

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2008 AT 8.00PM AT ASH THOMAS VILLAGE HALL**

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**197. Present**

The Chairman (K Browse), Vice-Chairman (B Lane-Smith), Mesdames Cuthbert, Jepps and Johnstone, Cllrs Corden\*, Radford\*, Saunders and Wooding, CCllr Des Hannon, PC Dodd, PCSO Mel Smith and three Member of the Public

\*Cllrs Corden and Radford had to leave the meeting early due to other engagements

**198. Police Matters**

PC Dodd provided updates as to the following matters:-

- i. No witnesses had come forward in connection with the fire to the cottage in Lower Town. However action was being taken against youngsters regarding their misuse of fireworks on the same evening of the fire
- ii. There was no further information to report regarding the "drainpipe incident" where youths at night had laid a drainpipe across the main street. He didn't know whether any witnesses would be prepared to come forward to enable the police to make some progress in this matter
- iii. He was keen to progress the painting of the interior of the village bus shelter with youngsters of the village
- iv. A witness had come forward in relation to the damage to the gas meter at the Village Hall and he anticipated interviewing the offender shortly
- v. If there were any problems with regard to the behaviour of tenants or anyone else living in the new Hastoe properties he would require people to report such incidents. Hastoe took any complaints very seriously but would be unable to act without evidence being produced.

The Clerk advised that there were a number of East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership Meetings being held in the forthcoming weeks. Cllr Wooding would be happy to attend and the Clerk would forward details to him and also Cllr Mrs Jepps who also expressed an interest

**199. Speeding in Halberton/Pavement Provision**

A letter had been received from DCC that a speed check had been carried out in the 20mph limit. The mean speed for vehicles travelling in an eastbound direction was 22.5mph and in a westbound direction - 21.2mph. The only suitable location that equipment could be set up was to the west of Millstream Gardens and DCC accepted that this may not have been the exact location of where the perceived problem of speeding was taking place. There was much discussion. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask for an in-depth report of the findings – eg maximum and minimum speeds, how many vehicles were travelling over the limit. PC Dodd advised that two vehicles were travelling at over 40mph, 26 vehicles between 35 – 40 mph but these were mainly at night. The PC still required to see all the data in order to properly consider the matter. CCllr Hannon and other members of the PC had met with Meg Booth from DCC regarding re-surfacing works in High Street and also looking at ways to make life safer for pedestrians, with particular regard for the provision of a pavement. It was considered that there were very few places where a footpath could be constructed. It was agreed that when the figures re the speed checks were made available from DCC, that the matter would be considered again.

**200. Public Forum**

There were no questions raised

**201. Apologies**

Cllrs Britton and Gibbs

## **202. Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> December 2007 were approved and signed unamended

## **203. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

- i. Cllr Saunders had now carried out the tree trimming in the cemetery.
- ii. The Vice-Chairman advised that due to the inclement weather he had still not carried out the work to the cemetery gates but hoped to do so shortly.
- iii. It was thought that the overgrown trees at Halberton Court had been dealt with
- iv. The recycling banks in the Village Hall car park had still not been removed by MDDC, despite Cllr Radford making representations for this to be actioned. The Clerk to inform Cllr Radford of the situation
- v. The Clerk had submitted Cllr Corden's request to MDDC for consideration as a PC representative on MDDC's Standards Cttee.
- vi. The Clerk advised that the PC was liable for payment of an invoice raised by MDDC for election expenses, even though the 2007 election in Halberton was uncontested. The expenses were in respect of advertising etc
- vii. The Clerk reminded members of the Code of Conduct training which would take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 6.00pm at MDDC Offices
- viii. The Clerk to inform Cllr Mrs Cuthbert of the wording required to be used on the Greenway sign, in order that she could order it
- ix. It was decided that in view of the information that Cllr Radford had obtained (as to how allocations of Hastoe's properties were made) it was now seen as a pointless exercise for the PC to register a complaint about the system. The PC however took the view that it had not been made aware of all the relevant facts when the system of allocation had been discussed at an earlier PC meeting attended by a Hastoe representative. A letter had been received from Mr Gates regarding Hastoe's screening proposals, in view of his concerns for his lack of privacy. Mr Gate's was of the view that Hastoe's proposals would do little to alleviate the problem. The fence panelling erected was just above the new property's door level making no difference to his privacy but would improve the privacy of the adjoining resident – Mr Phillips. Mr Gates also had concerns about drainage issues. It was agreed that his concerns be referred by the Clerk to Alison Fish, MDDC's Planning Officer
- x. The sign for Brithem Bottom (requesting large vehicles not to use the lane) had still not materialised despite numerous requests. Cllr Radford would speak to Tony Matthews at DCC about this matter

## **204. Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Cllr Britton for organising the supply and erection of the Christmas tree in the Village and also to Dick Johnstone in organising the repairs to the Christmas tree lights wires which vandals had repeatedly cut through.

## **205. DCC Matters**

Cllr Hannon advised that most of the outstanding highway matters had either now, or would be dealt with in the very near future. In addition he advised of the following:-

- i. A complaint had been received from Nr A Butler a resident of Lower Town about flooding which occurred from time to time in the area. Cllr Hannon would be arranging for a highway engineer to investigate the problem
- ii. DCC was having difficulties trying to deal with the problem of water coming off fields and flooding the lane between Thurlescombe and Rowridge due to an obstructive landowner

- iii. The footpath surface between Church Path and Corner Lane would be re-examined
- iv. He may 'name and shame' Stagecoach regarding a number of Stagecoach buses speeding through the village. He would be making contact with the Operations Manager of the Company shortly
- v. The Travel Audit indicated that DCC was making very good improvements in this area
- vi. He thought that DCC's portion of the Council Tax for 2008/09 would be in the region of 4.5%

### **206. Mid Devon District Council Matters**

The Clerk had received details of meetings to take place at MDDC over the next month. She could let any member have this information, if interested, or alternatively it could be accessed on MDDC's website

### **207. Proposals for Post Office Closures**

MDDC required the completion of a form requiring information as to the implications of Post Office closures on rural communities. Cllr Mrs Johnstone very kindly completed the same. The Clerk would arrange to return it. It was understood that the proposals for Devon post offices would be known in April 2008.

### **208. S.106 Monies Update**

The Clerk was still unhappy with MDDC's explanations regarding their authority to spend part of the PC's future 106 monies on funding an Officer post and was liaising with another District Council outside the County about the matter. She hoped to have further news shortly.

### **209. Web Site/Newsletter and Associated Matters**

Cllr Mrs Cuthbert had carried out sterling work in taking over responsibility for the Parish Website from Tim Hugill. Much of her time had been used in the transfer and she was thanked for this and her commitment to the Web Site. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert would host the site and advised that she was the point of contact with regard to any matters connected thereto. There would be 200 mail boxes available and the annual hosting fee would be £43.89 plus vat. It was resolved that the PC would pay this annual fee. In addition there was discussion as to how the Newsletter and Web Site could work in conjunction with one another without advertising revenue being lost. After much discussion it was resolved that the Newsletter could be split into two booklets – one containing the Parish news and the other for advertising (Business Directory). All the adverts which were included in the Business Directory and for which an advertising fee would be paid, would automatically have a free lineage on the Web Site. However if the advertiser required an image and a link they he/she would have to pay an extra fee for this. It was resolved that any advertising on the Web Site could only be obtained if the advertiser had first paid for an advertisement in the Business Directory. The Clerk would liaise with Cllr Mrs Cuthbert about the wording of the letter she would be sending out shortly to advertisers advising of increased advertising rates etc and which would now need to incorporate the provisions about web site advertising. The tools of communication in the Parish would now be:- the Newsletter, Business Directory, Web site, and Parish notice boards. This would be useful when the PC's application for the Village of the Year Competition was being considered by the judges, as tools of communication were a relevant consideration which would be taken into account by them. Thanks were also expressed to Tim Hugill with assisting Cllr Mrs Cuthbert in the transfer of the Website.

### **210. Grass Cutting Tenders**

The three tenders were:-

£2,592 plus Vat, £2,793 plus Vat, £4,878.60 plus Vat received from:- Gardencare, Landscapes Southwest Ltd, Home and Garden Maintenance. After much discussion it was resolved that Gardencare's tender be accepted.

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

The Clerk advised that due to Tony Matthews having conflicting diary dates the proposed meeting of the PC of 17<sup>th</sup> January, at the Cordwents site, to progress the project, could no longer go ahead. Instead the alternative date of 24<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30am was proposed. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Alison Fisher MDDC, Mark Copleston of Midas Homes, Tony Matthews DCC, CCllr Des Hannon and Sue Warren Conservation Officer would hopefully be attending. The Clerk to let all parties know of the revised date. It was also agreed that the Vice-Chairman would speak to landowners whose property adjoined the Old Cordwents site about their safety concerns regarding the proposed access.

## **213. . Meetings Attended**

There were none

## **214. Future Parish Council Meetings**

Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2008 – 7.30pm Amenities Ctte Meeting – Halberton Village Hall  
Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2008 – 7.00pm Planning Ctte Meeting – Halberton Village Hall  
Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2008 – 7.30pm Ordinary Meeting of Halberton Parish Council  
(at above venue)

## **215. Committee Reports**

### **Amenities (to include the Cemetery)**

Cllr Mrs Jepps reported that she had collected the rubbish from the cemetery, which had accumulated in the bins. More glass had been found in the safety surfacing of the Rec`. The bin in the Rec` was not being emptied regularly by MDDC which was preventing people from using it to dump their rubbish. The Clerk to report this to Cllr Radford as MDDC`s Street Scene representative.

## **216. Clerk`s Report**

The Clerk advised that the local government pay claim had been settled in November. Therefore in accordance with her contract of employment she was entitled to a small amount of back pay for the period April – January. The PC agreed to pay the amount of £15.61

## **217. Accounts**

### **RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> - 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2007:**

Bank Interest	35.70
Cemetery	72.00
Newsletter	122.82
S.106 Money	395.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£625.52</b>

### **PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> - 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2007 £1824.98**

#### **PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED**

<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Vat</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Details</b>
SO	23.00		23.00	MDDC – Cemetery Rates
1166	16.28		16.28	Mrs C McIntyre – repayment of postage costs
1167	9.11	1.59	10.70	Ottery Office Practice - photocopying
1168	328.07		328.07	Mrs C McIntyre – salary Jan/Feb (inc £15.61 back pay)
1169	43.89	7.68	51.57	Mrs J Cuthbert –repayment of charges for hosting Web Site

<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Vat</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Details</b>
1170	126.00		126.00	Halberton Village Hall – hire costs of hall 11/9/2007-11/12/2007

It was resolved that the above invoices should be paid

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	17944.41
Plus Receipts for period 1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> December	625.52
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£18569.93</b>
Minus Payments made for the above Period	£1824.98
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£16,744.95</b>

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	14434.24
Current A/c	2310.71
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£16744.95</b>

<b>VILLAGE HALL FUNDS</b>	<b>353.25</b>
<b>PARISH PATHS FUND</b>	<b>1753.79</b>
<b>PARISH PLAN FUND</b>	<b>433.54</b>
<b>CAR PARKING</b>	<b>850.00</b>
<b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>	<b>13354.37</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£16744.95</b>

**Halberton Newsletter: Income for Period 1<sup>st</sup> April - 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2007 = £1676.50 less expenditure £1345.39 = Profit £331.11**

### **218. Members Business**

The Vice-Chairman advised that the bus shelter on the main street, required a tile replacing. It appeared that vandals had forcibly removed the tile.

### **219.. Miscellaneous Matters**

- i. Cllr Mrs Johnstone suggested that the Parish Plan should be revised approximately every three years to ensure it kept abreast with changes and requirements.
- ii. Cllr Mrs Jepps advised that due to her acting as a responsible parishioner, (she had recently reported anti-social behaviour to the police), that on a recent visit to Tiverton both she and her husband were attacked by the woman concerned, despite Cllr Mrs Jepps being assured that her identity would not be revealed. Cllr Mrs Jepps considered that this served as a warning and that she would probably not be so community minded in the future.
- iii. The glass in the notice board had been smashed by vandals. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Corden for dealing with this matter. It was resolved that the contactor should go ahead with supplying the replacement glass in the sum of £53.23 plus vat, in accordance with his quote
- iv. It was believed that a planning application had been submitted in order that the motor cross activities could be held on a more commercial basis. It was noted that any noise complaints be submitted to Gordon McGovern, MDDC's Environmental Officer

The Meeting ended at 9.30pm

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**DATE**

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**CHAIRMAN**

