

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH
COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 14th APRIL 2009 AT 7.30PM AT HALBERTON
VILLAGE HALL

244. Present

The Chairman (Cllr Browse), Vice-Chairman (Cllr Britton), Cllrs Mesdames Cuthbert, Graham and Johnstone, Corden, Gibbs, Hand and Saunders, Cllr Des Hannon, Beat Officer Katie Rich and WPCSO Jonathan Sim

245. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present

246. Declarations of Acceptance of Office

Carol Graham and Derek Hand made their declarations of acceptance of office in the presence of the Parish Council

247. Apologies

Cllrs Mrs Jepps and Radford

248. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of 10th March 2009 were approved and signed accordingly

249. Matters Arising from the aforementioned Minutes

- i. The Clerk was continuing to chase Steve Densham at MDDC about the replacement slat for the seat at the pond
- ii. The Clerk had sent a further e-mail to Dan Meek at DCC regarding the caravan presently sited on the farm at Cordwents which was causing concern to some parishioners. The Clerk had not received a response to this latest e-mail. Cllr Hannon would pursue this matter on behalf of the PC.
- iii. Cllr Mrs Johnstone had established that the footpath at the bottom of Boyes Close had been created when the properties at Boyes Close had been erected. There had been no footpath at this location prior to that time. Cllr Radford had ascertained that street lighting columns would cost anything from £1,500 - £4000 per column. It appeared that the only funding available was from the Housing Tenants Environmental Budget administered by the Tiverton Tenants Group and it would be up to the Group to determine whether it wished to allocate the money for this purpose. The matter to be placed on the Amenities Ctte agenda for further consideration.
- iv. It was understood that the various potholes reported at last month's meeting had now been made good.
- v. . Mr Hunt advised that the seat at Cloggs Hill, had a concrete frame which was broken and was not repairable. He was willing to make a replacement seat for a fee of £100 plus the cost of materials. However he was of the view that a seat in this location was likely to get stolen. The matter to be an item on the Amenities Ctte Agenda for further consideration
- vi. Mrs P Tremlett, Hon Treasurer, at St Andrews Church had sent a letter of thanks on behalf of the church for the churchyard grant of £100
- vii. Mr and Mrs M Hayden had sent a letter to the PC expressing concern as to the PC's proposed pavement safety scheme. Cllr Hannon had recently spoken to Mrs Hayden in depth and had allayed her concerns about the scheme

viii The request for a grit box by the residents of Rock View was being pursued by the Clerk. The Clerk had initially contacted MDDC who had then referred her to Ian Hyde at DCC. Mr Hyde in turn had advised that Rock View was not a DCC maintained highway. He had e-mailed MDDC requesting details of its policy on supplying grit bins to housing estates and access roads. He was more than willing to work with MDDC but was reluctant to proceed without consulting with them initially. The Clerk would chase up Mr Hyde again if she had not heard from him within the next couple of weeks

ix. The Clerk reminded members of the Litter Pick taking place on 16th May at 10.00am at the Village Hall.

x. The Chairman reported that he was still actively working on achieving a permissive path up to the Farm Shop

xi. The Clerk had been advised by Darran Queenan at DCC that the problems with the hedges in Halberton appeared to have been dealt with. The Clerk was informed by members that the hedges around the entrance at Cordwents on both sides, was in need of attention. One side of the hedge was owned by DCC. The Clerk to advise Mr Queenan as well as Dan Meek of this fact and ask for appropriate action to be taken

xii. The Clerk had received a cheque in the sum of £2,500 from the parishioner who wished to remain anonymous towards the cost of goalposts and nets for the Mead or, "to be used in another part of Halberton as the PC saw fit". The PC was most appreciative of this most generous gesture. The Vice-Chairman was in the process of pricing up nets and goal posts and would provide further information about this matter later on in the meeting.

xiii. Cllr Saunders would canvas residents and liaise with Mary Fisher about replacing the lime tree at Ash Thomas. His initial thoughts were, that if a replacement tree was erected, a barrier would have to be erected around it for protection.

xiv. The Chairman advised that the matter of the overgrown shrubs obscuring lights at Pond Hill was in hand.

xv.. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert hoped to speak to the landowner regarding the footpath at Sellack shortly

xvi. Cllr Browse had been in contact with Mark Baker about the unstable tree which required attention along the canal and hopefully the matter would be addressed shortly.

xvii. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert had been unable to obtain a response from her point of contact at MDDC about the skate park equipment. She would make further attempts to contact him again.

xviii. Cllr Corden had spoken to the landowner about the wire fence which abutted his property which was in a state of disrepair. The landowner had advised Cllr Corden that the fence was the responsibility of the PC. The landowner would be prepared to contribute towards the cost of a replacement fence subject to him having some input as to the type and style of fence the PC proposed to erect. He also requested that it be erected in sections. The PC was of the view that this request could be accommodated. Quotes for the fence would be obtained shortly

xix. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert and the Vice-Chairman had not as yet been able to consider the drafting of a new plan for the cemetery but hoped to do so shortly.

xx. The hedge cuttings from the cemetery had now been chipped and the Vice Chairman was also pleased to report that the outstanding tidying up works of the cemetery had been completed, thanks to all the volunteers

xxi. Cllr Gibbs was pursuing with Stagecoach the lateness of some of the buses

xxii. Cllr Corden was making enquiries to ascertain whether the cemetery was in a Conservation Area

xxiii. There was an indication that there may be some funding issues regarding the proposed development at Halberton School which could cause some delays to the project. It was understood that a Steering Group needed to be formed to push the project forward.

250. Chairman`s Announcements

The Chairman welcomed the new Councillors to the meeting and hoped their time on the PC would be interesting and rewarding.

251. Annual Parish Meeting

It was resolved that this would be in a new format this year. The meeting would take part on a separate date to that of the Ordinary PC Meeting in May, namely Tuesday 5th May from 7.00pm – 9.00pm. Local organisations would be invited to display information to promote their organisations. Refreshments would be served. It was resolved that the budget for refreshments would be set at a maximum of £75. Cllr Mrs Johnstone kindly agreed that she would be responsible for the buffet. A laptop would be in situ showing details of the Parish Plan, there would also be information about digital TV, and scams which parishioners needed to be aware of etc. It was suggested that Paul Tucker of MDDC be invited as he would be able to provide information to local organisations about grant eligibility etc. Badges identifying the PCllrs and the Clerk were required and the Chairman would be responsible for these.

252. Formulation of new Committees

It was proposed that new PC Cttes be formed:-

- i. Amenities (the Mead, the Rec`, the Cemetery, Village Halls, Leisure, Communications, (the Newsletter, Website and Publicity))
- ii. Environment and Footpaths (traffic, highways, transport, canal, hedges and verges, litter and car parking, footpaths old and new)
- iii. Planning (planning applications and housing needs)
- iv. Policy and Finance (precept, sponsorship and funding)

A proposal was made that the present Cttes as contained in the PC`s Standing Orders 41 – 48 be varied to reflect the aforementioned. However in accordance with Standing Order 70 the item to stand adjourned without discussion to the next Ordinary PC Meeting to be held on 12th May 2009.

253. Previous Resolution to be reversed

The Clerk and the Chairman had both checked the minutes for a resolution relating to the footpath from the cemetery to the Tiverton Road Bridge. However it could not be found and it was concluded that no resolution had been passed in this respect. It was understood that the plans for the new footpath needed to be moved on. It was a project which could attract lottery funding. It was suggested that the Chairman talk to Rob Stevens regarding grant applications as he was regarded as “the expert” in this field. It was also suggested that the costings of the project may now need to be updated. Cllr Gibbs would talk to Dr Fern Clarke about the project. It was also suggested that the Clerk ascertain from MDDC the current balance of the S.106 monies and the timescale for when the monies had to be used.

254. MDDC Matters

- i. It was understood that all businesses in MDDC would receive their business rates bills for the 2009/10 year. The vast majority would pay 5% increase based on the RPI for September 2008. Throughout the country the transitional rate relief scheme would come to an end which would mean

a large number of businesses that had previously been receiving rate relief would have to pay the full business rates from 1st April 2009 without any transitional relief. The Clerk to contact MDDC to see whether it was MDDC's idea to end the transitional rate relief scheme or whether it was central government policy and to also ascertain as to who the PC should lobby

ii. New cardio-vascular equipment would soon be coming to both the Culm Valley Sports and Lords meadow Leisure Centres

iii. MDDC had responded to a fundamentally misleading article in an edition of the Express and Echo and website entitled "Cash reserves may be wiped out". It was understood that the Express and Echo failed to point out that the Audit Commission's report found that the great majority of local authorities – including MDDC "conducted the management of their investments in full compliance with government guidance"

255. DCC Matters

i. It was noted that the potholes had been repaired at Ash Thomas and Brithem Bottom

ii. The manhole cover in the High Street which kept rattling should be repaired by 5th May by South West Water. If it was not repaired within a specified timescale then action would be taken to get the repair carried out by another body. South West Water would then be billed for the repair.

iii. The road surfaces in the vicinity of Greenway needed to be cleaned. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert would e-mail CCllr Hannon to request that appropriate action be taken.

iv. It was noted that DCC had cleared out the ditch at the Mead and had made an excellent job. The PC was very grateful

256. Police Matters

Jonathan Sims reported details of crimes committed in Halberton and other incidents. Pleasingly it had been a very quiet month. A quad bike had been stolen at Sutton Barton. It had not been recovered. There had been some rural crime occurring. A black Peugeot vehicle coming from the Sampford Peverell direction was being driven at high speed and the police were investigating this. The mystery of the dumping of the bath at the back of the village hall had been resolved. A parishioner had contacted the Clerk to advise that he was the culprit as he believed that the area at the back of the village hall was to be used for recycling items of this nature! He had indicated that he would be willing to re-imburse any expense incurred by any persons who had had the job of removing the said item. Katie Rich was also interested in this latest information as the dumping of the bath had also come to the attention of the police. The Clerk passed the parishioner's details to Cllr Corden who would contact him shortly. It was understood that a sign would shortly be erected at the bus stop by DCC advising that cars were not to park at the bus stop. Once the sign was erected and if vehicles continued to park at this location then the civil enforcement officer would be able to take appropriate action. The design of the "Watch your Speed" signs was approved by the PC. Katie would arrange for 10 signs to be produced. Four of the signs would be used on the entrances into the village with six being kept in reserve. Cllr Corden agreed to make some posts for the signs. It was intended that a speed watch would be carried out by the police and members of the PC were welcome to attend. It was also suggested that the media be involved – local television and newspapers, to ensure maximum publicity for "Watch your Speed". CCllr Hannon would deal with this aspect. The Vice-Chairman advised that there were vehicles at Greenway which were parked in

such a manner which could prevent emergency vehicles having access. Cllr Hand would speak to the persons concerned. Katie had noted the stay of execution regarding the removal of the seat from the bus shelter. The PC did not require any action to be taken at the present time.

257. Grant Information

The Clerk advised about grants available from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation Small Grants and BT Community Connections. It was agreed that details of these should be provided at the May Annual Parish meeting

258. Invitation to become members of the Devon Partnership NHS Trust

The Clerk provided information about the criteria and handed out application forms to interested PCllrs

259. Consideration of Quote for work on Footpaths

Mr Pages's quote for footpath work in the sum of £370 was resolved to be accepted by the PC

260. Update on Boundary Review

The Boundary Ctte had published further draft proposals for unitary local government in Devon. The proposals were subject to consultation and the closing date for responses was 14th May 2009. The Ctte was proposing the creation of a single County Unitary Council for Devon with no changes to Plymouth and Torbay but it is also consulting on a proposal to break up the county and create two Devon unitary councils. The decision regarding the unitary situation would not be known until the Autumn.

261. Village of the Year Prize Monies – suggestions for use

It was agreed that parishioners suggestions could be sought at the Annual Parish Meeting in May

262. Parish Plan Update

Cllr Mrs Johnstone would ensure that the typing up of the further information would be completed in time for the May Parish Meeting.

263. Future Meetings

16th April 2009 – Historical Group – Halberton Village Hall

29th April 2009 – 11.00am Tiverton Parkway Station – Tiverton Parkway Railway Station Research Project

The Vice-Chairman would attend this

29th April 2009 – Community Safety Partnership AGM – St Rita's Centre, Honiton at 3.45pm

13th May 2009 – Financing and Sustaining Growth - Westbank, Exminster, 9.50am

264. Next PC Meetings

i. 28th April 2009 7.30pm Halberton Village Hall – Amenities Ctte Meeting

ii. 5th May 2009 - 7.00pm Halberton Village Hall – Annual Parish Meeting

iii 12th May 2009 – Halberton Village Hall

7.00pm Planning Ctte Meeting of Halberton Parish Council

7.30pm Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c 18142.58
Current A/c 1143.41
TOTAL £19285.99

VILLAGE HALL FUNDS	1500.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	1738.79
VILLAGE OF THE YEAR PRIZE	500.00
PARISH PLAN FUND	433.54
CAR PARKING	1500.00
GENERAL FUNDS	13613.66
TOTAL	£19285.99

Halberton Newsletter: The Newsletter made a loss of £113.55 for 2008/09 which includes the writing off of £6.30 unpaid advertising fees

268 . Miscellaneous Matters

i. It was understood that there had been two incidents of arson at Hartnoll Farm. No one had been arrested for these crimes but it was understood that youths from Tiverton may be responsible

The Meeting ended at 9.30am

CHAIRMAN

DATED