

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 14TH JANUARY 2003 AT 7.30PM AT ASH THOMAS VILLAGE HALL

177. Present

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Hugill, Payne, Radford, Saunders, Mesdames Armstrong, Fisher, Hull, Jepps and seven Members of the Public

178. Apologies

Cllr Mrs Lunn

179. Public Forum

Mrs Graham of the Halberton Flower Group had provided a revised quote for plants etc. The quote would be considered later on in the Meeting.

180. The Minutes of:-

- i. The Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 10th December 2002 were approved
- ii. The Planning Cttee Meeting of 10th December 2002 were approved subject to the following amendment:
Para 7 first line – delete `Payne` and insert `Hugill`

181. Matters Arising

- i. It was agreed that the cost of the First Aid Course would be borne by participants. The PC would bear the costs of the Village Hall hire. The course had been provisionally booked for 5th April 2003.
- ii. The Clerk had been in contact with MDDC's Environmental Health Dept., regarding the dog fouling around Ash Thomas. Although an acknowledgement had been received there appeared to have been no follow up action by the Dog Warden as promised. The Clerk to chase up.
- iii. The Clerk had been investigating safety surfacing for the playing field. She had ascertained that MDDC was now considering using `Matta` surfacing based on Exeter City Council's recommendations. It consisted of a rubber safety mat which once laid would allow the grass to grow through it. The Clerk to arrange for a representative from Matta to meet the Chairman on site to provide a free quote. It was likely that the PC may qualify for a grant from MDDC towards the cost of the surfacing. When the PC had decided which surfacing they wished to use details would need to be submitted to Dave Scott of MDDC for consideration for funding. He had advised that there was not a cut off date for applications. The only constraint was the need to spend the contributions in a reasonable period of time, (something in the region of 5 years)
- iv. An update on the Local Improvement Scheme had been received from Mr Densham of MDDC as follows:
 - a. A contractor was obtaining the materials to enable the mesh panels to be fixed to the railings
 - b. The Interpretation Board had arrived. The Vice-Chairman would meet Mr Densham to agree its siting.
 - c. The Council Operations Section had arranged for naturalised bulbs to be planted in the picnic area.

- d. Consultation responses had been received from some residents of Orchard View regarding proposed adoption. Reaction was mixed. Some appeared to think that this would result in the traffic from Sampford Peverell being diverted through Orchard View. Others were concerned that the area would end up as a car park. The matter needed to be followed up.
- e. Information needed regarding the village signs, prior to works being undertaken on the planters.
- f. Mr Densham was still awaiting a response from BT regarding land ownership at Willand Road.
- g. Funds for work over the next year would be limited. Mr Densham would endeavour to undertake the village planters and the associated landscaping in the Willand Road junction. There were insufficient funds in the Local Improvement Scheme budget to contemplate any works at Orchard View for the time being.
- v. Cllr Hugill had prepared details of amenities in the Parish which it was considered should be signed from the canal. The Clerk to pass the information on to the Secretary of the Grand Western Canal Advisory Ctte.
- vi. The Clerk had requested from Mrs Onley-Gregson an updated report on Halberton School for the February meeting.

182. Chairman's Announcements

- i. The problem of village hall users parking in areas around the village and not in the designated car park, had been discussed at the Village Hall Meeting. The Clerk to write to the Village Hall Ctte and formally advise that from a safety aspect, users of the hall must be made aware that they must park their vehicles in the designated area and that access to the hall must be kept clear at all times.
- ii. The recommendations submitted by the Policy and Finance Ctte were all approved. It was resolved that the Precept for 2003/04 be increased by 10% to £8452.

183. Police Matters

- i. A Mid Devon Police Liaison Meeting would take place on Thursday, 30th January 2003 at 7.30pm at Willand Village Hall. Cllr Mrs Fisher would attend.
- ii. Meetings of the Culm Area Group of the Community Safety Partnership would take place on 28th January 2003 at 6.30 pm at the Manor Hotel, Cullompton. Future meetings would take place on 29th April, 29th July and 28th October – venues to be arranged.

184. Mid Devon Community Planning Alliance

The Alliance was the Local Strategic Partnership for Mid Devon, the purpose of which was to make measurable improvements to the economic, environmental and social conditions in Mid Devon and to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors. It would do this by preparing and implementing a community plan for the area. Membership would consist of representation from MDDC, DCC, Parish and Town Councils, the Voluntary Sector, the Health Service, Mid Devon Primary Care Trust, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, the Probation Service and the Environment Agency. The next meeting would be on 31st January.

185. MDDC Matters

- i. Information had been received explaining the new District Officer Service. A team of 10 District Officers had been brought together to provide a more generic approach to working within the Mid Devon District. The Clerk had full details available.
- ii. Gordon Cleaver, Operations Manager was enquiring as to whether any Parish Councils had experienced any problems in relation to road signs relating to "by-passed"

communities. In particular to the expectation of the Highways authority that local communities and local businesses be expected to contribute to the erection of replacement signs. To date the PC had no experience of this.

186. DCC Matters

- i. Local Access Forums which are a statutory requirement under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 were being set up to advise local highway authorities on the improvement of public access for open-air recreation and enjoyment of the countryside. The Devon Local Access Forum was being established and was seeking twelve members to sit on the Forum, in addition to two nominated County Councillors. The Vice-Chairman expressed an interest. The Clerk to obtain an application form on his behalf.
- ii. DCC under the Comprehensive Performance Assessment which was carried out by a team of inspectors from the Audit Commission in June 2002 to assess the provision of its services and community leadership had been judged as a 'good' authority. Inspectors scored Devon as rating 'three' out of a maximum of 'four'.

187. Parish Plan

It was resolved that the PC should develop a Parish Plan. It was noted that a Community Plan and a Parish Plan were two different concepts. However they could be amalgamated. It was agreed, in order to take matters forward that a further meeting would be needed. The Village Hall had been provisionally booked for Tuesday, 28th January at 7.30pm. A Steering Ctte would be required in order to progress the project.

188. Meetings Attended

i. Canal Advisory Ctte – 7th January 2003 at Tiverton Town Hall

The Vice-Chairman attended this, together with Cllr Mrs Hull. Signage was discussed, also car parking requirements, linking the canal from Tiverton to Taunton which would cost several million pounds. Cllr Radford would follow up concerns whereby several people who had helped with the opening ceremony of the Dudley Weatherly Jubilee Bridge in November had not been formally thanked by the Grand Western Canal Advisory Board.

189. Future Meetings

i. Mid Devon Rural Transport Forum – 28th January 2003 at 2.30pm at Cullompton

Cllr Mrs Fisher would attend this.

ii. Culm Area Committee – 29th January 2003 at 7.00pm at the Duchy School

The Clerk to arrange to have included on the Agenda – a.. Tiverton Parkway – concern about the reduced number of trains stopping at the station, availability of parking and parking costs and b. Halberton Doctors Surgery – concern that this has not been operational for several months

iii. Mid Devon Community Planning Alliance – 31st January 2003

The Clerk to arrange to have the items as stipulated for Minute 189 (ii) above, included on the Alliance Agenda.

190. Committee Reports

i. Cemetery

Cllr Saunders was still considering the problem of the headstones and what action needed to be taken. The Clerk to provide an updated cemetery fee list to all PCllrs. A copy to be inserted in the Newsletter. The cost of replacement bins and screening to be obtained and considered by the Ctte. Mr Anderson or Mr Stevens to be approached re the screening. A

complaint had been received about the state of a path in the cemetery. Cllr Hugill would assist with the tidying of this.

ii. Amenities

Cllr Mrs Jepps intended to hold a meeting in February to consider fully the requirements of the two Best Kept Village Competitions which the PC had entered. The Clerk had passed to Cllr Mrs Jepps copies of both entry forms for her information. The original quote of £152 submitted by the Halberton Flower Group had been turned down as being too expensive. The revised quote of £88.24 had been accepted. The Chairman would supply weed killer. The Clerk to write to Mrs Graham to accept the quote and to express the PC's thanks for all the hard work and commitment shown by the Group which had resulted in enhancing the village with the colourful floral displays

iii. Planning

The following planning applications were approved:

NO.	APPLICANT	DETAILS
4/25/02/2724	D A & J A Smith, Herne Place, Ash Thomas	LBC for replacement windows, upgrade porch etc
*4/25/02/2765	Mr & Mrs A Piercy, Shuteslade Farm, Halberton	Change of ag use to private garden
**4/25/02/2826	Halberton PC - The Cemetery	Intention to fell 1 fir tree
4/25/02/2829	Mr D Parr, Cider Barn, Lake Farm, Halberton	Window Opening
*The Vice-Chairman declared Code of Conduct		
**The PC declared Code of Conduct		

MDDC approved the following Planning Applications

NO.	APPLICANT
***4/25/02/1305	Mr R Radford, 1 Townsend Garden, Halberton
4/25/02/2378	J Reeves, Burrow Corner, Tiverton

Other Planning Matters

i. ***i. 4/25/02/1611, 1646, 1647, and 1648 – Erection of Poultry Houses and Feed Silo Mountstephens Farm – Mr D Parrish

The PC approved the proposed planting scheme.

***Cllr Radford declared Code of Conduct

ii. 4/25/02/1833 7 Clarke Close, Uffculme, Mr and Mrs McGoldrick

Cllr Hugill attended MDDC's Planning Cttee Meeting and re-iterated the PC's previous comments and concerns. Mr Valentine of MDDC would liaise with Cllr Radford about the increase in size of the property if the proposed development went ahead. (It appeared that the percentage figures which MDDC's Planning Officers had calculated, in this respect, did not agree with Cllr Hugill's). Cllr Radford would report back at the next PC Meeting with any developments. The application was currently deferred in view of the investigations.

iv. Footpaths

The Footpath Committee had met during the past few weeks. The brochure was progressing. The annual Footpath Survey forms were all out. The Experience Corps had offered their services. The Corps could provide volunteers to carry out work on the paths. It was agreed that once the Survey Forms were returned and it was known the extent of

<i>Made up as follows:- Current</i>	<i>800.24</i>
<i>High Interest</i>	<i>11,080.24</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>£11,880.48</i>

<i>VILLAGE HALLS FUND</i>	<i>£ 4,000.00</i>
<i>PARISH PATHS FUND</i>	<i>£1,238.72</i>
<i>GENERAL FUNDS</i>	<i>£6,641.76</i>

<i>NEWSLETTER :</i>	<i>Income for period 1/4/02 – 31/12/02 = £671.06</i>
<i>(£688.75 has also been collected but this is in respect of previous years advertising fees)</i>	
	<i>Expenditure for above period = £815.58</i>
	<i>DEFICIT £144.52</i>

It was resolved that the Clerk be given authority to purchase a new Payments and Receipts book at a cost of £44.46 plus vat.

193.Members Business

- i. Cllr Mrs Armstrong was concerned as to the poorly attended Ctte Meetings of the PC. The Clerk to check the Standing Orders for quorum numbers for Cttes and the full PC Meetings.
- ii. Cllr Payne advised that the Village Hall Ctte passed a unanimous resolution confirming that it did not wish to have the Village Hall moved, reaffirming the result of two previous public consultations.

194. Miscellaneous Matters

- i. Mr Maunder had confirmed that the resurfacing of Corner Lane had been carried out. He requested that the PC now submit its contribution of £50, towards the total cost of £6979.63. He indicated that he considered the PC's contribution was inadequate and was very disappointed by the amount. The Clerk expressed concern that the payment of £50 was to be made payable solely to Mr Maunder and further, she had not received a copy of the invoice confirming the cost of the work either. However the PC considered that as long as Mr Maunder signed an acknowledgement to the payment, that this would be sufficient.
- ii. The PC had been informed that an application had been made to transfer the Justices Licence in respect of The Barge` Public House from the present Licensee to Mr A Cooper-Haime, Ms S Courtice and Ms S Hutter. It would be notified of the outcome shortly.

195.Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.50pm. The next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting would be on Tuesday, 11th February 2003 at 7.30pm at Halberton Village Hall. A Planning Ctte Meeting at 7.00pm would precede it.

CHAIRMAN

DATE