

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH  
COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2004 AT 7.30PM AT ASH THOMAS  
VILLAGE HALL

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**38. Present**

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllrs P Gibbs, T Hugill, B Lane-Smith, R Radford, and Mesdames Armstrong, Fisher, Hull and Jepps, Mr S Hill, MDDC's Recycling Officer, PC Dodd and nine Members of the Public

**39. Apologies**

Cllr Saunders

**40. Public Forum**

The Chairman advised that the Public Forum part of the meeting would last for no longer than 15 minutes. After this time no member of the public would not be allowed to speak. If any member of the public continued to speak after the fifteen minute deadline they would be verbally requested to stop speaking. If they still refused to comply, then the meeting would be suspended and the person or persons concerned would be asked to leave the meeting.

Mr Stoneman indicated that he was disappointed that the PC was not prepared to support Halberton Club's plans for a new Sports Centre. He then went on to say that there appeared to be private meetings taking place in the Parish between certain parties which he was unhappy about. He requested to learn as to what criteria was used to determine who attended the meetings, why members of the Village Hall and Halberton Club had been excluded from these meetings and why public meetings had not been arranged as any redevelopment in the village would affect the community and therefore all the parishioners should be informed. The Chairman advised that the matter would be discussed later on in the meeting.

**41. Talk by Simon Hill – MDDC's Recycling Officer**

Mr Hill gave a very informative talk about recycling in Mid Devon. He advised that MDDC's costs for refuse collection were the second cheapest in the West Country. He explained that the problems with landfill sites created amongst other things, pollution and a waste of resources. Halberton parishioners had already been issued with recycling boxes but unfortunately Ash Thomas parishioners were awaiting this facility. The long term aim of MDDC was to bring the recycling service to more than 80% of people. It was understood that the scheme would mean that brown boxes containing food waste, garden waste, cardboard and envelopes would be collected fortnightly and the recycling boxes containing glass, newspaper, tins and cans, clothing etc would also be collected on the alternate weeks. A question and answer session followed.

**42. The Minutes of:-**

- i. The Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> June 2004
- ii. The Amenities Cttee Meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> June 2004
- iii. The Cemetery Cttee Meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> June 2004

were approved without amendment. The Minutes of the Footpath Cttee Meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> July were not yet available.

**43. Matters Arising**

- i. BT had advised that due to the volume of responses received there would be considerable delay in responding to the PC's letter regarding its objection to the proposed removal of the payphone at Pethertons.

- ii. DCC had advised that the drain covers at Millstream Gardens were the responsibility of the Highway Authority. The Clerk had forwarded this information to Mr B Wooding who had raised the query.
- iii. The Clerk had received a cheque from the motorist who had caused damage to Halberton Cemetery, to cover the cost of the re-instatement work. It was agreed that she should now contact Gardencare for the work to be carried out.
- iv. MDDC`s Cllr Lee would be attending the September PC Meeting
- v. The Clerk had reminded MDDC to recommence regular emptying of the litter bin in the Rec`
- vi. The Clerk had written to the Charity Commission regarding the responsibilities of the PC as Charitable Trustees. She was still waiting for a reply.

#### **44. Police Matters**

PC Dodd advised that three crimes had been committed at Ash Thomas Five Bridges had been broken into. A complaint had been received about the parking of vehicles at Pethertons. He was hopeful that this problem would be resolved shortly. An individual was suffering abuse. However the information he had received was very sketchy and unless more information was forthcoming he would be unable to investigate the allegations. The Vice-Chairman advised that a vehicle had smashed through a gate into a field and drove around the field in an erratic manner. Fortunately no cattle escaped. PC Dodd expressed concern as to the speed of vehicles travelling on roads into Uffculme. Vehicles were exceeding the speed limits travelling along Canal Hill. However he found there were no vehicles exceeding the limits at Lower Town and also along the Main Street as the chicanes tended to slow vehicles down. He found the road design at Millstream Gardens to be strange. The width of the road was only wide enough for vehicles to park on one side of the road only.

#### **45. NHS Foundation Trust**

It was agreed that a member of the Trust`s senior team be invited to attend the October PC Meeting to provide information about the work and future plans of the NHS Foundation Trust

#### **46. Parish Plan**

Cllr Mrs Armstrong in reply to the points raised earlier in the Public Forum advised that she had forwarded a letter to specific people to arrange a meeting during the month in order to `get the ball rolling`. The idea was to have a basic plan as to what Cordwents could be used for which would be of benefit to the Parish of Halberton. This would then be followed by a public meeting. Cllr Lane Smith produced a copy of an e-mail received from Cerian Henshaw, Portfolio Officer, Devon Property Community Services. Cerian Henshaw was requesting the PC to consider inviting Bill Holman and himself to make a case study presentation on the High Bickington Rural Development Programme to the community of Halberton, indicating the significant benefits of such a project against the potential risks if this approach was not taken. Cllr Mrs Armstrong replied that the whole purpose of drawing up a Parish Plan was to enable any possible redevelopment of Cordwents to be beneficial to the Parish and to reflect the needs of the Parish. Cllr Hugill stated that Cllr Mrs Armstrong`s Steering Group was set up to represent the whole Parish. There was a footpath and car park opportunity on the Cordwents site. He suggested that the outline of Cordwents needed to be looked at and to identify areas for a car park, possible businesses etc. The ideas would then need to be communicated to Bill Holman. He also suggested that transport should be organised to view the High Bickington development. The Vice-Chairman was of the view that the Parish Plan needed to be in draft form before any meetings took place. Cllr Lane-Smith suggested scrapping the proposed meeting in July. This was seconded by Cllr Gibbs. However none of the remaining Cllrs voted in agreement to this

proposal. The proposal failed. Cllr Mrs Armstrong advised that she would go ahead with it and bring her findings to the Steering Group Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> July. There was heated debate which continued for some time. At this point because of Cllr Lane-Smith's behaviour the Clerk refused to continue to minute the meeting and left the room. The Chairman suspended the meeting.

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**Chairman**

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**Dated**