

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH
COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 13TH MAY 2003 AT 7.00PM AT HALBERTON
VILLAGE HALL

23. Present

K Browse, A Cooper, P Gibbs, T Hugill, R Radford, Mesdames Armstrong, Fisher, Hull, Jepps, and thirteen Members of the Public which included Paul Edwards, Chief Executive MDDC

24. Apologies

There were none

25. Public Forum

Mr Payne requested that at the Annual Parish Meeting, more time be allowed for parishioners to raise questions, express their views etc.

26. Members Declarations of Office

These were all received by the Clerk from the persons present at the meeting. It was proposed and seconded that the Clerk obtain a copy of the guide 'The Good Councillor's Guide' for each member at a cost of £2 per copy.

27. Election of Chair and Vice –Chair

Cllr Cooper was proposed by Cllr Mrs Fisher and seconded by Cllr Radford, to be Chair. The proposal was carried. Cllr Browse was proposed and seconded to be Vice-Chair. The proposal was carried.

28. Co-option to fill vacancy on the Parish Council

Two persons had applied for the vacancy. Mr Brian Wooding and Mr Brian Lane-Smith. Details had been circulated about the two candidates. A ballot was taken resulting in five votes for Mr Lane Smith and four votes for Mr Wooding. Mr Lane Smith was duly co-opted onto the Parish Council. He made his declaration in the presence of the Clerk.

29. Appointment of Committees and other Appointments

It was proposed by Cllr Hugill and seconded by Cllr Mrs Fisher that the Committees should consist as per attached sheet. The proposal was carried. In addition Mrs Onley-Gregson was proposed and seconded to remain as Governor of Halberton School. There were other organisations represented by Members of the Parish Council which would be considered at the next meeting.

30. The Minutes of:-

- i. The Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 8th April 2003 and
- ii. The Newsletter Ctte Meeting of 29th April 2003 were approved without amendment.

31. Matters Arising

- i. The Clerk had heard nothing further from BT, about its proposed plan to remove the pay-phone at Pethertons, other than receiving an acknowledgement from BT to her letter of objection, several months ago. She would write to BT again.
- ii. The chain link fence running from Lower Town to Boyce Close, Pethertons had still not been repaired, despite MDDC's assurances that it would deal with the matter. The Clerk to chase up.

- iii. The Devon County Waste Local Plan had been circulated amongst the Members but other than the fact the document could have been made more concise, there were no comments to add.
- iv. The Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance Company had agreed not to charge the PC for the March grass cut of the Recreational Ground and the Mead, as the PC's contract with the company did not commence until April
- v. Letters of thanks had been received from Exeter East and Mid Devon Victim Support and Tiverton and District Community Transport Association for the donations from the PC
- vi. Mr Densham had advised that a replacement 'No Cycling' sign could be erected at Church Path on the church railings or onto a post. It was understood from Cllr Mrs Armstrong that to erect the sign on the railings would require permission from the church authorities. It was agreed that the sign should be erected on a post and the Clerk to arrange for Mr Densham to meet representatives of the PC on site to decide an appropriate location.
- vii. Mr Densham understood that it was a matter for the PC to sort out the additional village sign on the Willand Road and once this had been done MDDC would construct the stone planters. However he also indicated that money for the coming year was extremely limited and he could give no assurance that money would be available for the planters.
- viii. Will Molyneaux had advised that he would look at the Pethertons area to see whether a litter pick was required of the area. He advised that the previous litterbin had been burnt out and he was currently looking at alternative post mounted bins. He suggested that a replacement bin should be sited in a position which would encourage more people to use it, as the old bin had been 'tucked away'. The Clerk to arrange a site meeting.
- ix. The Clerk had been advised that the PC's grant application for rubber safety granules would be determined during May and then submitted to MDDC's Members for approval in early June. The Clerk had also submitted an application to the Devon Playing Fields Association for funding. In addition she had contacted Paul Tucker who would let her know in due course whether there were any other appropriate funders to apply to.
- x. Mr Quance of Bereavement Services had provided general information regarding the headstones in the cemetery. It was agreed that the way forward would be to organise a site meeting with him.
- xi. Mr Edwards MDDC's Chief Executive, advised that with regard to train services at Tiverton Parkway, he had written to the Strategic Rail Authority to raise concerns that trains were not stopping at Parkway on their way south to Exeter and Plymouth. Passengers were being decanted on a regular basis at Taunton and taken by bus to Parkway. He indicated that this was undermining Parkway and considered it was a ploy on the part of train operators to render Parkway uneconomic and possibly a candidate for closure. The Strategic Rail Authority responded by stating that there were no plans to make changes at Parkway at present or to close the station, as it recognised the importance of the station, both in terms of its strategic location adjacent to the M5 and its proximity to local communities. Virgin Trains had also responded indicating that it would remain committed to serving Tiverton Parkway. Whilst there would be some changes in its Summer 2003 timetable the frequency of stops would be at least two hourly on weekdays.

32. Chairman's Announcements

A new post box had been erected at Pigs Foot, to replace the box that had been stolen. The Chairman indicated that he had been dismayed at how the Newsletter Ctte Meeting, held previously had been conducted. He stated that he was not prepared to tolerate such behaviour at future meetings.

33. Police Matters

It was reported that an Ash Thomas resident had received details about a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Cllr Mrs Fisher would provide further details as and when available. It was reported that a gang was operating in the district, targeting chicken farms.

34 Mid Devon District Council Matters

- i. The Parish Plan Vision Day on 12th April had been very successful with numerous ideas from parishioners as to how they would like to see the Parish develop. A further meeting was being arranged to move the plan forward, on Wednesday, 11th June at 7.00pm.
- ii. It was understood that under new legislation an authority may pay a 'Parish basic allowance' to its Chairman only, or to each of its members. It was agreed to place this item on the June agenda for further consideration.

35. Devon County Council Matters

- i. DCC was supporting 'The Online Nation Campaign', a national initiative aimed at encouraging people to access the Internet. The campaign would run between 12th May – 8th June. DCC had engaged a mobile internet café 'The Shuttle'. Trainers would be on hand. It was agreed that the Clerk contact the organiser to request the facility to visit Halberton on Friday, 6th June. However in the first instance, the Clerk to ascertain that the PC would not incur any charges.
- ii. DCC was currently engaged on a Public Service Agreement programme with the Government to ensure that 90% of the 3000 miles of public rights of way in Devon were easy to use by March 2005. All rights of way would be inspected and improvement works to be carried out if needed. The Warden for the Parish of halberton would contact the Vice Chairman prior to the inspection.

36. Training Courses for Councillors

Approval was given for Cllrs Mrs Armstrong, Gibbs, Hugill and Lane-Smith to attend a 'New Councillor' training day at Exeter on 10th June at a cost of £35 per delegate. Approval was also given for the Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Mrs Fisher, Gibbs, Hugill and Lane-Smith to attend a 'Quality Parishes' training day on 14th June at Tiverton Hotel at a cost of £10 per delegate. There were PP3 training courses organised by DCC during May – August. The Vice-Chairman indicated that he would attend courses he felt were beneficial, but both he and Cllr Hugill had already attended some of the courses advertised, during the previous year.

37. Devon Association of Parish Councils County Ctte 2003-07

It was proposed and seconded that the Vice-Chairman be nominated to stand for the DAPC County Committee for 2003-2007. The Vice-Chairman agreed to the nomination.

38. Future Meetings

- i. 14th May 2003 – Mid Devon Transport Forum, Crediton

The date of the meeting was incorrect. However Cllr Mrs Fisher would be unable to attend in any event.

- ii. 29th May 2003 Market and Coastal Towns Initiative – Willand Village Hall

All members of the PC were invited to attend.

iii. 11th June 2003 – Culm Area Ctte – The Village Hall, Culmstock at 7.00pm

It was requested that items for the Agenda to include the problem of abandoned vehicles and the concerns of many parishioners who were finding it difficult to pay the increased Council Tax for 2003/04. In addition, to seek an assurance from DCC that for 2004/05 the tax was not increased above the rate of inflation.

iv. Mid Devon Association of Local Councils- AGM 26th June 2003 at 7.30pm at Tiverton Town Hall

Cllr Hugill would attend this. The Clerk to pass to him the Agenda etc.

39. Committee Reports

i. Cemetery

Cllr Mrs Fisher advised that progress was being made with regards to getting a gate inserted into the hedge. This would allow a tractor to come up across Cordwents, and through the gate in order to get rid of the compost in the cemetery. Cllr Mrs Fisher was liaising with DCC's County Farms Department and hopefully permission would be granted in due course. There were problems with the grass cutting contractor as the Ctte considered his work was not up to scratch. The Ctte to meet with him to explain their concerns.

ii. Amenities

A copy of the Rospa report with recommendations to improve the safety of the play equipment had been handed to the Chairman and Cllr Mrs Jeffs. The Chairman would liaise with Cllr Mrs Jepps about the report. Cllr Mrs Jepps explained that both villages were entered in the Best Kept Village competition. She was hopeful that grants would be obtained for the purchase of rubber safety granules.

iii. Footpaths

The work was ongoing.

iv. Highways

The up to date situation re the damaged highway sign outside the Methodist Chapel, would be reported at the Annual Parish Meeting, which would follow shortly. Mrs Fisher had supplied the Clerk with a list of highway matters which needed to be dealt with by DCC. A parishioner had written a letter to DCC expressing his grave concerns re safety of pedestrians in Halberton. The item to be included on the June Agenda.

40. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST – 30TH APRIL 2003:

<i>Bank Interest</i>	<i>16.25</i>
<i>Income – 1st Aid Course</i>	<i>128.00</i>
<i>Parish Paths (PP3)</i>	<i>585.00</i>
<i>Newsletter</i>	<i>432.40</i>
<i>Refund of VAT</i>	<i>521.80</i>
<i>Precept 2003/04</i>	<i>8,452.00</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>£10,135.45</i>

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST – 30TH APRIL 2003 ***£1784.69***

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>17.46</i>		<i>17.46</i>	<i>MDDC – Rates re Cemetery</i>
<i>100704</i>	<i>216.24</i>		<i>216.24</i>	<i>Mrs C McIntyre – Salary (less tax deductions)</i>
<i>100705</i>	<i>59.00</i>	<i>10.33</i>	<i>69.33</i>	<i>Playground Management Ltd – Playground eqt inspection</i>
<i>100706</i>	<i>110.00</i>		<i>110.00</i>	<i>Town & Country – grass cutting cemetery</i>
<i>100707</i>	<i>38.37</i>	<i>6.71</i>	<i>45.08</i>	<i>Mrs C McIntyre – repayment cost of stationery</i>
<i>100708</i>	<i>50.00</i>		<i>50.00</i>	<i>Mrs J Austin – Buffet – Parish Plan Day</i>
<i>100709</i>	<i>51.46</i>	<i>9.00</i>	<i>60.46</i>	<i>Landscaping & grounds Maint., - grass cutting fields</i>
<i>100710</i>	<i>660.14</i>		<i>660.14</i>	<i>Allianz Cornhill – Annual Insurance Premium</i>
<i>100711</i>	<i>15.00</i>		<i>15.00</i>	<i>Devon Playing Field Ass – Annual Subs</i>
<i>100712</i>	<i>100.00</i>	<i>17.50</i>	<i>117.50</i>	<i>St John Ambulance - 1st Aid Course</i>
<i>100713</i>	<i>204.25</i>	<i>35.75</i>	<i>240.00</i>	<i>Education Matters – Newsletter Publication costs</i>
<i>100714</i>	<i>24.71</i>		<i>24.71</i>	<i>Petty Cash</i>
<i>100715</i>	<i>35.00</i>		<i>35.00</i>	<i>Age Concern Crediton – Photocopying</i>
<i>100716</i>	<i>11.99</i>		<i>11.99</i>	<i>SLCC – File Inserts</i>
<i>100717</i>	<i>51.93</i>		<i>51.93</i>	<i>Mrs P Armstrong – repayment of Parish Plan costs</i>
<i>100718</i>	<i>50.00</i>		<i>50.00</i>	<i>Devon Ass of Parish Councils – Training Course</i>

Balance of bank accounts carried forward 10,513.38

Plus receipts for period 1st - 30th April 2003 10,135.45

TOTAL £20,648.83

Minus payments made for the above period 1,784.69

TOTAL £18,864.14

Made up as follows:- Current £12,228.54

High Interest £6,635.60

TOTAL £18,864.14

VILLAGE HALLS FUND £ 3,500.00

PARISH PATHS FUND £1,823.72

PARISH PLAN FUND £112.00

GENERAL FUNDS £13,428.42

TOTAL £18,864.14

NEWSLETTER :

Income for period 1/4/03 – 30/04/03 £432.40

Income received in 2002/03 (payment in advance for advertising in 2003/04) - £68.57

TOTAL INCOME = £500. 97

41.Next Meeting

A Meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Monday, 19th May 2003 at Halberton Village Hall at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATE