

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

74. Present

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Mesdames Armstrong, Fisher, Hull, Jepps, Cllrs Gibbs, Lane-Smith, Saunders, Radford, PC Auger and three Members of the Public (including the Leader of MDDC, Mr Pugsley)

75. Public Forum

A question was raised as to whom was responsible for clearing the Leat. It appeared it was the responsibility of the adjacent land owners. Rob Stevens advised that the Doctors Surgery should be completed within the next 6 – 8 weeks. Mr Stevens also produced a mock up sign which it was hoped could be placed at strategic points in the village. It stated “Kill Your Speed – Not Us”. This would be discussed at the next Parish Plan Meeting. The Leader of MDDC, advised about the pending visit of the Chairman of MDDC to a PC Meeting, Area Cttes and Affordable Housing.

76. Apologies

Cllr Hugill

77. Minutes

The Minutes of:

- i. The Parish Council Meeting of 10th June 2003 were approved subject to the amendment of Minute 68 Accounts (Cheque No.100732 to be deleted)
- ii. The Cemetery Ctte Meetings dated 24th and 28th June 2003 were approved without amendments

78. Matters Arising

- i. The repairs to the chain link fence running from Lower Town to Boyce Close, Pethertons had now been completed by MDDC
- ii. There had been no response from MDDC regarding the replacement litter bin at Pethertons. The Clerk had been e-mailing Will Molyneaux without any response. However, she had recently discovered that he no longer worked for MDDC. As he did not have a replacement it was likely to be some time before this matter could be dealt with.
- iii. Cllr Hugill had prepared a paragraph to be included in a letter which the Director of Community Services (MDDC) wished to send to First Great Western, regarding Tiverton Parkway Station. It was understood that he would pass the details of this to the Clerk to deal with
- iv. The sum of £40 had been received from the Village Hall Ctte towards the cost of hosting the Parish Website.
- v. The Clerk had been advised by Kevin Dearing (MDDC) that he had recommended to the relevant Ctte that the PC be awarded a grant of just under £1,000 towards the cost of resurfacing the Rec etc. Mr Dearing indicated that a decision should be made shortly.
- vi. Matters were ongoing regarding traffic calming measures in Halberton. Cllr Radford was in contact with various Officers on a regular basis about the matter. Following Marion Deacock's, (Road Safety Officer) visit to Halberton on 19th June (also attended by A Mitchard, The Chairman of the PC, Mr Connelly and Mr Bennett) to observe congestion/pedestrian activity in Halberton, Mrs Deacock advised that a Safety Audit

would be arranged as soon as possible. Those present would include Mrs Deacock, a representative from Tiverton Local Service Group, PC Symons and Mr Hipwell. It would not be possible for the proposed 20mph limit to come in this year's programme of funding but it would be considered as a future scheme. Resources had been delivered to the school to enable it to start its School Travel Plan project. It had been suggested that a footpath could be opened up which ran along the back of the High Street, which would allow school children to get to and from school in safety. The Vice-Chairman advised that Cllr Hugill, would, at the next meeting of the Mid Devon Association of Local Councils, stress that the PC needed a Footpath Review urgently, to enable it, to possibly access money with which to be able to reinstate the footpath to a better quality.

- vii. The course 'Engaging Communities' which was to take place on 9th July and which Cllr Mrs Armstrong was booked to attend had been cancelled due to lack of numbers.
- viii. The Clerk advised that if the PC wished to claim allowances, under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regs 2003 it would be necessary for this expense to be met from the Parish Precept. The Independent Remuneration Panel may consider the PC's request to claim allowances and therefore further supporting information may be sought by the Panel, which could include requesting that PC Members keep "time sheets". The PC agreed not to pursue this matter further for the present time.
- ix. Mr Wigley of DCC Highways Dept, advised that the repairs to the road signs in Ash Thomas were in hand. The two missing "arms" would be replaced. The PC agreed to the suggestion that a single sided finger post style sign be erected against the wall of the adjacent building "Pigsfoot". However the Clerk to advise Mr Wigley that he must obtain the consent of the owner of "Pigsfoot" in the first instance. He indicated that DCC had a significant backlog of signs, and safety demands had to take priority. The same was applicable in respect of the request for a replacement "Unsuitable for Long Vehicles" which he would add to DCC's list and hoped that it could be replaced later in the year if funds permitted.
- x. Mr Densham MDDC anticipated that the planters would be constructed during 2004/05. However to enable MDDC to do the job fully, it still required an area of land on Willand Road to accommodate the planters and future sign, which BT was not interested in releasing..
- xi. With regard to the missing "No Cycling" sign previously sited near the School and Church, Mr Densham had raised an order with MDDC's Operations Team for a post and sign. He anticipated that the sign may be in place during July. Mr Densham was liaising with the Chairman about this matter.
- xii. Mrs Erasmus send a letter of thanks to the PC for the flowers she had received, in recognition of the Annual Audit she had carried out of the PC's accounts for 2002/03.
- xiii. Cllrs Mesdames Armstrong and Hull, Gibbs and Lane-Smith were advised by the Clerk that as they were now signatories on the PC's cheque book, under new rules, it would be necessary for them to produce various items of documentation to HSBC Bank to prove their identities.

79. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman advised that a parishioner had complained about the bus shelter at Pethertons. It appeared that it was being used as a public toilet by certain individuals. The Chairman had subsequently cleaned it out and intended to paint it at a later date. The Clerk to contact Adshel to enquire about bus shelters re cost/type etc. Although it was indicated that an Adshel type of shelter may not attract the problems that the existing brick built shelter did, the PC indicated that at this time it did not feel inclined to replace the brick built shelter.

80. Police Matters

PC Auger advised that with regard to the indiscriminate parking at Millstream Gardens, which was causing numerous problems for residents, he considered that the only possible options to try and deal with this problem would be to make the area 'Residents Only' parking, or to have double yellow lines. He explained that as Millstream Gardens was "adopted" highway then he could take no action against persons who were parking indiscriminately, if their vehicles were taxed and tested. The speed of some vehicles travelling through Halberton was causing concern. A Speed sign would be erected at a strategic point and would flash the correct speed of what vehicles should be travelling when passing through Halberton. The system would record volumes of traffic, speeds and times of traffic passing through. It was agreed the sign should be situated in the direction coming from Willand to Tiverton, (between Halberton Club and the Barge). It would be in situ for two weeks and should be up and running within the next two weeks. PC Auger couldn't see why the data shouldn't be passed to the Parish Plan Cttee for its use, as he didn't think there were any Data Protection issues but he would check this out. Radar speed guns would also be used. There had been incidents of vandalism in the vicinity of the School and the Church. PC Auger said there were two possible culprits. He was investigating further. In response to the bus shelter at Pethertons being used as a "toilet", he advised that he hadn't seen any youngsters congregating in the bus shelter at Pethertons for quite some time. He said that funding was available for specially designed shelters for youngsters, which may deter any future problems. He indicated that the "Sniffer" dogs were being used in public houses in Tiverton in an attempt to reduce drug crime. The Chairman thanked PC Auger for attending the Meeting.

81. Parish Plan

An Inaugural Meeting of the Halberton Parish Plan Steering Group had been held on 25th June at Halberton Village Hall. (The Minutes of this Meeting are attached). The Clerk had a more indepth report available of this meeting, if any Member required to see it. A further Meeting of the Steering Group would be held at Halberton Village Hall on 24th July at 7.30pm. The Countryside Agency had agreed to provide £3,768 of funding. 50% of this amount should be paid within the next two weeks. A Sub-Cttee of the Steering Group would, at its next meeting, consider whether to apply for funding available from the Primary Care Trust under the 'Active Lifestyle Scheme'. The Environment Sub-Cttee would be meeting on 15th July to consider applying for an environmental grant worth up to £500.

82. Quality Parish Councils.

The Clerk advised that she had received a booklet from Defra providing in-depth information about the requirements of attaining 'Quality' status'. All PCS could apply for this from 1st July. The Vice-Chairman considered it was important that the PC should achieve this status in view of the benefits it could gain. He mentioned that the Clerk would require some additional training which would have to be discussed with her. The item to be placed on the September Agenda.

83. Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Devon – Consultation Draft

The Clerk had circulated information to all members about this but the PC had no comment to make. Cllr Gibbs had asked that the PC be informed of DCC's findings, when all the information had been gathered in and processed.

84 Mid Devon District Council Matters

- i. The comments of the PC were required in respect of the Area Cttes by 1st September. The PC was of the opinion that there was no real necessity for them to continue as they merely duplicated work already being undertaken by PCs. If any professional advice was

required about specific matters then the PC could always invite an officer from MDDC to attend a PC meeting. The Cttes did not appear to attract many members of the public. On the plus side the PC had contributed to all the Ctte meetings.

- ii. MDDC was carrying out a youth survey. Cllr Mrs Armstrong agreed to complete the survey form on behalf of the PC.
- iii. It was agreed that Peter Brown of Emergency Planning Services be invited to attend the November PC Meeting to talk about Emergency Planning for the benefit of the new members of the PC. Capt Cornish to be invited to attend. The PC already had an Emergency Plan but the Vice-Chairman suggested that the Plan should now be updated to include mobile telephone numbers where appropriate.

85. Devon County Council Matters

- i. DCC was operating a scheme called `Internet Angels`, which was intended for persons conversant with the Internet to help their friends or family members try the Internet for the first time. A pack had been produced for any prospective `angel` which could be obtained through the Internet. The details to be passed to Cllr Hugill.
- ii. Cllr Radford advised that Halberton School had underspent by £23,000. He assumed that this related to the 2002/03 budget.

86. Meetings Attended

- i. Mid Devon Primary Care Trust Meeting – 17th June 2003
Cllr Mrs Fisher attended this. She advised it had been a very short meeting. The proposed names for the new wards in Tiverton Hospital were `Cadbury` and `Cranmore`. It now looked likely that the meetings would be wound up. September 2004 was possibly the last date meetings would be held in Mid-Devon..
- ii. Devon Association of Parish Councils – 30th June 2003
The Vice-Chairman attended this. He advised that there were a number of interesting items being submitted for the next Agenda.

87. Future Meetings

6th August 2003 – Culm Area Ctte Meeting Kentisbeare Village Hall at 7.00pm

88. Committee Reports

i. Cemetery

The Chairman advised that Mr Bryant, the Cemetery grass cutter had written to him to explain that when he had submitted his Tender for the work at the beginning of the year, he had underestimated the time required to make a good job of the grass cutting. At the present time the grass cut was £55 per cut. Mr Bryant was requesting that this should be increased to £75 a cut. The Clerk calculated that Mr Bryant was contracted to do 16 grass cuts (of which he had carried out 7). Therefore 9 grass cuts x £75 = £675 + the hedge trim of £70 meant the remainder of the Contract would cost £745. The Contract price in total would increase by £180. After much discussion the PC agreed to the revised rate but the Clerk to inform Mr Bryant that this would be paid subject to him adhering to the Contract terms and ensuring that a good standard of workmanship was maintained. The Clerk to write and advise Mr Bryant. Mr Quance (MDDC Bereavement Officer) had still not supplied the Clerk with further information about cemetery legislation, as promised. The Clerk to remind him about this. The Clerk had investigated the details of next of kin of deceased persons in connection with a number of headstones which required attention. However the Clerk had only managed to trace next of kin details for approximately half of the deceased. A sign had been erected in the cemetery stating `Please Beware of Loose

Minus payments made for the above period 2,430.26
TOTAL £16,145.17

Made up as follows:- Current £472.73
High Interest £15,672.44
TOTAL £16,145.17

VILLAGE HALLS FUND £ 3,500.00
PARISH PATHS FUND £1,823.72
PARISH PLAN FUND £224.38
GENERAL FUNDS £10,597.07
TOTAL £16,145.17

NEWSLETTER :

Income for period 1/4/03 – 30/06/03 £546.90

Income received in 2002/03 (payment in advance for advertising in 2003/04) - £68.57

TOTAL INCOME = £616.47 - LESS EXPENDITURE = £404.33 NET INCOME = £212.14

90.Members Business

i. Cllr Radford would speak to Bob Wigley (DCC) about the grass cuttings on the bank at Lower Town. These were not collected by DCC and tended to make the area look untidy.

91.Miscellaneous Matters

- i. The Market and Coastal Towns Initiative was setting up five Focus Groups. The PC was invited to get involved with the Initiative. The Clerk to pass the papers to Cllr Lane-Smith
- ii. Anna Silverwood of 'Updatemysite' was offering a service whereby at a fee of £10 per month she would keep the PC's Web Site up to date. The Clerk to pass the letter to Cllr Hugill for comment.
- iii. An old Deposit Pass Book (last entry December 1969) confirming the PC's account with the former Westminster Bank Ltd, had been handed to the Nat West Bank, Tiverton for it to make investigations to see whether or not there were funds owing to the PC. Unfortunately it appeared that the bank was holding no dormant balance for the account. The Clerk would retain the Pass Book.

92.Next Meeting

A Meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Tuesday, 9th September 2003 at Halberton Village Hall at 7.30pm, preceded by a Meeting of the Council's Planning Committee at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATE