

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

114. Present

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, (he attended the meeting later) Cllrs Mesdames Armstrong, Hull and Jepps, Cllrs Gibbs, Hugill, Lane-Smith and six Members of the Public

115. Public Forum

A resident from Orchard View raised a complaint about another resident regarding the parking of his lorry in the vicinity which he alleged was causing obstructions, noise and potential damage to property. A number of PCllrs had also received complaints from residents about this matter. The lorry driver resident, the subject of the complaint was in attendance. He considered the complaints were unjustified and the residents who lived either side of him, agreed with him. Various allegations were then made by each party. After the residents had left, there was much discussion. Various options were considered. It was proposed that the owner of an area of vacant land near the Barge be approached to see whether he would allow the parking of the lorry on his land, as it was felt that if the lorry could be moved away from Orchard View, that this should resolve the problem. The lorry driver resident had previously indicated that he would be prepared to park elsewhere if an alternative site was available. The Chairman would contact the owner of the land and would also seek advise from the police.

116. Apologies

Cllr Mrs Fisher and Cllr Radford

117. Minutes

The Minutes of:

- i. The Parish Council Meeting of 9th September 2003
- ii. The Cemetery Cttee Meeting of 23rd September 2003
- iii. The Amenities Cttee Meeting of 23rd September 2003

were approved without amendment

The Clerk advised that the Minutes of 8th July required amendment. The following addition to be inserted at Para 89 `100742 - £216.24 – Clerk`s Salary for August less tax deductions`

118. Matters Arising

- i. The Clerk had placed a notice on the Parish noticeboard advising that the Barge and Halberton Club were `Community Safety Points` and each of them had on display useful police and community information available to the public
- ii. The Clerk reported that due to work commitments Mr and Mrs Erasmus had been unable to attend the Chairman`s Reception at MDDC on 16th September.
- iii. Catherine Simmons Rural Housing Development Officer had requested that she attended either the November or December PC meeting to talk about Affordable Housing, rather than a date proposed in the New Year as previously suggested by the PC. However due to other items being included on the November and December agendas and it being unlikely that the information from the Parish Plan questionnaires would have been collated in time, it was decided that the New Year date remain.

119. Chairman`s Announcements

The Chairman advised that Cllr Radford`s wife and Cllr Mrs Fisher`s husband were both unwell which was the reason both Cllrs had been unable to attend the PC meeting. The Chairman on behalf of the PC wished Mr Fisher and Mrs Radford a speedy recovery.

120 Royal Devon & Exeter Healthcare NHS Trust

The Clerk advised that a number of meetings were being arranged throughout the district with consultation exercises being carried out by the RD&E with regard to the Trust becoming an NHS Foundation Trust. The Clerk would be able to arrange a speaker from the Trust to speak to the PC as suggested at the last PC meeting. However after some discussion the PC considered that it was not now necessary to invite a speaker as information about the proposals had already been provided.

121 Charity Commission – Annual Return

The Clerk advised that she had completed the Annual Charity Commission Return for 2003, which was in respect of the Recreation Ground. The income for 2002/03 was nil and the expenditure was £700. The Chairman signed his approval to the Return.

122 Culm Valley Guide

Cullompton Town Council was producing a guide to encourage tourism in the area. It hoped that parish councils such as Halberton would become involved. There had been a meeting arranged by Cullompton for 9th October but due to this falling before the Ordinary PC Meeting the Clerk had been unable to inform all the Councillors. Other meetings were planned by Cullompton and the PC indicated that it was interested in the idea.

123. Quality Parish Councils

The Clerk had received further information about the AQA Certificate in Local Council Administration. She indicated that she would need at least a year to compile her portfolio of evidence. The cost of the course, her time etc would also need to be considered. In addition there were other matters which the PC needed to consider eg reviewing the terms and conditions of her contract, insurance, health and safety matters etc. It was decided that these matters could be discussed at the Finance Committee Meeting of the PC in January.

124. Parish Plan

A meeting had taken place on 25th September. Further meetings were planned for 21st and 25th October. The questionnaire was being delivered around the Parish shortly.

125. Remembrance Sunday

This would take place on Sunday, 9th November. It was suggested that all members of the PC attend. A £12 donation to be made to the Royal British Legion as agreed to by the PC some time ago.

126. Safety Surfacing

It was proposed and seconded to accept the quote from Tebbutt Associates at Blackpool for 5 x tons of rubber crumbs @ £180 per ton plus delivery @ £60 per ton = £1200 for the playing field to replace the bark chippings. The Chairman to contact the Clerk to order the product shortly.

127. Cemetery Matters

Mr Roberts at DCC had written to confirm that DCC would give permission to the PC for its tractor and trailer to have access across DCC land and that the PC could make plans to install a gate in the cemetery boundary. He didn't know as yet as to what form the permission would take. It was agreed that if the PC required the grass cutting of the cemetery to be cut over the winter months then Town and Country be asked to carry this out on an 'as and when' basis. It was agreed that the Clerk ascertain from Town and Country the type of grass cutting equipment it had available to use in the Rec and the Mead, before the PC agreed that it should also carry out occasional cuts in both playing fields.

128 Police Matters

There was nothing to report

129 Mid Devon District Council Matters

There was nothing to report

130. DCC Matters

Mr Roberts advised that DCC was now willing to discuss the idea of a car park as a separate development to the Council's ambitions for the possible developments of Cordwents. In other words a car park without strings. Cllr Mrs Armstrong advised that a meeting was being set up to progress this. There was also a meeting arranged for 16th October at 3.45pm at Halberton School re children walking to school safely. Cllr Mrs Armstrong would be attending this.

131 Meetings Attended

i. 23rd September 2003 – 2.30pm Mid Devon Transport Forum

Cllr Mrs Fisher attended this. It was the last meeting of the Forum. There was no Chairman present and only 4 out of 20 Local Members attended. All the Forums in the County were winding up. It was considered that the way forward was to form local groups. The nearest for the PC would be the Cullompton Group Initiative through Sarah Duffin from Bradnich.

ii. 16th September 2003 – 2.30pm Mid Devon Primary Care Trust

Cllr Mrs Fisher attended this. No further news about Halberton Surgery as Colin Greensmith was not present. The main topic for discussion was the new Tiverton and District Hospital. It was hoped to open it in phases in the New Year. Problems were anticipated with moving the x-ray equipment from the old hospital. There would be approx 200 parking spaces. The Local Forum of Mid Devon Primary Care Trust would cease shortly. There would be a meeting in November to decide the way forward. If meetings were to continue, consideration would have to be given as to how they were funded eg possibly parish councils and other organisations could contribute.

iii. 8th October 2003 – 6.30pm – East Devon College – District Debate on Affordable Housing

Cllr Mrs Armstrong attended this and found it to be informative and very interesting. The possibility of subsidised housing was explored.

iv. 14th October 2003 - Standards Cttee Meeting

Cllr Hugill attended this. He advised that the Report about the disqualification of former Cllr David Hathaway, was available.

132. Clerk's Report

The Clerk advised that the Parish Accounts for 2002/03 had been signed off by the District Auditor as satisfactory. However the Auditor had advised that for next year the Clerk should show the cash balance as per the cash book plus any investments at 31st March and not the balance shown on the bank statement plus any investments as at that date. The Clerk advised that she had in any event shown both sets of figures and couldn't understand why the District Auditor was making the criticism.

133. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST -30th SEPTEMBER 2003:

<i>Bank Interest</i>	17.85
<i>Newsletter</i>	51.35
TOTAL	£69.20

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST – 30th SEPTEMBER 2003 £1198.59

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

<i>Cheque No</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>VAT</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Details</i>
<i>Direct Debit</i>	20.00		20.00	<i>MDDC – Rates re Cemetery</i>
<i>100755</i>	10.00		10.00	<i>T Payne – Newsletter</i>
<i>100756</i>	221.07	38.69	259.76	<i>Education Matters</i>
<i>100757</i>	8.00		8.00	<i>Mrs C McIntyre – repayment cost of stamps Newsletter</i>
<i>100758</i>	1.79		1.79	<i>Mrs I Hugill –repayment cost of book (Parish Plan)</i>
<i>100759</i>	29.97	5.24	35.21	<i>Viking Direct – envelopes (Parish Plan)</i>
<i>100760</i>	37.50		37.50	<i>DCC – ½ year rent – The Mead</i>
<i>100761</i>	102.92	18.01	120.93	<i>Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance</i>
<i>100762</i>	150.00		150.00	<i>N Page – work on footpaths</i>
<i>100763</i>	150.00		150.00	<i>Town & Country – grass cutting cemetery</i>
<i>100764</i>	195.00		195.00	<i>Halberton VH –room hire (P.Plan Meetings £145.50 and PC Meetings £49.50)</i>
<i>100765</i>	5.25		5.25	<i>South West Water – water charges re cemetery</i>
<i>100766</i>	216.24		216.24	<i>Mrs C McIntyre – Salary (less tax deductions)</i>
<i>100767</i>	182.16		182.16	<i>PO Ltd – tax deductions for July- Sept from Clerk`s salary</i>
<i>100768</i>	12.00		12.00	<i>Donation – Royal British Legion</i>

The above invoices were approved for payment

<i>Balance of bank accounts carried forward</i>	17,508.01
<i>Plus receipts for period 1st – 30th September</i>	69.20
TOTAL	£17,577.21
<i>Minus payments made for the above period</i>	1198.59
TOTAL	£16,378.62

<i>Made up as follows:- Current</i>	£151.11
<i>High Interest</i>	£16,227.51
TOTAL	£16,378.62

<i>VILLAGE HALLS FUND</i>	£ 3,500.00
<i>PARISH PATHS FUND</i>	£1,823.72
<i>PARISH PLAN FUND</i>	£2,061.27
<i>GENERAL FUNDS</i>	<u>£ 8,993.63</u>
TOTAL	£16,378.62

NEWSLETTER :

Income for period 1/4/03 – 30/09/03 £1,017.55

Income received in 2002/03 (payment in advance for advertising in 2003/04) - £68.57 TOTAL

INCOME = £948.98- LESS EXPENDITURE = £597.21 NET INCOME = £369.77

134. Committee Reports

i. Cemetery

The Clerk had prepared a letter addressed to the owners of graves with regard to the dangerous condition of a number of headstones. The letter to be discussed at the next Cemetery Ctte Meeting.

ii. Amenities

Cllr Mrs Jepps had advised that Mr Sharland had made a good job of the outstanding repairs. An Amenities Ctte Meeting to be arranged for Tuesday, 28th October at 7.30pm at Halberton Village Hall.

iii. Footpaths

The Clerk advised that The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 introduced a new duty for Highway Authorities to produce a Rights of Way Improvement Plan. The Improvement Plan was being produced to ensure that it met the needs of those who wished to access the countryside for travel and recreation, whilst considering the needs of local landowners, farmers and others who worked in the countryside. The Clerk had passed all the information to the Vice-Chairman including a Consultation Document which he was considering. The consultation document had to be completed and returned by 28th November.

iv. Highways

The Clerk to arrange a Highways Ctte Meeting to follow on after the Amenities Ctte Meeting.

135. Members Business

- i. As Cllr Radford was not present it was not possible to obtain an update on concerns expressed at the last PC meeting about the current speed limit on Willand Road. Letters of concern had been forwarded to Cllr Mrs Armstrong by persons living on the Halberton Road about this matter. The Clerk would acknowledge both letters and would ensure the item was placed on the November Agenda for further discussion.
- ii. Cllr Mrs Jepps had advised that there did not appear to be a speed limit sign at Crossparks which she considered was necessary. Cllr Gibbs would look into the matter.
- iii. Cllr Hugill advised that Cllr Lane-Smith wished to raise a matter in which he had a prejudicial interest. Cllr Hugill spoke on Cllr Lane-Smith's behalf. It appeared that a man was living in a shed on his own land, adjoining land belonging to Cllr Lane-Smith. Concern had been expressed as the man was getting washed in the stream. Further, there were environmental and health and safety issues to consider. There was much discussion. It was agreed that the Clerk should make enquiries of MDDC's Environmental Health Dept and advise Cllr Lane-Smith accordingly. He could then decide whether he wished to pursue the matter.

136. Miscellaneous Matters

The Clerk had received information on forthcoming courses: 'Budgeting & Financial Risk Assessment' and 'Ethical Framework -Your Chance to meet the Standards Board'. Any Cllrs wishing to attend either course to contact the Clerk.

137. Next Meeting

A Meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Tuesday, 11th November 2003 at Halberton Village Hall at 7.30pm, preceded by a Meeting of the Council's Planning Committee at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATE