

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2009 AT 8.00PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

---

**100. Present**

\*Cllr Britton (Chairman), Cllrs Mesdames Graham, Jepps and Johnstone and Cllrs Corden, Gibbs, Hand, Radford and Saunders and three members of the public

\*Cllr Britton chaired the meeting due to Cllr Browse's absence

**101. Apologies**

Cllr Browse, Cllr Mrs Cuthbert Cllr Hannon and PCSO J Simms,

**102. Rural Housing Enablers**

It had been arranged since July that Sue Southwell and/or John Scott would attend the October PC meeting to talk about a further housing needs survey for Halberton. However a few days before the meeting John Scott advised that a list of surveys had been agreed for completion in the current year and this would not include Halberton. There was the possibility of a survey next year but this could not be confirmed. For this reason it was considered by Mr Scott and colleagues that it would be a waste of the PC's time in them attending the meeting and it would not be the best use of limited RHE time. The Clerk had replied that it would have been appreciated if this decision had been made earlier in order that she could have arranged for an alternative speaker to attend.

**103. Public Forum**

Various issues were raised by parishioners:-

- i. Hedges have been cut but not effectively so there were still near misses with vehicles
- ii. MDDC initially was of the view that it was not its responsibility to remove the fly-tipped items at Hartnoll Farm. However, after further representations had been made, it accepted responsibility and the items should be removed shortly.

**104. Approval of the Minutes**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> September 2009 were approved and signed without amendment

**105. Matters Arising from Minutes**

- i. The Clerk reminded the PC of the Footpaths Meeting organised by DCC for 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009 at the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Emily Spurway would give a short talk on the Definitive Map. It was understood from the Chairman that two walks had recently been carried out and other walks were being planned
- ii. The Clerk had obtained from MDDC the list of policies in respect of Extension of Saved Local Plan Policies. The policies are within the Mid Devon Local Plan First Alteration 2006 and are saved for a period of three years after adoption. The list of policies the Clerk had received would not be saved beyond 21<sup>st</sup> July 2009
- iii. The tree growing within a garden of a property at Pond Hill and which was causing concern was being investigated by MDDC's Housing Dept. A tree growing in the wall would be removed shortly and an order had been raised to repair a damaged dog bin.
- iv. The Tiverton Tenant's Group had approved the PC's request for a street light at Pethertons/the Mead. It would however need nearby residents support. In the first instance it was agreed that a plan be obtained to ensure that the exact location of the proposed street light could be plotted. The Clerk to deal with this.

- v. Cllr Corden had delivered Newsletters to Mrs Stewart for her to deliver to the Uffculme side of the Parish. As Lord Mountbatten did not have a post box a copy was posted to him.
- vi. The street light in the village was still continually lit despite previous representations having been made by the Chairman
- vii. It was understood that the problem with the trees at Merrimead was ongoing. It had been reported that a tree report had been carried out by outside contractors on behalf of DCC and that no problems had been reported with the trees. However Willy Pike at DCC advised that DCC was now in dispute with the contractors. The matter was ongoing.
- viii. The Clerk received the Payments and Receipts book
- ix. The Clerk reminded Members of the Standards Training at MDDC arranged for 9<sup>th</sup> November at 6.00pm at Phoenix House. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert, Cllrs Britton and Hand and the Clerk would be attending
- x. The diverters across the pond were still in situ. The matter was ongoing
- xi. The Clerk had still not received confirmation from DAPC that Cllr Mrs Graham and Cllr Hand had places on the New Cllrs Course being held at Honiton. The Clerk was chasing this matter up

### **106. Chairman`s Announcements**

The PC expressed its best wishes to Cllr Browse and looked forward to seeing him at the next PC meeting

### **107. Items re Amenities Meeting -29<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

- i. Planning permission was required to remove trees from the Cemetery. Cllr Corden would deal with this. The Clerk to check out if there was a fee for this
- ii. Goal posts should be in situ by Thursday
- iii. It was understood that Cllr Browse had had a meeting with contractors regarding the proposed works to the school and the requirement of the school to use the Rec in connection with this development. There was also the question of access requirements along Corner Land which would have to be agreed to by the Corner Lane residents. It was believed that this had been a fairly unsuccessful meeting. It was possible that there may now be an alternative plan to use school land instead
- iv. The car park project was subject to delay as Cllr Browse was still waiting to receive a letter from Alison Fish of MDDC`s Planning Dept;
- v. It was resolved that the following recommendations be approved:-
  - a. the area around the seat at the pond be concreted and the litter bin to be moved away from the seat to a more suitable position. The cost of the works not to exceed £200
  - b. It was resolved that a sign costing £40 plus vat, be purchased, which would be affixed with two self tapping screws directly onto the metal upright supporting the basketball ring. The sign was required in accordance with Rospa`s recommendations. Cllr Corden to progress this matter

### **108. Halberton Newsletter Content.**

There was much discussion about this matter particularly from Cllr Mrs Johnstone who had been upset by the reaction of a parishioner due to incorrect information having been published. It was resolved that in future i. the Clerk would edit all information to be submitted by the PC prior to it being published in the Newsletter ii. any draft minutes of the Parish Council meetings would not be published and iii. planning decisions only of MDDC would be published. It was agreed that as full minutes of meetings were available on line or on the parish notice board there was no need for them to be published in the Newsletter as well. It was also suggested that consideration be

given to reinstating the Newsletter Ctte. It was agreed that the diary of events in the Newsletter contain dates of PC's Planning Ctte Meetings

### **109. Grass Cutting Tender**

It was agreed to delay this item to another meeting

### **110.MDDC Matters**

- i. 12<sup>th</sup> October saw the start of Local Democracy Week. To mark this event MDDC was working with pupils and teachers at Tiverton High School and QE Community College to promote local democracy for young people
- ii. MDDC would be offering guidance and advice to sun bed operators on the safe operation and supervision of tanning equipment as part of a Devon wide initiative
- iii. Cllr Mrs Johnstone agreed to complete a survey form on behalf of the PC with regards to the PC's views on Council tax and council services
- iv. Agnieszka Szpinda, Community Planning Support Officer advised that she was working with John Bodley-Scott and that her role was to support communities preparing Parish or Town Plans and that she would be the first point of contact on community planning matters. It was agreed that her help be enlisted with regard to the car park project and for her to liaise with Alison Fish
- v. The area of grassed land at Pethertons which residents required to be used for car parking purposes, would require letters from the various residents to be sent to the Tiverton Tenant Group in order to support their case. Cllr Corden would liaise with the tenants about this matter and assist them where necessary. The PC would be supportive of any application.

### **111. DCC Matters**

- i. Turnpike - Battens Bridge to Willand Road – Slough Farm, would be closed from 30<sup>th</sup> November to 11 December. The alternative route would be Battens Cross – High St – Willand Rd and Vice Versa.
- ii. The Clerk reminded the PC that the Lengthsman would be back in the Parish from 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> November. If any members were aware of items which needed attention that they should contact her
- iii. The Chairman to speak to CCllr Hannon regarding trimming to allow for effective access to the post box at 2 Pethertons
- iv. CCllr Hannon had submitted the following report in his absence:-
  - a. Site visit to High Street with officers at short notice a few weeks back. Much of the new pavement slopes because it has to in order for drainage to work BUT there are definite places where the slope is excessive and I've told officers to look at these (before safety sign off can be given) and ensure they're dealt with to the best standard possible given the narrow space.
  - b. I've also directed officers to consider the safety and effectiveness of the current lining and signing - especially the give way arrangements. They're due to come back to me on that soon.
  - c. I've revisited the surfacing in Lower Close which is now just about OK. Millstream Gardens was never as bad. That's now bedded down further and I'm prepared to give it the benefit of the doubt for now. If it starts lifting when the wet and cold weather comes, I'll get back on it.
  - d. I've placed the parking suggestion for Pethertons in Ray's hands as, on investigation, it turns out to be MDDC land.
  - e. The problem hedge that I asked DCC to take enforcement action on was deemed not all that bad by officers - who I think said work appeared to have been recently done. I've asked that someone from HPC has a look. If you still think it's a problem then I'll chase them again.
  - f. I've had a request from the Grabhams re: jetting under Willand Road where they were previously affected by flooding. The family have paid attention to the drainage on their land and very sensibly

contacted me to see that the culvert under the road was jettied at the same time. I've been told in response that 'DCC highways has no money left for jetting'. The financial position can't have been completely destroyed in the 4 months since the new administration came in, so I'm challenging. But there will be a delay.

g. I believe Jonathan will be there with you from the police. We'll need to set up a public meeting shortly about dealing with dangerous speeds in Willand Road.

h. Jo can tell you about the small locality grant I'm making to provide another adapted bike for people with disabilities to be housed up Greenway.

### **112. Police Matters**

PCSO Jonathan Sims had given apologies for absence but provided the following report for the past 30 days:-

#### **INCIDENTS**

- GREEN ACRE SPEEDWATCH 2/10/9
- RECOVERED STOLEN MOTORBIKE HIGH ST 20/9/9
- DRUNK MALE NEAR GREEN ACRE 15/9/9
- ACCIDENT OUTSIDE FARM SHOP 12/9/9 (MINOR INJURY TO CYCLIST)

#### **CRIMES**

- TWOC MOTOR BIKE HIGH ST (AS ABOVE) 20/9/9 RECOVERED
- BURGLARY HIGH ST (FROM OPEN GARAGE SAT NAV AND APOLLO MOUNTAIN BIKE) 20/9/9
- THEFT OF QUAD BIKE ABBOTSHOOD FARM 23/9/9
- THEFT HILLHEAD 3/10/9

I will continue to do speedwatch and will be in touch in due course to arrange more dates. Des Hannon now has the data from the two most recent speed watch operations with speeds etc

Cllr Corden advised that the monitoring of speeds at Green Acre had been an education! A number of persons had been speeding and would be sent warning letters from the police. It was agreed that the suggestion by CCllr Hannon for a public meeting to be held primarily aimed at residents of all homes between Halberton High Street and the Willand speed limit signs, take place in the New year.

### **113.Clerk`s Pay Award**

It was agreed that the Clerk`s salary be increased in accordance with national rates backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009. The Clerk`s monthly salary based on SCP 22 would increase by £5.63 and her back pay would be in the sum of £39.41

### **114. Halberton Parish Council`s Proposed Policies and Procedures**

These were approved. The Clerk would submit them to Cllr Mrs Cuthbert for inclusion on the Web Site

### **115. Ash Thomas Telephone Box**

Cllr Saunders had canvassed the parishioners in Ash Thomas about the retention of the telephone box. With the exception of one parishioner, the remainder wished for it to remain. The Clerk

advised that according to BT's records the box had only been used twice in 12 months. The Clerk reminded members that the retention of the box would mean that there would be an increase in insurance premiums; the box would need to be kept in good repair and condition at all times; the cost of electricity would be approx £30 per year; the removal of the electricity supply would cost approx £500. The removal of the electricity supply would have to be carried out by Western Power only. There was much discussion but it was resolved that the telephone box remain and the PC to acquire the box from BT for £1; the telephone equipment to be removed; the electricity supply to remain for the moment but this to be reviewed in a year's time

**116. Litter Picking in the Parish**

Cllr Radford reminded the PC that this would take place on 24<sup>th</sup> October – all meeting at the Village Hall at 10.00am

**117. Royal British Legion Donation**

It was agreed that this would remain at £20. Cllr Hand declared a personal interest

**118. Cemetery Matters**

It was agreed that Cllr Saunders would trim the cemetery hedge

**119. Future Meetings**

15<sup>th</sup> October 2009 – Tiverton Tourist Information Centre Update Meeting  
5.30pm Mayoralty Room, Tiverton Town Hall  
Cllr Radford would try to attend

**120. Committee Reports**

There were none

**121. Clerk's Report**

The Clerk had nothing to report

**123. Accounts**

**RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> - 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009:**

Bank Interest	1.52
Newsletter	233.61
Cemetery	275.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£510.13</b>

**PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> - 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009 £2319.22**

**PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED**

<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Vat</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Details</b>
SO	25.00		25.00	MDDC – Cemetery Rates
1333	20.00		20.00	J Austin – repayment of newsletter delivery costs
1334	416.50		416.50	Education Matters – publication costs of Newsletter
1335	283.75		283.75	R Smale – grass cutting for Sept
1336	32.43		32.43	Mrs C J McIntyre – repayment for paper and postage

1337	384.54		384.54	Mrs C McIntyre – salary Oct/Nov (including £39.41 back pay)
1338				Royal British Legion – Donation
1339	9.53	1.43	10.96	Ottery Office & Computer Ltd – photocopying,
1340	20.98		20.98	Mrs C McIntyre – repayment of ink cartridges

The above payments were approved

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	29003.90
Plus Receipts for period 1 <sup>st</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2009	510.13
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£29514.03</b>

Minus Payments made for the above Period	£2319.22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£27194.81</b>

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	24688.42
Current A/c	2506.39
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£27194.81</b>

<b>VILLAGE HALL FUNDS</b>	<b>2500.00</b>
<b>PARISH PATHS FUND</b>	<b>2493.79</b>
<b>VILLAGE OF THE YEAR PRIZE</b>	<b>500.00</b>
<b>DONATION FROM PARISHIONER</b>	<b>2500.00</b>
<b>PARISH PLAN FUND</b>	<b>433.54</b>
<b>CAR PARKING</b>	<b>2500.00</b>
<b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>	<b>16267.48</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£27194.81</b>

**Halberton Newsletter: Income to date £1335.35 - less expenses of £1249.05 = credit £86.30**

#### **124. Members Business**

- i. The anti-skid surface coating of the new pavement in the High Street was causing concern. If anyone was to fall over then they could suffer quite a serious injury. This matter to be referred to CCllr Hannon
- ii. Cars were parking outside 57 High Street, which were over the white line on the edge of the carriageway which was causing problems. Matter to be referred to CCllr Hannon
- iii. Cllr Mrs Graham reported that the bus stop sign passed Orpington Court was missing resulting in buses failing to stop. Leaves on the pavements required removal as there could be health and safety issues. The Clerk to report these matters to CCllr Hannon

#### **125. Miscellaneous Matters**

- i. The Clerk had received an e-mail from HogCo which had confirmed that the PC's Expression of Interest had been selected for the first round of support. Information was required by HogCo about the Halberton group. HogCo would also like to meet with the group. It was agreed that this matter be referred to Cllr Browse who had been keen for this matter to be progressed.
- ii. Domestic Violence and Abuse Awareness Week – 23<sup>rd</sup> November – This was an opportunity to raise the profile of this crime and encourage those who suffered to seek advice or support

iii. DAPC AGM 2009 – the main points agreed were:-

- a. Members agreed to increase the subscription rate by 2% for the financial year 2010 – 11
- b. Members agreed that the Association would change its name from the DAPC to the Devon Association of Local Councils from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010
- c. The President and Vice Presidents were confirmed as at present

**126. Future PC Meetings**

i. 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009 - 7.30pm Planning Ctte Meeting

ii. 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009

7.00pm Planning Ctte Meeting of Halberton Parish Council

7.30pm Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

The Meeting closed at 9.50pm

---

**CHAIRMAN**

---

**DATED**