

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH
COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 8TH JUNE 2004 AT 7.30PM AT HALBERTON
VILLAGE HALL

20. Present

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllrs P Gibbs, T Hugill, B Lane-Smith, R Radford, R Saunders and Mesdames Armstrong and Fisher PC Dodd and six Members of the Public

21. Apologies

Cllr Mesdames Hull and Jepps

22. Public Forum

Concerns were raised by Mr Wooding on behalf of the residents of Millstream Gardens as to the problem of heavy vehicles having to manoeuvre around stationary vehicles, resulting in them driving over sewerage gratings. Mr Wooding wanted to know who was responsible for repairing/replacing the gratings damaged by these vehicles. It was understood that the highway was adopted but the sewerage system wasn't. The Clerk would investigate and report back.

23. The Minutes of:-

- i. The Amenities Cttee Meeting of 10th May 2004
- ii. The Annual Parish Council Meeting of 18th May
- iii. The Extraordinary Meeting of 25th May 2004

were approved without amendment

24. Matters Arising

- i. Mrs Smith sent a letter of thanks to the Parish Council advising that the rubbish dumped at the railway cutting had now been removed. She appreciated the PC's efforts in this matter.
- ii. DCC had confirmed that it was not responsible for repairing the pot holes at Corner Lane as it was a private lane. However as a gesture of goodwill to Mrs Palk, it had agreed to fill the offending pot hole.

25. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman was pleased to announce the safe delivery of Cllr Mrs Jepps' baby and sent best wishes to the Jepps family on behalf of the PC. The Chairman mentioned that he had been concerned and slightly upset that the letter from Halberton Club requesting the PC's support for a new Community Centre had prompted a response from Mike Bull who had not been present at the meeting at which it had been discussed. He went on to say that a lot of work had been created for the Clerk because of the actions of an individual who he believed had been present at the meeting and who had referred the matter to Mr Bull. He suggested that if there were any comments or concerns to be raised, the rightful place was at the time of the meeting. He hoped that nothing like this would occur again.

26. Police Matters

PC Dodd was welcomed to the meeting. He advised that he was the newly appointed Neighbourhood Beat Manager for a number of parishes including Halberton. He would be based at Cullompton and would be contactable there. He advised that most of the NBMs at Cullompton had been trained to use a Laser Speed Gun and would now be responsible for enforcing all speed limits up to 40mph. He was informed that Halberton High Street, Uffculme Road, Millstream Gardens, Lower Town and the canal down to the Cemetery were areas of concern with regard to

some motorists speeding in the vicinity. He indicated that the situation could be assessed and enforcement action taken where necessary. Seven crimes had been reported in Halberton during the month of May. The Clerk had written to the motorist who had damaged the cemetery wall requesting re-imburement for the damage, but had received no response to her letter. She requested of PC Dodd that the police now provide details of the motorist's insurance company so that she could approach it direct for re-imburement. PC Dodd agreed to Cllr Hugill's suggestion to set up an e-mail address for him. A Mid Devon Police Liaison Meeting would be held on 15th June at St Andrews Primary School, Cullompton at 7.30pm

27. Formation of Committees and other Appointments

These were agreed as per the attached list. It was understood that the PC's representative on the Village Hall Ctte automatically became a Trustee of the Village Hall Management Ctte and would be jointly and severally responsible for any liability incurred to a third party. Currently the Vice-Chairman was a Trustee. The Clerk to ascertain from Mrs Shadbolt at MDCC that when Village Hall matters were discussed did the Cllr/Trustee concerned have a prejudicial interest. The Clerk advised that all the Parish Cllrs were Trustees of the Recreational Ground. Each member had been issued with Issue 20 of the Charity Commission News which advised of possible changes to charity law. Effectively it could mean that only charities where the income was £5,000 or above, would have to register with the Commission. In view of the small amount of income which the PC received for the Rec, it would mean that the PC would fall into this exemption. However in the meantime the responsibilities of being a Trustee would remain. It was agreed that the Clerk obtain booklets from the Charity Commission outlining trustee responsibilities. The item to be included on the July agenda. There was heated debate at this point between Cllr Lane-Smith and members of the Village Hall Ctte regarding trusteeship matters.

28. Parish Plan

Cllr Mrs Armstrong had prepared a report of the Meeting of 28th May as per attached. Discussion followed concerning the question of low cost housing and it was suggested that each of the four sites in the Parish which had been identified as possibilities should be giving equal investigation. The Vice-Chairman and Cllr Mrs Fisher declared Code of Conduct and left the room whilst the item was discussed. Cllr Mrs Armstrong would find out about the cost of the analysis of the Parish Plan survey results. The Clerk had prepared an up to date income/expenditure list re the Parish Plan which she had passed to Cllr Mrs Armstrong.

29. Halberton Club

Cllrs Gibbs, Hugill, Lane-Smith and Radford declared Code of Conduct and left the room whilst the item was being discussed. The letter of 25th May received from Halberton Club in response to Mr Bull's letter was discussed but it was felt nothing further could be added. Cllr Mrs Armstrong was very concerned that a response to Mr Bull's letter had already been received at the Extraordinary Meeting from an outside body prior to Mr Bull's letter being discussed by the PC. Members of the Village Hall Ctte raised concerns at suggestions of alleged impropriety on their part regarding suggestions that there was a pending litigation action which they stressed was untrue, they were also unhappy at the suggested name of 'Community Centre' which had swiftly been changed by Halberton Club to a Sports Centre. Mrs Graham was of the view that the Chairman of the PC should declare an interest, as he frequented Halberton Club. The Chairman in reply said he was not a member of the Club and as far as he was concerned did not have a prejudicial interest. The Chairman felt that the members of Halberton Club and Halberton Village Hall should put their differences aside and start working together for the good of the community and to make Halberton a better place to live in. He now wanted closure on the matter.

30. Car Parking

Mr Folley at DCC had advised that he had been unable to prepare a drawing for the proposed car park in time for the June PC Meeting. He would give the matter his attention as soon as possible.

31. Result of survey from Crossparks residents re removal of BT payphone

Letters had been distributed by the PC to residents who lived near the BT phone box at Cross Parks requesting that they contacted the Clerk if they had any strong objections to the proposal by BT to remove it. Mr and Mrs Best at Pigsfoot were the only objectors. The PC concluded that in view of the poor response it would not formally object to the proposal but would continue to fight BT for the proposed removal of the phone box at Pethertons. BT had recently advised that due to unavoidable circumstances the consultation period for any removals of phone boxes would be extended to 12th July 2004.

32. Mid Devon District Council Matters

- i. The new Chairman of the Council for 2004/05 was Cllr Michael Lee. He wished to attend a PC meeting and it was suggested that the September meeting would be preferable. The Clerk to advise MDDC accordingly.
- ii. MDDC had forwarded a copy of a letter from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister with regard to a questionnaire which parishes would be asked to complete if they had any allotments, community gardens and city farms. However as there were none of these facilities in the Parish it was concluded that the PC would be unable to complete the questionnaire.
- iii. MDDC had very kindly provided a useful information sheet specifying the responsibilities of the District Council and DCC which the Clerk had distributed to each PCllr.
- iv. An Occasional PEL application had been received by MDDC from Exe Valley Group of Young Farmers Club for a Disco in a marquee at Hartnoll Farm on 24th July from 9.00pm to 1.00am. The PC raised no objections.
- v. MDDC had invited the PC to becoming a member of a `Best Practice Club` which would become a forum to develop links and a support structure between the Parish Councils who managed their own cemeteries and the District Council. The aim would be to better inform the service MDDC provided and to ensure that information such as policies on Health and Safety, memorial risk assessments and safety checks were discussed and developed on a district wide basis. It was agreed that the PC would be interested in joining the Best Practice Club subject to not having to pay a membership fee in view of the reduction made this year by MDDC to its burial grant.

33. Devon County Council Matters

Details of Parish Paths Partnership Summer Workshops 2004 had been received. The Clerk had passed them to the Vice-Chairman for his information.

34. Meetings Attended

- i. Mid Devon District Council Annual Meeting – 5th May 2004
The Vice-Chairman attended this meeting. Cllr Michael Lee was elected as Chairman of MDDC for 2004/05
- ii. Mid Devon District Council: Local Forum 19th May 2004 Two Moors Primary School
Cllr Hugill attended. There was a presentation by the Environmental Agency re flood prevention.

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PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

<i>Cheque No</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>VAT</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Details</i>
SO	21.00		21.00	MDDC – Cemetery Rates
100832	25.00		25.00	K Saunders – Tree removal
100833	40.00		40.00	Mrs J Austin – Buffet at Annual meeting
100834	364.25		364.25	Gardencare – Grass Cutting for May
100835	5.68		5.68	PO – water charges at cemetery
100836	216.24		216.24	Mrs C McIntyre – Salary (less tax deductions)
100837	217.24		217.24	Education Matters – Newsletter production costs
100838	10.00		10.00	Newsletter delivery costs
100839	9.97		9.97	Mr T Hugill –Repayment of costs of stationery for Annual Meeting
100840	36.81		36.81	Mrs P Armstrong – Repayment of stationery costs re P.Plan

The above invoices were approved for payment

<i>Balance of bank accounts carried forward</i>	20,068.10
<i>Plus receipts for period 1st – 31st May 2004</i>	72.10
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>£20,140.20</i>
<i>Minus payments made for the above period</i>	2,338.92
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>£17,801.22</i>

Made up as follows:- Current	4.99
High Interest	17,796.23
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>£17,801.22</i>

<i>VILLAGE HALLS FUND</i>	<i>£1,950.00</i>
<i>PARISH PATHS FUND</i>	<i>£2,428.72</i>
<i>PARISH PLAN FUND</i>	<i>£1,093.65</i>
<i>GENERAL FUNDS</i>	<i>£12,328.85</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>£17,801.22</i>

NEWSLETTER :

Income for period 1/4/03 – 31/05/04 £515.50 minus expenditure £173.19
= NET PROFIT £339.31

i. The Charity Accounts for 2003/04 were approved. The Chairman signed them accordingly. It was noted that the income was £ 950 and the expenses were £2,142 .

ii. The Clerk explained that due to family illness Mrs Erasmus had been unable to carry out an internal audit of the Parish Council accounts. Hopefully she would be able to do this within the next few weeks. The Clerk had contacted the District Auditor and advised that she would now be unable to keep to the agreed audit date of 28th June and requested an extension to 31st July which had been agreed to .

37. Next Meeting

A meeting of the Council`s Amenities Ctte would take place on 29th June at 7.00pm at Halberton Village Hall followed by a Cemeteries Ctte Meeting of the PC at 7.30pm. A meeting of the Council`s Planning Ctte would take place on 13th July at 7.00pm at Halberton Village Hall followed by an Ordinary Meeting of the PC at 7.30pm

The Meeting closed at 10.30pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED