

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH
COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 14TH OCTOBER 2008 AT 7.30PM AT
HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

106. Present

The Chairman (Cllr Browse), Vice-Chairman (Cllr Britton), Cllrs Mesdames Jepps and Johnstone, Corden, Gibbs, Lane-Smith, Radford, Saunders and Wooding and Beat Officer Katie Rich and one member of the public

107. Apologies

Cllr Mrs Cuthbert and CClr Hannon

108. Public Forum

There was no Public Forum

109. Police Matters

Katie reported that there had been damage reported to a tree at Pond Hill. Unfortunately there had been no witnesses to the crime. Youngsters were causing problems by banging on doors of properties at Pethertons. The culprits had been spoken to. There had been problems with traffic lights. No further burglaries had been reported. A person had been arrested. He had admitted burglaries at Sampford Peverell but not in Halberton. A Neighbourhood Watch Scheme had been set up in Green Acre. Cllr Wooding and the residents would co-ordinate and meetings would be arranged. A resident at Pethertons also wanted to set up a Scheme. It was hopeful, that this would be progressed. Katie advised that she was waiting to hear if the School required her to talk to the children about the danger of fireworks. In view of the problems with fireworks last year police patrols would be increased from Halloween onwards.

110. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the 9th September 2008 were approved subject to the amendment of Minute 92. A final sentence to be added to state "Cllr Mrs Jepps declared a prejudicial and personal interest".

111. Matters Arising

- i. Cllr Corden advised that the recycling signs would be removed asap
- ii. The crash barrier near the Barge had still not been repaired. The matter had been outstanding for some time despite repeated requests by the Clerk to DCC to get it repaired. It was understood that there had been a couple of minor incidents which had occurred because the barrier had not been properly repaired. The Clerk to chase up DCC again about this matter.
- iii. The question of overgrown hedges was raised again. The Chairman would remind the Farm Shop of their obligations in this respect, although it was noted that the hedge on the left hand side of the bend had been cut. The hedge at Five Bridges (Merry Mead Farm) required trimming and also those at 48, 50, 26 and 56 High Street. Cllr Mrs Jepps would speak to the owners of No. 56 and Cllr Mrs Johnstone will speak to the owners at No. 26. The Clerk to refer the matter to DCC in respect of 48 and 50 High Street
- iv. The hardcore for the entrance to the Rec` would be considered as soon as possible

112. Chairman`s Announcements

The Chairman had nothing to report

113. Meeting Format

The Clerk suggested that meetings should be tightened up and members should be allowed to talk for a maximum period of time only. She was concerned that meetings were becoming longer and it was in no ones interest for meetings to drag on for inordinate periods of time, as members

became bored and lost interest in the topics being discussed. It was agreed that future meetings would be more tightly controlled.

114. Mid Devon District Council Matters

- i. It was agreed with Cllr Radford that the annual Litter Pick of Halberton would take place on 25th October . Interested parties to meet at the Village Hall at 10.00am. Cllr Radford would bring all equipment required.
- ii. Cllr Radford advised that the income generated from persons submitting planning applications had been quite substantially reduced in view of the credit crunch and little development taking place. He also advised that income from car parking was also reduced. It was understood that MDDC had invested over £1,000,000 in Icelandic Banks. Cllr Radford didn't know if and when the money would be recovered.
- iii. MDDC was seeking willing tenants to act as the Village Voice/Estate Representative for their local community. The representatives would be a vital link between tenants and MDDC giving them the opportunity to influence and develop the delivery of their Housing Services
- iv. It was agreed that the Clerk would complete MDDC's Budget Consultation form. The purpose for this was to enable MDDC (from the responses given) to measure attitudes and prioritise about council services in local areas. The Clerk to make reference to the fact that more funding should be made available for the canal and Villages in Action
- v. Residents of MDDC could contact Cllr David Nation to share their experiences of how agencies such as the police, social services, housing, youth and local action groups were working together, to tackle anti-social behaviour. Various meetings had been held throughout the district for residents to express their views.
- vi. It was understood that the Homefinder Direct scheme of allocating affordable homes for rent was being enhanced to give preference to local people on the housing register. To qualify for local preference, an applicant would now have to meet certain criteria laid down by MDDC.
- vii. MDDC had held a National Customer Service Week from 6th – 12th October. This was an opportunity to reward certain employees and to ask the public for feedback

115. Replacement for Dick Drew Seat

It was resolved that the seat be replaced. The cost not to exceed £150. Mr Alan Hunt had agreed to make the seat and he would not charge the PC for his labour only for the materials required. The Clerk to make contact with Mr Hunt.

116. DCC Matters

- i. It was understood that DCC had been chosen as one of seven Commons Registration Authorities in England to be a pilot authority for the implementation of Part 1 of the Commons Act 2006 which came into force on 1st October 2008 in Devon (excluding Plymouth and Torbay). The transitional period was from 1st October 2008 to 30th September 2010.
- ii. The Vice Chairman raised the question of street lighting being on continually at Lower Town and water coming up through the manhole at the Jubilee Tree junction. Despite repeatedly trying to get these matters dealt with, they were still outstanding. The Clerk to contact Cllr Hannon for his help with these matters.

117. Code of Conduct Matters and Further Developments

The Clerk reported that a complaint had been made against one of the current members of the Parish Council alleging breaches under the of Code of Conduct. The matter was being investigated and the Clerk would report back when she had further information. The Clerk handed an information sheet to each member of the PC produced by MDDC, about the Standards Ctte.

118. Update on Unitary Situation

DAPC had submitted its Response to the Boundary Committee's Draft Proposal for Devon 2008. The Clerk had full details available if any PCllr wished to see it.

119. Parish Plan/Emergency Plan Update

Cllr Mrs Johnstone had advised that due to Cllr Mrs Cuthbert's recent ill health there had not been any progress made with the Plan but she was hopeful that this would be addressed shortly.

120. Distribution of Newsletter in the Parish

The cost of providing extra copies of the Newsletter to parts of the Parish, which currently wasn't receiving it, was considered. It was agreed that initially a few extra copies be made available and then the matter reviewed again in the Spring.

121. Village of the Year Competition

The PC had been invited to send two representatives to the Awards Ceremony in the Guildhall in London on 2nd December. It would be a very prestigious event. It was resolved that the Chairman and Cllr Mrs Cuthbert attend the Awards Ceremony in recognition of all their hard work and commitment to the Village of the Year Competition. It was further resolved that the cost of their train fares to London be met by the PC

122. Funding Opportunity

The Clerk reported that the National Lottery was awarding grants of between £300 and £10,000 for various projects which organisations, including parish councils, could apply for. The grant had to be used within one year of it being awarded. It was agreed that this opportunity could provide funding for the car park scheme. The Clerk to provide the Chairman with a copy of Roger Folley's letter in which he required certain information in order to progress this matter.

123. Home Grown Produce Venture

The Clerk provided details of this. The idea was for individuals or groups to grow their own food in the Parish. 'Home Grown – Community Owned' is a three year project which will work with over 30 different communities across Devon to develop new projects, assets, skills, and opportunities, that enable local people to grow their own food. Communities could get up to £250 as a seed fund towards their planned activities. It was understood that there was land at the back of the Village Hall, however Allotment law and Charity Law provisions would have to be taken into account when considering any available land for this purpose. Cllr Mrs Johnstone would contact the Charity Commission regarding charity requirements etc. In the meantime it was suggested that the Clerk register the PC's interest in the Project and invite a representative of the Project to attend a future PC Meeting.

124. Cemetery and Related Matters

Ian Quance, Bereavement Services and Cemeteries Manager had failed to turn up to the PC's meeting arranged for 23rd September due to a serious personal matter. It was agreed that he should be invited to another meeting combined possibly with a Planning Cttee Meeting, but prior to his attendance the Clerk to request he supplied her with up to date rules/regulations for a cemetery which the PC could consider. The Vice-Chairman would ask the tenant/subtenant permission for access across his land adjacent to the cemetery for the removal of earth from the cemetery. The Vice-Chairman would liaise with Cllr Mrs Jepps about this matter. It was suggested that a "Work Day" should be arranged in the cemetery to clear up outstanding matters. The Cemetery Sub-Cttee would liaise with each other about this. It appeared that the plan the Clerk had in her possession, which showed numbered graves in which interment had taken place and other graves plots which had been purchased in advance for future burials was out of date. The Clerk would liaise with Cllr Mrs Jepps about updating it. A request for a parishioner's

ashes to be scattered in the cemetery was refused but it was agreed that his cremated remains could be laid to rest in Plot No. 168. (Plot 168 to be re-sited behind Plot No 170/171.)The remaining plots along the row commencing with 168, would be numbered 168A, 168B etc and would be used for cremated remains only

125.Meetings Attended

27th September 2008 – DAPC AGM – County Hall

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman attended this and found it informative and enjoyable.

126.Courses

23rd September 2008 – Moretonhampstead – Playground Maintenance Management Course

Cllr LSmith did not attend. He agreed to re-imburse the PC the course fee.

127. Committee Reports

There was nothing to report

128. Clerk`s Report

The Clerk advised that the Chairman had been nominated for an award under DAPC`s 'Make a Difference' ceremony being held on DCC`s campus on 15th October. The Clerk explained that the nomination was to show appreciation for everything the Chairman had contributed to the Parish and the community and the absolute respect that the community had for the Chairman. It was hoped that the Chairman would receive a prize for all his hard work and effort.

129. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST - 30th SEPTEMBER 2008:

Bank Interest	47.01
Newsletter	161.88
Cemetery	116.00

TOTAL £324.89

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST - 30th SEPTEMBER 2008 £2282.19

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Cheque No	Amount	Vat	Total	Details
DD	24.00		24.00	MDDC – Cemetery Rates (Sept)
1243	30.00		30.00	DAPC Delegate Fees
1244	15.00		15.00	Mrs J Austin – delivery of Newsletter
1245	350.79		350.79	Education Matters – publication of Newsletter
1246	30.00		30.00	Land Registry Fee
1247	30.00		30.00	DAPC - Playground Maintenance Course Fees
1248	340.63		340.63	Mrs C McIntyre – salary Oct/Nov
1249	7.54	1.32	8.86	Ottery Office Practice -photocopying
1250	339.75	59.46	399.21	Gardencare – Grass Cutting of Cemetery, the Mead and the Rec

The above payments were approved for payment

Balance of bank accounts carried forward 24628.48

Plus Receipts for period 1st – 30th Sept 2008 324.89

TOTAL £24953.37

Minus Payments made for the above Period £2282.19

TOTAL £22,671.18

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	20572.23
Current A/c	2098.95
TOTAL	£22671.18

VILLAGE HALL FUNDS	1500.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	2108.79
PARISH PLAN FUND	433.54
CAR PARKING	1500.00
GENERAL FUNDS	17128.85
TOTAL	£22,671.18

Halberton Newsletter: Income for Period 1st April - 30th September 2008 = £1215.63 less expenditure £1105.13 = Profit £110.50

130. Other Accounts Matters/Telephone Banking

The Clerk advised that the Accounts had been signed off by the Audit Commission as they had complied with the Audit Commission's requirements, there were no matters which had caused the Commission any concern and that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had been met. The Clerk was thanked for ensuring that the accounts were in good shape. The Clerk advised that due to an error of the HSBC Bank, the PC had been de-registered for telephone banking. It was resolved that the PC should be re-registered and in order that this could be carried out a form would have to be signed by all PCllrs. Cllr Mrs Jepps and Corden would ensure that all signatures would be collected and the form then forwarded to the Clerk in order that she could deal with the registration process.

131. Miscellaneous Matters

- i. The Vice-Chairman reported various issues about the motorcycling at Uplowman. Concern was expressed about human effluent being dumped on the roadways from camper vans leaving the venue. The Clerk to refer this matter to Environmental Health at MDDC. It was understood that noise pollution issues had already been investigated by MDDC previously. The events being held at the venue appeared to be permissible under the permitted number of events constraints
- ii. The Chairman would pursue the footpath to link the canal to the farm shop, further
- iii. Cllr Corden reported that the fence beside the football field had been repaired. The situation would be investigated as children were climbing the adjacent tree and bouncing on the fence and it was likely that unless measures could be taken to prevent this, the fence would be damaged again.
- iv. It was noted that the hedge behind Mrs Rendall's home had now been trimmed back
- v. Cllr Corden would speak to Mr Edge about laying the hedge down by the pond
- vi. A request was made by Cllr Corden for consideration of the formation of a Planning Sub Ctte, to be included on the November Agenda

132. Next Meeting

*11th November 2008 – 7.00pm Halberton Village Hall - Planning Ctte Meeting of Halberton Parish Council

Above date and location – 7.30pm Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

*There may also be other Planning Ctte Meetings arranged prior to this date

The Meeting closed at 9.30pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED

