

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH
COUNCIL ON MONDAY, 12TH OCTOBER 2004 AT 7.30PM AT
HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

88. Present

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Gibbs, Hugill, Lane-Smith, Radford, Saunders, Mesdames Armstrong, Fisher Hull and Jepps, PC Dodd, Sgt Johns and two Members of the Public

89. Apologies

There were none

90. Public Forum

Carol Graham asked the PC to consider whether some of the money which she understood was available to the PC from MDDC (Open Spaces) be used for the provision of stone or brick planters. The Clerk to seek advice from Dave Scott (MDDC). A number of areas in the parish were causing concern as they were overgrown. These were:- i. the banking on the right hand side (as you turn right onto Crown Hill) at the back of Briton Close adjoining Mrs Carey's house (MDDC's land) – the Clerk to contact MDDC ii. the bus stop at Halberton Court on the jubilee bend, - the Clerk to contact DCC iii. the hedge abutting Diggles property - Cllr Mrs Armstrong would speak to the owners. Rob Stevens advised on behalf of the Village Hall Ctte that further funding of £900 would be available from Uffculme Environmental. Work had started on the hall today. He thanked the PC for nominating him to attend the Chairman's reception at MDDC. Unfortunately he had another engagement and was unable to attend. He advised that Sarah Duffin of DCC had asked the Village Hall to consider taking up the offer of public internet access. The Chairman thought it would be beneficial to the community to have this facility.

91. Approval of the Minutes of:

The Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 14th September 2004 were approved.

92 Matters arising from the aforementioned Minute

1. The Clerk after again e-mailing the Royal Devon and Cornwall Hospital Trust was advised that there was not a speaker available for the October meeting. The Clerk was unimpressed by the Trust's attitude. She had been trying to arrange for a speaker to attend since August. The Trust had indicated in previous information that a speaker would be willing to attend a meeting to advise on future plans and what effect these would have on local communities. However it now appeared from the lack of responses she had received that this was becoming increasingly unlikely. The Vice-Chairman would look into the matter.
2. The Chairman advised that he had obtained a costing for a 'No Dogs' sign to be erected in the Rec`. A bronze plated sign with raised writing would cost approx £80. After some discussion it was decided that in view of all previous signs being stolen or defaced to accept Cllr Lane-Smith's offer to make up some signs and have them laminated. The signs to be erected on the entrances to the playing field and on the gate.
3. The Clerk had not received a response from Mr Mitchard at DCC about the damaged sign at Brithem Bottom. She would chase this up again. The Clerk to also obtain the consultation paper from Mr Mitchard regarding the introduction of the 20mph speed limit in the parish and the timescale of its introduction. It was also understood that a 20mph flashing sign would be erected and this would be permanent. The Clerk to seek clarification on this as well. The Clerk had asked Cllr M Lee, Chairman of MDDC to arrange to have the item of pedestrian controlled traffic lights placed on DCC's Highways and Traffic Order Ctte. She had been unable to do this as items were not accepted directly from Parish Councils. She was hopeful

that Cllr Lee had actioned her request. She would ask for a copy of the Minutes of the Meeting shortly.

4. The Clerk had asked MDDC to pay a site visit to `Sunnyside` re the dilapidated state and reports of a noxious smell. MDDC's Officer advised that when he visited, there were no smells emanating from the premises and although the condition was poor, there was no action MDDC could take at the present time.

93. Chairman`s Announcements

The Chairman had no announcements.

94. Police Matters

PC Dodd and Sgt Sally Johns were present. Sgt Johns had accompanied PC Dodd as she was interested to see exactly what Neighbourhood Beat Managers were involved in. At the moment Cullompton and Bradnich parishes did not have Beat Managers. First Great Western were erecting signs to stop people parking on the road into Parkway. Tickets would be issued to persons parking on the road without lights. There were few criminal incidents reported of late. The Chairman advised, that the replacement jubilee tree had been cut down by vandals and a bin had been set on fire in the recreational ground. A discussion followed about the importance of reporting all incidents of crime regardless of how trivial they may appear. Cllr Hugill advised that at Tiverton Parkway a few weeks ago, a policeman and railway staff were examining a car with keen interest. Cllr Hugill thought that the vehicle may have been broken into. PC Dodd wasn't aware of the incident so was unable to provide any information.

95. The Newsletter

Cllr Hugill expressed concern about the front page of edition 54 of the Newsletter. He thought the comments by Terry Payne were unjustified and could store up problems for the future. In addition, he thought the comments were ill-timed as they appeared just when the village organisations were pulling together and were focussed on their objectives. He felt that Mr Payne should be reminded that the Newsletter was a parish magazine and not a means of airing his personal views. Cllr Hugill was thanked for his comments. It was decided after some discussion that no follow up action was required at this stage. However if something of a similar nature re-occurred then the Parish Council would write to the Newsletter expressing its concerns..

96 The Parish Plan

Cllr Mrs Armstrong reported to the Parish Council. The Parish Plan document and brochure were nearing completion. A draft plan had been produced. 26th November at Ash Thomas Village Hall and 27th November 2004 at Halberton Village Hall were suggested dates/venues at which people would have an opportunity to see what was happening and to make their comments. Volunteers would be meeting shortly to decide the format of the presentations. Letters had been received by members of the PC (not addressed to any one specific person) from Mr Stonemen advising that he was disappointed about certain aspects of the Plan and that Halberton Club had not been asked by the Parish Council as to what it would like to provide for future generations of the Parish. Cllr Mrs Armstrong would reply to Mr Stoneman`s letter.

97. Grant to Village Hall re Improvement Work

It was agreed after some discussion that the final part of the grant promised by the PC of £450, be increased by £90 to £540. Cllr Hugill declared an interest. It was understood that the grant cheque needed to be payable to Viridor Waste management Ltd

98. The Rec`

Cllr Lane-Smith explained that a MDDC approved play equipment supplier had visited the site to provide quotes for new equipment. However the supplier had indicated that the play surface was none compliant and didn't meet safety standards and the Rec` should be closed with immediate effect. Cllr Lane-Smith had also been advised by an Officer at MDDC that the current play area surface was unsuitable. The Chairman advised that the site was checked annually by Rospa who had found the surface to meet safety standards. The last time it was inspected was in March 2004 when the current surfacing was in situ. Rospa was a well respected organisation and therefore the Chairman considered that there was an over-reaction by the PC if the site was to close immediately. There was much discussion followed by the following resolution: The playground to remain open for 24 hours during which time the Clerk to obtain advice from the Health and Safety Executive and Rospa.. A decision would be made after the advice had been obtained. If the Rec` was to close, signs to be erected on gates and equipment prohibiting use and the gates to be locked. The Vice-Chairman to obtain quotes for safety fencing. In addition the Clerk to obtain a certificate of compliance from the supplier of the surfacing

99. Access Agreement with DCC – Re Cemetery

DCC had agreed that the width of vehicle permitted to cross DCC`s land could now be of 3m width. The agreement had been amended to reflect this provision. The Chairman duly signed the agreement.

100. Mid Devon District Council Matters

- i. A survey form had been received, regarding the proposed Corporate Plan. It was agreed that the Clerk should complete the form and return it on behalf of the PC.
- ii. Licensing Forums were taking place on: 18th October at Kentisbeare Village Hall and 20th October at Sandford Village Hall
- iii. A copy of the Mid Devon Local Development Scheme had been circulated. This set out the planning documents MDDC planned to prepare to provide policies in the area up to the year 2021. The scheme was based on the new forward planning system which would replace the existing system of Local and Structure Plans. The PC had no comments.

101. Devon County Council Matters

There were none

102. Meetings Attended

- i. Public Scrutiny Cttee Meeting – 15th September 2004

Cllr Gibbs attended this. One of the points discussed was the questionnaire that MDDC was sending out to various individuals and organisations (referred to at para 100(i) above).

- ii. DAPC AGM at Exeter – 25th September 2004

The Vice-Chairman attended this meeting. Michael Winter was the speaker. He found the meeting to be useful and informative.

- iii. Canal Meeting

The Vice-Chairman and Cllrs Mrs Hull and Radford attended. A new Chairman had been elected – David Morrish. Dredging work was taking place from Swingbridge through to Sampford Peverell.

103. Future Meetings

- i. Devon and Cornwall Police - 14th October 2004 – The New Hall, Tiverton at 7.30pm
Cllr Mrs Fisher would attend this

- ii. Devon Association of Local Councils – 14th October 2004
Cllr Gibbs would be attending.
- iii. Cheriton Fitzpaine - Parish Plan - 14th October 2004
Cllr Mrs Armstrong would be attending this.
- iv. Moving Parish Plans Forward – 20th October 2004
Cllrs Mrs Armstrong and Gibbs would be attending.
- v. MDDC – ‘Good Value for Money?’ - Meetings on:
20th October – Bow Village Hall, 27th October Oakford, 3rd November Burlescombe

104. Committee Reports

Cemetery

The gravestones had been repaired satisfactory. The grave markers were on order. The grass cutting contract expired at the end of October but it was resolved that additional cuts could be carried out on an ‘as and when’ basis.

Canals

Mark Baker was arranging a hedge laying day.

Footpaths

A hedge trimmer had now been purchased. The Clerk to arrange for a notice to be inserted in the Newsletter advising parishioners to ensure that their hedges and overhanging tree branches were adequately maintained. A number of Cllrs would attend training on Active Lifestyles for leading walks at Ash Thomas Village Hall on 28th October.

Highways

Bus stop signs were missing at Orchard View and Rockview and between Orpington Court and Millstream Gardens. The Clerk to contact Stagecoach.

105. Clerk’s Report

The PC agreed to the Clerk using HSBC’s telephone banking system as it would be easier for her to manage the two accounts. The necessary forms were signed by the Parish Councillors.

106. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2004:

<i>Bank Interest</i>	<i>28.22</i>
<i>Newsletter</i>	<i>125.85</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>£154.07</i>

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST - 30th SEPTEMBER 2004: £266.82

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

<i>Cheque No</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>VAT</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Details</i>
<i>SO</i>	<i>21.00</i>		<i>21.00</i>	<i>MDDC – Cemetery Rates</i>
<i>100868</i>	<i>37.50</i>		<i>37.50</i>	<i>DCC – ½ year rent – The Mead</i>
<i>100869</i>	<i>437.00</i>	<i>76.48</i>	<i>513.48</i>	<i>Hedge Trimmer</i>
<i>100857</i>	<i>310.00</i>	<i>54.25</i>	<i>364.25</i>	<i>Gardencare – Grass Cutting for September</i>
<i>100871</i>	<i>23.29</i>		<i>23.29</i>	<i>Petty Cash</i>
<i>100872</i>	<i>221.91</i>		<i>221.91</i>	<i>Mrs C McIntyre – Salary Oct (less tax deductions)</i>
<i>100873</i>	<i>182.16</i>		<i>182.16</i>	<i>PO Ltd – 3mths x tax (Clerk’s Salary</i>
<i>100874</i>	<i>165.90</i>	<i>29.04</i>	<i>194.94</i>	<i>Education Matters – Newsletter Costs</i>
<i>100875</i>	<i>10.00</i>		<i>10.00</i>	<i>Judy Austin – Newsletter Delivery Costs</i>
<i>100876</i>	<i>70.00</i>		<i>70.00</i>	<i>Halberton Village Hall –Room Hire</i>
<i>100877</i>	<i>540.00</i>		<i>540.00</i>	<i>Viridor Waste Management Ltd – Grant Village</i>

Hall

<i>Balance of bank accounts carried forward</i>	15,244.66
<i>Plus receipts for period 1st - 30th July 2004</i>	154.07
	<i>TOTAL £15,398.73</i>
<i>Minus payments made for the above period</i>	266.82
	<i>TOTAL £15,131.91</i>

<i>Made up as follows:- High Interest</i>	12,903.77
<i>Current</i>	2,228.14
	<i>TOTAL £15,131.91</i>

<i>VILLAGE HALLS FUND</i>	£1,950.00
<i>PARISH PATHS FUND</i>	£2,328.72
<i>PARISH PLAN FUND</i>	£62.33
<i>GENERAL FUNDS</i>	£10,790.86
	<i>TOTAL £15,131.91</i>

NEWSLETTER :

Income for period 1/4/03 – 30/09/04 £959.65 minus expenditure £587.02

= NET PROFIT £372.63

107. Members Business

- i. Cllr Hugill would obtain more information regarding the internet access in the Village Hall, as raised earlier on in the meeting by Rob Stevens. However he thought that Mr Stevens was merely seeking the endorsement of the PC.
- ii. It was agreed that Chairpersons of all Cttes would arrange meetings prior to the December PC Meeting to finalise their budget requirements for the Precept Meeting in January. Budget requirements to be submitted to the Clerk at the December PC Meeting.

108. Next Meeting

A Meeting of the Council's Planning Ctte would take place on 9th November at 7.00pm at Ash Thomas Village Hall followed by an Ordinary Meeting of the PC at 7.30pm

The Meeting closed at 9.55pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED