

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 8TH APRIL 2003 AT 7.30PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

1. Present

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Radford, Mesdames Armstrong, Fisher, Jepps, Lunn and three Members of the Public

2. Apologies

Cllrs Mrs Hull, Hugill and Payne

3. Public Forum

Mr R Stevens Vice-Chairman of the Halberton Village Hall Ctte informed the PC that grants would be forthcoming from various funders to proceed with the Village Hall project. £7,000 had been approved from the Carnegie Trust UK, £15,000 had been agreed by the Community Council of Devon, £25,000 may be forthcoming from the Countryside Agency. An appeal had been published in the Halberton Newsletter. Mr Stevens had been most upset by the decision of Uffculme Environmental not to provide any funding. He indicated that the Company's decision appeared to have been based on incorrect information. However he stated that the Committee will not be deterred from submitting another application in the future. Further MDDC would be providing the sum of £15,000, rather than the £33,000 the Village Hall Ctte had anticipated.

4. The Minutes of:-

- i. The Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 11th March 2003 and
- ii. The Amenities Ctte Meeting of 6th March 2003 were approved without amendment.

5. Matters Arising

- i. The Clerk again advised that Mr P Hancock (MDDC) had asked for the PC's proposals regarding the problems at Tiverton Parkway which he would then include in a letter. The Vice-Chairman advised that due to pressure of work he had been unable to formulate a response but he hoped he would be able to do so in time for the next PC Meeting.
- ii. Cllr Payne had prepared a letter to go to Mr G Langworthy requesting a contribution towards traffic calming measures. However it was decided after much consideration that nothing would be achieved from pursuing this course of action and therefore it was decided not to send the letter and the course of action be abandoned. Cllrs Mrs Lunn and Radford both declared Code of Conduct
- iii. It was agreed that as there would not now be an election for Parish Councillors there was no necessity to proceed with the evening planned by Cllr Payne for 22nd April at which prospective PC and District Councillors would meet parishioners. The Clerk to speak to Jan Johnstone to cancel the planned buffet etc.
- iv. The Clerk had written to BT to protest about the proposed removal of the payphone at Pethertons. An article should also have appeared in the Newsletter inviting parishioners to register their objections with the Clerk but due to the editor being away the remaining staff had insufficient time to publish the article. In the meantime an acknowledgement had been received from BT and it was understood that Sampford Peverell PC was also raising objections to the removal of one of their payphones.
- v. The Clerk had been advised by Mr S White of MDDC that steps were being taken to repair the chain link fence running from Lower Town to Boyce Close, Pethertons. The

fence would be checked prior to the May PC Meeting to see whether or not the repair had been effected.

- vi. Mark Baker, Ranger at the Grand Western Canal Country Park had advised that an order had been placed with MDDC for dog bins at Greenway and Crownhill. The PC would pay a contribution of £155 towards the cost. The intended locations for both bins would be on the slipways, a few metres from the notice boards. A bin would be placed at Manley as well but the PC would not be expected to contribute towards the cost of this one.
- vii. An article should have appeared in the Newsletter inviting parishioners to register details with MDDC about properties in the Parish which had been flooded, in order that MDDC could update its database. However due to staffing problems at the Newsletter the article had not been published. The Clerk would contact Mr Ayling at MDDC to see whether he agreed that the article should be published in the next edition of the magazine.

6. Chairman`s Announcements

The Chairman was sorry to see that Cllrs Mrs Lunn and Payne would be standing down as Parish Councillors at the end of the current term. He thanked them for all their hard work and commitment to the PC and stated they would be very much missed. The Chairman had also obtained fencing quotes in respect of the Rec. A quote had been received from Franks Fencing at Cullompton in the sum of £995 and Cllr Saunders in the sum of £400. Cllr Saunders declared Code of Conduct. It was resolved that Cllr Saunders quote of £400 be accepted. It was suggested that the Clerk approach Paul Tucker (MDDC) to see whether there were grants available towards the fencing costs. The Clerk also suggested approaching the Devon Playing Fields Association for finance.

7. Donations Requested

Requests for donations had been received from The Winged Fellowship Trust, the NSPCC and the Tiverton Tourist Information Centre Partnership. After some discussion it was agreed that as no provision had been made in the 2003/04 Precept for these organisations to receive donations, that their requests would be re-considered when formulating the 2004/05 budget

8 Newsletter

The Clerk reported the following:

INCOME FOR PERIOD 1/4/02 – 31/03 /03 £1504.04

LESS £688.75 in respect of advertising arrears payments for 2001/02

LESS £68.57 paid in advance for advertising April 2003/04

LESS £967.23 production and other associated costs of the Newsletter (Expenditure)

DEFICIT: £220.51

In view of the concerns raised by the PC as to the editorship of the newsletter (it was understood that Cllr Payne may not be able to continue with this at the end of the year) it was agreed that a meeting be held on 29th April in Halberton Village Hall at 7.00pm to discuss the matter. Persons currently associated with the Newsletter and those who wished to become involved with it in the future, to be invited. The Clerk to arrange.

9.The Quality Parish Councils Initiative

The Clerk advised that she had received a further update about the Quality Parish Councils Initiative. It was understood that the scheme set some straightforward tests that parish and town councils would have to pass before they were awarded 'Quality' parish or town council status. The tests for accreditation required a 'Quality' council to (a) have initially at least 80% of its seats filled by candidates who stood for election (rising to 100% for re-accreditation, (b) have a suitably qualified clerk (c) hold at least 6 council meetings a year, (d) publish annual reports, (e) provided regular information to residents on parish activities: and f) produce properly prepared and audited accounts. Applications would be assessed by county panels including people with experience of both principal authorities and town and parish councils. The scheme also included a model charter where all parish councils would be encouraged to negotiate with principal authorities to set out how tiers of local government could promote partnership working.

10.The Devon County Waste Local Plan

This had been seen by some of the PCllrs but not all. Cllr Mrs Armstrong would look at it in the meantime and bring any comments she had to the May PC Meeting. There had been no comments received to date from other PCllrs.

11.The Parish Plan

The Parish Plan Cttee had been very active in getting everything ready for The Vision Day taking place on on 12th April. Leaflets had been delivered to all parishioners and businesses and posters advertising the event had been displayed in numerous locations. It was expected that all Councillors would attend at some point during the day and would be allowed to choose their permitted time slot from Cllr Mrs Armstrong. The Vision Day would be an opportunity for all parishioners to submit their ideas for what they would like to see happening in the Parish. The sum of £250 had been received from DCC towards the costs of the Plan. The Chairman warmly thanked the Committee for all the time and commitment it had each given to the project.

12.Parish Web Site .

The Clerk advised that the previous Minutes showed that the Village Hall Cttee had agreed to pay a contribution of £40 towards the setting up of the Parish Web Site, many months ago. However the Minutes did not indicate that the Cttee would contribute to the ongoing maintenence costs of the site, which the PC assumed was the case. The Vice-Chairman would look into this matter and report his findings at the next meeting.

13Police Matters

The 'Take a Pride Campaign' would last from 1st April 2003 – 31st March 2004. The Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership was coordinating a campaign to tackle issues of low level anti-social behaviour which affected the quality of life of all the residents of Mid Devon. The Partnership would be asking for total community support and would be looking to engage community groups to tackle such things as graffiti and litter etc, when such problems had been identified. It was agreed that the campaign be an item for the Newsletter and leaflets and forms to be displayed in the Post Office.

14 MDDC Matters

- i. In connection with the Local Plan, The Secretary of State for the Environment had appointed Mr David Hollis to conduct the Inquiry and MDDC had appointed Mrs Marlene Johnson as its Programme Officer

- ii. Public Entertainment Licence renewal applications in respect of the Halberton and Ash Thomas Village Halls had been received by MDDC. The PC had no comments to make.
- iii. The Parish Review in respect of the forthcoming elections meant that the electors in the properties affected by the parish review would vote for their new parish council, but would vote for their old (existing) district ward. Further, it was probable that the consequential district ward changes, if agreed, would have to be implemented by election.
- iv. Mr Quance, Bereavement Services Officer had advised that his department was looking to offer an `outreach` service to all the burial ground managers in the District. Advice on issues such as Health and Safety, Memorial Management and grave reuse could be given. The Clerk had already completed and returned to Mr Quance, a form providing details of the burial grounds in the Parish. The Clerk to seek advice from Mr Quance regarding the damaged headstones in Halberton Cemetery.
- v. MDDC was having a special offer for home compost bins, wormeries and water butts. The Clerk had full details available

15. Devon County Council Matters

- i. It was noted that with regard to the Devonwide Half Fare Travel Scheme that wef 1st April 2003 the age restriction for men was being lowered to 60 years, to be equal with women. Further information could be obtained from the Devonwide Office on 01392 383688.
- ii. From 24th March – 27th April 2003 no pedestrian or cyclist would be able to proceed on the Grand Western Canal Towpath between East Manley and Crown Hill
- iii. On 26th July temporary road restrictions would be in force necessary to regulate traffic during the period of the Mid Devon Show. The Clerk had full details available of the permitted route.
- iv. The Devon Structure Plan 2001 – 2016 was in the process of being prepared. An Examination in Public would commence on 10th June for a period of 4 weeks. Comments on the timetable, list of matters selected or the participants invited to take part in the EIP would need to be sent in writing by 17th April to DCC.

16. Meetings Attended.

- i. 26th March 2003 - Culm Area Ctte Meeting – Halberton Village Hall
This had been attended by several PCllrs. Items discussed included continuing concerns over provision of doctors surgery in Halberton; concerns over allocation of affordable housing in villages to local families; concerns over the proposed closure of the public payphone in the village of Sampford Peverell.
- ii. 5th April 2003 – First Aid Course, Halberton Village Hall
This had been well attended and was considered to be a most informative and extremely useful course.

17. Future Meetings

11th June 2003 – Culm Area Ctte – The Village Hall, Culmstock at 7.00pm
At the May PC Meeting the PC to consider the items it required to be included on the Agenda. It was suggested that the Policy on the letting of Council houses to local families should be reviewed with regard to the MDDC`s point scoring system

18. Clerk's Report

The Clerk had nothing to report other than she had submitted details of 'Parish Council Matters', to the Newsletter but due to the staffing problems it had not been published.

19. Committee Reports

i. Cemetery

Cllr Mrs Fisher advised that she had met Mr Bryant the new cemetery grass cutter. She confirmed that his initial work had been of a good standard. She is endeavouring to get the compost removed. In view of the difficulties encountered in removing the cut grass from the cemetery it was requested that the Clerk write to Bill Holman of DCC requesting permission for an 8 foot gate to be placed (where the path is adjacent to the grass bins) which would enable a tractor to get into the cemetery to remove the grass.

ii. Amenities

Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance had cut the grass in the Rec and the Mead in March prior to the contract commencing with the PC on 1st April 2003 (although there was a question as to whether the grass in the Mead had actually been cut by the Company). The PC had been billed for this. The Clerk to make enquiries.

iii. Footpaths

DCC had provided a footpaths grant of £585. The maintenance on the footpaths was ongoing.

iv. Highways

Concern was expressed about the damaged highway sign outside the Methodist Chapel. The Clerk to contact DCC. Complaints had been received from residents of Orpington Court about non residents parking adjacent to their properties. Millstream Garden residents were suffering from the same problem but it appeared there was very little that could be done to resolve this problem. Cllr Mrs Fisher would supply the Clerk with a list of highway matters which needed to be resolved by DCC. The Clerk to chase up Mr Densham (MDDC) about the stone planters.

20. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST – 31ST MARCH 2003:

<i>Bank Interest</i>	<i>12.42</i>
<i>Cemetery</i>	<i>36.75</i>
<i>Parish Plan Cont</i>	<i>250.00</i>
TOTAL	£299.17

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST – 31ST MARCH 2003 **£775.74**

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

<i>Cheque No</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>VAT</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Details</i>
<i>Direct Debit</i>	<i>17.46</i>		<i>17.46</i>	<i>MDDC – Rates re Cemetery</i>
<i>100690</i>	<i>176.61</i>		<i>176.61</i>	<i>Inland Revenue (tax deductions Jan – March 2003)</i>
<i>100691</i>	<i>1000.00</i>		<i>1,000.00</i>	<i>Ash Thomas Village Hall – Cont to repair work</i>
<i>100692</i>	<i>20.00</i>		<i>20.00</i>	<i>Victim Support Devon – Donation</i>
<i>100693</i>	<i>50.00</i>		<i>50.00</i>	<i>Involve – Donation</i>
<i>100694</i>	<i>150.00</i>		<i>150.00</i>	<i>Tiverton & District Community Transport Ass –</i>
<i>Donation</i>				
<i>100695</i>	<i>37.50</i>		<i>37.50</i>	<i>DCC – 1/2 yearly rent for the Mead</i>

100696	15.00	15.00	Society of Local Council Clerks
100697	3.49	3.49	SWWater – water costs re the Cemetery
100698	237.50	237.50	DAPC – Annual membership fees
100699	208.73	208.73	Mrs C McIntyre – Salary (less tax deductions)
100700	24.90	24.90	Petty Cash
100701	8.00	8.00	Mrs W Harris – refund of o/p of 1 st Aid Course fees
100702	CANCELLED		
100703	138.00	138.00	Maslands – PC Leaflet

THE ABOVE ITEMS WERE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	10,989.95
Plus receipts for period 1 st – 31 ST March 2003	299.17
TOTAL	£11,289.12
Minus payments made for the above period	775.74
TOTAL	£10,513.38

Made up as follows:- Current	389.54
High Interest	10,123.84
TOTAL	£10,513.38

VILLAGE HALLS FUND	£ 4,000.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	£1,238.72
PARISH PLAN FUND	£250.00
GENERAL FUNDS	£5,024.66
TOTAL	£10,513.38

21.Members Business

- i. Concern was expressed regarding the increase of litter around the Parish. At Pethertons a litter bin had `disappeared` as it was no longer in situ on its post. The Clerk to contact MDDC about this and at the same time to arrange for an article to be published in the Newsletter requesting parishioners to be litter conscious.
- ii. The bus shelters were in need of being smartened up. It was suggested that Cllr Mrs Jeffs` daughter may be willing to design a poster inviting local children to submit their ideas.

22.Next Meeting

A Planning Ctte Meeting would take place on 13th May at 6.30pm at Halberton Village Hall, followed by the the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.00pm, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at approx 8.15pm

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATE

