

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON
TUESDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER 2007 AT APPROX 8.45PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL**

148. Present

The Chairman (K Browse), Vice-Chairman (B Lane-Smith), Mesdames Cuthbert, Jepps and Johnstone, Cllrs Britton, Corden, Gibbs, Radford, Saunders and Wooding, CCllr Des Hannon

149. Public Forum

There were no questions raised

150. Apologies

PC Dodd

151. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 9th October 2007 were approved and signed unamended

152. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- i. Cllr Saunders was still liaising with Cllr Mrs Jepps about the tree trimming which required to be carried out in the cemetery and Cllr Lane-Smith advised that he still needed to carry out the work to the cemetery gates
- ii. Mr Stevens would deal with the overgrown trees at Halberton Court when he was able
- iii. The hedge at 26 High Street had been trimmed
- iv. The Parish Plan and the Parish Paths were now assessable on the Parish Website. The Neighbourhood Watch Page was in the process of being set up.
- v. The cost of having signs made announcing that Halberton was the Devon Village of the Year would be in the region of £600 per sign which signs only DCC could provide. Clearly the cost was too prohibitive. The Clerk to contact Loxhore PC who won the completion last year and/or Calor to see whether signs could be obtained either free of charge or for a nominal sum.
- vi. Colin Edge was happy for the PC to trim the culvert
- vii. A cover had been placed over the hole on land at the side of the road by the pond, thus making it safe and alleviating the concerns of the PC regarding the health and safety of people and animals.
- viii. Cllr Mrs Johnstone had spoken to the owners of 50 High Street and had been advised that the tree which was blocking visibility had been trimmed
- ix. The traffic calming structures in the High Street had been repaired thus ensuring that no further vehicles sustained punctures to their tyres
- x. The wording on the memorial stone in relation to a deceased parishioner had now been agreed. The family had originally requested a football crest to be affixed to the headstone which the PC considered was of a commercial nature and inappropriate for a cemetery.
- xi. Vitalise, and the Royal British Legion had sent letters of thanks for the PC's donations
- xii. Letters of thanks had been received from Viridor and Uffculme Environmental with regards to the PC's contribution towards the costs of the disabled car parking area
- xiii. MDDC had advised that with regard to the PC's request for a handrail at the side of the Village Hall (to make it easier for elderly and disabled persons to access the hall for polling and other purposes), that this expense did not fall within its remit. However Cllr Mrs Johnstone advised that this was in the process of being provided in any event.
- xiv. The demolished Pethertons name sign had been taken away by DCC for repair and would be re-installed when resources were available
- xv. The railings behind the bus shelter on the High Street had been repainted.

153. Chairman's Announcements

The Devon Village of the Year 2007 cup which had been received had now been sent away for engraving.

154. Precept 2008/09

It was resolved that all the recommendations made at the Policy & Finance Cttee Meeting held earlier be passed including setting the Precept at 4% (the same percentage as last year) (£10782).

155. Police Matters (including Speed Survey Update and Security Issues raised by the Primary School)

The Chairman of Governors of the Primary School wanted to know whether the PC had a strategy concerning security issues. The PC's view was that as the community now had an efficient PCSO in the form of Mel Smith that the school should liaise with her for advice and assistance on these matters. Glowing reports had been received about Mel and she appeared to be a definite asset in the community. It was understood that with regard to speeding motorists she was monitoring them to the extent of recording registration numbers and actually remonstrating with guilty motorists. Cllr Wooding reported that he had attended the recent Police Liaison Meeting at Cullompton Community College. Cllr Wooding advised that the police would not enforce 20mph speed limits as they were not obliged to do so. The representative from the Police Authority said it was up to Local Councils to configure the traffic calming so that it makes the road slower and encourages drivers to adhere to the speed limit. . CCllr Hannon requested the Clerk e-mail this information to him, in order that he could refer it to a higher authority. CCllr Hannon would also check the legalities of the PC hiring a speed gun. It was also suggested that a counter be attached to the 20mph flashing sign which would assess the number of motorists speeding, which would be a quicker and possibly cheaper option than waiting for a speed survey to be conducted. CCllr Hannon to investigate. A car recently parked at Manley Lane had been broken into and a case stolen. The Clerk to contact PC Dodd to enquire about the covert capture car which could be used in the vicinity. CCllr Hannon reported that the bikes, acquired for police use, were serving the community well as criminals were being caught by the police using this form of transport. PC Dodd in view of his absence had sent an e-mail to the Clerk, advising that the police very much supported a "Dawn to Dusk" byelaw re the Rec`. He confirmed the PCSO Mel Smith had attended the recent meeting at the Primary school.

156.DCC Matters

- i. CCllr Hannon advised that the battle continued re the fight to stop Exeter City Council going unitary. He was slightly more optimistic about the chances of DCC retaining the status quo in view of the fact that Exeter City Council's financial plan was still severely flawed. A decision had been delayed in the matter and now looked to be set for the end of November/beginning of December.
- ii. The Clerk had received the Consultation Paper in respect of the Minerals Core Strategy. The PC had no comments to make
- iii. The following matters had still not been fully addressed:-
 - a. water was coming off fields and flooding the lane between Thurlescombe and Rowridge at repeated periods thus resulting in the condition of the lane deteriorating. This had been reported by Mr Butchers
 - b. Cllr Saunders had still not been contacted by DCC regarding the positioning of a sign for Brithem Bottom requesting large vehicles not to use the lane. He advised that another incident had occurred recently involving a large vehicle, as the driver had been mis-directed down the lane by his Sat Nav!

- c. The poor road surface outside no. 30 High Street had still not been repaired
 - d. Although Cllr Lane-Smith had had a visitation by DCC maintenance men, the works to the drain at Springfield Court had still not been completed.
 - e. The problems with the footpath surface between Church Path and Corner Lane has still not been dealt with satisfactorily.
- The Clerk to inform Paul Wilson at DCC of all these matters and copy in CCllr Hannon

157. Mid Devon District Council Matters

There were none. However in future Mrs Shadbolt had asked to be copied in regarding all matters of complaint submitted by the PC in order that the matters were dealt with as expediently as possible.

158. National Calor Village of the Year Competition

The Clerk had reminded members of all the information she required in readiness for the competition, the closing date for which was the 30th November. Ideally she required all the information to be sent to her by 23rd November, in order that she could sort through it and ensure all details had been supplied before she submitted it together with the entry form.

159. S.106 Monies Update

The PC's request for its concerns to be submitted to MDDC's Policy Panel (with regard to MDDC possibly acting outside its authority to use part of the Parish's S.106 monies to fund an officer post), had not been actioned by MDDC's Committee Clerk, despite the information being submitted by the required date. The earliest the matter could now be considered was January 2008. Mrs Shadbolt, had in the meantime requested a meeting take place on 11th December Mrs Shadbolt would attend, together with Dave Scott, MDDC's (S.106 Officer), the Clerk and the Chairman of the PC. The Vice-Chairman was also willing to attend. His offer was accepted. In the meantime, CCllr Hannon would talk to the new Chief Executive as he was very concerned by MDDC's actions in this matter.

160. Recreational Ground - Play Equipment, Grand Opening and Byelaws

All the outstanding S.106 monies requested by the Clerk had been received. It was understood that Rospa had carried out a post-installation inspection which had revealed the need for some very minor repairs to be carried out. It was agreed that the Clerk release payment to the suppliers of the equipment once the outstanding repairs had been carried out. The official opening of the Rec` would take place on Tuesday, 20th November at 1.00pm. Graham Isaac's two daughters would cut the ribbon. Children from the school and pre-school would be present. Signed consent forms for the use of their images on any publicity had been obtained. It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Cuthbert would take a number of photographs for the Parish Website. Cllr Gibbs to organise press and publicity. Cllr Lane-Smith would inform Graham Isaac of the time arranged for the Opening Ceremony. The Clerk would consider the actions the PC would need to take, to pass a byelaw regarding the "dawn to dusk" curfew.

161. Dumping of Rubbish in Village Hall Car Park

Cllr Corden explained that the dumping of rubbish outside the recycling banks should not be allowed to continue. He advised that 32 bags of rubbish had recently been collected, which MDDC had reluctantly removed. Within minutes of removal, more rubbish had been dumped!. The Clerk had advised that in Ottery St Mary, once a month, a free skip was provided in the car park in which people could dump their rubbish and suggested that this could be considered for Halberton. However despite Cllr Corden thinking this was an excellent idea, his enquiries had revealed the cost to be too prohibitive. MDDC had advised that they would be prepared to

provide two skips plus a collection lorry plus a MDDC employee (to sort out the different types of rubbish). MDDC do this twice a year at Bampton at a cost of £600. It was resolved that the Clerk request MDDC (copy in Cllr Radford) to remove the skips from the car park as a matter of urgency in the hope that once this had been carried out the dumping of rubbish would cease. It was understood that the CCTV cameras were fully operational so persons continuing to carry on dumping rubbish would eventually be caught and prosecuted.

162. Christmas in Halberton

It was agreed that Cllr Britton would contact Paul Britton to provide a Christmas tree for the Parish. Cllr Mrs Johnstone would speak to Alan Cooper to ask him to set up the lights etc. The tree/lights would need to be in situ by 1st December.

163. Hastoe Housing

The Clerk advised of the names of the families allocated the new affordable housing. There was much in-depth discussion and much concern was raised about Hastoe's definition of "local connection". The PC was distraught that its hand was bound by so much legislation eg Human Rights Act, Discrimination Laws, Freedom of Information etc that it was unable to speak openly and honestly about the applicants and to be able to give additional information to Hastoe to support various applicants who it considered should have been offered affordable housing. The Clerk had advised that the question which had been asked by Hastoe was whether the list of applicants supplied were considered to have a local connection. It was inappropriate for the PC to make any other comments in view of the aforementioned legislation and also that they would be in breach of the Code of Conduct to comment further. There was a particular parishioner that the PC considered was fully justified in being considered for a dwelling as generations of her family had lived in the Parish. However this applicant was deemed unsuitable by MDDC despite the PC's support that she should be offered a dwelling. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Hastoe to request why special consideration should not be given to this particular applicant. The Clerk to also seek further information from Hastoe as to the interpretation of its criteria for letting a property.

164. Car Park/Footpath Update

The Clerk to arrange a meeting in the new year with all the relevant parties to push this project on. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert gave reasons as to why the PC should submit separate planning applications for the footpath and the car park. If there was only one planning application combining the footpath and car park and planning permission was not granted, then the entire project could fail. Whereas, if separate applications were considered then it gave the PC more chance of at least getting part of the project through, if not all of it. The Chairman advised that the reasons for combining the application was that it would be more cost effective as the whole project could be funded from S.106 monies. However Cllr Mrs Cuthbert had made some valid points which would be taken on board as the project progressed.

165. Meetings Attended

25th October 2007 Police Liaison Meeting – Cullompton Community College – 7.30pm

Cllr Wooding attended this and gave a very full report. Chief Superintendent Joanna Tennant was the new Commander for North and East Devon.

166. Future Parish Council Meetings to be held in Halberton Village Hall

- i. 27th/29th November (firm date to be decided)
Planning – 7.30pm
Communications – 8.15pm

- ii. 11th December 2007
 Planning – 7.00pm
 Ordinary Parish Council Meeting – 7.30pm

167. Committee Reports

Footpaths

The Chairman advised that he would try and attend the Winter Workshop organised by DCC but in view of the fact that most of the items had already been covered at previous workshops he had attended he would go if he had the time available,

168 Clerk's Report

The Clerk advised that she would pursue the question of the S.106 monies through to the bitter end. She also thanked the PC for their support and for agreeing to her salary increase for which she was most appreciative.

169. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST - 31ST OCTOBER 2007:

Bank Interest	53.28
Newsletter	343.10
S.106 Money	12941.68
TOTAL	£13338.06

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST - 31ST OCT 2007 £1045.28

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Cheque No	Amount	Vat	Total	Details
SO	23.00		23.00	MDDC – Cemetery Rates
1146	8.04	1.41	9.45	Ottery Office – Photocopying
1147	331.00	57.93	388.93	Gardencare – Grass Cutting - Oct
1148	4900.00	857.50	5757.50	Dunweedon – rubber granules for Rec
1149	12281.68	2149.29	14430.97	FRS – New play eqt
1150	660.00	115.50	775.50	I J Webber – ground work for play eqt
1151	331.00	57.93	388.93	Gardencare – Grass Cutting - Sept
1152	360.00		360.00	N Page – Parish Path work
1153	243.80		243.80	Mrs C McIntyre – salary Nov/Dec
1154	17.80		17.80	Mrs C McIntyre – repayment of postage stamps

The above were approved for payment

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	21800.60
Plus Receipts for period 1 st – 31st Oct	13338.06
TOTAL	£35138.66

Minus Payments made for the above Period	1045.28
TOTAL	£34093.38

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	17852.43
Current A/c	16240.95
TOTAL	£34093.38

VILLAGE HALL FUNDS	353.25
PARISH PATHS FUND	2113.79
PARISH PLAN FUND	433.54
CAR PARKING	850.00
GENERAL FUNDS	30342.80
TOTAL	£34093.38

Halberton Newsletter: Income for Period 1st April - 31st Oct 2007 = £1320.36 less expenditure £1032.39 = Profit £210.09

170. Replacement Security Panels

In accordance with resolution 75 given at the PC Meeting of 10th July, it was resolved to reimburse the Chairman the sum of £40 for the damaged security fence, used during the replacement of the play equipment.

171. Clerk's Salary

It was resolved that the Clerk be paid for two additional hours per week, in view of her increasing workload which would be an additional amount of £360.76 for the remainder of the year (£90.19 per month Dec – March)

172. Members Business

- i. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert reminded PCllrs that she would be grateful for any news items, snippets of information etc, in order that the Parish Web site was always kept up to date and interesting
- ii. Cllr Mrs Johnstone advised that the latest Newsletter would include a 'Word Search' for children of the Parish. She was thanked for her efforts.

173. Miscellaneous Matters

- i. It was understood that some parishioners had tried to get through to MDDC's Housing Dept and were encountering extremely lengthy delays. One caller waited 1 hour 20 mins and another at least 35 minutes. Another tenant had water leaking from her toilet which was concerning her because she was on a water meter. Despite previous requests to MDDC for repairs to be carried out, nothing had been done. The Clerk to pass this information to MDDC, copy in Cllr Radford and Mrs Shadbolt.
- ii. Mid Devon had produced a summary of its accounts. Cllr Gibbs had spotted that one of the pages showed an incorrect calculation!! The Clerk to advise MDDC of its error.

The Meeting ended at 10.25pm

DATE

CHAIRMAN