paths Scheme.

242. Clerk`s Report

The Clerk had nothing to report

243. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST - 31ST JANUARY 2008:

Bank Interest	37.96
Cemetery	492.00
Newsletter	48.90
TOTAL	£578.86

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST - 31ST JANUARY 2008 £1385.02

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Cheque No	Amount	Vat	Total	Details
SO	23.00		23.00	MDDC – Cemetery Rates
1171	315.98		315.98	Mrs C McIntyre – salary Feb/March
1172	98.13		98.13	MDDC – Election costs
1173	25.00	4.38	29.38	K Browse – repayment of cost of grass cut advert
1174	30.00		30.00	N Page – footpath work
1175	298.39		298.39	Education Matters – publication of Newsletter costs
1176	15.00		15.00	J Austin – Newsletter delivery costs
1177	300.00		300.00	Ash Thomas V Hall – grant towards impt works
1178	15.60		15.60	Mrs C McIntyre – repayment of postage costs
1179	15.00		15.00	Ash Thomas Village Hall – hire of Village Hall for January Meeting

The above invoices were approved for payment

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	16744.95
Plus Receipts for period 1 st – 31 st January	578.86
	TOTAL £17323.81
Minus Payments made for the above Period	£1385.02
	TOTAL £15,938.79

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	14472.20
Current A/c	1466.59
	TOTAL £15938.79

VILLAGE HALL FUNDS	353.25
PARISH PATHS FUND	1753.79
PARISH PLAN FUND	433.54
CAR PARKING	850.00
GENERAL FUNDS	12548.21
TOTAL	£15938.79

Halberton Newsletter: Income for Period 1st April - 31st Jan 2008 = £1725.40 less expenditure £1345.39 = Profit £380.01

244. Members Business

- i. Cllr Corden requested that the question of whether PC Meetings should continue to be held at Ash Thomas twice a year, should be included on the March Agenda.
- ii. Cllr Saunders advised that the road from Brithem Bottom to Five Bridges was in a very poor state of repair and needed attention.
- iii. It was understood that there was a pot hole in the road opposite the front school gates, which had caused children to fall over. It required to be filled in as a matter of urgency.
- iv. Cllr Corden advised that the sign indicating where the recycling bins were sited needed to be removed. The Chairman would deal with this.

- v. Cllr Gibbs was thanked for all his help and assistance in dealing with bus provision whilst works were undertaken to the High Street.
- vi. The surface of the road from Battens Cross to its junction with the Halberton to Willand Road past Ivy House Farm and Swandhams was in need of repair.

245. Miscellaneous Matters

- i. Devon Communities in Action had created an on-line tool for every Parish and Market Town Plan, Town Design Statement and Appraisal. The Clerk provided details of the free workshops which were taking place in Devon, in order that persons could hear about the system or try it out for themselves. The Clerk would confirm with the organisers, that the Chairman and Cllr Gibbs would be attending.
- ii. “An Introduction to Sustainable Funding” workshop was taking place on Thursday, 28th February 2008 at South Brent Village Hall

The Meeting ended at 9.30pm

DATE

CHAIRMAN