

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON  
TUESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2006 AT 8.25PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL**

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**23. PRESENT**

Cllrs Mesdames Armstrong, Fisher, Hull and Jepps, Cllrs Browse, Gibbs, Lane Smith, Radford and Saunders, CClr Des Hannon and three Members of the Public

**24. APOLOGIES**

Cllr Cooper and PC Dodd

**25. PUBLIC FORUM**

Carole Graham reminded the PC that bookings for the hall by the PC should be made in advance of the meeting. The Clerk apologised that she had omitted to arrange this for the last meeting and would ensure that all future bookings were telephoned through to Mrs Graham. Mrs Graham also advised that the splay at the Jubilee bend was overgrown and needed to be cut back as it was obscuring visibility. The Chairman would speak to Mr A Stevens about the matter. Mrs Graham mentioned that the Flower Group had now started to plant up at Pond Hill. Barry Corden spoke on behalf of several youngsters of the Parish. He advised that the grass at the Mead wasn't being cut short enough for the youngsters to be able to play football properly. Further, when the Mead was cut, the cut grass was being left on the surface which again was creating problems for playing football. It was agreed that this matter be discussed later on in the meeting. A request was also made by Mr Corden for larger goal posts to be erected. The Vice-Chairman advised that he was investigating funding from Sport England for various projects which could include the provision of new goal posts.

**26. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2006**

These were approved subject to the amendment of the name 'Radworthy' in Minute 12 to 'Radford'

**27. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE AFOREMENTIONED MINUTES**

- i. In response to Mr Anderson's concerns, CClr Des Hannon had made representations to Alan Mitchard at DCC about the signage at the Willand Industrial Estate. Mr Mitchard had advised that street naming was the responsibility of the district councils; directional signage the responsibility of the County Council and estate signage the responsibility of the land owner. Mr Mitchard advised that he would investigate the matter further but stressed he could not give it high priority. He indicated that it appeared that some lorries had arrived in Willand and then overshot the industrial estate. It had also been noted that recently large lorries, in excess of the specified weight restriction, were travelling through Halberton.
- ii. It was agreed that the Community Safety Officer attend the July Parish Council Meeting and Officers from MDDC attend a meeting in the Autumn to discuss Waste Management.
- iii. It was understood that a gentleman who had recently moved into the Parish had requested an election for the vacant seat on the Council. It was the gentleman's democratic right to do so; however concern was expressed as to the cost implications for the Parish (no budget had been set aside for this eventuality, as it was such a rare an event) and also that there would be another election next year which again would incur the PC in costs. The Clerk advised as to the sequence of events leading to an election, which would take place, if the seat was contested, on 20<sup>th</sup> July. She advised that election packs for candidates would be available from 15<sup>th</sup> June from MDDC. Nominations had to be submitted to MDDC by 23<sup>rd</sup> June. The deadline date for candidates withdrawals was 28<sup>th</sup> June.
- iv. Representations had been made to the tenant farmer at Cordwents Farm regarding the muck spreading over the May Bank Holiday, in view of the number of complaints of the smell. It was understood that the farmer had acted within the regulations; however he accepted that it was a mistake to muck spread over a Bank Holiday and in future would avoid doing so again.

v. The Clerk had been unsuccessful in her attempts to contact Colin Carey at MDDC with regard to obtaining a bin for the Rec. However she subsequently discovered he was on extended sick leave, hence the reason for his lack of response. The Chairman in the meantime had been advised by Nick Sanderson that as soon as a second-hand bin was located, he would ensure it was passed to the PC.

vi. Glen Crocker, MDDC's Enforcement Officer had advised the Chairman that he was investigating the PC's concerns about the use of land in the village as a motorbike track. He would report back in due course.

vii. Cllr Gibbs had still not received a copy of the Mid Devon Association's accounts. He would continue to pursue this matter.

## **28. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS INCLUDING DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE (REVISED GUIDANCE FROM DAPC)**

The Clerk had received notification last month from DAPC stating that it was no longer necessary for the Chairman to make a declaration of acceptance of office. However, she had since received further notification from DAPC that this information was incorrect. Accordingly the Chairman signed the Declaration in the presence of the PC. The Chairman then went on to advise of the e-mail he had received from Rob Stevens on behalf of the Village Hall Cttee thanking the PC for supporting the Village Hall Project. This has been mentioned as a "credible achievement" in the latest brochure of Viridor Credits (UEL) and that the PC was specifically mentioned in the brochure.

## **29. POLICE MATTERS**

i. It was noted that the policing of the Mid Devon Show would now be chargeable. This had not been the case in previous years

ii. Notification had been received that there would be changes to Neighbourhood Policing Teams. Four Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) would be deployed to Tiverton police station in October 2006. A total of 48 PCSOs would be deployed throughout Devon. It had been demonstrated that PCSOs were effective in delivering neighbourhood policing, reassuring communities and reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. They would remain in communities, visible and on the beat and not deployed to work on high profile investigations. There would be a reduction in Neighbourhood Beat Managers.

## **30. DCC MATTERS**

i. A Local Government White Paper would be produced at some point. This would likely examine the issue of local government re-structuring and how county, district, town and parish councils might work together and be more efficient and effective. DCC was seeking the views of all parish councils on what could be done to improve the current three tier structure in Devon for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The PC had to submit its views by 31<sup>st</sup> July.

ii. It was understood that DCC, in line with the majority of Social Services Departments in England was now intending to buy all of its services and care for older people from the independent, voluntary and not-for-profit sector instead of being a direct provider. Services affected would include Charlton Lodge, Tiverton.

iii. The use of chemical control of weeds had been causing some concern to some parishes, although in recent years, DCC had limited this to urban areas and their use was strictly controlled by DCC's verge maintenance policy. DCC was now asking whether the PC felt that the use of chemical sprays was acceptable to the local community. There was some discussion but it was concluded that this was acceptable to the PC and for DCC to continue to carry out weed control work in the manner previously used

iv. The following road closures would be taking place:-

- a. 8<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> June – Unclassified Road at Crown Hill
- b. 21<sup>st</sup> June – 3<sup>rd</sup> July – C272 Lower Town

- c. 3<sup>rd</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> July – C186 Five Bridges to Brithem Bottom and Unclassified Road to Crosslands, Ash Thomas
- d. 22<sup>nd</sup> July – 9.00am – 6.30pm – C769 Halberton to Tiverton Road
- e. 22<sup>nd</sup> July – 8.00am – 6.30pm – Crown Hill, Halberton
- d. 27<sup>th</sup> July – 15<sup>th</sup> August – C186 Five Bridges to Brithem Bottom and Unclassified Road to Crosslands

Notices with plans about the closures had been displayed around the Parish

### **31. MDDC MATTERS**

A reminder letter had been received requesting that the questionnaire submitted by Bennett Leisure & Planning Ltd and which had been sent out in March to the PC, be completed and returned. This would assist MDDC in seeking the relevant amount of developer contributions in order to make improvements in the parishes. The Clerk had not received a questionnaire and would request that a copy be forwarded to her. It was agreed she would complete the same and liaise with the Vice-Chairman if necessary.

### **32. BROADBAND CONNECTION RE CLERK'S COMPUTER**

The Clerk advised that she was now connected to Broadband which was more effective in handling the PC workload. It was agreed as there had been no increase in the PC's contribution towards the Clerk's internet monthly costs for three years, that the PC would pay an additional annual amount of £30 towards the cost. The Clerk advised that as the package she was using included Anti-Virus, the PC would no longer have to pay an additional annual charge of £32 for this service.

### **33. CAR PARKING**

A number of proposals had been formulated by the Vice-Chairman on behalf of the PC which the Clerk had forwarded to Mr Folley at DCC. To date she had not received a response so would chase up Mr Folley.

### **34. FUNDING RE COUNTY COMMITTEE**

The Clerk had now obtained an application funding form for use by the PC. CCllr Hannon reminded the PC that he only had a small amount of money to use across the District and to bear this in mind when an application by the PC was submitted.

### **35. LITTER PICKING**

MDDC had notified that a Keep Mid Devon Litter Pick would be taking place on 28<sup>th</sup> October. The PC would be happy to be involved in this and also Club 17. Club 17 required litter picking equipment to be supplied prior to 28<sup>th</sup> October. The Clerk would register both the PC and Club 17's interest with MDDC.

### **36. COMPLAINT RE GRASS CUTTING IN CEMETERY**

A Parishioner had sent in a letter of complaint stating how poor she considered the grass cutting of the cemetery to be. Cllr Mrs Jepps advised that she too had received similar complaints. Mr Corden had also advised earlier that the grass had not been cut short enough in the Mead for youngsters to be able to play football. There was much debate. Cllr Mrs Fisher would monitor the grass cutting of the cemetery and the Clerk would speak to the grass cutting contractors about the standard of workmanship.

### **37. PUBLIC TRANSPORT PROBLEMS AT PETHERTONS**

A site meetings had taken place on 19<sup>th</sup> May regarding the withdrawal of the bus service to and from Pethertons. A Stagecoach bus had been used to demonstrate the reversing manoeuvre, which it considered to be dangerous and which was the reason given by Stagecoach in

withdrawing the service. It was also understood that the amount of money Stagecoach received from DCC for operating at Pethertons was only a small amount. Therefore the Company would not be adversely affected financially by withdrawing the service. Unfortunately the demonstration bus was involved in a minor collision at the site meeting which reinforced Stagecoach's stance that it was too dangerous for a regular service to be operated at Pethertons and therefore concluded that its notice to withdraw the service would stand. Cllr Hannon was most unhappy at the decision but felt there was not a lot else which could be done to resolve the matter but would continue to monitor the situation. In the meantime the Clerk had received a letter from DCC reminding the PC of the Ring and Rode service which persons at Pethertons and elsewhere could use.

### **38. NEW FOOTPATH/FENCING**

The Clerk had received a copy of the 2002 letter from Roger Folley re the fencing specification. She would check with Mr Folley whether the amount quoted for the leasing consideration still stood as these figures could now be out of date.

### **39. VICTIM SUPPORT**

It was agreed to invite a speaker from the organisation to the November PC Meeting.

### **40. REVISED REQUIREMENTS RE DEVON CALOR VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION**

The Clerk advised that an additional requirement of the competition was that the PC needed to submit a supplementary statement providing information about Halberton. She had drafted a statement which she had circulated to members for approval. The Statement was approved un-amended. The Clerk would arrange to forward this onto the organisation.

### **41. MEETINGS ATTENDED**

#### **6<sup>th</sup> June 2006 - Standards Ctte Meeting of MDDC**

The Vice-Chairman attended this meeting. He advised that declarations of interest were discussed. It was emphasised that if, during a conversation there was a deviation from the subject matter to another subject which involved a Cllr having a personal/prejudicial interest, then the Cllr concerned, must ensure that his/her interest be declared.

### **42. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

#### **i. 7<sup>th</sup> July 2006 – Devon Playing Fields Association AGM**

The Vice-Chairman would attend this meeting but did not require lunch

### **43. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **i. Communications, Footpaths and Environment**

DCC had forwarded details of forthcoming Summer Workshops. The Chairman had also received details and it was likely that he and/or Cllr Radford would attend. A meeting of the Communications, Footpaths and Environment Ctte was held on 7<sup>th</sup> June. Matters discussed included i. maintenance of the paths, ii. the footpaths brochure which was progressing iii. weed in the canal which was causing concern iv. verge cutting which had not been carried out satisfactorily over hanging hedges/branches vi. water pipe relining vii. The need for a volunteer to deliver the Newsletter to the Crossparks area viii. Cllr Gibbs would see whether a local educational establishment would be interested in helping to update the Website ix. Cllr Mrs Armstrong would collect information re school details for the Emergency Plan. x. Mrs Lane-Smith had agreed to update the Parish Welcome Pack Since the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> June there were updates on the following matters:- it was agreed that the suggestion of communicating with Sustrans regarding the use of path from the cemetery to the canal for the National Cycle Network to be an excellent idea. A list of `culprits` with overhanging trees/branches would be brought to the next meeting. It was also understood that a volunteer may be willing to deliver Newsletters in the Crossparks area.

## ii. Amenities

The Vice-Chairman advised that there had not been a meeting recently as the Ctte was not in a position to take matters forward. Cllr Mrs Hull was obtaining quotes from various companies for play equipment and the Vice-Chairman would canvas companies for the cost of planters etc. The Vice-Chairman would investigate why a goal post was lying on the ground at the Rec`.

## 44. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk was extremely pleased with the new computer and Broadband connection which would make her work for the PC much easier. She thanked the PC for the acquisition and said it was very much appreciated.

## 45. ACCOUNTS

A letter of thanks had been received from Mrs Erasmus for the vouchers, which the PC had sent to her, as a gesture of its appreciation for carrying out the internal audit of the PC's accounts. She advised that she would be happy to continue to audit the PC's accounts.

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> – 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2006:

Bank Interest	34.00
Newsletter	473.63
VAT Receipt	1229.23
Cemetery	505.50
TOTAL	£2242.36

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> – 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2006                      £1896.22

### PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Cheque No	Amount	Vat	Total	Details
1015	50.00		50.00	Donation to Club 17
1016	5.24		5.24	SWW = Water Charge re cemetery
1017	15.00		15.00	Repayment to Mrs McIntyre – vouchers re Mrs Erasmus
1018	14.70		14.70	Repayment to Mrs McIntyre – re postage
1019	278.82	48.79	327.61	Education Matters – Newsletter
1020	15.00		15.00	Mrs J Austin – Newsletter delivery costs
1021	47.81	8.37	56.18	Ottery Office & Computer – photocopying
1022	323.00	56.53	379.53	Gardencare- grass cutting
1023	243.88		243.88	Mrs C McIntyre – Salary May/June
1024	30.00		30.00	Mrs C J McIntyre – Cont 3 months Broadband
1025	16.79		16.79	Repayment to Mrs McIntyre re postage

The above payments were approved for payment

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	20740.99
Plus Receipts for period 1 <sup>st</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> May	2242.36
TOTAL	£22983.35
Minus Payments made for the above Period	1896.22
TOTAL	£21087.13

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	20374.19
Current A/c	712.94
	TOTAL £21087.13

VILLAGE HALL FUNDS	400.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	2128.79
PARISH PLAN FUND	300.00
GENERAL FUNDS	18258.34
	TOTAL £21087.13

Halberton Newsletter: Income for Period 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> May = £473.63 less expenditure of £263.55 = £210.08 net profit

#### **46. MEMBERS BUSINESS**

- i. Concern was expressed at the inaccurate information received from contractors regarding the schedule of works as to the water pipe relining works in Halberton. The works appeared to have come to an abrupt end. The PC was not being kept up to date. There was much discussion. The Vice-Chairman felt that the PC should be a main point of contact by contractors/utilities in order that information could be cascaded down by the Clerk. However it was considered that no further action should be taken by the PC in this respect in view of the fact that often changes to the schedule of works took place with minimal notice and in some circumstances the Clerk would not have sufficient time to pass on the information.
- ii. The Chairman would shortly be attending a presentation of the Exe Valley Project.

#### **47. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

Nothing was raised.

#### **48. FUTURE MEETINGS**

- i. 11<sup>th</sup> July 2006 at 7.00pm – Planning Meeting of Halberton PC at Ash Thomas Village Hall
- ii. 11<sup>th</sup> July 2006 at 7.30pm – Ordinary Meeting of Halberton PC at Ash Thomas Village Hall

The Meeting closed at 10.20pm

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CHAIRMAN

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DATED

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