

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 14th MARCH 2006 AT 8.00PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

188. Present

The Chairman (K Browse), Vice-Chairman (B Lane-Smith) Cllrs Cooper, Gibbs, Greenhill, Radford, Saunders, Mesdames Armstrong, Fisher, Jepps and Hull, Glen Crocker MDDC's Planning Enforcement Officer and two members of the Public

189. Public Forum

Barry Corden submitted a letter in connection with the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan for Halberton, which he asked to be passed onto MDDC for consideration. The item would be discussed later in the meeting.

190. Apologies

C.Cllr Hannon and PC Dodd

191. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 14th February 2006 were approved and signed accordingly

192. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- i. David Westwood (Chair of Exe Valley Plan IT Focus Group) would possibly attend a future PC Meeting, the date to be arranged.
- ii. C.Cllr Des Hannon had managed to secure £500 of funding for 'Club 17' from the Tiverton Youth Network. The Vice-Chairman expressed his thanks to C.Cllr Hannon indicating that the money would help substantially with equipping the club.
- iii. Cllr Mrs Armstrong advised that the pot holes in Church Path had still not been dealt with and neither had the footpath been properly cleared. The Clerk to ask Willy Pike to meet the Chairman on site to examine these areas.

193. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman advised of the robbery which had been carried out at Halberton Post Office. Dick Johnstone had been injured by the robber and both he and his wife had been very shaken by the incident. To date the robber was still at large. The PC sent its best wishes to Jan and Dick and hoped that the criminal would be caught without further delay. Jan through the PC wished to express thanks for all the support and good wishes they had received from parishioners for which they were most appreciative.

194. Police Matters

PC Dodd had submitted a report in his absence to the Clerk advising of various crimes, which had been committed in the Parish during the past month. These included theft of a vehicle and a drink driving offence. PC Dodd advised that the proposed trip to Dartmoor which would involve taking a number of youngsters from Halberton, would almost certainly not be going ahead due to a lack of numbers. He indicated that allegations had been made about a group of youths in Halberton being so badly behaved, that they should not be taken on any outings. He considered the allegations to be totally unfounded and maintained that if the Exe Valley Rotary Club and himself had gone ahead with the trip taking a cross section of youths from the village, there wouldn't have been any problems. PC Dodd would still be prepared to take any interested children to Dartmoor, this weekend, in his car if any wished to go. The Vice Chairman responded by stating that 'Club 17' was run by his wife, whom he assisted, and she was not prepared to allow the Club's insurance to be used for the outing to Dartmoor, which PC Dodd was hoping to

use. In addition, a number of children who had indicated previously that they wished to attend the trip, had subsequently changed their minds. The Clerk to report to MDDC details of an abandoned vehicle at Cross Parks which had been left in a dangerous position. Julia Ryder was the new Community Safety Officer who had taken up her post in January. It was decided to invite her to attend the June PC Meeting.

195. DCC Matters

- i. Warnicombe Lane would be closed temporarily from 20th March, for approximately 22 days in order that Balfour Beatty Utilities could rehabilitate a water main
- ii. There had been problems again with road closures in the Parish which created difficulties with the public transport timetable. School pupils living at Halberton had been dropped off at Sampford Peverell and then had to find their way back to Halberton. The Clerk explained that if emergency notices were issued to close down a road, by DCC, which effectively would mean minimal notice was given of the impending closure, it was likely that in view of the time scales involved that not all interested parties (ie coach companies) were informed. The Clerk would contact DCC about the PC being notified, if possible, of all road closures.
- iii. The Devon County Committee had been formed which had a fund of approx £56,000 to use in Mid Devon for any deserving cause. It was suggested that Cllr Des Hannon be approached for more information.

196. Mid Devon District Council

- i. The Clerk provided dates, times and venues of the Public Liaison Meetings which would be taking place during the month
- ii. Cllr Radford advised that the proposed transfer of the housing stock had fallen through due to the overwhelming number of tenants who had voted in favour of remaining with MDDC rather than transferring to a Housing Association. The costs involved in trying to 'sell' the housing transfer to the tenants was in the region of £700,000

197. Parish Website

Tim had e-mailed the Clerk indicating that he intended to deal with the outstanding Parish website matters in the next couple of weeks. In the meantime it was suggested by the PC that an advert be placed in the Newsletter requesting someone to assist with maintaining the site, in view of the fact that Tim's work commitments severely restricted the time he now had available to spend on the website.

198. Clerk's Computer

It had been agreed in February 2005 that the Clerk should purchase a scanner at a cost not exceeding £80. The Clerk wished to proceed with the purchase of this item which would also incorporate a fax and photocopier but which would remain within budget. The PC resolved that the Clerk should purchase this item. With regards to the proposed new computer for the Clerk it was agreed that Cllr Mrs Hull should carry out some further research as she thought she may be able to purchase this item at a preferential rate. The item to be considered at the April PC meeting.

199. Draft Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan by MDDC

Unfortunately not all the members had seen the draft plan. However, it was understood that some of the information it contained, was incorrect. Concern was expressed as to the comments in the plan about the traffic calming scheme, the length of time given for consultation and that only a small number of parishioners were being consulted by MDDC. The cost implications in drafting

the plan were also raised and also why it was considered necessary at this time to draw up such a document. The Chairman also requested that a number of aerial photographs of the Parish be included in the Plan. The Village Hall's letter in connection with the proposed plan to be passed to MDDC at the same time as the PC submitting the aforementioned comments. The item to be placed on the April agenda.

200. Newsletter

It was resolved that advertising fees should be increased by 5% with effect from 1st April. It was noted that despite this increase, the Newsletter's advertising rates were the cheapest, compared to those of other magazines produced nearby

201. Hastoe Housing

Hastoe was seeking tenants for accommodation, which would be vacant in the Parish shortly. Details of any prospective tenants needed to be passed to MDDC. The Chairman would inform MDDC of two persons in the Parish who were seeking accommodation. In the meantime it was agreed that the Clerk should thank Hastoe for keeping the PC informed of housing matters and hoped it would continue to do so in the future.

202. Meetings Attended

i. 2nd March 2006 4th Transport and Water Waste Disposal Focus Group

The Chairman attended this. He advised he would be willing to complete a questionnaire in relation to transport issues

ii. 7th March 2006 at 7.30pm - The Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Ctte Meeting -at Phoenix House

The Chairman attended this. Issues raised included the type of facilities the PC would most like to see adjoining the part of the canal which ran through the Parish

iii. 8th March 2006 Mid Devon Association of Local Councils – Tiverton Town Hall

The Chairman and Cllr Gibbs attended this. The Chairman expressed concern as to the manner in which the meeting was handled. It appeared that numerous persons present had voting rights which he considered was possibly incorrect and there was a sense of informality about the proceedings. He asked the Clerk to request a copy of the Association's Constitution from the Association's Secretary, and at the same time to request that she was forwarded agendas/minutes of meetings. In addition there would be no membership fee payable for this year in view of the lack of meetings last year. Cllr Gibbs advised that despite the aforementioned, Ian Bateman, the Climate Change Officer for Devon had provided a most informative talk about global warming and the implications for Devon in the future.

iv. 14th March 2006 – Standards Ctte Meeting, MDDC at 2.00pm

The Vice-Chairman attended this. He advised that concern was expressed as to the number of Cllrs who were neglecting to declare personal interests, which was mainly due to error, rather than Cllrs being deliberately evasive.

203. Restructuring of Committees

It was proposed that there should be the following Cttes of the PC to take effect from May 2006. All Cttes to be attended by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the PC:

- i. Planning Ctte – to be attended by all Councillors
- ii. Policy and Finance Ctte – To be attended by all Chairs of Cttes with the exception of the Precept meeting when all Councillors are to attend
- iii. *Amenities (to include the Cemetery)
- iv. *Communications, Footpaths and Environment

*Members to let the Clerk know at the April PC meeting which of the Cttes they wish to sit on. Further the Clerk to include on the April agenda the item `Amendment of Standing Orders` to reflect the revised Cttes.

204. Committee Reports

Amenities (including the Cemetery)

Cllr Cooper confirmed that he was still making regular checks of the play equipment. The PC expressed its thanks to him for carrying out this task. The Vice-Chairman explained that only he had turned up for the site meeting on 1st March at Cordwents. A further meeting was arranged for 17th March at 9.00am. It was agreed that the item `Car Parking` be placed on the April agenda. The Clerk had handed out Minutes/Agendas about the forthcoming Amenities Ctte Meeting. However she had been unable to e-mail Debbie Whiteway with this information. The Chairman would confirm the arrangements with Debbie. No further progress had been made with regards to obtaining a bin for the Rec`. The Clerk to approach Colin Carey again about this matter. Jo Cuthbert was prepared to bring along to the next Amenities Ctte meeting planter options to consider. The Vice-Chairman advised that for approximately £90, a planter could be planted up and maintained throughout the year by Jo, including the watering of it. Two burials had taken place in the cemetery recently.

Communications

The proposed Ctte meeting of 28th February had been abandoned due to lack of numbers.

Footpaths

The funding for the production costs of the footpaths brochure looked promising. A new `Talk and Walk` group was starting in Cullompton on Thursday.

THE ORDINARY PC MEETING WAS THEN ADJOURNED AT 9.00PM, IN ORDER TO REVERT TO THE PLANNING CTTE MEETING

AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE PLANNING CTTE MEETING, THE ORDINARY PC MEETING WAS RESUMED AT 9.42PM

205. Clerk's Report

The Clerk had nothing to report.

206.Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST - 28TH FEBRUARY 2006:

<i>Bank Interest</i>	<i>18.07</i>
<i>Newsletter</i>	<i>20.00</i>
<i>Cemetery</i>	<i>95.00</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>133.07</i>

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD: 1ST - 28th FEBRUARY 2006 £538.57

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

<i>Cheque No</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>VAT</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Details</i>
100995	236.51		236.51	Mrs C McIntyre – March/April (less tax deductions)
100996	17.93	3.13	21.06	K Browse – repayment of cost of wood

<i>Balance of bank accounts carried forward</i>	12,315.55
<i>Plus receipts for period 1st – 28th February 2006</i>	133.07
	TOTAL £12,448.62
<i>Minus payments made for the above period</i>	538.57
	TOTAL £11,910.05

Made up as follows:- *High Interest* 11,131.28
Current 778.77
TOTAL £11,910.05

VILLAGE HALLS FUND	£360.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	£1,846.72
PARISH PLAN FUND	300.00
GENERAL FUNDS	£9403.33
TOTAL	£11,910.05

NEWSLETTER :

Income for period 1/4/05 – 28/02/06 £1,694.82 less expenditure to date of £1,544.12 = Net Profit £150.70

207. Other Accounting Matters

It was resolved that the PC should continue to pay its annual subscription to the Devon Playing Fields Association. It was further resolved that the PC should cease purchasing the Village Green magazine as the annual cost was now £55. As a member of DAPC, the PC received a free copy of the magazine and this could be passed round the members of the PC.

208. Members Business

- i. Cllr Jepps would speak again to persons at Lake Farm regarding the problems with their refuse collection and report back to the PC at the next meeting.
- ii. PCllrs were reminded to sign in and out of the hall for meetings in order that invoices could be raised by the Village Hall Ctte for the correct amounts, based on actual usage of the hall.
- iii. The Chairman would speak to a parishioner about replacing the hedge on one of the boundaries of his property with a wooden fence. The parishioner thought replacing the hedge with a fence would reduce the ongoing maintenance of the boundary but the Vice-Chairman expressed concern that the fence could be a target for vandals which could result in more expensive maintenance costs.

209. Future Parish Council Meetings

- i. 23rd March 2006 – Amenities Ctte Meeting – 7.30pm
- ii. 11th April 2006 – Planning Ctte Meeting – 7.00pm
- iii. 11th April 2006 – Ordinary Meeting of PC – 7.30pm

The Meeting ended at 10.10pm

DATE

CHAIRMAN

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