

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 13TH DECEMBER 2005 AT 7.30PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

129. Present

The Chairman (K Browse), Vice-Chairman (B Lane-Smith) Cllrs Cooper, Gibbs, Radford, Saunders, Mesdames Armstrong, Fisher, Hull, Jepps and CClr Des Hannon

130. Apologies

Cllr Greenhill

131. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present

132. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 8th November 2005 and the Policy and Finance Cttee Meeting of even date were approved without amendment.

133. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- i. Despite the Clerk contacting MDDC again, the Council was still failing to collect refuse from certain properties in the Parish on a regular basis. A parishioner in Church Path had had refuse collected on only two occasions since the scheme had started. Another parishioner had had piles of rubbish left outside his property. It appeared that parishioners on Church Path and Corner Lane had not been issued with brown wheelie bins as access to this area was not suitable for MDDC's refuse lorry. Cllr Radford would follow up these complaints.
- ii. The Clerk had now received a letter of thanks from Robin Temple of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal for the PC's donation
- iii. Ruth Tucker of the 5X30 organisation would be attending the January PC Meeting to talk about healthy living.
- iv. The Clerk had received a reply from DCC regarding an increased bus service to and from Pethertons. The reply indicated that additional journeys could be considered subject to funding. However it was understood that the Chairman would be attending a meeting of the Tiverton and District Community Transport Association where he would press for the service to be increased as it was understood that there was money available. Cllr Mrs Armstrong advised that a number of train stations were to be upgraded including Tiverton Parkway.
- v. The Christmas tree was in situ and thanks were given to the Vice-Chairman for obtaining the tree and Cllr Cooper for arranging the lighting of it. It was commented on how festive the tree made the village. It was requested that the Clerk write a letter of thanks to Tony Stevens for supplying the tree.
- vi. A number of tender packs had been sent out by the Clerk in respect of the grass cutting contract. The successful tenderer would be selected at the January PC Meeting.

134. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman had spoken to Wally Burke about the fact that no meetings had been held by Mid Devon Association of Local Councils throughout the year. Apparently the Secretary had been too busy to organise them!! The Clerk was concerned that the PC was paying an annual subscription fee and receiving nothing in return. The Chairman had suggested to Mr Burke that Ian Bateman of DCC would be an excellent speaker to attend a future meeting. It was hoped that

this would be organised shortly. The Chairman also advised that DAPC was setting up an e-group as a more effective means of relaying information.

135. Village Competitions

Details had been received about the Devon Calor Village of the Year and the CPRE and MVF's Best Kept Village in Devon, Competitions 2006. It was agreed that these should be discussed at the next Amenities Ctte Meeting.

136. Police Matters

PC Dodd had carried out a traffic survey at various locations in the village and had concluded that no appreciable speeding had been observed in Halberton and that he did not intend to return to survey any roads in the village in the near future. He did state that vehicles were speeding in Turnpike and the main problem was cars passing the houses near 7 Turnpike at 38 – 42 mph, as those houses had mostly blind entrances out into the road. However he was only able to find one previous RTC and the problem would be alleviated if a car was parked in the vicinity. PC Dodd stated that there was speeding occurring between Merriemeade and the Globe in Lower Town, Sampford Peverell and that there was a history of RTC's there. He suggested that any traffic calming was carried out at Sampford Peverell in the first instance as opposed to Turnpike. Trevor Elswood, a parishioner had taken PC Dodd's advice to park his vehicle under a street light in an attempt to slow down speeding vehicles. Unfortunately a car had since driven into the back of Mr Elswood's car. Mr Elswood was anxious that some other means of speed reduction be put in place which would give peace of mind to the residents and children living in the Turnpike area. A number of stolen cars had been reported. Cllr Mrs Hull reported that another burnt out car had been left on her property.

137. Devon County Council Matters

- i. DCC had advised that it intended to introduce a 40mph speed limit on the A769 Hartnoll Cross to Crown Hill road between Tiverton and Halberton as it is considered it to be of social and environmental benefit. Objections to the proposals had to be submitted no later than 6th January by the PC.
- ii. DCC had now published for consultation, proposed Pre-Inquiry Changes and Omission Sites, in advance of the Public Inquiry to hear objections to the Devon County Waste Local Plan (which would commence on Tuesday 10th January 2006). Full copies of this could be obtained by contacting DCC or by logging onto DCC's web site. Representations about any of the aforementioned had to be submitted by 23rd December.
- iii. DCC had provided Job Satisfaction Cards to complete after the Lengthsman's visits to the Parish, which the Clerk passed to Cllr Gibbs. It was reported that the Lengthsman carried out an important and essential job which ensured that minor problems in the Parish eg clearing of drains, culverts etc were dealt with efficiently and promptly. Much appreciation and thanks were expressed for DCC in providing this brilliant service. Cllr Cooper suggested that the Lengthsman examine the bottom of the road over the old Halberton Bridge, where there appeared to be a blockage, as water was spilling across the road. Cllr Gibbs would refer this problem to the Lengthsman.
- iv. A consultation Response form had been received for completion by the PC in respect of proposals for the future of the residential home Orchard Lea in Cullompton. C.Cllr Des Hannon had indicated that findings had revealed that overwhelmingly older people would prefer to stay in their own homes rather than have to go into residential care. DCC was working with older people to enable people to stay independent for longer which would result in fewer care homes being required. Cllr Mrs Hull made the point that some residential care homes should still remain as clearly there would be some sections of the

community who would be unable to look after themselves at home. CCllr Hannon advised that this would be the case. Meetings would be taking place within the next few weeks at which CCllr Hannon and Cllr Radford would be attending. The item to be included on the January agenda at which meeting the consultation form could be completed by the PC.

- v. C.Cllr Hannon advised that there was low representation on the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative and he was keen that more persons should become involved. Anyone interested should contact him.
- vi. CCllr Hannon stated that DCC would be looking for LEA governors shortly for Halberton School.
- vii. It was understood that signage would be erected on the canal to indicate `Amenities` but the sign would not specifically state that the `Amenities` meant the Barge Public House. C.Cllr Hannon would speak to the Canal Ranger to try and amend the wording of the sign so it was more specific
- viii. It was understood that the annual grant awarded from central Government was significantly lower than other authorities in the country. Even neighbouring authorities had been awarded higher grants. CCllr Hannon did not know the reason for this but questions would be raised about this decision. This would effectively mean savings had to be made in services and council tax would rise, although he thought this may be limited to between 4 – 5%.
- ix. The Clerk had reported some time ago to Alan Mitchard that there were pot holes at Church Path, requiring attention, which Cpt Cornish had brought to the PC`s attention.. These had still not been filled in. In addition there was a large pot hole on the Willand Road, opposite the telephone exchange and at Thorn Park. The Clerk explained that when she had e-mailed Alan Mitchard about these matters, she had not received any acknowledgement from him. CCllr Hannon would refer these matters to DCC.

138. Mid Devon District Council

- i. The tenants would vote in January as to whether or not they wished to transfer from being an MDDC tenant to a Housing Association tenant. The process would cost MDDC approx £700,000. If the tenants wished to remain with MDDC, the whole process would need to be gone through again.
- ii. The path near the Church required sweeping. The Clerk to report this to MDDC
- iii. Cllr Gibbs advised that he was now the Chairman of the Public Scrutiny Panel. However recommendations were being made for the Panel to disband, although no firm decision had yet been made. Cllrs Mrs Hull and Radford would monitor the situation.

139. Meetings Attended

16th November 2005 – Standards Ctte – MDDC, Phoenix House

The Vice-Chairman attended this.

140. Committee Reports

Amenities (including the Cemetery)

Cllr Radford confirmed that he wished to remain on the Amenities Ctte. The Clerk advised that she had received notification of the Awards for All scheme, which local groups and PC`s could apply to for funding. Grants up to £5,000 could be awarded if certain criteria was met. The Chairman of the Amenities Ctte (Cllr Lane-Smith) advised that he was still waiting full details of the play equipment – prices etc. Rospa would be making its annual inspection of the Rec` in March. The Chairman would ensure that the equipment was in good order in readiness for this. Jo Cuthbert of Abbotshood Farm would advise about

some cost effective planters. The Chairman was still waiting a response from Roger Folley about the Cordwents car parking issue. There was nothing to report from the Village Hall other than Susan Lane-Smith, the Chairman's wife was now running a Youth Club at the Hall. She was seeking donations of board games and other suitable equipment. Helpers were also required to assist with the running of the Club. PC Dodd had attended one meeting which had proved very interesting! The children appear to be enjoying the sessions and numbers were growing.

Environment and Cemetery Cttes

There was nothing to report

Communications

It was agreed that another two PCllrs should sit on this Ctte. Cllr Mrs Hull agreed and Cllr Greenhill would be asked at the next meeting.

Footpaths

A number of footpath survey forms had now been handed to PCllrs. The Chairman attended the Christmas Footpath Workshop which was interesting and enjoyable.

141. Clerk's Report

The Clerk was still awaiting receipt of the invoice for the new office chair and filing cabinet.

142.Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST - 30TH NOVEMBER 2005:

<i>Bank Interest</i>	<i>21.86</i>
<i>Newsletter</i>	<i>103.85</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>£125.71</i>

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD: 1ST - 30th NOVEMBER 2005 £283.51

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

<i>Cheque No</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>VAT</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Details</i>
SO	22.00		22.00	MDDC – Cemetery Rates
100973	28.00		28.00	Mrs C J McIntyre – Expenses Sept – Nov Internet and telephone calls
100974	236.51		236.51	Mrs C McIntyre – Salary Nov/Dec (less tax deductions)
100975	13.50		13.50	Mrs C J McIntyre- repayment postage costs
100976	258.08	45.16	303.24	Education Matters – Publication of Newsletter
100977	10.00		10.00	Mrs J Austin – delivery of Newsletter
100978	12.39		12.39	South West Water – cemetery water charges
100979	18.65	3.26	21.91	Ottery Office and Computer Ltd – photocopying costs
100980	14.25	2.49	16.74	Ottery Office & Computer Ltd – photocopying costs
100981	25.00	4.38	29.38	K Brown – reimbursement of Mole Valley advert
100982	112.15	19.63	131.78	B Saunders – Cost of supplying and fitting gate

The above invoices were approved for payment

<i>Balance of bank accounts carried forward</i>	<i>13,014.72</i>
<i>Plus receipts for period 1st – 30th November 2005</i>	<i>125.71</i>
	<i>TOTAL £13,140.43</i>
<i>Minus payments made for the above period</i>	<i>283.51</i>
	<i>TOTAL £12,856.92</i>

Made up as follows:- **High Interest 12,682.25**
Current 174.67
TOTAL £12,856.92

VILLAGE HALLS FUND £360.00
PARISH PATHS FUND £1,846.72
GENERAL FUNDS £10650.20
TOTAL £12,856.92

NEWSLETTER :

Income for period 1/4/05 – 30/11/05 £1,313.52 less expenditure to date of £1005.49 = Net Profit £308.03

143. Members Business

Cllr Mrs Armstrong reminded the PC that the Village Carol Service would take place on 18th December at 6.00pm.

144. Planning (Townsend House)

Cllr Mrs Hull, the Chairman, and Cllr Radford all declared an interest, and left at this part of the meeting. The Vice-Chairman subsequently chaired the meeting. He advised that he and Cllr Gibbs had attended a meeting at which Mrs Fish and Dave Scott of MDDC were present. Following this meeting Mrs Fish had suggested a number of proposals concerning the development of the site. The Vice-Chairman had prepared a report which had been issued to all PC Members for consideration which also contained a number of proposals. There was considerable discussion about this matter. Finally it was resolved unanimously that the following be carried out:

1. To accept Option 1 proposed by Mrs A Fish (as contained in Appendix 3 of the Vice-Chairman's Report) which was:

“That no on-site provision is provided and that a financial contribution is paid via a s106 legal agreement and is ring fenced for use in Halberton only. The money would be held by the District Council and could be used to fund Parish Council projects for POS and play areas which could include purchasing land in the village for use as a play area with an associated car parking area. The current fund has around £7,000 with another £4,500 expected on commencement of developments in the village. This development would attract a contribution in the region of £15,700. However, since our meeting, I have spoken to Tony Brown at Midas homes and explained that you have expressed some concern about this, particularly in terms of what the money available will achieve for the Parish Tony Brown recognises the concerns and has advised that Midas Homes are prepared to offer a sum of £25,000 within the s106 agreement for POS/Play areas in Halberton”

It was agreed that the Clerk should inform Mrs Fish of the PC's decision which was strictly conditional on the sum of £25,000 being payable by Midas Homes.

2. That Proposals 2 – 8 (Page 8 of the Vice-Chairman's Report) be accepted. Proposal 1 to be undertaken by the Clerk prior to the Christmas holidays (contacting the relevant land owners,

once she had been provided with details of the owners by the Vice-Chairman) and the remaining conditions to be dealt with after Christmas

It was understood that the Chairman and Cllr Radford were covered by prejudicial interests under the Model Code of Conduct and although the Report could be read by them nobody should discuss it with them as they would be in breach of the Code.

The Clerk then raised the matter of the letter received from Jonathan Guscott, Head of MDDC's Planning Dept, in response to the letter sent by the PC complaining about Mrs Fish. It was agreed that the Clerk should simply acknowledge the letter and that no further action was required by the PC.

145. Future Parish Council Meetings

- ii. 10th January 2006 – Planning Ctte Meeting – 7.00pm
- iii. 10th January 2006 - Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council – 7.30pm
- iii. 24th Jan 2006 – Footpaths Ctte Meeting – 7.30pm
- iv. 7th February 2006 – Amenities Ctte - 7.30pm

The Meeting ended at 9.45pm

DATE

CHAIRMAN