

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 12th NOVEMBER 2002 AT 7.30PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

137. Present

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Hugill, Payne, Radford, Saunders, Mesdames Fisher, Jepps and Lunn, PC Auger, Sgt Watkins, MDDC Chairman – Cllr D Knowles and six Members of the Public

138. Introduction of MDDC Chairman – Cllr D Knowles

The Chairman of the PC introduced the Chairman of MDDC, Cllr D Knowles to the Meeting. Cllr Knowles suggested it would be beneficial to the PC to have its own Web Site. He was informed that the PC already had this facility. He was impressed by the fact that Cllr Hugill had brought along his lap top computer on which the Web Site and other Parish related matters could be accessed. Cllr Knowles also mentioned the new Area Cttes, which were to help all Parish Councils and which were on trial for one year. He also mentioned the 'Community Plan- Tool Kit' a document drawn up by MDDC.

139. Public Forum

Mr P Gibbs expressed concern about the numbers of rural surgeries which were closing. He had prepared for each Member of the PC a folder containing a copy of a letter he had sent to MDDC together with reply. Mr Gibbs was thanked for his concern. Cllr Mrs Fisher would raise this issue at the next meeting she attended of the Primary Health Care Trust.

140. The Minutes of:-

the Parish Council Meeting of 8th October 2002 were approved subject to the following amendments: Para 116 – fifth line – delete 'mentioned' and insert 'talked about in depth'
Para 119(ii) – ninth line - after 'this' insert 'The Clerk would also pursue the matter further'
Para 125 – heading – delete 'Friendly' and insert 'Sensitive'

141. Matters Arising

- i. The Clerk had now received Office Copy entries from HM Land Registry, confirming land ownership details around the Mill Pond area. It was agreed that this should be an item for discussion at the next Amenities Ctte Meeting.
- ii. Despite another letter being sent to the Chairman of the Grand Western Canal Advisory Board, the Clerk had still not received an acknowledgement from him confirming receipt the £200 donation which the PC had sent in June. Cllr Knowles advised that he would chase the matter up on behalf of the PC.
- iii. Mr Densham of MDDC had sent an in depth letter outlining the health and safety implications of omitting the mesh infill of the railings, erected in connection with the Local Improvement Scheme. After fully considering all the information it was proposed and seconded that the mesh infill remain. However Cllr Payne voted against the motion on the grounds of the railings being a waste of ratepayers money.

142. Chairman's Announcements

- i. The Village Hall Ctte was submitting a bid for £20,000 for funding for Village Hall improvements. It was resolved that the PC would guarantee a sum not exceeding £2,000 (£1,000 of which had already been agreed towards

the cost of the disabled access) towards the project and in addition would support the provision of a new up to date doctor's surgery in the village. The Clerk to confirm these matters in writing (the letter re the £2,00 donation to be addressed to Sandra Phillips of Uffculme Environmental Ltd) and send to Rob Stevens.

- ii. Derrick Roberts of DCC Estates had written to Mrs Pat Armstrong, outlining potential problems of proceeding with a car parking scheme near the cemetery. A meeting had now been arranged for 2nd December at which Mr Holman of DCC, the Chairman of the PC, the Rev. Gale, Mrs Onley-Gregson, Cllr Radford, Mr G Stoneman, Mr Mathias (MDDC), amongst others, would be attending. Mrs Armstrong advised that to make any headway in the matter a Community Partnership Scheme may be the way forward, but at the same time it was essential not to lose sight of the car parking needs of the village. There would also need to be full public consultation to obtain all parishioners views. The Chairman would update the PC at the next PC Meeting.
- iii. The relocation of the post box at Pigs Foot was going ahead. Cllr Mrs Fisher advised that the telephone box had also been vandalised at the same time as damage had been caused to the post box.
- iv. An in depth letter had been received from the Devon Wildlife Trust about suggestions for managing and improving the pond and surrounding area. It was agreed that this item be discussed at the Amenities Cttee Meeting.
- v. Rubber safety granules for the playing areas would be an item for discussion at the Amenities Cttee Meeting.
- vi. The PC purchased a wreath for last years Remembrance Day. It was agreed that it was not necessary to purchase a wreath on an annual basis but instead it was resolved that the PC would make an annual donation of £12 to the Royal British Legion.
- vii. The Carol Festival Cttee wished to advertise its Carol Service in the Newsletter but had indicated that as this was a community event the advert should be free of charge. It was understood that the proceeds from the Carol Service would be donated to St Petros in Exeter. After much discussion it was proposed by Cllr Saunders and seconded by Cllr Mrs Lunn that the advert should not be inserted free of charge as otherwise this could set a precedent. The motion was carried. The Chairman agreed that he would inform Mrs House, the Chairperson of the Carol Festival Cttee, of the PC's decision.

143. Police Matters

PC Auger introduced Sgt Watkins to the Meeting, and provided some background information as to the work he would be doing in the Parish. PC Auger advised that there had been no serious problems in the Parish during the 'Fireworks' period. Steve McLellan, the Community safety Officer, for MDDC had advised that a 'Handyman' Scheme was operating whereby funding was available to fit locks and lights to the properties of vulnerable people. The service was free and was preceded by a visit from the Police Crime Prevention Officer who would make a security assessment. It was suggested that this information be printed in the next edition of the Newsletter.

144. Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Clerk advised that under the legislation there was an obligation placed upon local councils to produce and maintain a publication scheme, which consisted of a list of classes of information which a council was prepared to make available to members of the public. It would be necessary to submit a scheme before 31st December. The Clerk went through the details contained in the Model Publication Scheme produced by The Office of the Information Commissioner. The Parish Council, after some discussion approved the Model Publication Scheme, with the inclusion of Class 12 'Burial Grounds' being an optional class of information to be made available to members of the public

145. Parish Boundary Review

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister had advised that a decision had been taken to accept MDDC's recommendations for change between the boundary of Halberton and Uffculme, subject to a modification to also include the property named 'Harvesters' within the area to be transferred. Maps would be commissioned and an Order would be drafted which would give effect to the changes, shortly.

146.MDDC Matters

- i. The PC had been asked to indicate which amenities in the Parish should be signed from the canal. In addition the problem of the lack of parking close to the Canal bridges from Greenway Bridge was mentioned by MDDC. It was suggested by MDDC, that if any farmers/landowners were willing to give up areas of land, then a lay by could be constructed to accommodate 2 – 3 vehicles. The PC was asked to provide contacts names of anyone who may be willing to give up land for this purpose. It was agreed to discuss this matter at the next Amenities Ctte Meeting.
- ii. Cllr Radford advised that MDDC's Housing Enforcement Team was carrying out an estate inspection of Pethertons on 14th November. It was agreed that the following items be drawn to the Team's attention.
 - a. the fencing near the Mead/Pethertons was in a poor state
 - b. to look at the areas of Crossparks and Rockview
 - c. a settee had been dumped behind the telephone box at the flats
- iii. The Vice-Chairman met Mr Mathias of MDDC about the proposed stone planters. It was suggested that the planters be placed near the telephone exchange but the question of land ownership needed to be investigated.

147.DCC Matters

- i. The Dudley Weatherly Jubilee Bridge opening ceremony had been arranged for 30th November at 11.00am. To date the PC had not received an invitation. Cllr Radford would make some enquiries. The Vice-Chairman agreed to be the PC's representative if an invitation arrived.
- ii. The Parish Lengthsman would be in the Parish on 18th November. The Clerk to advise him that the following needed attention:
 - a. the drain outside Milestones
 - b. bottom of slope at car park outside the village hall
 - c. the drain going up Pond Hill to the church – outside 'Willhays'
- iii. Cllr Hugill would pass to Cllr Payne, details of broken signs around the Village, who would then request of Mr A Mitchard of DCC to take appropriate action.
- iv. The Clerk advised that on 9th December the road between Crossparks and Crow Green, Ash Thomas would be closed to vehicles. An alternative route

would be available. However Cllr Mrs Fisher had information to suggest the work had already been carried out and she was making further investigations to clarify matters.

- v. Details of a proposed Order to reduce speed limits on various roads at Westcott, Bradninch, Cullompton, Halberton and Willand was going through the legal processes. The PC was in favour of the proposed Order

148.Meetings Attended

Parish Plan Seminar – 30th October 2002

The Vice-Chairman and Cllr Hugill attended this. They found it to be most informative. Cllr Hugill indicated that there was substantial grant monies available for PCs for various projects. However the PC should not be complacent if it wished to tap into these funds.

149Future Meetings

- i. Culm Area Committee – 13th November 2002 at 7.00pm at Hemyock Primary School Hall
The Vice-Chairman would be attending this
- ii. Halberton Charities – 18th November 2002 at 7.30pm in the Methodist Schoolroom
- iii. AGM Halberton Village Hall – 19th November 2002 at 7.00pm
- iv. NHS Trust Meeting – 26th November 2002
Cllr Mrs Fisher would be attending this
- v. Parish Plan Meeting – 5th December 2002 at 7.30 at Halberton Village Hall
- vi. Mid Devon Transport Forum - 28th January 2003 at 2.30pm Cullompton Town Hall
Cllr Mrs Fisher would be attending this

150.Committee Reports

- i. **Cemetery**
Cllr Mrs Fisher thanked the Vice-Chairman for cutting the hedge. A Cemetery Cttee Meeting was arranged for Tuesday, 26th November at 7.00pm
- ii. **Highways**
A Highways Cttee Meeting was arranged for 26th November at 7.30pm
- iii. **Amenities**
An Amenities Cttee Meeting was arranged for Tuesday, 26th November at 8.15pm. Several items would be discussed including the Flower Group and the raised garden, down by the pond. The Clerk reported that the Cttee`s application to MDDC for a Play Area grant for 2002/03 had been turned down.
- iv. **Footpaths**
The Vice-Chairman was investigating the problem on Footpath 10 of a damaged sign. He would report back on this matter shortly. The Clerk had passed to The Vice-Chairman details of the Parish Paths Partnership Christmas Event and also Parish paths expenditure forms. He would get back to her about these matters in due course.
- v. **Newsletter**
Cllr Payne reported that it was hoped to improve the technology used to produce the Newsletter to make it a speedier and more cost effective operation. However the new equipment was likely to be expensive. It was suggested that perhaps grant funding could be obtained on the basis of it being a project to benefit the community and to enlist the support of the PC for this.

151 Clerk's Report

The Clerk advised that she had attended a Clerks Training Day at Exeter, recently. She found it to be most useful and informative. She advised the PC, that at the training day, the matter of preparing a legal agenda for meetings was discussed. She understood that the words 'Any Other Business' were illegal and should not be used on agendas. The PC was in agreement to this wording being omitted from all future agendas. DAPC had sent further information about training for local councils. It was hoped to set up a Devon and Cornwall Training Partnership to train Clerks to obtain the relevant qualification which would satisfy one of the criteria for Quality Parish status.

152.Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST – 31ST OCTOBER 2002:

<i>Cemetery Grant</i>	323.00
<i>Churchyard Grant</i>	50.00
<i>Bank Interest</i>	17.01
<i>Newsletter Income</i>	53.75
TOTAL	£443.76

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST – 31ST October 2002	£659.57
STOPPED CHEQUES NO. 100625 N PAGE – (lost in post)	£145
NO. 100622 INLAND REVENUE (lost in post)	£169.83

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Cheque No	Amount	VAT	Total	Details
100647	244.89		244.89	Mrs C McIntyre – Salary (£267.59 + back pay £46.37 less tax ££69.07)
100648	24.00		24.00	Mrs C McIntyre – repayment of cost of Office Copies
100649	20.32		20.32	Petty Cash
100650	160.00		160.00	A Tindle – Grass Cutting Cemetery Aug/Sept
100651	145.03	25.37	170.40	Education Matters
100652	38.50		38.50	Butterworths – Text Book
100653	280.00		280.00	N Page – work on Parish Paths
100654				Landscaping & Grounds Maintenance
100655	169.83		169.83	Inland Revenue – 3 months payment of tax
100656	12.00		12.00	Royal British Legion

THE ABOVE AMOUNTS WERE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	13,827.18
Plus receipts for period 1ST – 31ST October 2002	443.76
TOTAL	£14,270.94
Minus payments made for the above period	659.57
TOTAL	£13,611.37

Made up as follows:- Current	1,060.11
High Interest	12,551.26
TOTAL	£13,611.37

VILLAGE HALLS FUND	£ 4,000.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	£1,518.72*
GENERAL FUNDS	£8,092.65

**£145 has been added in to this amount due to stopped cheque*

NEWSLETTER : *Income for period 1/4/02 – 31/10/02 = £607.08*
(£688.75 has also been collected but this is in respect of previous years advertising fees)
Expenditure for above period = £489.19
PROFIT £117.89

153. Members Business

- i. Cllr Hugill advised that National Tree Week would be taking place shortly. As a number of trees had been planted at Swans Neck some time ago, a tour had been arranged on Saturday, 23rd November to see how the trees were progressing. All interested parties were to meet at Greenway Bridge at 10.30am. He hoped that members of the PC would attend.
- ii. Cllr Saunders would arrange to purchase a Christmas tree for the Parish.
- iii. The Chairman would supply the sherry for the next PC Meeting.
- iv. The Vice-Chairman thought it advisable that the Parish Emergency Plan contained mobile telephone numbers of those persons listed in the Plan. The Clerk to deal with this.

154. Parish Council Vacancies

There were four Candidates, for two vacancies, namely Mr S Adwick, Mrs P Armstrong, Mrs B Hull and Mr P Gibbs. The PC carried out a paper ballot and the candidates who obtained the highest number of votes were Mrs Armstrong and Mrs Hull. The two ladies were duly appointed. The Clerk to deal with the formalities.

155.Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 10.45 pm. The next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting would be on Tuesday, 10th December 2002 at 7.30pm at Halberton Village Hall. A Planning Committee Meeting at 7.00pm would precede it.

CHAIRMAN

DATED