

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH  
COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010 AT 7.35PM AT  
HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

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**177. Present**

Cllr Browse (Chairman), Cllrs Mesdames Cuthbert, Graham and Johnstone and Cllrs Britton, Corden, Hand, Radford and Saunders, CCllr Hannon PCSO Jonathan Sims

**178. Apologies**

Cllr Mrs Jepps, PC Custance

**179. Public Forum**

Nothing was raised

**180. Police Matters**

PCSO Jonathan Sims reported the following incidents:- RTA - artic lorry near Crosslands Farm, Ash Thomas (non-injury); RTA vehicle skidded off road on Willand Road (minor injury); RTA near Farmshop; part of Willand Road blocked by cob wall falling onto road. Jonathan reported that he had spoken to the culprit who had been parking over the virtual pavement. The person concerned gave an assurance that he would no longer park his vehicle in this fashion. Jonathan was still trying to arrange for signs to go up at the bus stop layby outside of the Village Hall. No actual crimes had been reported over the past month. He advised that PC Custance should be covering the area until May whilst Katie Rich was on maternity leave, but it was hoped that he would be able to remain beyond May. Speedwatch had not been carried out recently due to staffing levels but it was hoped to recommence it shortly.

**181. Approval of the Minutes**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009 were approved and signed without amendment

**182. Matters Arising from Minutes Ordinary Parish Council Meeting**

- i. The removal of the white line markings in the High Street had been delayed due to the recent weather conditions. The Clerk to remind Cllr Hannon about this matter
- ii. The diverters across the pond were still in situ. However the Chairman was in the process of writing to Western Power to try and bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion
- iii. The replacement bus stop sign had still not been erected (to be erected just past the junction with Orpington Court). The Clerk to remind Cllr Hannon about this..
- iv. Members of the PC had still not had an opportunity to speak to errant residents regarding problems of overhanging tree branches/uncut hedges etc which were sited on their land. The PC members would deal with this issue shortly. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert would speak to those persons whose properties were opposite the Farmshop. It was suggested that Mrs Tremlett contact the Diocese about the overhanging trees on Diocese property.
- v. The Vice-Chairman was of the view that the area at the pond should be tarmaced . It was agreed that the Vice-Chairman obtain a quote for this work to include the tarmacing of the access way at the Rec
- vi. The Clerk had still not heard from BT in response to her request for BT to provide documentary evidence that the phone box at Ash Thomas was electrically compliant. She had sent a further chasing e-mail. The PC agreed that the adoption of the box should not proceed until this had been obtained.
- vii. Vitalise warmly thanked the PC for its donation

- viii. The Tiverton and Area Tenant Group would need to consider the proposals for car parking at Petherton, as any costs involved would have to come from this Group. The PC indicated it would be prepared to get involved in getting the project off the ground and would be willing to work with the Group to progress matters. Cllr Radford would pursue this matter on behalf of the PC. It was understood that the Group would be meeting in January
- ix. The new street light at Pethertons was now in situ at the location the PC had requested. It was understood that MDDC was arranging to have hoods fitted to the two other lamps within the vicinity
- x. . The Clerk had circulated to members, MDDC's response in respect of the PC's concerns re Code of Conduct relating to site visits required in conjunction with planning applications. MDDC appeared to be interpreting its protocol whereby a PCllr could not attend a site meeting, although the protocol did not specifically state this. The PC resolved that Cllr Corden represent the PC with regard to this matter and to put forward the PC's views at MDDC's Standards Cttee Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January
- xi. The Clerk had now received a signed declaration from Halberton Pre-School agreeing the terms of the PC's grant of £1000.
- xii. The Shop Local Scheme would be left in abeyance for the moment.
- xiii. The Chairman and Cllr Corden would speak to the landowner about the drainage problems at Lower Town

### **183.DCC Matters**

- i. It was agreed that a meeting be arranged with residents, regarding speeding vehicles along Willand Road on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010 at 6.30pm, followed by a Planning Cttee meeting at approx 8.00pm. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert to advertise this in the Newsletter. PCSC Jonathan Simms to be advised about this meeting date.
- ii. CCllr Hannon advised that DCC had been severely tested with regards to the recent severe weather conditions. He was collating information from interested parties as to how matters could have been improved eg keeping the roads open etc, which could be utilised to improve any future situations. The Chairman would assist CCllr Hannon with this. Mrs M Hutchinson had requested the provision of a salt bin at Greenway. Cllr Hannon agreed to deal with this request.
- iii. CCllr Hannon advised that there was now a possibility that the original plan for Exeter City Council to be a unitary council for the Exeter City area could come to fruition despite the obvious drawbacks. It was likely that a decision would be announced shortly

### **184. Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman advised that the PC meeting unfortunately had had to be postponed to the 18<sup>th</sup> January due to the adverse weather conditions. It was understood that a HogCo meeting had already taken place on 11<sup>th</sup> January. HogCo. was organising further courses on 20<sup>th</sup> January 6 – 9 pm and 13<sup>th</sup> February 10am – 4pm on orchard planning, planting and pruning. There was also a course on bee-keeping at Bradninch Guildhall on 6<sup>th</sup> February at 3.00pm. The Chairman advised that it was hoped that land could be utilized at Cordwents but also requested that if there was anyone who had land available for tree planting or who had a garden which could be “adopted” for use to let him/Hogco know. The Halberton Growers Association was being set up. It needed a constitution. A treasurer had been appointed but needed a Chairman and Secretary. It was with regret and sadness that the PC noted the passing of Edward Stevens who had been a former Parish Councillor. The Chairman had now been elected as the Devon representative on Nalc's Executive Cttee. Nalc was looking at its development strategy. It was understood that the revised bus timetable which had, caused so many problems, (in particular to Richard Huish students) had now reverted back to its original format!

### **185. School Admission Arrangements 2010/11**

The Clerk had already circulated information to members about this. No questions were raised

### **186. Review of the PC's Standing Orders**

It was resolved that the Clerk purchase 'Standing Orders for Local Councils' at a cost of £25. This would provide a set of model standing orders which the PC could utilize, as it was considered that the PC's current Standing Orders may be outdated. The Clerk was keen to see provision in the Standing Orders for the electronic delivery of agendas etc. If the PC intended to adopt new Standing Orders in the future then this could be provided for in the revised orders.

### **187. Cemetery- - BRAMM Registration and Other Matters**

The Clerk advised of the possible benefits of registering with BRAMM. However, after much discussion it was agreed that at the present time the PC should not proceed with this. The Clerk to make enquiries of Bramm to ensure that the PC was not registered already as the Chairman had previously received notification to suggest that it was! Richard Grant had advised that the numbering of graves was normally at the rear bottom of the grave on the base. However the PC decided that its rules, as contained in its recently drafted booklet should remain for the present time. However it was understood that on new graves the numbering was on the bottom. It was also agreed that Simon Tucker of WH Squires would work in conjunction with the Clerk and Cllr Mrs Jepps re the allocation of graves etc. It was agreed that Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> January at 10.00am would be the date to take down the trees which required removal and at the same time top the hedges. It was resolved that Cllr Mrs Cuthbert would source three suitable native trees as replacements. Allianz had advised that with regards to the grave digger (Max Saunders, Uffculme) that he must have his own public liability insurance as the PC's insurance policy did not cover against the actions of the grave digger in the event of an accident. The PC's insurance policy condition provides that the PC had to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the cemetery was kept in a safe condition and to take whatever steps were necessary to comply. It was agreed that the Vice-Chairman would speak to Simon Tucker about this matter to ascertain as to what measures were in place to protect the PC from any possible claims.

### **188. MDDC Matters**

- i. MDDC was encouraging its residents to claim £400 under the Government's boiler scrappage scheme. The switch could save an average of £235 on fuel bills and even more in the recent freezing temperatures
- ii. Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) was consulting on a new 3 year sustainable community plan. Parishioners were being invited to fill in the questionnaire on MDDC's website.
- iii. MDDC's services to older and vulnerable people had been impeded by the recent spell of bad weather but arrangements had been put in place to try to minimise any disruption
- iv. Waste and recycling collections had had to be suspended due to the weather conditions. It was hoped that all collections would be back to normal wef 18<sup>th</sup> January
- v. Tenants and staff of MDDC's housing services were getting ready for the new regulatory framework set out in the Tenants Services Authority. (TSA). The TSA was already responsible for regulating housing associations and housing co-operatives. From Spring 2010 the TSA would also be able to set standards for council tenants of "arms length management organisations" (ALMOS)
- vi. The Audit Commission has reported that MDDC was delivering a number of improvements for local people and that many services performed better or in line with other councils. However the Audit Commission also highlighted that the Council needed to improve its financial planning and improve its planning of staff development

vii. The Audit Commission has praised public sector authorities in Devon for their exceptional performance in helping people tackle climate change and in their support of people affected by domestic violence

viii. MDDC reminded its residents that a deadline of 19<sup>th</sup> January had been set for people to submit their comments re the Boundary Ctte's recommendations for a single unitary council which would replace the existing county council and the district councils.

ix. The Clerk had advised members that MDDC was reviewing its policy and conditions for its hackney carriage and private hire and the PC was invited to make any comments by 12<sup>th</sup> February. The PC had no comments to make

x. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert would arrange to send the PC's Emergency Plan to Peter Browne at MDDC

### **189. Consideration of Grass Cutting Tenders**

Tenders were received from:-

South West Grounds Maintenance

Gardencare

Mr N Cuthbert

Robert Smale

S P Sharland

Morrish's.

After some discussion it was agreed that the contract should be awarded to Mr Nigel Cuthbert in the sum of £3,000. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert declared a prejudicial and personal interest and was absent from the meeting whilst this item was being discussed

### **190. Car Park/Footpath Project**

The project was moving in the right direction. HogCo was now also involved, and with this organisation on board it was hoped that this would help the project to fruition. The Clerk to check the expiry date for S.106 monies to be utilised.

### **191. Committee Reports**

#### **Amenities (including Footpaths)**

Mr Page would send his 2010 quote for work on the footpaths shortly. The consultation on the Definitive Map Review was over and it was hoped the PC would hear something shortly. . The Open Day for the new goalposts would now be on 6<sup>th</sup> March at 10.00am. It was suggested that there should be an Amenities Ctte Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February but this would be firmed up at the next Ordinary PC Meeting.

### **192. Clerk's Report**

The Clerk had nothing to report

### **193. Accounts**

#### **RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> - 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2010:**

Bank Interest	0.96
Newsletter	130.58
Cemetery	363.00
MDDC –Grant	350.00
(Churchyard/Cemetery)	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£844.54</b>

**PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> - 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2010 £811.13**

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Cheque No	Amount	Vat	Total	Details
SO	25.00		25.00	MDDC – Cemetery Rates
1358	50.00		50.00	St Andrews Church – grant for churchyard
1359	22.39	3.36	25.75	Ottery Office Practice – office supplies
1360	120.00		120.00	Halberton Village Hall – room hire
1361	20.00		20.00	Mrs J Austin- delivery of Newsletter
1362	71.08	7.69	78.77	Mrs C McIntyre – repayment of costs of stationery, postage
1363	353.51		353.51	Mrs C McIntyre – salary Nov/Dec
1364	7.54	1.13	8.67	Ottery Office Practice – photocopying and stationery
1365	6.99		6.99	Mrs C McIntyre – repayment of hole puncher
1366	54.89	8.23	63.12	Mrs J Cuthbert – repayment cost of hosting website
1367	20.00	3.00	23.00	Mr K Browse – repayment of Mole Valley advert

The aforementioned invoices were approved for payment

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	25466.33
Plus Receipts for period 1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2010	844.54
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£26310.87</b>

Minus Payments made for the above Period	£811.13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£25499.74</b>

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	21692.05
Current A/c	3807.69
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£25499.74</b>

*VILLAGE HALL FUNDS	2420.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	2058.59
VILLAGE OF THE YEAR PRIZE	500.00
DONATION FROM PARISHIONER	2186.00
PARISH PLAN FUND	433.54
CAR PARKING	2500.00
GENERAL FUNDS	15401.61
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£25499.74</b>

**\*Ash Thomas £1250 and Halberton £1170**

**Halberton Newsletter: Income to date £1907.33 - less expenses of £2102.05 = debit £194.72**

**194. Members Business**

i. Cllrs Corden and Hand had recently attended a MDDC Planning Ctte Meeting to represent the PC with regards to specific Halberton planning applications which were being considered. Both members were extremely angered by MDDC's attitude. Cllr Corden in particular, considered that it was a complete waste of time that he was the Chairman of the PC's Planning Ctte, as the PC's comments did not appear to be taken into account when MDDC was formulating its decisions and he was extremely frustrated by MDDC's apparent disregard for parish councils. It was resolved that Cllr Corden compile a letter to the Executive Council outlining his concerns and

dissatisfaction at the manner in which parish councils were being treated by district councils. He was also very much aware that other parish councils felt the same way and were also fed up with being ignored.

ii. Cllr Saunders advised that another lorry had ended up in Brithem Bottom due to following Sat Nav instructions, which had caused problems

iii. Blakes buses were parking their buses on private property at Five Bridges. The matter to be referred to MDDC's Planning Enforcement officer.

iv. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert had updated the Parish Website and was thanked for her commitment to this important information tool.

**195. Future PC Meetings**

9<sup>th</sup> February 2010 - Halberton Village Hall

7.00pm Planning Ctte Meeting of Halberton Parish Council

7.30pm Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

The Meeting closed at 10.15pm

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**CHAIRMAN**

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**DATED**