

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER 2010 AT 7.50PM AT
HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

81. Present

Cllr Browse (Chairman), Cllrs Mesdames Cuthbert, Graham and Johnstone and Cllrs Britton (Vice-Chairman), Corden, Hand, Radford and Saunders, *CCllr Des Hannon, 4 members of DCC's street lighting team - Maurizio D'Alesio and Andy Ware and 6 members of the public *CCllr Hannon apologised in advance as he would have to leave the meeting early

82. Apologies

Cllr Helen Jepps, PC Katie Rich and PCSO J Sims

83. Public Forum

There were no issues raised

84. Ash Thomas Telephone Box

The telephone box was now formally in the ownership of the PC. Mr A Cooper an Ash Thomas resident was present at the meeting and thanked the PC for obtaining the box on behalf of the parishioners. The Clerk passed to him the details she had obtained about other communities and the various uses they had put their redundant phone boxes to. It was agreed that Mr Cooper would obtain ideas from the parishioners as to appropriate uses for the box which the PC could then consider. The Clerk would forward Mr Cooper and Cllr Hand details of recommended paint suppliers for the box. She confirmed that the lighting costs would remain the responsibility of BT for the present time. The box had now been included on the PC's insurance policy.

85. Street Lighting

Andy and Maurizio gave a presentation to the PC regarding DCC's intention to reduce the hours of street lighting across Devon and the reasons why this course of action was being proceeded with. The PC had noted that there had been written feedback by a number of parishioners who all supported the reduction of street lighting hours on the grounds of reducing costs and minimising light pollution. Andy and Maurizio answered a number of questions raised by Parish Councillors. They were thanked for attending the meeting as it had been a very useful exercise. The Vice-Chairman also thanked them for the provision of the new street lights in the village. The item to be included on the October agenda for further consideration. In the meantime the Clerk to obtain comments from the Police re DCC's proposals

86. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 13th July 2010 were approved and were signed accordingly

87. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- i. Nick Sanderson of MDDC had advised that the dog bin for Muxbeare Lane should be in situ by the beginning of October
- ii. Jenny Miller wished to thank the PC for the gift card which the Clerk had sent to show the PC's appreciation for carrying out the internal audit of its accounts. Jenny had very kindly agreed to become the PC's internal auditor for future years.
- iii. Alan Hooper Senior GMS Officer ICT Services advised that there were too few town and parish councils wishing to sign up for the Parish Online service. If the situation altered he would make contact again.

iv. Halberton Pre-School had repaid the £1,000 grant which the PC had given to it earlier in the year. The repayment was made as the Pre-School's financial situation had improved quite substantially

v. The Clerk had written to Mrs Onley-Gregson regarding the PC's intentions to make a financial contribution towards the costs of the school improvements but to date had not received a response

vi. The Clerk had downloaded the February Minutes of the Tiverton & Area Tenant Group Meeting re the proposed area at Pethertons for car parking. It was understood that no further meetings had been held since February due to lack of interest. The February minutes indicated that Patrick Hyde and Hasnein Kanani from Estates Management at MDDC had visited the area and were waiting for confirmation from Planning that the project could go ahead, together with possible costings. Cllr Radford to pursue this matter on the PC's behalf

88. The Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman advised that he had been in contact with Steve Gardner at DCC. He was pleased to report that £10,000 had been put aside for the PC for the construction of the footpath. DCC should be able to deal with all the formalities without the need for the PC having to enter into any legal agreements. The Clerk to contact CCllr Hannon to advise that Dan Meek of NPS had still not responded to Cllr Corden's letter/plans which was sent in June. The PC was unhappy with the lack of response. CCllr Hannon would then pursue this matter.

89. Re-consideration of Ash Thomas as the venue for the July PC Meetings

It was resolved that the venue remain

90. Housing Needs Survey

The information to be inserted into the Newsletter to inform parishioners of the impending survey was discussed and amendments agreed. The Clerk would contact John Scott at the Rural Community Council to advise that the survey forms needed to be delivered to Cllr Corden. The closing date for parishioners to complete the survey form was agreed as 31st October 2010. The PC agreed that the forms needed to be delivered to all households at the beginning of October.

91. Lottery Fund Community Wildlife Programme

It was understood that the Parish Biodiversity Audit was possibly in the possession of Cllr Gibbs. The Clerk to request the return of the document. Cllr Mrs Johnstone remarked that the survey had been carried out by DCC at the wrong time of year and in view of that, concluded that it had been a waste of money. The Clerk reminded the PC that lottery funding was available to 'discover, enjoy or protect the wildlife in their local area' and funding was available for projects for between £300 and £10,000. The PC did not have any projects in mind at the present time.

92. Halberton Newsletter

The Clerk advised that the transparency of local councils was very important and to this end she had taken advice from DAPC regarding the Newsletter. It was understood that in view of the publication costs of the Newsletter being approximately 1/5th of the precept (which it was acknowledged was offset by the advertising income) that the PC should obtain 3 quotes each year from other publication sources to see whether it could obtain a cheaper deal. It was agreed that in view of the PC considering its precept in November that the Clerk obtain information from other PCs and also speak to Brian Holmes at Willand regarding this matter. The item be re-considered at the October PC meeting.

93. 30mph Limit up to Canal Bridge (Dog Fouling)

It was understood that dog fouling was not an offence outside of a 30mph limit. The PC suggested that the limit should be extended off the Tiverton Road all the way down to Crown Hill. DCC needed to be consulted about this proposal. The Clerk to refer this matter to CCllr Hannon

94. The QE II Fields Challenge

The Challenge was a programme to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It was a landmark project to create a permanent tangible and relevant legacy from the two major events scheduled to occur in the UK in 2012; the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics. The campaign would create a branded network of 2012 permanently protected playing fields as a visible permanent grassroots legacy arising from 2012. The PC considered the matter but as the Rec` was held on charitable trusts it considered that there was adequate protection for the Rec` to remain as recreational land.

95. Recreational Ground – Insurance Problems

The Clerk had had problems with AON as it had been insisting that the PC's current insurance provisions were inadequate and that it needed to take out separate public liability insurance for the Rec`, in view of it being held on charitable trusts. However after substantial correspondence and telephone conversations with numerous members of staff at AON, it had concluded that it had made an error and that the PC's current insurance provisions were sufficient. The Clerk had now received confirmation in writing to this effect.

96. Cemetery Matters

It was noted that the revised cemetery plan was on-going. Thanks were expressed to Nigel Cuthbert for his grass cutting work in the cemetery. It was noted that the cemetery `had never looked better`. The Clerk advised of problems she was encountering with the transfer of burial rights in respect of one particular family but was hopeful that the problems could be resolved.

97. Parish Plan

Agnieszka Szpinda was now employed by the Community Council of Devon to undertake reviews of Parish Plans if requested by parish councils. The PC had already reviewed its Plan so did not wish to have a further review at the present time

98. S.106 Monies

Graham Isaac had raised various concerns with the Chairman about additional Section 106 monies resulting from the Cordwents development. Cllr Radford thought these monies amounted to approximately £8,600 but confirmed that they were completely separate from the monies which the school considered were due to the school for its improvement scheme. The Chairman would contact Mr Isaac regarding the issues he had raised.

99. DCC Matters (including the Mobile Library and Satellite Navigation)

- i. CCllr Hannon advised that it was extremely unlikely that there would be money available from DCC for any future plans the PC may have for improvements etc in the Parish.
- ii. A question was raised regarding the possibility of there being a weight restriction in existence on the road from Ash Thomas and Brithem Bottom but CCllr Hannon was unaware of this.
- iii. The Vice-Chairman would forward CCllr Hannon the names/addresses of persons in the Parish who had ignored his requests for them to trim back their hedges. It was mentioned that there were a number of signs still not visible in the Parish due to overgrown hedges etc but as far as CCllr Hannon was aware this matter had already been reported to DCC together with other matters raised by Terry Payne. (It was understood from CCllr Hannon that Terry Payne had

taken CClr Hannon on a conducted tour of the village pointing out various matters that required DCC`s attention).

iv. The Vice-Chairman would write to CClr Hannon regarding the hedges at Five Bridges and why he considered the hedges should be cut back in view of safety issues.

v. With regards to the revised mobile library service, Dcc was intending that there should be 1 stop at Ash Thomas and another stop at Pethertons/Farm Shop. The PC was of the view that for a number of parishioners, the Farm Shop stop would not be easily accessible and requested that there should be a 45 minute stop at Lower Close instead. The Clerk would relay this information to DCC

vi. iii. The following proposed road closures were noted due to works by contractors.

Alternative routes had been arranged:-

- a. 12th - 14th October from outside Jesmond Dene to outside Cordwents Farm (Crown Hill)
- b. 12th - 14th October part of Tiverton Road, Halberton – CANCELLED as this would clash with Crown Hill closure
- c. 18th - 19th November Battens Cross to Willand Road, Sampford Peverell

vii. DCC was holding a series of public meetings across the County in respect of the proposed public spending cuts. Meetings would take place on 30th September at Cullompton Town Hall and 4th November at Tiverton Town Hall. Both meetings would commence at 6.30pm

viii. DCC had provided information about its winter service on Devon`s highways. It required an inventory to be completed regarding the location of the Parish grit-bins which the Vice-Chairman would be happy to complete and return.

ix. CClr Hannon had had to leave the meeting early and therefore it was not possible for the PC to put a number of questions to him re the use of satellite navigation to highlight dangerous roads in the Parish. The matter to be discussed at the October PC meeting.

100. MDDC Matters

i. MDDC had reviewed its complaints procedure to make it easier for customers to use with a swifter response period by MDDC to its customers

ii. Latest figures showed that 47% of all household waste collected in Mid Devon was now recycled instead of going to landfill. Local residents were praised for their efforts.

iii. A new extension to the existing gym at Cullompton had been built due to the success of re-fitting the fitness studio with a top of the range Lifefitness cardio-vascular suite

iv. MDDC was the first authority in Devon to obtain funding through the pioneering Youth Crime Family Intervention Project which supported families with the most entrenched and complex problems

v. MDDC was introducing a caretaker service in respect of internal and external communal areas of high-occupancy accommodation which became neglected and suffer graffiti, vandalism and fly-tipping. The caretakers would cover a wide range of duties from litter picking thorough to minor repairs.

vi. Householders were being encouraged to recycle old copies of Yellow Pages

vii. The Secretary of State for the Dept of Communities and Local Government had informed MDDC that it could now be released from voluntary engagement following a period of significant improvement against its agreed improvement plan. Areas of particular notable progress included MDDC`s managing its resources, sharing good practice and providing effective leadership in the community

viii. A Mid-Devon resident was committed to prison for non-payment of council tax. The resident had defaulted on three previous occasions and therefore was committed to prison for 17 days

ix. It was agreed that the Clerk would complete the Questionnaire regarding MDDC`s budget-setting process for 2011/12

x. The PC noted that the Chairman of MDDC would be attending the October PC meeting. The Clerk would arrange to send him an agenda via Geraldine Talbot

101. Police Matters

This report was received by the Clerk prior to the PC Meeting. PC Katie Rich and PCSO Jonathan Sims had sent their apologies.

Please find attached the Police Report for July – Sept.

Over the Summer months the village has been hit with a spate of shed breaks again! Although this has not been good news for the parish I am pleased to say that this has now slowed down.

PC Custance and myself along with other officers have been out throughout the night on a few occasions to try and catch the offenders, we have also been offering Shed Alarm Padlocks which have been well received at a price of £9.00. We still have stock of these should anyone wish to purchase one (Cheques made payable to MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL(PARTNERSHIP)

Speeding is still a priority for PC Rich and myself and we will continue to target drivers in excess of the speed limit and our community speed watch scheme is now up and running.

PC Katie Rich is now back with us and I am sure you will all welcome her back when you see her, and may I thank PC Graham Custance for working alongside me whilst Katie has been off. Graham has done an excellent job as the Temporary Beat Manager for the village.

CRIMES JULY TO SEPT

- 1/7 – 12/7 PEDAL CYCLE STOLEN ASH THOMAS
- 10/7 – BURGLARY HALBERTON FM SHOP (POWER TOOLS TAKEN)
- 13/7 -14/7 BURGLARY LOWER CLOSE (POWER TOOLS TAKEN)
- 14/7 BURGLARY LOWER CLOSE (POWER TOOLS TAKEN)
- 11/7-13/7 BURGLARY CHURCH PATH (STRIMMER TAKEN)
 - 17/7/10 BURGLARY HIGH ST (NOTHING TAKEN)
 - 16/7/10 – 18/7 BURGLARY CHAPEL CLOSE (NOTHING TAKEN)
 - 25/8 THEFT OF TWO OLD CHIMNEYS HIGH ST
 - 25/8 CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO VEHICLE POND HILL

INCIDENTS

- 15/7/10 BURGLARY TO SHED CHURCH PATH(NOTHING TAKEN)

- 16/7/10 HIT AND RUN RTC HIGH ST(DAMAGE TO TELEGRAPH POLE)
- 17/7/10 BURGLARY HIGH ST
- 18/7/10 FOUND PURSE POND HILL
- 29/7/10 BURGLARY ORCHARD VIEW MONEY AND HANDBAG STOLEN BUT ALL RECOVERED INCLUDING MONEY
- 2/8/10 PARKING PROBLEMS ORPINGTON COURT JUNCTION
- 7/8/10 NOISEY PARTY MUXBEARE LANE, POLICE ATTENDED ALL QUIET.
- 9/8/10 MALE ASLEEP HALBERTON RD MALE OK AND WENT ON HIS WAY.
- 11/8/10 LOTS OF VEHICLES PARKED IN LOWER TOWN (HOUSE AUCTION)
- 25/8/10 CAR SOUNDING ITS HORN EXCESSIVELY NEAR TO CANAL(AREA SEARCHED BY OFFICERS NO TRACE)
- 31/8/10 HARTNOLL FARM BUSINESS PARK BURGLARY
- 3/9/10 BRITTERN CLOSE BURGLARY STRIMMER STOLEN

102. Car Park/Footpath Project Update

The Chairman had already spoken about this matter earlier in the meeting

103. Future Meetings

25th September – DALC's AGM and Seminar at County Hall 10.30am – 3.30pm

The Chairman would be attending this event and the Clerk would make the necessary arrangements.

28th September Met Office, Exeter – 9.30am – 4pm Extreme Events Meeting

104. Committee Reports

Amenities

The Vice- Chairman was pleased to report that the tarmacing work had now been carried out at the Rec` and in the vicinity of the pond area. The bench in the Rec` needed attention. It was understood that if the bench was not repairable that the PC had been offered a picnic bench free of charge by a parishioner as a replacement. An Amenities Meeting would take place on 28th September commencing at 6.30pm at the cemetery and then would progress to the Village Hall. A Planning Ctte Meeting would follow the Amenities Meeting. It was agreed that an AGM should be arranged by the Clerk in respect of the Halberton Recreational Ground Charity.

105.Clerk's Report

The Clerk had nothing to report

106. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST JULY - 31ST AUGUST 2010:

Bank Interest	2.57
Newsletter	486.30
Cemetery	1435.00
Hal Pre-School	1000.00
(repayment of grant)	
TOTAL	£2923.87

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JULY – 31ST AUG 2010 £2661.05

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Cheque No	Amount	Vat	Total	Details
SO	25.00		25.00	MDDC - Cemetery Rates
1421	68.94	12.06	81.00	Halberton Village Hall – room hire
1422	50.00		50.00	Vitalise – Donation
1423	28.52		28.52	AON – additional insurance premium for phone box
1424	5.53	0.97	6.50	Ottery Office – Photocopying
1425	68.56		68.56	Mrs C McIntyre – repayment of expenses Postage - £24.20 Stationery - £4.36 Internet/Phone - £40
1426	10.85		10.85	South West Water – water charges cemetery
1427	15.00		15.00	Ash Thomas Village Hall – room hire
1428	436.81		436.81	Education Matters – Newsletter costs
1429	20.00		20.00	Judy Austin – Newsletter Delivery Costs
1430	21.98		21.98	Mrs C McIntyre – repayment of cartridges
1431	353.51		353.51	Mrs C McIntyre – Salary
1432	265.20		265.20	Inland Revenue – Tax Payments June - Sept
1433	350.00		350.00	Mr N Cuthbert – grass cutting charges
1434	8.89	1.56	10.45	Mrs J Cuthbert – repayment of cost of web hosting

The above invoices were approved for payment by the PC

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	32045.56
Plus Receipts for period 1 st July – 31 st Aug 2010	2923.87
TOTAL:	£34969.43

Minus Payments made for the above Period	£2661.05
TOTAL	£32308.38
Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	28506.54
Current A/c	3801.84
TOTAL	£32308

VILLAGE HALL FUNDS	3420.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	2058.00
VILLAGE OF THE YEAR PRIZE	252.00

DONATION FROM PARISHIONER	1949.00
PARISH PLAN FUND	434.00
CAR PARKING	3500.00
TRAINING	200.00
RECREATIONAL GROUND	1858.25
GENERAL FUNDS	18637.13
TOTAL	£32308.38

Halberton Newsletter: Income to date £1315.28 - less expenses of £810.05 = credit of £505.23

107. Miscellaneous Accounts Matters

The Clerk advised that she was still waiting the return of the accounts from the Audit Commission. She also advised the PC that the Audit Commission was being abolished but the audits for 2011/2012 would not be affected.

108. Members Business

- i. Cllr Mrs Graham would contact the Dog Warden regarding the problem of dog excrement around the village
- ii. The cemetery rubbish was still not being collected by MDDC. This was due to access problems by MDDC. Cllr Corden was very kindly taking the rubbish back to his home and MDDC was collecting it from his home address. He was prepared to continue doing this for the foreseeable future.
- iii. It was understood that there were overhanging bushes and cars parked on the road up to the school which would result in access problems for emergency vehicles
- iv. It was requested that `Pethertons bus` be an item for the October agenda

109. Miscellaneous Matters

- i. The Clerk advised that sources in government had indicated that as the Referendum for changing the voting system for general elections was due to be held in May 2011, town and parish council elections may have to be deferred until June 2011. The situation would not be made clear until possibly late November and PCs were being advised to make adequate provision in their budgets to pay for a stand alone election
- ii. The owner of Nethertons, during the school holidays had carried out work to the wall in order to prevent the collapse of it onto the highway
- iii. The Clerk handed each PCllr a booklet regarding the 2011 Census for information purposes

110. Future PC Meetings

- i. 28th September 2010 at 6.30pm - Amenities Ctte Meeting at the Cemetery and then remainder of the meeting to be held at Halberton Village Hall
- ii. 28th September 2010 at 8.30pm - Planning Ctte Meeting at Halberton Village Hall - following the above mentioned meeting (subject to there being planning applications received)
- iii. 12th October 2010 at Halberton Village Hall
7.00pm - Planning Ctte Meeting
7.30pm - Ordinary PC Meeting

The Meeting closed at 10.10pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED

