

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH
COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 12TH MAY 2009 AT 7.40PM AT HALBERTON
VILLAGE HALL

1. Present

Cllrs Mesdames Cuthbert, Graham, Jepps and Johnstone and Cllrs Britton, Browse, Corden, Hand, Radford and Saunders, CCllr Des Hannon and WPCSO Adrian Legg and one member of the public

2. Apologies

Beat Officer Katie Rich

3. Public Forum

Rob Stevens provided information about the Village Hall's latest proposed improvement – an electric roller blind. It was understood that Uffculme Environmental would contribute towards the cost. Mr Stevens was seeking part funding from the PC. It was resolved that the item be considered in full at the June PC Meeting

4. Election of Chair and Vice –Chair

- i. There was one proposal for Chairman - Cllr Browse by Cllr Corden. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Saunders and voted upon. The proposal was carried by a majority vote and Cllr Browse was duly elected as Chairman. It was agreed by the PC that Cllr Browse could make his Acceptance of Office of Chairman at the June PC Meeting.
- ii. There was one proposal for the Vice-Chairman – Cllr Britton by Cllr Corden. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Radford and voted upon. The proposal was carried by a majority vote and Cllr Britton was duly elected

5. Police Matters

PCSO Adrian Legg advised that the speed check that had recently been carried out by the police and at which a number of PCllrs had been present, had been a successful exercise. It was understood that the majority of speeding motorists came from the Halberton area. He thought the recent publicity had also had a positive impact on reducing the number of speeding motorists. The PC agreed to send congratulations to Beat Officer Katie Rich* on her forthcoming event.

**Katie Rich's Report below, received after meeting*

Halberton Parish Council Meeting April – May 2009

Wooden fence panels damaged on property surrounding property damaged, Church Path, 25th April.

Assault same evening still being investigated 3 suspects to be interviewed.

Theft house sign probably the same night, Lower Town. Removed very carefully though as opposed to being ripped off the wall.

Theft of wallet from car whilst parked in Canal car park – Sun morning.

6. Appointment of Committees and other Appointments

Members of the PC would sit on all PC Cttes. The new chairmen of the various Cttes would be elected at the first meetings of the committees as and when they took place. There were other various outside organisations and the representation on each of them was decided. In order to assist members, the Clerk would provide an up to date list of the Cttes and also contact details of all the PC members

7. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 14th April 2009 were approved and signed subject to the following amendments:-

Minute 267. add the following to the list of cheques:-

“1288	£15.42	£2.31	£17.73	Ottery Office & Computer Ltd
1289	£257.20	£38.59	£295.79	B Saunders – Various works carried out around the Parish”

8. Matters Arising

- i. The Clerk had received a number of letters from Ash Thomas parishioners, the majority of whom were objecting to any proposals to remove the lime tree in the village. After some discussion and in view of the strength of feeling of the parishioners, it was agreed that the tree be given a stay of execution. Another question raised by a parishioner was to who had responsibility for the broken lamp outside the church. It was understood that the lamp had been provided by Mr Bill Bowman for the benefit of churchgoers
- ii. Rospa had advised, in response to the PC's query concerning the Junior Multiplay Unit, that the item would not have to be removed. Rospa was merely pointing out that this type of play equipment was open to misuse eg people standing on top of the item rather than hanging from it. It was simply an informative comment and nothing for the PC to act upon.
- iii. MDDC was only able to supply an approximate figure of the S.106 monies Halberton had available in this fund, as it was presently changing its financial system. The approximate figure was £24,000 which needed to be spent by November 2011. The Clerk had not yet received the precise figure and would chase up MDDC accordingly.
- iv. Steve Densham of MDDC had advised that he had located some spare planks to replace the broken one at the bench by the pond and would repair the bench as soon as he was able
- v. Steve Densham was arranging with Ian Hyde to supply a grit box for the residents at Rock View
- vi. Darran Queenan advised on 27th April that he would ask DCC's highway's superintendent to check out the overgrown hedges at Cordwents. The Clerk had not received an update and would chase the matter up accordingly. It was also reported that there were overgrown hedges round the corner near the Farm shop
- vii. The PC agreed that the retention period for old planning applications and planning decisions should be 10 years
- viii. Cllr Radford was waiting to hear from the Tiverton Tenants Group whether it wished to allocate funding for the provision of street lighting at Pethertons/the Mead
- ix. The manhole cover in the High Street had been replaced but it was understood that the replacement cover was not of an adequate standard to be hard wearing
- x. The Clerk had provided all members of the PC with a plan showing the Conservation Area of Halberton. The Cemetery was within the Conservation Area
- xi. John Chumbley of MDDC had advised that the ending of the transitional relief for business rates was the decision of Central Government. In Mid Devon there are 2533 business rated properties of which only approx 130 had lost the transitional relief and which were now paying full rates. Cllr Mrs Johnstone advised that MDDC had tried to suggest that by virtue of the fact that the Village Hall was now being used for outreach postal services that business rates would have to be paid. However it was now understood that MDDC was incorrect with its initial opinion.

xii Mrs C Hayden had e-mailed the Clerk confirming that Cllr Hannon had allayed her concerns regarding the proposed pavement scheme in the High Street; however she still had concerns about parking and pedestrian safety at the Barge end of the village. She advised that she was aware that CCllr Hannon was keen to address the Willand road safety issues and that perhaps he could address both the Willand and Sampford Peverall road safety issues jointly to try and make Halberton a safer place to live.

xiii. It was resolved that the PC would decline Mr Hunt's offer to make a replacement seat at Cloggs Hill in view of the likelihood of the theft of the item once it was in situ. . The Chairman would speak to Nick Sanderson about the possibility of a concrete replacement seat.

xiv. The Clerk advised that she had still not received an invoice from DCC for outstanding licence fees in respect of the Mead`

9. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman thanked everyone for making the Annual Parish Meeting so successful. He had received a lot of positive feedback. Requests had been made for funding from the Pre-School and the Clerk would request further information from the point of contact there . CCllr Hannon may also be able to assist with the request.

10. Mid Devon District Council Matters

i. MDDC with the support of the PCs had identified Silverton and Bradninch as the first areas within the District to be declared a Clean Zone. As part of its Corporate Priorities for 2009/10 MDDC had pledged to "Keep Our Environment Clean" . Part of this pledge included running five "Clean Zone" campaigns to implement the Street Scene Enforcement Policy with penalty notices for litter, fly-tipping, dog fouling and abandoned vehicles. Uffculme and Willand were next in line to become Clean Zones

ii. MDDC had elected Cllr Frank Rosamond as the new Chairman

iii. MDDC introduced an Executive model in November 2007, involving an Executive with the Leader elected by MDDC. Group leaders and officers from Weymouth & Portland Borough Council recently visited MDDC to find out how MDDC had changed its governance arrangements with a view to adopting an Executive structure

iv. The official opening of the new Customer First reception area took place on 22nd April

v. From 1st April everyone in Mid Devon over the age of 60 became entitled to swim in the Tiverton and Crediton pools free of charge as part of the Government swim4life initiative.

vi. MDDC's health and safety officers in partnership with inspectors from the Health and Safety Executive had taken part in a joint safety campaign on TV aerial and satellite installers during the digital switchover

vii. During National Real Nappy Week (27th April – 3rd May) MDDC's Waste Awareness Officer Lorraine Durant visited local mother and baby groups to provide advice and demonstrate the use of real nappies. She also offered parents the opportunity to try real nappy trial kits.

viii. Cllr Radford reminded members about the Litter Pick taking place on 16th May

11.Devon County Council Matters

i. The Clerk had received information from the Policy & Strategy Officer (Education) regarding the revised admission arrangements for schools in 2010/11. It was agreed that the Clerk should relay the information to the Halberton Schools Association, the Pre-School and Sue Grabham

ii. Richard Spurway, Public Rights of Way Officer had advised that Parish Paths Partnership monies had now been sent out to the various parishes. The Clerk confirmed that she had received a cheque for £385. It was also agreed that the Clerk should invite Mr Spurway and the Rights of Way Warden to either the October or September PC meeting to discuss the PPP Scheme survey findings and projects for the coming year.

iii. DCC had allocated a further £2 million to carrying out repairs to road surfaces which were damaged in the winter due to the adverse weather conditions. This would then take DCC's spending on the highway maintenance for 2009/10 to £60,895 million. Cllr Hannon advised that he was at the Executive meeting of DCC and had voted in favour of the expenditure. He was also hopeful that monies would be available for Lower Town.

iv. DCC had published a free booklet entitled "Money Matters" which provided practical help advice and information for businesses, employees and the public at large who may be experiencing financial difficulties. Cllr Hannon advised that this was an excellent booklet. The Clerk would arrange to obtain additional copies for Cllr Mrs Johnstone

v. The caravan at Cordwents was still in situ, despite the Clerk and Cllr Hannon making representations to Dan Meek at DCC

vi. Cllr Hannon advised that there were six candidates standing in the division for the local council elections on 4th June. The PC thanked Cllr Hannon for all his help and commitment to the Parish during his term of office and wished him every success.

12. Revision of Committee structures in accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Orders

It was resolved that the recommendation made at the April Parish Council Meeting (Minute 253) be implemented

13. Refusal or Acceptance of recommendations made at Amenities Committee Meeting on 28th April.

- i. It was understood that there was funding available from the Football Foundation towards half of the costs of the purchase. The costs of the goal posts and nets, carriage and erection costs would be in the region of £1400. However, it was agreed that as a matter of courtesy the Chairman should speak to the parishioner who had very kindly agreed to donate monies to the Parish for this purpose to gauge her feelings about the PC's intentions. The Clerk to let the Chairman have the parishioner's contact details.
- ii. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert/Cllr Radford would advise MDDC that the PC was not in a position to have the skate park equipment offered by MDDC at the present time and if another party was interested in acquiring it, then they should have first refusal
- iii. Cllr Saunders provided quotes from various suppliers for fencing which it was intended to erect as replacement fencing along one boundary of the Rec`. It was resolved to accept West Country Timber's quote in the sum of £645 plus Vat. It was understood that this sum would have to be significantly increased if the fence was to be erected by outside contractors. The Chairman would speak to the adjoining land owner about the matter.
- iv. It was resolved to purchase a picnic table and chairs from Heard and Sendell in the sum of £155.61 plus Vat. The location of the table and chairs would be decided later.
- v. The Chairman to have further conversations with Alison Fish, Planning Officer about progressing the car park. The Clerk to set up a site meeting attended by Roger Folley of DCC in July – The Chairman and Vice-Chairman to attend
- vi. Cllr Corden and Roy Leader would maintain the rubber base under the play equipment in the Rec`, jointly
- vii. The delivery persons to be increased from 1 person to 2 persons and the delivery costs increased to £20 (£10 per delivery person). A suggestion was made that the Newsletter could also be made available by e-mail which could resolve the problem of those persons who were not on the usual delivery route. It was understood that Judy Austin was now dealing with the Newsletter admin from her home, on her own computer.

- viii. Cllr Browse would carry out a search for the missing lid from the dustbin by the pond shortly

Miscellaneous Matters

- i. Cllr Mrs Graham advised that the dog mess on the route along Pond Hill to Church Path route had been removed
- ii. Cllr Saunders was thanked for extending the metal post in the Rec` to enable the School to use this for a May Pole

14. Purchase of "Local Council Administration Eighth Edition by Charles Arnold-Baker

It was resolved that the PC purchase this edition in the approximate sum of £60 for the use of the Clerk. It was likely that the Clerk may be able to obtain this book at a cheaper price.

15. Public Sector Equality Duties

The Clerk had received information regarding the forthcoming Equality Bill which would harmonise the three existing public sector duties into one equality duty – which would also be extended to cover all seven equality strands (Age, Disability, Gender, Gender Identity, Race, Religion or Belief and Sexual Orientation) The changes were unlikely to come into force until the latter part of 2011. Under the existing duties the PC was required to pay "due regard" to race, disability and gender equality

16. Village of the Year Prize Monies

There had been no further suggestions made. Cllr Corden repeated his previous request that trees should be purchased for the village, which would enhance the village and would also be environmentally friendly

17. Parish Plan Update

An Emergency Local Plan had now been produced and a copy of the same was passed to the Clerk for retention. Cllr Mrs Johnstone was in the process of obtaining the various permissions for the publication of telephone numbers. The Vice-Chairman was looking into the size of generator required for the Village Hall in the event of an emergency.

18. Meetings Attended

29th April 2009 – 11.00am Tiverton Parkway Station – Tiverton Parkway Railway Station Research Project

The Vice-Chairman attended this and found the event informative and interesting.

19. Committee Reports

The Cemetery

The Clerk to look at the records to advise as to the location of the graves for a local family and to report back to Cllr Mrs Jepps and the Vice-Chairman

20. Clerk's Report

The Clerk advised that as she hadn't presented a report at the Annual Parish Meeting she thought she would do so now to sum up last year's events. She went on to say that she thought 2008/09 had been a fairly turbulent year for the Parish Council but that the experience had resulted in the Parish Council becoming a much stronger organisation. She thought that the Parish Council now had an excellent team of committed and enthusiastic members and that she considered the Parish Council would now go from strength to strength. She was pleased to be part of such a proactive PC.

21. Accounts

The Clerk was unable to provide a full report as the accounts were presently with the Internal Auditor. However she was able to advise that the precept monies had now arrived, in the sum of £11,213 and the cemetery rates for the year were £225. In addition she was able to provide the following information:-

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST - 30ST APRIL 2009 £1160.66

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Cheque No	Amount	Vat	Total	Details
DD	22.35		22.35	MDDC – Cemetery Rates
1290	350.13		350.13	Mrs C McIntyre – salary May/June
1291	283.75		283.75	Mr R Smale – grass cutting costs
1292	47.89	7.18	55.07	Ottery Office Practice – Copying and stationery

The above accounts were approved for payment

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	19285.99
Plus Receipts for period 1 st – 30 th April	14641.57
	TOTAL £33927.56
Minus Payments made for the above Period	£1160.66
	TOTAL £32766.90

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	27,356.71
Current A/c	5410.19
	TOTAL £32766.90

VILLAGE HALL FUNDS	2500.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	2493.79
PARISH PLAN FUND	433.54
CAR PARKING	2500.00
GENERAL FUNDS	24839.57
	TOTAL £32766.90

22. Members Business

Nothing raised

23. Miscellaneous Matters

- i. A hedge at Polly's Meadow required trimming back. The Clerk to contact DCC with the necessary information for DCC to follow up the complaint
- ii. Cllr Hand advised that he had reported the problems with the road surface at Greenway to DCC
- iii. It was understood that at the top of Pethertons there was an area of grassland which the residents required to be surfaced to provide much needed parking facilities. It was also understood that in the same vicinity there were a number of potholes in the road.

24. Next Meeting

i. 26th May 2009

7.30pm Planning Ctte Meeting

ii. 9th June 2009

7.00pm Planning Ctte Meeting of Halberton Parish Council

7.30pm Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

The Meeting closed at 9.56pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED

