

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH
COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 13TH JANUARY 2009 AT 7.40PM AT HALBERTON
VILLAGE HALL

177. Present

The Chairman (Cllr Browse), Vice-Chairman (Cllr Britton), Cllrs Mesdames Cuthbert and *Johnstone, Corden, *Radford and Saunders Cllr Des Hannon, Beat Officer Katie Rich and fifteen members of the public

*Cllr Radford had to leave the meeting for a prior engagement

*Cllr Mrs Johnstone also left the meeting early due to illness

178. Apologies

None had been received

179. Chairman's Announcements and the late Brian Wooding

One minutes silence was given as a token of respect to the late Cllr Brian Wooding. The Chairman had represented the PC at Brian's funeral and expressed sympathy on behalf of the PC to his family.

180. Public Forum

Mrs Graham reported that the flower box at the end of the village required repairs to be carried out. It was understood that Nigel Cuthbert would very kindly attend to this matter. Concern was again expressed as to a number of properties in the village whose hedges/trees still required trimming back. The Clerk had previously reported the matter and had sent a subsequent reminder to DCC. She would now send a stronger reminder.

181. Police Matters

Katie Rich reported that the problem youths in the village who had previously caused minor damage had gone to ground. There had been other incidents reported which included:- 1 car wing mirror damaged at Pond Hill; a car had been broken into at Manley Bridge; a vehicle had hit a flower box which incident had been witnessed by a parishioner who unfortunately had not been able to obtain the vehicle registration number; a walk-in burglary had occurred at a property in Lower Town and a laptop taken; a burglary had occurred at Burrow Farm and a generator taken; damage to two benches and a table; reports of litter being dumped in the bus shelter at Lower Town by youths – Katie suggested that if the seat was removed from the shelter it may deter youths from congregating there and causing problems – this to be an item for the February agenda; Katie was pleased to report that Teresa Byrne had very kindly agreed to step into Brian's shoes as the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. Katie would investigate a replacement bin for the bus stop which had gone missing

182. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of 9th December 2008 were approved un-amended

183. Matters Arising

i. Cllr Corden advised that he would endeavour to repaint the recycling signs as soon as he was able.

- ii. It was understood that the overhanging trees obscuring the school sign had now been trimmed back
- iii. The Clerk had been contacted by Steve Densham from MDDC about the missing plastic slat for the bench, down by the pond. Mr Densham would, as a gesture of goodwill, investigate as to whether there was a spare slat in the yard and if so he'd arrange to get it replaced. If not, then the PC would have to deal with the repair
- iv. The Clerk had written to Mr Alan Hunt to confirm the final details for the seat he had very kindly agreed to make as a replacement for the vandalised Dick Dawes seat
- v. Cllr Saunders would examine the hedge down at the pond for layering as soon as he was able and carry out the work accordingly
- vi. The light along the pathway from Church Path to Corner Lane had been repaired. The problem with the pathway was still ongoing but it was understood that somebody from DCC would liaise with Cllr Corden and hopefully meet up on site to finally get this matter properly addressed and the surface properly re-instated. Cllr Corden would update the PC at the February meeting about this matter
- vii. The Clerk despite a reminder to MDDC's Environmental Officer had still not heard whether any action was to be taken about the complaint that human faeces had allegedly been deposited on the roadway from camper vans when leaving motocross events at Uplowman. Cllr Radford understood that a meeting had taken place and measures were being considered about the noise complaints but he didn't know what was proposed for the faeces complaint. The Clerk to chase up the Environmental Officer again.

184. Mid Devon District Council Matters

- i. MDDC through the Devon Strategic Housing Group and local debt advice charity, Homemaker Southwest was offering free independent and confidential advice to home owners about managing their mortgage payments during the current economic climate. There was a dedicated telephone helpline. The Clerk would arrange to publish these details in the Newsletter
- ii. Cllr Radford advised that MDDC was working on the 2009/2010 annual budget and it was likely that there would be a 2.5% increase on council tax bills with no cuts in services. Kevin Finan had been promoted to a Director in place of Peter Hancock
- iii. The PC requested Cllr Radford to ascertain whether MDDC would class as commercial waste dead flowers/grass cuttings etc placed in a brown bin and whether there would be a charge for collection of the same

185 .DCC Matters

- i. DCC was seeking information about the Parish Biodiversity Audit which had been carried out some time ago. The Clerk would liaise with the Chairman in order to compile a joint response to send to DCC
- ii. It was understood that a High Court judgement in response to a judicial review sought by East Devon DC had largely found in favour of the Boundary Ctte. EDDC had been granted leave to appeal. The Secretary of State and the Boundary Ctte had yet to respond to this latest High Court ruling.
- iii. CCllr Hannon reported that the problems concerning the drainage at Lower Town had been put on the back burner due to the more pressing problems DCC had had to deal with recently ie the floods etc. However CCllr Hannon was confident that the drainage problems were now being actively looked at

- iv. CCllr Hannon referred again to the problems at Willand Road and advised that he had now been provided with evidence of the incidents which had occurred over this stretch of road over the past few years in order to pursue it further
- v. CCllr Hannon maintained that he would actively continue to fight the proposed development of Hartnoll Farm
- vi. CCllr Hannon advised that due to the economic situation there would be hard times ahead with regards to balancing the books at County Hall when setting their 2009/2010 budget. He explained however, that front line services should not be cut. He also advised that DCC was now ensuring that local suppliers' invoices were paid within a shorter period of time to help with their cash flow situation.
- vii. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert mentioned about the white lines on the road from the bottom of Greenway to the Farm Shop. Parts of the white lines of the virtual pavement were missing and it was very narrow for walking. She was very concerned as to the implications for parishioners walking along this stretch of road. CCllr Hannon would investigate this.

186. Grass Cutting Tenders

There had been two tenders received, one from Gardencare and the other from Mr B Smale. It was resolved that Mr Smale's tender be accepted in the sum of £ 2270. The Clerk would liaise with Mr Smale regarding the contract and would also inform the unsuccessful tenderer

187. Calor Village of the Year Competition Feedback

The Clerk read out the comments received from the organisers which was positively glowing about all aspects of the village and its community. It was extremely pleasing to the PC that the village had been regarded so highly. The Clerk would copy the Feedback form and e-mail it to Cllr Mrs Cuthbert. It was also suggested that the Village of the Year Prize monies be an item for the February Agenda

188. Parish Council Funding for Village Organisations

The Clerk had raised the question with DAPC about the availability of funding from the PC's precept for Halberton Pre School,. It was understood that the PC could give a grant or annual grants under the powers of S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972. If a substantial grant was required then the Pre School would have to provide accounts to prove the need etc.

189. Parish Plan Update

Cllr Mrs Cuthbert was in the process of placing an invitation in the Newsletter (as well as sending out personal invitations to persons who had already expressed an interest) to gauge support for forming an historical society.

190. Future Meetings/Courses

27th January 7.30pm Home Grown Meeting

It was suggested that perhaps consideration could be given to using the field adjacent to the cemetery for growing produce, subject to the landowner consenting. This could be raised with the Homegrown representative

191. Committee Reports

Amenities/Cemetery

- i. It was understood that the keys to the shed in the cemetery had still not been recovered from Mr L-Smith. Cllr Corden was pursuing this with him. If they were not recovered then it was agreed that the existing lock be replaced.
- ii. A Cemetery Working Party meeting was arranged for 3rd February at 10.00am to attend to further tidying up works. The mystery of the paving slabs in the cemetery had been resolved. A seat had previously been erected on top of them.
- iii A list of jobs was needed to be compiled to submit to the Communities Services Team
- iv. Thanks were given to everyone involved in working on Church Path/Rec. It was understood that there were a number of maintenance tasks required in the Rec` ie pressure washing of the concrete areas and dealing with the maintenance of the play equipment prior to the annual safety check being carried out by Rospa (or other appointed contractor). The Clerk advised that she was having problems contacting the Play Inspectors in order to obtain an alternative quote which may be cheaper than Rospa. It was agreed if she made no headway then she should request Rospa to carry out the inspection as normal.
- v. It was suggested that a light was needed along the path towards the Mead and Boyes Close

Footpaths

Cllr Mrs Cuthbert was interested in producing a Footpaths Guide, when she had the time available. It was agreed that this would be a very useful and informative document.

192. Clerk's Report

The Clerk had nothing to report as the period after Christmas was customarily quiet.

193. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST - 31ST DECEMBER 2008:

Bank Interest	4.45
Newsletter	94.06
Cemetery	25.00
Village of the Year Prize	500.00
TOTAL	£623.51

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST - 31ST DECEMBER 2009 £1734.49

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Cheque No	Amount	Vat	Total	Details
DD	24.00		24.00	MDDC – Cemetery Rates (Dec)
1264	349.08		349.08	Mrs C McIntyre – salary Jan/Feb
1265	67.35	5.79	73.14	Mrs C J McIntyre – repayment of costs of:- <ol style="list-style-type: none">i. 4 x ink cartridges £38.66ii. A4 paper x 2 £3.85iii. Postage stamps £24.84

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

1266	7.07	1.24	8.31	Ottery Office & Computer Ltd (stationery)
1267	5.63	0.84	6.47	Mrs C J McIntyre – repayment of cost of stationery
1268	54.89	8.23	63.12	Cllr Mrs J Cuthbert – repayment of cost of hosting web site

The above invoices were approved for payment

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	21149.28
Plus Receipts for period 1 st – 31 st Dec 2008	623.51
	TOTAL £21772.79
Minus Payments made for the above Period	£1734.49
	TOTAL £20038.30

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	19639.57
Current A/c	398.73
	TOTAL £20038.30

VILLAGE HALL FUNDS	1500.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	1738.79
VILLAGE OF THE YEAR PRIZE	500.00
PARISH PLAN FUND	433.54
CAR PARKING	1500.00
GENERAL FUNDS	14365.97
TOTAL	£20,038.30

Halberton Newsletter: Income for Period 1st April - 31ST Dec 2008 = £1570.51 less expenditure £1470.92 = Credit £99.59

194. Approval of Annual Report for Halberton Children`s Recreation Ground to submit to the Charity Commission

This was approved by the PC. The Chairman and Vice Chairman signed it accordingly

195. Rural Services Community

The Clerk provided details of the Network. It had been established to argue the case on behalf of rural services in a joined up fashion particularly about the often inadequate financial provision to them, which so often failed to pick up the additional cost of rurality. The PC had been invited to join the organisation but after some discussion it declined as it considered its needs were adequately served at the moment by the various other organisations it belonged to. However it was suggested the invitation be left on file.

196. Update on Parish Council Vacancies

The Clerk advised that due to the Christmas holidays there had been some delay in MDDC issuing the notices to advertise the vacancy which had occurred due to the sad death of the late Cllr Brian Wooding. It was agreed that after the statutory period had expired for an election to be called, that the Clerk publicise the two vacancies (the other resulting from the departure of Brian L-Smith) around the Parish. It was hoped that the two replacement Councillors would be in place by March.

197. Communities in Control` - Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity

The Clerk had this document available for any PCllr who would like to see it.

198. Miscellaneous Matters

- i. The Clerk had received details from Mid Devon Citizen`s Advice Bureau`s about its new 24 hour Telephone Advice Service. She would arrange for the information to be included in the Newsletter
- ii. It was understood that outside of the small chapel at Ash Thomas there was a small Victorian light which a local gentleman had offered to restore. The Vice-Chairman would make enquiries as to its ownership as consents would be required before the work was undertaken
- iii. The light at Pond Hill was being obscured by overgrown shrubs etc. The Chairman would take the matter up with the parishioner concerned
- iv. The railings at the pond had been repaired but concrete had been damaged. The PC agreed that the matter should be monitored for the moment
- v. It was agreed that the maintenance of the picnic table by the pond be an item for the February agenda
- vi. It was noted that the telephone box at Ash Thomas was still in situ, although BT vehicles had been sighted around the Parish transporting removed telephone boxes
- vii. Cllr Corden would make enquiries as to the ownership of the hedge/fence against "Redlands". The fencing required replacing.
- viii. The pavement up from the bus shelter had several large pot holes in it and was dangerous. This matter to be referred to CCllr Hannon
- ix. A caravan was now in situ in the field by the barn at Old Cordwents. Concern was expressed that this would encourage other caravan owners to park there. This could be a breach of the owners tenancy agreement. The Clerk to investigate,

199. Next PC Meetings

- i. 27th January 2009 – 7.00pm Planning Ctte Meeting
- ii. 10th February 2009
7.00pm Planning Ctte Meeting of Halberton Parish Council
7.30pm Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

The Meeting closed at 9.02pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED