

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH
COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY , 21ST APRIL 2004 AT 7.00PM AT
HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

237. Present

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Mesdames Armstrong, Fisher and Jepps, Cllrs Gibbs, Hugill, Lane-Smith, Radford, and two Members of the Public

238. Apologies

Cllr Mrs Hull

239 Public Forum

No member of the Public wished to raise any matters

240. Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting dated 9th March 2004 were approved subject to the following:

Min. 229 delete **`Plans needed to be drawn up etc`**, and insert **The Chairman and Cllr Radford to consider planning implications and arrange for plans to be drawn up. Costings to be obtained etc**

241. Matters Arising

- i. It was agreed that matters had improved considerably with regard to the lorry parking at Orchard View. No further action was required at the present time although Members would continue to keep regular checks on the area to ensure the problem didn't escalate again.
- ii. The Clerk reminded Members of the planned visit to MDDC's new Council Offices on 26th April at 10.00am. Cllr Hugill wished to be included in the party. The Clerk would advise MDDC.
- iii. The post mounted litter bin had still not been replaced at Pethertons, despite the Clerk chasing the matter up. However after some discussion it was agreed not to pursue the matter further in view of the fact that a large free standing litter bin was already in situ adjacent to the bus shelter.
- iv. A new Community Sergeant was in post at Cullompton Police Station, Sgt Evans. He would be dealing with matters relating to the Parish of Halberton until PC Mike Dodd officially took over – possibly in the next couple of months.
- v. Simon Hill, MDDC's Recycling Officer would be attending the June PC Meeting. It was suggested that in view of other PC business which would need to be discussed at the meeting, his presentation on recycling and related questions should last no longer than 45 minutes.
- vi. The Clerk had spoken to Mr Whiting of MDDC and had requested that he arrange a letter drop to tenants of the flats at Hillhead reminding them to put their litter out on the correct day.
- vii.

242. Chairman's Announcements

There were none

243. Cemetery Matters

A vehicle had recently crashed into the cemetery hedge. PC Auger had provided all details about the driver, apart from his insurance policy number. It was agreed that a re-turfing job was necessary to restore the area in question. A written quote would be obtained from the Parish grass cutter which the Clerk would then submit to the driver for settlement. Cllr Mrs Fisher had expressed concern at the recent grass cutting job in the cemetery which had been carried out in wet conditions. Cllr Mrs Fisher and the Chairman would arrange to meet the grass cutter on site to discuss their concerns. The Clerk had written to the owners of graves

on which the memorial stones were in a dangerous condition. Three persons had responded acknowledging responsibility, two persons had not replied to the Clerk's letter and one owner initially expressed surprise that the PC should consider that the memorial stone on grave no. 126 was in a dangerous condition. However the owner subsequently advised that she would arrange for the necessary work to be carried out to restore the stone to a safe condition. The Clerk to write to Fine Memorials to obtain a quote for the restoration work.

244. Police Matters

It was understood that the speed visor was again not functioning properly and couldn't be used at the present time. However the introduction of the 20mph speed limit in Halberton would come into effect this year, after a consultation period, which hopefully would result in a reduction in the speed of vehicles passing through the village.

245 (a) Parish Plan

The meeting of the Steering Group met on 23rd March and had accepted the recommendations of the Topic Groups. A full report was made to the Parish Council (copy on file). As only two Parish Councillors (Cllrs Mrs Armstrong and Cllr Lane-Smith) had attended the meeting on 23rd March, the volunteers on the Steering Group had suggested that another meeting should be arranged so that the Parish Councillors would have the opportunity to understand the reasoning and statistical evidence used in making the recommendations. This was arranged for 28th April at 7.30pm in Halberton Village Hall. A letter was produced by Cllr Lane-Smith – in his capacity as Secretary to Halberton Club – and he declared an interest. The Clerk read out the letter, the gist of which was that the Club was proposing a scheme to provide a car park in conjunction with a new community centre on land behind the cemetery. After some discussion Cllr Mrs Armstrong said that the provision of a new community centre was not in the Parish Plan and was not something specifically requested by parishioners in their 'wish list' when the results of the questionnaires had been analysed. Cllr Mrs Armstrong then asked how many other Parish Cllrs present were also members of the Club. Cllrs Radford, Gibbs and Hugill then declared an interest. (Cllr Lane-Smith having already done so earlier). The Vice-Chairman also declared an interest as he was the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Ctte. Cllr Mrs Armstrong then asked what the official title of the Club was, as she understood that they had recently become 'limited'. Cllr Lane-Smith replied that 'the Club was a charity' but was unable to give the Registered Charity Number. Clearly the request in the letter would have to be considered in more detail at a future meeting and the Chairman said that it could be discussed at the meeting of 28th April. Due to an oversight no Member had attended the recent course 'Moving Parish Plans Forward'. The Clerk would send an apology to the Devon Association of Parish Councils and request the refund of the course fee. It was understood that the Countryside Agency had announced significant changes to its Vital Villages programme. Wef 1st April the Vital Village grant scheme would be closed to new applicants. However the PC would be unaffected as it had already been allocated its funding.

245 (b) Car Parking

The Chairman and Cllr Radford said that they had done nothing about arranging for plans for the car park behind the cemetery (as they had agreed in March). Cllr Mrs Armstrong expressed her concern and disappointment that this matter was being delayed yet again.

246. Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 – Provisional Map

It was noted that on the Map received, there was nothing which would affect the Parish. The Vice-Chairman agreed to keep the Map in his possession for safe-keeping.

247. Mid Devon District Council Matters

- i. The Clerk had received notification that Halberton Village Hall wished to renew its Public Entertainment Licence. The PC had no objections or comments to make.
- ii. Jan Shadbolt, MDDC's Director of Corporate Services had advised that she had received a letter from the Standards Board advising that following a complaint, the Head of Referrals had the delegated authority as to whether or not to refer it for investigation by an Ethical Standards Officer. There was now a method by which to complain to the Chief Executive of the Standards Board if we did not agree with the Head of Referral's decision.
- iii. The Clerk advised that because of the problem of an un-licensed taxi-driver operating in the district, MDDC had arranged for an article to be published in the local paper warning the public about the perils of using un-licensed taxi drivers. Warning posters would also be displayed around the Parish. MDDC was intending that the problem be given as much publicity as possible in order that members of the public were made fully aware of the risks.
- iv. The Chairman advised that the tenant at 66 Pethertons had contacted him regarding the hedge at the back of her property which required trimming and which she was struggling to carry out. MDDC would carry out the work, however it had been suggested that in view of the on-going maintenance of trimming the hedge, possibly the way forward would be to pull in down and erect a fence instead.

248. DCC Matters

There were none

249. Meetings Attended

- i. Canal Meeting – 23rd March 2004
The Vice-Chairman and Cllr Radford attended. Dredging was discussed.
- ii. Mid Devon Primary Care Trust Meeting – 23rd March 2004
Cllr Mrs Fisher attended. Items discussed included the opening of the new hospital, the possible introduction of a mobile cataract unit. This was Cllr Mrs Fisher's final meeting and she was thanked for all her commitment and the time given in attending the meetings over the years.

250. Future Meetings

- i. Annual Meeting of Clerks of Town and Parish Councils – 29th April 2004
Phoenix House, Tiverton
The Clerk to attend
- ii. Annual Meeting of MDDC – 5th May 2004 – Town Hall, Tiverton
The Chairman and Cllr Hugill to attend.

251. Committee Reports

- i. Cemetery
Cemetery matters had been discussed earlier.
- ii. Amenities
It was agreed that a Committee Meeting be held on 10th May at the Village Hall at 7.30pm and the following items be included on the Agenda: The Rospa Report, Hedge problem (the Clerk to check out boundary responsibilities prior to the meeting), Miscellaneous matters
- iii. Footpaths
The Chairman advised that there was still problems with the Brithem Bottom footpath. A dog owner was finding the new stile difficult when negotiating her dog over it. The Chairman would investigate further.
- iv. Highways.
A number of requests for highway maintenance to be carried out on specific areas of the Parish had been received from parishioners. The Clerk to pass these on to Mr Mitchard for his attention. A serious accident had recently occurred on the

Tiverton Road Bridge. It was agreed that signing was required, to try and prevent further accidents. The Clerk to contact Mark Baker at DCC to meet the Vice-Chairman and Cllr Radford on site. Cllr Hugill advised that the surface along the B3181 was starting to pot hole. The areas which needed attention, needed to be identified and a list compiled. Cllrs Hugill and Gibson would deal with this but in the meantime the Clerk to draw this to Mr Mitchard`s attention (DCC)

v. Policy and Finance

There was nothing to report

vi. Planning

The following planning applications were discussed and decisions reached:

Application No.	Name of Applicant	Location	Proposed Works
04/00609/CAT	Mr B Jeffery	56 High St, Halberton	Cut back tree branches

PC`S DECISION –NO OBJECTIONS

04/00693/FULL	Mr S Parish	Mountstephen Farm	Change of use from ag to storage of toilet trailers
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PC`S DECISION – NO OBJECTIONS SUBJECT TO MEETING MDDC`S RURAL POLICIES

04/00707/FULL	Mr and Mrs Barker	8 Lower Town, Halberton	Erection of replacement workshop/garage
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PC`S DECISION –THE PC HAD PREVIOUSLY RAISED NO OBJECTIONS TO APP 04/00708 IN RESPECT OF CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT SO RAISED NO OBJECTIONS TO THIS APPLICATION

04/00802/CAT	E Grant	Redland, Halberton	Felling 4 trees in Conservation area
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PC`S DECISION –NO OBJECTIONS

PLANNING DECISIONS

Application No	Name	Decision	Conditions
04/00023/LBC	Mr and Mrs Carroll	Granted	3
04/00024/LBC	As above	Granted	2
04/00475FULL	Agrownomics	Granted	2

The next Planning Cttee Meeting would be held on Tuesday, 25th May at 7.00pm

252. Clerk`s Report

The Clerk had nothing to report

253. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST - 31ST MARCH 2004:

Bank Interest	10.49
Newsletter	10.00
Cemetery Fee	133.50
Parish paths Grant	1000.00
TOTAL	£1153.99

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST - 31ST MARCH 2004: £473.28

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

<i>Cheque No</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>VAT</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Details</i>
100810	216.24		216.24	Mrs C McIntyre – Salary (less tax deductions)
100811	182.16		182.16	Tax Deductions (Jan – March)
100812	92.50	16.19	108.69	Rospa – Playground Inspection
100813	24.71	4.34	29.05	Photocopying costs – P.Plan £9.10, Misc £15.61
100814	63.44		63.44	MDDC – Election costs
100815	37.50		37.50	½ year rent – The Mead
100816	2.77		2.77	PO – Water charges, cemetery Nov 03 – Feb 04
100817	247.50		247.50	DAPC – Subs 2004/05 £198, Mag £49.50
100818	15.00		15.00	Devon Playing Fields Ass – Subs 2004/05
100819	25.00		25.00	NSPCC – Donation
100820	50.00		50.00	Involve – Donation
100821	150.00		150.00	TADCTA – Donation
100822	152.69	26.73	179.42	Education Matters –Newsletter production
100823	10.00		10.00	Education Matters –Delivery costs
100824	23.08		23.08	Petty Cash
100825	10.50		10.50	Mrs C McIntyre –repayment postage stamps Newsletter
100826	52.60		52.60	Mrs C McIntyre – repayment cost of photocopying
100827	88.50		88.50	Halberton Village Hall – hire of Hall cost (including £51 P.Plan room hire)

The above invoices were approved for payment

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	9859.21
Plus receipts for period 1 st – 31 st March 2004	1153.99
	TOTAL £11,013.20
Minus payments made for the above period	473.28
	TOTAL £10,539.92

Made up as follows:- Current	1,743.55
High Interest	8,796.37
	TOTAL £10,539.92

VILLAGE HALLS FUND	£1,950.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	£2,428.72
PARISH PLAN FUND	£1,223.75
GENERAL FUNDS	£4,957.44
PLUS UNPRESENTED CHEQUES	£80.01
	TOTAL £10,539.92

NEWSLETTER :

Income for period 1/4/03 – 31/03/04 £1,396.35 minus expenditure £1218.58 =
NET PROFIT £177.77

254. Members Business

i. Cllr Hugill questioned as to why the Village Hall could not be used as a Polling Station instead of the local school which was having to close for the day. He thought this disrupted the school week and considered that the Village Hall was a more suitable venue. However it

was understood that the Hall currently presented access problems. Once the pending improvement works had been carried out then the Hall should be suitable for use as a Polling Station.

255. Miscellaneous Matters

- i. Mid Devon Countrywide Site Surveys
The Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (operated by the Devon Wildlife Trust) was carrying out a wildlife survey and needed to know the names of owners of land which may have wildlife interest in the Parish. The areas could be selected as County Wildlife Sites in the future. The Vice-Chairman provided the relevant information. The Clerk would pass this on to the Records Centre.
- ii. The Community Council was operating a Councillors Training Event on 29th April. The Clerk had full details available for any Member interested.
- iii. The Clerk to formally ask Judy Austin to prepare the buffet for the Annual Parish Meeting next month.
- iv. Cllr Gibbs advised that he had been involved with a litter pick which had recently been carried out in Halberton and 26lbs of litter had been collected. Cllr Radford had also assisted along with Ron Rogers. The Clerk to write and thank Mr Rogers for helping with the event. Cllrs Radford and Gibbs were also thanked by the PC for all their hard work.
- v. Hastoe Housing Association had advised that a vacant house at Pethertons had now been let to a tenant nominated by MDDC.
- vi. DCC was in the process of compiling a Summer Play Directory for Mid Devon as a joint project with Mid Devon Primary Care Trust and wished to make the directory as comprehensive as possible by including details of smaller play-time schemes. The Clerk to be advised of any local schemes which could be passed to the point of contact.

256. Next Meeting

A meeting of the Council's Amenities Cttee would take place on Monday, 10th May at 7.30pm at Halberton Village Hall. The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council would take place on 18th May 2004 at 7.00pm at Halberton Village Hall, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.15pm approximately. A meeting of the Council's Planning Cttee would take place on Tuesday, 25th May at 7.00pm at Halberton Village Hall

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATE