

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH
COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 13TH JANUARY 2004 AT 9.25PM AT
ASH THOMAS VILLAGE HALL

177. Present

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Mesdames Fisher, Jepps, and Hull, Cllrs Gibbs, Hugill, Lane-Smith, Radford, Saunders and David Pugsley, Leader of MDDC

178. Public Forum

David Pugsley, advised about the problems MDDC was encountering setting the 2004/05 budget. MDDC was trying to keep the proposed increase in Council tax down to single figures. In reaching a final decision MDDC was seeking the views of the general public in the form of survey responses. The Leader asked that all members of the PC complete the survey forms he had brought along which was duly done.

179. Apologies

Cllr Mrs P Armstrong

180. Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 9th December 2003 were approved

181. Matters Arising

- i. Despite Steve Mclellan, the Community Safety Officer advising some weeks ago that the speed visor equipment would be installed in Halberton as soon as possible, to date, it had not appeared. The Clerk to chase up the matter.
- ii. The Clerk had not received a reply from Halberton Club as to whether they wished to contribute an annual fee of £40 to have their own web page. Cllr Lane-Smith would chase the matter up.
- iii. The various highway matters raised at the December Meeting had been passed to Mr Mitchard of DCC, for his attention. He had indicated he would reply shortly.
- iv. Judy Austin would be unable to attend the parish magazine writing course due to a prior engagement
- v. Willand Parish Council had confirmed that it would support the PC with regards to our proposals that there should be a 40mph speed restriction between Muddiford Road and Little Bridge, Willand
- vi. Jane Nichols would be arranging a date for the PCllrs to visit the new council offices once she had liaised with other parish councils.
- vii. Lamb Hill Garage had advised before Christmas, that the drivers who were leaving their vehicles at Orchard View, would, with immediate effect, refrain from doing this. However it was understood that a lorry was still being parked there despite this assurance. The situation would be monitored and reviewed at the February meeting.

182. Precept 2004/05

It was resolved that all the recommendations made at the Policy and Finance Cttee Meeting earlier be carried and the Precept be increased by 6% (from £8452 for 2003/04 to £8959 for 2004/05)

183. Chairman's Announcements

1. The Chairman advised that the bus shelter needed money spending on the roof as it was leaking. Suggestions were made as to how the repairs could be carried out with the minimum of expenditure. The Chairman was warmly thanked for repainting the

interior of the shelter which had previously been covered in obscenities. He indicated that it was probably only a matter of time before the vandals struck again.

2. A parishioner had complained about the lack of dog bins along the canal bank, particularly at Greenway where dog faeces had been left in bags because there was no where to dispose of them. The Clerk to contact the appropriate authority to request bins to be provided.

184. Best Kept Village Competitions

It was decided not to enter either competition this year in order to reduce Parish expenditure.

185. Police Matters

There was nothing to report

186. Parish Plan

Matters relating to the survey forms were ongoing. DCC had advised of a pilot project called the Parish Plans Biodiversity Project with regard to the conservation of local fauna and flora. The Clerk to obtain further information and liaise with Cllr Mrs Armstrong.

187 Mid Devon District Council Matters

- i. Various portacabins were available free of charge to community and charitable organisations. Interested persons to contact Paul Tucker at MDDC
- ii. The play area grant towards the cost of the rubber granules in the sum of £950 had now been received
- iii. Details of travel and subsistence allowances for parish and town councillors had now been set by the Independent Remuneration Panel to be payable at the same rate as that paid to members of MDDC. The Clerk had full details available.
- iv. Two further training sessions had been arranged in respect of Code of Conduct training in January and February at Cullompton and Crediton respectively. Any member interested to contact the Clerk.

188. DCC Matters

There was nothing to report.

