

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2008 AT 7.30PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL**

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**272. Present**

The Chairman (K Browse), Vice-Chairman (B Lane-Smith), Mesdames Cuthbert and Johnstone, Cllrs Britton, Corden, Gibbs, Saunders, Wooding and Police Beat Manager Katie Rich

**273. Public Forum**

No members of the public were present to raise any matters

**274. Apologies**

Cllr Mrs Jepps, Radford and Cllr Hannon

**275. Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008 were approved and signed un-amended

**276. Matters Arising from the aforementioned Minutes**

- i. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert's husband would deal with the removal of the debris near Edward Stevens' property and at Greenway.
- ii. DCC had now advised that the village sign which it had requested be moved onto private land at Lake Farm could remain at its current site.
- iii. The Clerk advised that she had received a response from MDDC regarding the Mid Devon Supplementary Planning document – The Provision and Funding of Open Space through Development – Draft for Consultation. The Clerk had raised the fact that there was no mention in the document about MDDC proposing to use part of the S.106 monies it was currently holding, for the funding of a temporary Open Spaces Officer post. It was understood that the S.106 monies currently held by MDDC on behalf of Halberton PC would not be used to fund the officer post. However MDDC was intending to use monies from any future Halberton developments which had the benefit of S.106 payments. Kevin Finan from MDDC had advised that the work planned for the temporary Open Space and Play Area post would count as a valid expense in the planning, prioritising and co-ordination of spending for S.106 monies. Mr Finan advised that specific reference in the policy was not required, especially as this was a temporary measure that would be required to develop future spending plans. The Clerk was of the view that as no reference to this expenditure had been made in the S.106 agreement, that MDDC could not legally use the S.106 monies for this purpose. The Clerk had been in contact with the Clerk of Cullompton Town Council who had indicated that her council and other councils, were also unhappy with these proposals. The Clerk suggested that expert advice could be obtained from a specialist consultant recommended by DAPC. However this would be at a fee. It was resolved that the Clerk contact DAPC and request that a round robin e-mail be sent round to all Mid Devon Parish Councils to gauge opinion and to see whether any parish would be prepared to engage the services of the consultant with the fee being shared between the parishes. If DAPC was not prepared to do this, the Clerk to contact the Parishes direct. In the meantime the Chairman to see whether legal advice could be provided through NALC.
- iv. It was agreed that Cllr Corden would pay for the cost of the works for the refurbished notice board and the PC would reimburse him on production of an invoice. The Vice-Chairman would investigate the cost of a memoriam to the Skeets children, which was intended to be placed on the notice board

v. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert advised that the Business Directory was up and running. She suggested that the cover of the Directory be of a colour which would make it stand out and would identify it as being “the Directory”. She explained that the production costs would be increased only minimally if the PC agreed to this request. The PC resolved that coloured paper be used for the Directory. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert also apologised for not including in the Newsletter, details of the Parish Lengthsman’s visit in May but assured the PC, that details would be inserted in the forthcoming editions of the Newsletter in advance of his next visit in August.

### **277. Chairman’s Announcements**

The Chairman and Cllr Saunders attended the Unitary Listening Event at Ash Thomas Village Hall on 12<sup>th</sup> March. The Chairman stressed it was important that the PCllrs were aware of the proposals for Unitary. He also advised that a draft document would be produced shortly and the PC would then have an opportunity to comment on the contents. He mentioned that on 5 March 2008 Communities Secretary Hazel Blears had announced plans for a new White Paper focusing on empowering citizens. The Empowerment White Paper, to be published in the Summer, would set out how the untapped talent of communities could be unleashed to ensure everyone had a greater say in improvements to public services, local accountability and opportunities for enterprise. Over the coming months the Government would be consulting with a wide range of people to contribute to the thinking that would go into the White Paper. A discussion document “*Unlocking the talent of our communities*” would be seeking views on a number of issues, including; ways to improve deprived areas, encourage active citizenship, improve local public services by involving local users and strengthen local accountability.

### **278. Police Matters**

Katie Rich, the new Police Beat Manager from Hampshire was warmly welcomed to the PC Meeting. She provided some background information about herself and hoped she would be able to help the nine Parishes she had responsibility for. She had checked the back records for the Parish and advised that there had been little crime to report over the last six months, although there had been some parking issues. However it appeared that not all the issues affecting the Parish had been logged including the fire which had destroyed a property in the village. Cllr Mrs Johnstone advised that she had received no follow up to the reported gas meter box which had been vandalised. Katie would investigate these matters and report back. She was questioned as to whether a byelaw for the Rec` would be of benefit (dusk to dawn curfew). However she advised that as there was a lack of police power available to enforce the byelaw she didn’t think it would be effective. Cllr Corden advised that vandals in the Rec were now setting paper alight and placing it under the rubber granules in an attempt to set the rubber alight. Broken glass was being left in the Rec and the PC was taking the necessary steps to ensure that this was removed to prevent accidents. With regards to school security Katie was of the view that a camera supported by good lighting was an effective means of deterring intruders but accepted that not everyone would approve of this means of security.

### **279. 20mph Speed Limit and proposed 30mph Speed Limit Update**

The speed survey data had still not been received. The Clerk would again ask CCllr Hannon to pursue this matter on behalf of the PC. A new resident has e-mailed the Chairman expressing concern at vehicles speeding along Willand Road which was making it highly dangerous for vehicles exiting Green Acres. The resident requested that steps be taken for the 30mph speed limit be enforced.. Cllr Britton also raised the question of the outstanding works to the virtual pavements etc although Meg Booth of DCC had indicated that this would be carried out within the next month or so. It was noted that vehicles were now parking behind the white lines. CCllr Hannon had been in correspondence with Jo Tennant the Chief Superintendent Commander

regarding the 20mph speed limit and had understood that police officers in Devon would refrain from saying “we don’t enforce 20mph limits” Cllr Hannon would be meeting with Chief Inspector Jim Nye to discuss the issues of the 20mph limit shortly.

### **280. DCC Matters**

- i. Footpath 34 (from Greenway Bridge to Rock Bridge) would be closed from 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> April in order that resurfacing works could be carried out.
- ii. The following matters had been logged by DCC but were still outstanding:-
  - a. water was coming off fields and flooding the lane between Thurlescombe and Rowridge
  - b. The footpath surface between Church Path and Corner Lane had still not been properly repaired. Cllr Corden would be happy to be the point of contact in this matter.
  - c. The sign for Brithem Bottom (requesting large vehicles not to use the lane) had still Not materialised despite numerous requests. (It was understood that Meg Booth had Been made fully aware previously of this problem)
  - d. the road from Brithem Bottom to Five Bridges was in a very poor state of repair and needed attention.
  - e. a pot hole in the road opposite the front school gates needed to be filled
- iii. The Clerk to ascertain from Cllr Hannon as to whether any progress had been made with regard to the question of flooding at Lower Town and the possible legal liability of DCC
- iv. Mr & Mrs Venner had e-mailed the Chairman advising that they had still not been contacted by DCC about the water and pot holes in the road between Battens Farm and Ivy House Cross. They were presuming that the remedial works were in the pipeline but required confirmation that this was the case.

### **281. MDDC Matters**

- i. MDDC had announced that its community recycling lorries were now running 9 of its 12 lorries on a mixture of conventional diesel and bio diesel. The new fuel supply came from Trybiodiesel at Lapford, a local firm which collected used cooking oil from chip shops, pubs and other Devon businesses and turned it into a substitute for conventional diesel fuel
- ii. MDDC had advised that it would assume responsibility for stray dogs 24 hours a day
- iii. MDDC was seeking suitable potential housing sites in the district. The deadline for submissions was 17<sup>th</sup> April
- iv. The Audit Commission had confirmed that leadership in the Council had significantly improved (greater leadership and direction had been provided by the new executive, progress was being made in achieving the Council’s improvement plan and performance management was improving). MDDC was making significant progress on priority areas; exceeding affordable housing targets, recycling 50% of household waste and was continuing to provide one of the best performing planning services in the country.
- v. MDDC reported that it had taken court proceedings against a council tenant in Hemyock following persistent anti-social behaviour. It hoped that its actions would send out a strong signal to anyone whose behaviour might have a detrimental effect on their neighbours, who had a right to live peaceful undisturbed lives
- vi. A Customer First Team would be available on Monday and Friday 9am – 12 noon at Cullompton Town Council offices to assist customers with enquiries
- vii. MDDC had announced its involvement with the ‘Warm Zones’ project. The project was established in October 2007 as a partnership between the eight district councils and two unitary authorities in Devon. From April 2008 it aimed to target 140,000 homes in Devon to increase the take up of energy efficient grants and measures to make homes warmer.

viii. MDD had advised people waiting for the arrival of their new national bus passes to be patient. The delay in sending out the passes was due to the sheer complexity of Government requirements for dealing with applications, all of which had to be verified and electronically coded onto the new “smartcard”

### **282. Update on Proposed Litter Pick and other work to be carried out in Halberton prior to judging of Village of the Year Competition**

The litter pick would be going ahead on 19<sup>th</sup> April. There was much discussion about using offenders (Community Workforce) to carry out minor works in the village in readiness for the competition. The Vice-Chairman had drawn up a schedule of works which could be carried out on 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April, subject to the PC's agreement. The works would be concentrated outside and around the Village Hall area, in the Rec, Corner Lane, Greenway, Pondhill, the bus shelter (opposite the Farm Shop), the railings and anything else in the vicinity of those areas which required attention. It was understood that the wooden post at the bottom of the Rec was now in two halves and was hanging on a chain. The Vice-Chairman would liaise with Cllr Britton with regard to replacing the wooden post with a steel post. It was resolved that the Community Workforce be used to carry out the work on the aforementioned dates subject to them being supervised at all times. It was agreed that the toilet facilities could be used in the Village Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> April subject to the workers being accompanied by a supervisor. It was not known whether the Hall would be in use on the 13<sup>th</sup> April but if it was the workers would be unable to have access to the toilet facilities. The Vice-Chairman to liaise with Cllr Mrs Johnstone about the workforce using the Village Hall, supervision etc. The materials required for the works eg paint, concrete etc would be capped at £250. The Vice-Chairman advised that he would be prepared to manage the project and act as the point of liaison and would deal with matters as and when they arose. It was also understood that there were other works required to be undertaken in the village which were specified in the Schedule of Works. It was agreed that these works should only be undertaken if the initial works had been carried out to a satisfactory standard. This to be an item on the May agenda. The Clerk had been in correspondence with MDDC regarding the litter bin in the Rec`. MDDC was not prepared to empty the bin without the payment of a fee. After much discussion it was agreed that the PC would require MDDC to empty the bin on a regular weekly basis at an annual cost of £50

### **283. Parish Council Meetings in Ash Thomas**

After much discussion it was resolved that there should be one meeting per year in Ash Thomas and this to take place in the month of July. The Chairman, Cllr Mrs Johnstone, Corden and Wooding declared an interest and did not vote in this matter

### **284. Parish Plan Update**

It was considered of the utmost importance that the Plan should not lose its significance and that it should be regarded as a living document to be considered and amended to the changing needs of the Parish and its parishioners, at regular intervals. It was agreed that this be an item to be considered more fully at a future Parish Council Meeting (June) and thereafter at each subsequent PC meeting, as the PC was presently fully occupied with getting the village ready for the Village of the Year competition

### **285. Boundary Committee Update**

The Clerk had received much information about this subject. It was understood that DCC had taken a joint report to DCC's Executive Cttee proposing the creation of a single unitary council to take responsibility for the services currently provided by DCC and the district councils of Devon. There would be briefings around the county including a briefing on 11<sup>th</sup> April at 11.30am at

Tiverton Hotel. The Boundary Cttee during the first stage of the review (to 11<sup>th</sup> April 2008) would be working with local authorities and other stakeholders to identify potential concepts for new unitary authorities that would be assessed against the five criteria, which were:- affordability, achieving a broad cross section of support, strategic leadership, neighbourhood empowerment and the provision of value for money services. In July 2008 the Cttee intended publishing the draft proposals for consultation with one or more county-wide models of unitary local government for Devon. Views would be invited during the 12 week consultation period.

#### **286. Car Park/Footpath Update**

A further site meeting had taken place on 12<sup>th</sup> March. A more suitable access location had been identified for the car park/footpath. Dan Meek of DCC had suggested that a follow up meeting be arranged with Roger Folley of DCC who had more knowledge of the proposed project, to be attended by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and if available CCllr Hannon. The Clerk to arrange the same.

#### **287. Meetings Attended**

There were no other meetings attended other than those mentioned in the sections of these Minutes

#### **288. Future Meetings**

- i. April and May – Devon Primary Care Trust – A series of meetings would be taking place at Exeter, Barnstaple and Newton Abbot to seek views from the public on how to improve health and social care. The Clerk had details available for PCllrs, if they were interested.
- ii. 14<sup>th</sup> April 2008 – 7.30pm Two Moors Primary School, Tiverton – Police Authority Liaison Meeting
- iii. 16<sup>th</sup> April 2008 - Getting Ready for Enterprise Workshop Uplowman Village Hall
- 29<sup>th</sup> April 2008 – 7.30pm Cullompton Community College – Police Authority Liaison Meeting
- iv. 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008– 6.30pm Halberton Village Hall – Halberton PC Planning Cttee Meeting
- v. 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008– 7.00pm Halberton Village Hall – Halberton PC Ordinary Meeting
- vi. 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008– 8.15pm Halberton Village Hall – Halberton Annual Parish Meeting
- vii. 5<sup>th</sup> June 2008 – 11.00am Current Legislation Training - Westbank Healthy Living Centre in Exminster. The course will include Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, Criteria for Power of Well Being, Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, Freedom of Information. The PC would have to decide at the May PC meeting which PCllr would be attending.
- viii. 14<sup>th</sup> July 2008 – CCD Members Forum Visit to “The Watermark”

#### **289. Committee Reports**

##### **Footpaths**

It was agreed to accept Nicholas Page`s quote for footpath works for 2008 in the sum of £370

##### **Cemetery Update**

When the weather improved Cllr Britton would provide a digger and the Chairman a trailer; to dispose of earth and compost. Cllr Corden indicated that he had not yet had time to investigate the storage of compost, replacement bins, dumpy bags for the disposal of compost etc but would do so shortly. The Vice-Chairman advised that he was hoping that the Community Workforce would deal with the piece of timber required for the window frame of the small shed and the painting of the other cemetery gate. The Vice-Chairman had not yet purchased the two new watering cans for the cemetery but would do shortly.

## 290. Clerk's Report

The Clerk had nothing to report

## 291 Accounts

### RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> - 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2008:

Bank Interest	31.85
Newsletter	162.53
Cemetery	72.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£266.38</b>

### PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> - 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2008 £739.66

#### PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Vat</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Details</b>
1187	243.00		243.00	DAPC Subscription Fees
1188	22.05		22.05	Mrs C McIntyre – repayment of postage costs
1189	100.00		100.00	Mid Devon Citizens Advice Bureau – Donation
1190	200.00		200.00	Halberton Methodist Church – Donation for Youth Club
1191	33.18	5.81	38.99	B Lane-Smith – repayment of cost of paint
1192	340.83		340.83	Mrs C McIntyre – salary April/May
1193	100.00		100.00	St Andrews Church – Grant for 2007/08
1194	414.75	72.59	487.34	Gardencare – grasscutting cemetery, Rec and the Mead

#### The above accounts were approved for payment

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	15041.08
Plus Receipts for period 1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> March	266.38
	<b>TOTAL £15307.46</b>
Minus Payments made for the above Period	£739.66
	<b>TOTAL £14567.80</b>

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	13841.42
Current A/c	726.38
	<b>TOTAL £14567.80</b>

<b>VILLAGE HALL FUNDS</b>	<b>53.25</b>
<b>PARISH PATHS FUND</b>	<b>1723.79</b>
<b>PARISH PLAN FUND</b>	<b>433.54</b>
<b>CAR PARKING</b>	<b>850.00</b>
<b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>	<b>11507.22</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£14567.80</b>

**Halberton Newsletter: Income for Period 1<sup>st</sup> April - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 = £2040.33 less expenditure £1711.05 = Profit \* £329.28**

It was resolved to write a letter of thanks to Judy Austin and her helpers with regards to the advertising income, as the Newsletter had made a significant profit of \*£330. This was indeed a wonderful achievement when it was considered that a lot of other parish magazines were just managing to break even or even running at a loss.

\*The Clerk had made a slight miscalculation. The total income from the Newsletter was £1935 and the expenditure was £1711. The Newsletter had made a profit of £224

**292. Appointment of External Auditor**

The Audit Commission advised that Alun Williams had been appointed as auditor to Halberton Parish Council. The appointment would cover the audit of accounts for the financial years 2007/08 to 2011/12

**293. Miscellaneous Matters**

- i. It was agreed that the Village Hall Ctte would provide the buffet for the Annual Parish Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May. The Chairman, Cllr Mrs Johnstone, Corden and Wooding declared an interest and did not vote in this matter
- ii. The Clerk to circulate Katie Rich's e-mail address to members

The Meeting ended at 9.10pm

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**DATE**

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**CHAIRMAN**