

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 13TH MARCH 2007 AT 7.00PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

216. Present

The Chairman (K Browse), Vice-Chairman (B Lane-Smith) Cllrs Gibbs, Saunders, Mesdames Armstrong, Fisher, Hull and Jepps, C.Cllr Des Hannon, two Member of the Public and Mr J Guscott, Head of Planning at MDDC

217. Public Forum

No questions were raised

218. Apologies

Cllrs Constable, Cooper, Radford and PC Dodd

219. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meetings of 13th February 2007 were approved and signed accordingly subject to the inclusion of Cllr Mrs Hull's name in the `Apologies` part of the Minutes and the deletion of Cllr Mrs Armstrong's name

220. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- i. The Clerk had been very unhappy with the response she had received from PC Dodd concerning the speeding of traffic in Halberton. In the Minutes of the February meeting it had been suggested by a member of the public that when the police had carried out a speed check in Halberton some weeks ago, they may have possibly worn reflective jackets which would have then served as a warning to motorists that police were in the area. Some motorists would have most certainly adjusted their usual speeds in order to comply with speed requirements in the area. This in turn would have created an inaccurate picture of the speeding problems in Halberton. In an e-mail reply PC Dodd had stated "I am well capable of using a speed gun to catch people speeding or to measure the speed of traffic. SC Maynard is similarly capable. I see no point in either of us returning to a place where we know there is no speeding and wasting our time confirming this, if the council will not then believe our officers." The Clerk advised that there had been no mention made in the February Minutes of the PC having concerns about the police using speed guns but simply the fact that they had likely worn reflective jackets. PC Dodd's results had also shown that some motorists had in fact been speeding, so it was untrue of him to state that no speeding had taken place. C.Cllr Hannon had expressed concern at the tone of PC Dodd's response and had e-mailed him an appropriate response. After some discussion it was resolved by the PC that the Clerk should write a letter of complaint to PC Dodd's Line Manager about his poor attitude and misinformation. The Clerk had also received a letter from Mr D Slack, parishioner, in which he offered a number of suggestions for making the High Street in Halberton, safer. It was agreed to respond to Mr Slack's proposals more fully when a response had been received from PC Dodd's Line Manager.
- ii. Cllr Saunders advised that to date, he had not been contacted by DCC about the problems of large vehicles driving through Brithem Bottom, despite the Clerk requesting this be carried out. She would chase the matter up.
- iii. The Clerk had written to Mr Jowett at Devon Wheels 2 Work CIC, requesting further details about the work of the Company etc, in response to its request for funding. To date she had not received a response. It was agreed that the letter be left on file
- iv. The Chairman had spoken to Julie Woolley at TDCTA regarding a request for a donation from the PC to assist the organisation. The Chairman understood that a formal response by e-mail would be forwarded to the Clerk shortly by Ms Woolley

221. Chairman`s Announcements

An e-mail had been received from a post-graduate student who was currently undertaking research as part of his dissertation for his MA in Town and Country Planning. He had chosen Halberton as one of his areas of study, in view of the village being identified in MDDC`s Conservation Area Appraisal as being subject to various traffic calming schemes that MDDC evidently perceived as inappropriate. It was agreed that Cllr Radford may be prepared to assist the student and the Clerk would contact him accordingly. The Community Council was considering using Halberton Village Hall as its venue for its Climate Change Conference on 17th October. If it went ahead it would hopefully put the Village Hall on the map as a Centre which could be used for other similar events. Contact had been made by DAPC as to whether the PC needed any Prince`s Trust volunteers for any tasks in the Parish eg helping with decorating the Village Hall etc. It was agreed that at the present time their services were not required although the PC appreciated the offer. An article would be published in the Newsletter about the housing development at Pethertons in order to keep parishioners aware of developments.

222. Police Matters

PC Dodd had advised that the police would try and keep an eye on the bus shelter at Pethertons in view of incidents which had occurred recently. However he advised that “officers would probably be diverted to incidents elsewhere”. He also indicated that no phone calls had been received about the incidents and that only three criminal offences had been reported in Halberton this year and these had all occurred at the Hartnoll Farm complex. He suggested that the police should be contacted at the time any incidents were occurring. He advised that 08452777444 was the number for non-urgent matters and 999 if criminal offences were being committed.

223.DCC Matters

- i. The Clerk had received a letter from the Chief Executive of DCC which outlined the potential impact of a unitary authority for Exeter, if Exeter was successful in its bid. DCC was of the view that the interests of the people of Devon would be best served by retaining the current structure of local government, building on the many good examples of joint working between County, District, Town and Parish Councils to achieve improved services.
- ii. The National Trailboat Festival would be taking place on 24th – 26th May 2008. It would be a good means of promoting the Parish and at the same time would bring tourists and income into the Parish and the District. It was expected that 40 boats would be taking part. Public participation from Halberton was to be encouraged.
- iii. CCllr Hannon was advised of the following problems which he would look into:-
 - a. The hedge running from 26 High Street, needed cutting
 - b. Potholes in the road at Muxbeare Road required filling in
 - c. A gully at the side of the road at Greenways needed to be filled
- iv. CCllr Hannon advised that DCC`s Customer Service Centre had had recent problems whereby due to the volume of calls and staff training long delays had been experienced by members of the public attempting to get through to the Call Centre. The problems had now been resolved.

224. igh Street, which had raised various safety issues.

Mid Devon District Council

- i. The Clerk had available the Minutes of the Standards Ctte Meeting of 17th January.
- ii. The Clerk had a list of contact numbers for MDDC. However it was noted that most departments now had the Customer Service Centre number 01884 255255 for their point of contact.

225. Proposed Street Names For Former Townsend House Development

MDDC had advised that only one street name was required for the development - `Greenacre`. This was approved by the PC, however the Clerk had subsequently been advised by Midas Homes that three street names were required. It was suggested that only one name - `Greenacre` was the preferred choice, but Townsend Close was also considered acceptable. If PCllrs could come up with other names, they were to advise the Clerk accordingly. A brochure showing the proposed development forwarded by Midas Homes had been circulated around the PC.

226. Proposed Closure of Church Path for Renewing Water Pipes by Balfour Beattie

It was understood that Balfour Beatty would be renewing/resleeving water pipes in the Church Path area in May. The contractors had hoped to commence the works much earlier but because of notice requirements could not start the works until May.

227. Proposed Amendments to the Model Code of Conduct

The Clerk had received a consultation paper on proposed amendments to the Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members. It was available to any member who wished to see it.

228. The Recreational Ground

The Vice-Chairman was still dealing with the sign for the Rec` but due to work commitments had been unable to finalise this matter at the present time. The Chairman was still in the process of completing the application form for the Calor Village of the Year Competition and would return this to the Clerk at the April meeting. Following the March Amenities Cttee Meeting at which the condition of the swings were raised, it was resolved that in addition to the equipment that the PC had previously agreed to purchase, it would now be purchasing a set of swings. Thus it was resolved to purchase the following total items:-

- i. Junior Tower and Springer - £10,065
- ii. Fawns Swings - £1681.68
- iii. Loose Fill - £3600
- iv. Ground Work - £580

TOTAL COST £15926.68

It was resolved that the PC would purchase the equipment with S.106 money, subject to the PC satisfying the requirements of MDDC in order for the money to be released for the project. Graham Isaac was thanked for giving his time to this project, particularly all the research he had carried out on the PC`s behalf.

229. Victim Support – Request for Donation and Volunteers

It was resolved that the PC would make a donation of £50 in the new financial year.

230. Transforming Public Services in Devon – Information sought by DAPC

DAPC had prepared a submission which had been forwarded to the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Government Officer for the South West on 25th January with DAPC`s shared vision, aims and principles with regards to transforming public services in Devon. Central Government expects all local councils to deliver improvements, and, parish councils as the tier of local government closest to local communities, had an important contribution to make to the reforms. DAPC welcomed the PC`s practical suggestions by the end of March for projects or ways of working which should be included in DAPC`s project plan.

The PC raised the possibility of making the PC more accessible eg by having surgeries twice a year at which Parish, County and District Councillors could attend in order to talk to parishioners and answer any concerns and queries raised. It was suggested that the holding of these types of surgeries should be included on the agenda for the June PC Meeting, for consideration.

231. Car Park/Footpath Update

The Clerk reported that Mark Copleston of Midas Homes, Alison Fish of MDDC, Meg Booth and/or Tony Matthews of DCC would be attending the site meeting arranged by the Clerk on Monday, 19th March at 10.00am at Cordwents. There would also be representation from the PC at the meeting.

232. Mr J Guscott – Head of Planning at MDDC re wall at 91 High Street, Halberton

Mr Guscott was welcomed to the meeting by the PC. He advised that he had spoken to Mr and Mrs Hawton, the owners of the property at length. The wall which had been erected, had been the subject of a planning consent issued by MDDC and had been built in accordance with the planning permission.. However, a large number of parishioners had raised visibility concerns. On further investigation by MDDC, it appeared that when Orpington Court was built, a visibility splay should have been constructed but this was never done and the paperwork relating to the visibility splay has gone missing at MDDC. In view of this, the Planning Officer when considering the planning application, granted permission for the erection of the wall without being in receipt of the full facts. Mr Guscott advised that a report about the wall was being prepared and would be submitted to the next Planning Cttee meeting at MDDC. The outcome would be one of the following:-

- i. To take no action and leave the wall in situ
- ii. Action to be taken involving the making of a Modification Order to reduce the size of the wall
- iii. MDDC to then serve a Modification Order on Mr and Mrs Hawton to alter the wall. (It was understood that MDDC would pay the costs of any such alteration to the wall and all associated costs). Mr and Mrs Hawton could appeal against the Modification Order and if this was the case there would then have to be a Public Enquiry. It was understood that this was an unlikely outcome as it appeared that all parties would be happy for the wall to be lowered. Mr Guscott stressed that Mr and Mrs Hawton had been completely blameless in the matter. He was thanked for attending the meeting and for providing this explanation.

233. Other Planning Matters for consideration by Mr Guscott

Concerns had been expressed about developments taking place at the Hartnoll Farm complex, particularly about storage and possible industrial use etc. Mr Guscott would arrange for the Enforcement Officer to check out whether industrial use was being carried out rather than agricultural use at the complex.

234. Planning Applications for consideration

<u>Planning App No</u>	<u>Name/Address</u>	<u>Details</u>
07/00161/FULL	J M Clapp, Hartnoll Farm	Erection of extension to agricultural shed

PC's Comments: No objections subject to there being a proven agricultural need and visit by MDDC's Planning Officer to establish that need. The Chairman and Cllr Mrs Hull declared an interest

07/00215/FULL	C J Parish & Sons, Mountstephens Farm	Erection of silage clamp
---------------	---------------------------------------	--------------------------

PC's Comments: No objections. Cllr Mrs Hull declared an interest

07/00276/FULL Mr & Mrs Tidborough, Ivy Farmhouse Conversion of outbuilding for additional accommodation

PC's Comments: No objections.

07/00373/FULL Mr & Mrs Carroll, Remberton Farm Conversion of barn to holiday let

07/00381/LBC As above but for Listed Building Consent

PC's Comments: No objections to both applications

07/00385/FULL Mr & Mrs Britton, Row Ridge Farm Conversion of barns to live/work units

07/00384/LBC As above but for Listed Building Consent

PC's Comments: No objections to both applications

07/00386/FULL Mr & Mrs J Britton, Seckerleigh Farm Conversion of barn 1 live/work unit

No objections. The Chairman and Cllr Mrs Hull declared an interest

07/00397/FULL Mr R Robbins, Lisieux, Crown Hill Erection of porch to side of property

PC's Comments: No objections.

07/00412/FULL Mr Coles, 7 Pethertons Erection of detached garage

PC's Comments: Object on the grounds of the size of the garage in relation to the size of house but if MDDC does decide to grant planning permission a condition needs to be included in the permission whereby the garage is not to be used as anything other than a private garage in connection with a residential dwelling

07/00465/FULL Mr G Disney, Shutehanger Erection of 2 stable blocks

PC's Comments: No objections.

235. Planning Decisions received from MDDC

<u>Planning Ref</u>	<u>Name/Address</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>No. of Conditions</u>
06/02460/FULL	Mr & Mrs Britton, 1 Golden Harvest Cottages, Halberton	Granted	3
07/00001/FULL	Mr & Mrs S Manning, 24 High St	Granted	4
07/00008/FULL	Mrs D J Squire, 64 High St	Refused	
07/00116/CAC	Mr S Burges	Granted	1

236. Miscellaneous Planning Matters

Planning App No. 07/00008/FULL – Mrs D J Squire, The Annexe, 64 High St, - Change of use of annexe to permanent dwelling

The Clerk had received an explanation from MDDC as to the time scales set for determining the application. This was unsatisfactory to some members of the PC, particularly Cllr Mrs Jepps who had abstained from voting on any of the planning applications discussed at tonight's meeting. She was of the view that any opinions expressed by the PC in relation to each of the planning applications would simply not be considered by MDDC and therefore it was a complete waste of time in expressing any concerns/opinions.

237. Meetings Attended

6th March 2007 – Canal Advisory Ctte Meeting

The Chairman, Cllrs Mrs Hull and Radford attended this. Several matters were discussed including the National Trailboat Festival which would be taking place on 24th – 26th May 2008. It was expected that 40 boats would be taking part.

238. Committee Reports

ii. Communications, Footpaths & Environment

A quote in the sum of £360 had been received from Mr N Page to carry out work on the Parish paths during 2007. It was resolved by the PC to accept the quotation.

239. Clerk`s Report

The Clerk was still finding her new photocopier/printer/scanner heavy on ink usage. She was now purchasing ink cartridges on E-bay from a reputable supplier and at half the cost of High Street stores. The Clerk was thanked for being so cost effective.

240. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST – 28TH FEBRUARY 2007:

Bank Interest	27.76
Newsletter	121.40
TOTAL	£149.16

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST – 28TH FEBRUARY 2007 £496.91

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Cheque No	Amount	Vat	Total	Details
1080	56.34		56.34	Inland Revenue – Income Tax Jan-March
1081	55.00		55.00	Broadband Connection March-May 2007 - £30, Internet March – May 2006 - £15, Phone Calls Dec – March £10
1082	3.20	0.56	3.76	Mrs C J McIntyre – repayment costs office paper
1083	50.00		50.00	Mr N Page – footpath work
1084	15.32	2.69	18.01	Mrs C McIntyre – repayment costs of ink cartridges
1085	3.03		3.03	SWW – Cemetery Rates
1086	243.88		243.88	Mrs C McIntyre – salary March/April

The above invoices were approved for payment

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	15816.04
Plus Receipts for period 1 st – 28 th February	149.16
	TOTAL £15965.20
Minus Payments made for the above Period	496.91
	TOTAL £15468.29

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	13636.35
Current A/c	1831.94
	TOTAL £15468.29

VILLAGE HALL FUNDS	400.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	1778.79
PARISH PLAN FUND	433.54
GENERAL FUNDS	1 2855.96
TOTAL	£15468.29

Halberton Newsletter: Income for Period 1st April – 28th Feb = £1304.12 less expenditure of £1609.58 = deficit of £305.46

241. Accounts Matters

The Clerk advised that up until this month the Newsletter had been in credit. Unfortunately the last lot of publication costs had resulted in the Newsletter being in deficit in the sum of £305.46. There was still some advertising monies to come in before the year end, which would reduce the deficit. The Clerk would also include the Newsletter on next month`s agenda with a view to advertising fees being increased. The Clerk had also discovered that the PC had not been credited with a payment of £250 from the Inland Revenue for preparing the PAYE accounts on line for 2004/05. She had made enquiries and Inland Revenue would be sending her this payment shortly.

242. Appointment of External Auditor

It was understood that Alun Williams had been appointed by the Audit Commission as auditor to Halberton Parish Council.

243. Members Business

- i. The Vice-Chairman advised of flooding problems near the speed hump adjacent to his property. There was some discussion but no course of action decided
- ii. An advertising sign for Mid Devon Boat Hire had been erected on the old railway bridge at Halberton Halt, to Rawridge Junction. The Clerk to ascertain whether advertising permission had been granted by MDDC
- iii. The name sign adjacent to 14 Cross Parks had still not been replaced by DCC. The Clerk to chase up.

244. Miscellaneous Matters

- i. Concern had been expressed about off-road motor cycling at Pethertons. However it was understood that no illegal activity was being carried out..

ii.

iii. ugill

245. Next Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday, 10th April 2007 at Halberton Village Hall at 7.00pm

The Meeting ended at 9.55pm

DATE

CHAIRMAN

Filename: 14.Ordinary Minutes - 13.03.2007.doc
Directory: D:\My Documents\Halberton\Minutes
Template: C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Application
Data\Microsoft\Templates\Normal.dot
Title: MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON
TUESDAY, 11TH OCTOBER 2005 AT 7
Subject:
Author: Christine McIntyre
Keywords:
Comments:
Creation Date: 18/03/2007 16:37
Change Number: 17
Last Saved On: 28/04/2007 07:06
Last Saved By: Halberton Parish Council
Total Editing Time: 365 Minutes
Last Printed On: 01/07/2007 21:30
As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 8
Number of Words: 3,354 (approx.)
Number of Characters: 19,120 (approx.)