189. Meetings Attended

No meetings attended

190 Future Meetings

i. 20th January 2004 – Mid Devon Association of Local Councils – Tiverton Town Hall
Mr J Guscott Head of MDDC's Planning Dept would be speaking about the new planning regulations. It was important that as many members of the PC attended. It was noted that Cllr Hugill had now set up a Web site for the Association.

ii. 21st January 2004 – MDDC – Local Forum Meeting – Crediton at 7.00pm

191. Committee Reports

i. Cemetery

Mr Rigby had already carried out two sessions of grass cutting. The Clerk had received a letter from his insurers confirming that he had £5 million pounds of Public Liability Insurance but the Clerk still needed to see the original policy documentation. It was agreed that Mr Rigby be contacted again if and when a further grass cut was required. The Clerk had ascertained that Landscaping and

Grounds Maintenance carried out the grass cutting at Tiverton Cemetery on behalf of MDDC

ii. Amenities

The rubber pellets had been laid in the playing field. It had been a team effort involving the Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Hugill, Radford and Saunders who were thanked for all their hard work. The area had been much improved. The Clerk to contact Mr Stevenson regarding a survey of the pond area. The Chairman agreed to be a point of contact.

iii. Footpaths

The Vice-Chairman required all outstanding survey forms to be returned asap.

iv. Highways.

Flooding had occurred by the football field and a complaint had been received from Mrs Palk about flooding at Corner Lane. Cllr Radford thought there may be some money available to be spent on alleviating the problem and would investigate. Cllr Gibbs asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Mitchard at DCC in appreciation for his department dealing so promptly with a highway repair at Pond Hill. The complaint had been made in the morning of 12th January and the repair completed by the afternoon.

192. Clerk's Report

The Clerk had nothing to report

193. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST -31st DECEMBER 2003:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Bank Interest</i> | <i>13.34</i> |
| <i>Newsletter</i> | <i>63.00</i> |
| <i>Cemetery</i> | <i>36.75</i> |
| <i>MDDC grant</i> | <i>50.00</i> |
| <i>Re Churchyard</i> | |
| <i>TOTAL</i> | <i>£163.09</i> |

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST – 31ST DEC 2003 *£423.54*

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

| <i>Cheque No</i> | <i>Amount</i> | <i>VAT</i> | <i>Total</i> | <i>Details</i> |
|---------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|---|
| <i>Direct Debit</i> | <i>20.00</i> | | <i>20.00</i> | <i>MDDC – Rates re Cemetery</i> |
| <i>100791</i> | <i>50.00</i> | | <i>50.00</i> | <i>D Rigby – grass cutting cemetery</i> |
| <i>100792</i> | <i>20.00</i> | | <i>20.00</i> | <i>Ass of Mid Devon Local Councils – Subs 2003/04</i> |
| <i>100793</i> | <i>216.24</i> | | <i>216.24</i> | <i>Mrs C McIntyre – Salary (less tax deductions)</i> |
| <i>100794</i> | <i>100.00</i> | | <i>100.00</i> | <i>St Andrew's Church</i> |

The above invoices were approved for payment

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| <i>Balance of bank accounts carried forward</i> | <i>13,426.35</i> |
| <i>Plus receipts for period 1st – 31st December 2003</i> | <i>163.09</i> |
| <i>TOTAL</i> | <i>£13,589.44</i> |
| <i>Minus payments made for the above period</i> | <i>423.54</i> |
| <i>TOTAL</i> | <i>£13,165.90</i> |

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Made up as follows:- Current | 4,402.12 |
| <i>High Interest</i> | 8,763.78 |
| TOTAL | £13,165.90 |

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| <i>VILLAGE HALLS FUND</i> | £ 1,950.00 |
| PARISH PATHS FUND | £1,673.72 |
| <i>PARISH PLAN FUND</i> | £1,177.63 |
| <i>GENERAL FUNDS</i> | <u>£8,364.55</u> |
| TOTAL | £13,165.90 |

NEWSLETTER :

Income for period 1/4/03 – 30/12/03 £1,243.25

TOTAL INCOME = LESS EXPENDITURE = £1,027.43 AND LESS PAYMENT MADE
IN ADVANCE IN 2002/03 OF £68.57 IN RESPECT OF 2003/04

NET PROFIT = £147.25

194.Next Meeting

A Meeting of the Parish Council's Planning Cttee would take place on Tuesday, 10th February 2004 at 7pm, followed by the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm at Halberton Village Hall

The meeting closed at 10.20pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATE