

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 8TH JUNE 2010 AT 7.40PM AT
HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

34. Present

Cllr Browse (Chairman), Cllrs Mesdames *Cuthbert, Graham and Johnstone and Cllrs Britton (Vice-Chairman), Corden, *Radford and PC G Custance, PCSO J Sims, Mr J Scott Housing Needs Officer – Community Council of Devon and 3 member of the public

*Cllr Mrs Cuthbert and Cllr Radford had to leave the meeting early due to other engagements

35. Apologies

Cllr Hand

36. Public Forum

Gerry Anderson raised concerns about the proposed Premises Licence application in respect of the Priory. The PC understood that the applicant was seeking a licence for specific events which would end at approx 11.30pm, however Mr Anderson now understood that the times proposed had been amended to 1.30am. He also understood that the police was supportive of the revised time as consultee. The Clerk advised that she had not received notification from MDDC as to the revised times. Mr Anderson was of the view that there would be noise and parking problems associated with the Priory's intended use of its premises. There was also the question of the sale of alcohol from residential premises as the property did not have planning consent to operate as a business. It was resolved that the Clerk contact MDDC again as the time to register comments had been extended. The Clerk to advise that the PC objected to the proposed application on the grounds of public nuisance issues – potential parking and traffic noise. The Clerk to also seek clarification on the proposed extended hours of operation. It was also understood that a wooden sign advertising the Priory's events was sited on the virtual pavement. The Clerk was requested to contact the appropriate authority regarding this obstruction (likely to be DCC if placed on the highway) It was understood that Cllr Radford in his capacity as MDDC councillor would raise these issues when the application was discussed at the next Licensing Cttee Meeting at MDDC and it was resolved that Cllr Corden would represent Mr Anderson and the PC at the meeting. Terry Payne advised that 710 editions of the Newsletter had been published. He was still concerned about over hanging branches which were obscuring traffic signs in the village particularly near the Farm Shop bend. The `Keep Clear` markings at the top of Pond Hill required re-painting. The parking of vehicles on the virtual pavements was continuing. These issues would be followed up.

37. Police

PC Custance advised of the crimes committed in the Parish during the past month:-

Theft from a car parked on the High Street; theft of a car which was later recovered in Taunton; criminal damage to a property and vehicle at Hillhead; burglary from a garage at Lower Town – a cycle was taken. In addition the following was reported:- a suspicious drunken person was reported banging on doors in the village; a RTA occurred on the canal bridge involving a car and a motorbike but no one was injured; a hit and run occurred in the High Street resulting in damage to a vehicle; RTA outside the Farm Shop – the vehicle overturned; Anti social issues at Hillhead were being investigated; obstructions along the High Street were being monitored. It was understood that vehicles were being parked on the pavement at Chapel Close which were presenting access problems. The speeding on Willand Road continued to be monitored on different occasions. A number of drivers had been issued with cautions, fixed penalty notices etc. It was understood that one driver had been reported travelling at 55mph. PC Custance

would be meeting with Paul Wilson of DCC on 29th June regarding the speeding problems. The Neighbourhood Speed Watch signs were now ready and would be erected along Willand Road shortly.

38. Introduction of John Scott Rural Housing Officer of Community Council of Devon

Mr Scott gave a very informative talk about housing needs and how Halberton could progress its aims for more affordable housing in the Parish. It was understood that a further survey would need to be carried out in the Parish and the PC would need to promote it by delivering the survey form to each household and advertising it in the Newsletter in the October/November edition. John had very kindly provided a draft Housing Needs Survey for Halberton for consideration. He would liaise with the Clerk with regards as to what was required to progress the matter.

39. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 11th May 2010 were approved and were signed accordingly

40. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- i. Cllr Radford has recently spoken to Steve Dawe at MDDC who would organise the tarmacing of part of the roadway at Rock View
- ii. Cllr Hannon was involved with the problems at Muxbeare Lane and it was agreed that a meeting of interested parties should be set up shortly to deal with matters. If there was to be a variation of the lane then Cllr Hannon would be informed by DCC.
- iii. The tarmacing at the pond had not yet been carried out but it was hoped that this would happen in the next week.
- iv. The Clerk advised that the pricing of the Ilkley seat for Cloggs Hill had altered as a new pricing schedule had come out on 17th May (after the last PC Meeting). The cost of the bench including delivery would be £237.18 plus Vat of £41.50. The PC resolved that the bench be purchased for this price and it be delivered to Cllr Saunders subject to his consent
- v. The legal agreements for the phone box at Ash Thomas had now been completed and BT would arrange to remove the payphone equipment from the kiosk. Once this had been done BT would send a completion notice and other supporting documentation.
- vi. The Tenants Association was agreeable in principle to utilising the grassed area adjacent to 52 Pethertons for car parking. Cllr Corden would speak to the minority of residents who were objecting to the scheme in an attempt to win their support. If this could be done then the next step would be for the PC to apply for planning permission for change of use.
- vii. MDDC had advised that further investigations had been carried out regarding the elderly lady who it was believed was living in a hut. It was understood that the lady owned the land on which the hut was situated and which she visited daily. She did not live in the hut as she had a property elsewhere in Halberton which she resided in. The PC agreed no further action was required in the matter.
- viii. The Clerk reminded the PC that the Lengthsman was currently in the Parish carrying out various work. He would also visit again from 6th – 9th September. The Clerk advised that the visit should be advertised in the next edition of the Newsletter with a request that parishioners either contact the Clerk or PCllrs with details of the works required.
- ix. . The PC`s request to have the name of the street of the new development as Cordwents View had been approved by the developer. If MDDC`s Cllrs also approved, then the proposal would be forwarded by MDDC to Royal Mail
- x. Graham Isaac had ordered the replacement caps for the Springer and would fit them once he had received them

xi. . The Clerk had been contacted by Nick Sanderson regarding the provision of a dog bin at Muxbeare Lane. The Clerk was of the view that the information that MDDC held on its website was misleading as it did not indicate that the cost of a dogbin would have to be met by a parish council. It was resolved that the cost of the bin namely £235 (inc of Vat) be shared equally between this PC and Willand PC and the Clerk to write to Willand with this suggestion.

41. The Chairman`s Announcements

The Chairman had been in London as a member of Nalc`s Executive Ctte. Several topics had been discussed including the consideration of a new development strategy

42. Consideration of Change of PC`s Insurers

The Chairman had been unable to locate any information about a company that had been recommended to him. It was resolved that as the PC`s insurance renewal date was due the PC would continue to remain with its present insurers but would in the intervening period shop around for a cheaper provider.

43. Cemetery Course at Burnham on Sea

It was resolved that the Clerk should attend this course. The PC to meet the cost of the course in the sum of £60 plus the Clerk`s travelling costs.

44. Code of Conduct Matters

It was understood that the Standards Board for England was likely to be abolished by the new government. The Clerk had advised that she had now obtained a response from Simon Johnstone of MDDC regarding the drafting of a draft protocol. Due to pressure of work he had been unable to give this matter his immediate attention but hoped to do so shortly.

45. Cemetery Matters

The Chairman advised that a letter the Clerk had written to a relative of a deceased person buried in the cemetery, regarding the requirement for repairs to be carried out to the grave`s memorial stone, had provoked a rather aggrieved response. It was agreed that the PC would not pursue the issue further. It was understood that the grave digger was making an excellent job of levelling a number of graves

46. DCC Matters

Cllr Hannon was most apologetic for failing to attend last month`s PC meeting. He reported on the following matters:-

- i. He now believed that the Exeter Unitary process was dead in the water
- ii. The S.106 monies which the Primary School required, for its improvements, were unlikely to materialise. This was due to numbers of children on the school roll at a specific time not being sufficient for S.106 monies to apply. However the shortly to be published Ofsted report may assist in obtaining the funding required of £25,000 from DCC. He would pursue further.
- iii. He was chasing Paul Wilson at DCC re the speeding problems on Willand Road. The possible suggestion of speeding offenders having their names published in the Newsletter was raised
- iv. The missed bits of the `lines and signs` in Halberton would be dealt with shortly. The `bulge` at the High Street had at long last disappeared
- v. He requested the Clerk to remind him about the missing `Keep Clear` markings at the top of Pond Hill

- vi. The budget for Villages in Action had been cut to 75 % of its previous figure(which was better than what had been anticipated). Arts budgets of every kind were under review. If Halberton was keen to host a Villages in Action event he may be able to provide financial assistance
- vii. It was the intention of DCC to phase in part night lighting in residential areas. This would mean that the hours that the street lights were on would be changed from all-night long to lighting between dusk and 12.30am and again from 5.30am until dawn in an attempt to reduce carbon emissions and to make Devon a greener place. It was agreed that this be an item for the September PC Meeting. Cllr Hannon was also prepared to bring an officer along to a meeting to talk about the issue and answer any concerns raised. It was agreed that an item be included in the August Newsletter as a means of consulting with parishioners about this issue with possibly a feedback form which could be completed and returned to the PC. Mr M D`Alesio the Team Leader of Street Lighting would also need to be informed of the PC`s views

47. MDDC Matters

- i. The Clerk advised about Parish Online which provided numerous facilities to parish councils, including on-line access to up to date OS maps of the Parish; aerial photographs of the Parish; facilities to mark-up and store maps with parish information. There would be an introductory cost of £10 for the set-up fee and £10 annual licence fee. The proposed system provoked quite a mixed reaction. It was agreed that the Clerk try and arrange for a demonstration at a PC meeting at which the PC could fully consider the service offered.
- ii. MDDC reported improving results for those reporting anti-social behaviour to MDDC. MDDC had pledged that at least 75% of those who reported anti-social behaviour would be satisfied of MDDC`s involvement in achieving an improvement to the situation. Julia Ryder, Community Safety Officer was pleased to report that it was pleasing to see that the right results were being achieved.
- iii. MDDC has signed up to a new Waste Collection Commitment to ensure residents in Mid Devon continued to receive a waste and recycling collection service which would be value for money and would meet their needs
- iv. A new project co-ordinator for Cullompton, Penny Bayer had been appointed to raise the profile of the town and to push ahead with existing projects and promote new schemes. In addition the Shop Front Facelift Grant Scheme was launched which encouraged repair and refurbishment of traditional shop fronts in High St and Fore St
- v. Cllr Corden agreed to complete the questionnaire relating to the Mid Devon Local Strategic Partnership

48. Car Park/Footpath Project

A site visit had recently taken place. Dan Meek of NPS, was of the view that a car park was very much needed in view of the issues regarding parking at the school. Dan had suggested that two entrances could be constructed – one at the top and the other at the bottom of the site. Dan had requested to look at the plans prepared by Midas Homes which would also need to be considered by Highways. It was agreed that Cllr Corden should forward them on. The Chairman had also been in discussion with Mark Baker – Canal Ranger regarding the footpath from the canal. The matter was ongoing and developments would be reported at the next PC meeting.

49. Committee Reports

There were none as most Ctte matters had been discussed elsewhere in the meeting

50. Clerk`s Report

The Clerk had nothing to report

51. Accounts

i. Mr Anderson had had a change of mind about taking on the role of the PC`s Internal Auditor. In view of the time constraints placed upon the PC to have the accounts internally audited and then externally audited it had been necessary to obtain an extension of time from the Audit Commission. The Chairman advised that he and the Clerk were meeting with a parishioner this evening who may be prepared to take on the internal auditing task.

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST - 31ST MAY 2010:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Bank Interest | 1.64 |
| HMRC – vat repayment | 450.41 |
| Newsletter | 417.77 |
| Cemetery | 502.00 |
| TOTAL | £1371.82 |

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST - 31ST MAY 2010 £877.54

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

| Cheque No | Amount | Vat | Total | Details |
|------------------|---------------|------------|--------------|--|
| SO | 25.00 | | 25.00 | MDDC - Cemetery Rates |
| 1398 | 353.51 | | 353.51 | Mrs C McIntyre – Salary |
| 1399 | 265.00 | | 265.00 | Inland Revenue – ¼ deductions on income tax April – June |
| 1400 | 97.74 | | 97.74 | Mrs C McIntyre – repayment of expenses i. flowers – Mrs Erasmus £25 ii. postage - £32.74 iii.internet/phone charges –April – June £40 |
| 1401 | 28.90 | 5.06 | 33.96 | Ottery Office – Photocopying/stationery |
| 1402 | 8.73 | | 8.73 | South West Water – water charges Feb-May re cemetery |
| 1403 | 350.00 | | 350.00 | Mr N Cuthbert – grass cutting charges |
| 1404 | 20.00 | | 20.00 | Mrs J Austin – Newsletter delivery costs |
| 1405 | 140.24 | 24.54 | 164.78 | Mr M Britton – repayment costs of materials for the pond |
| 1406 | Cancelled | | | |
| 1407 | 1269.80 | | 1269.80 | AON – Insurance premium renewal |

It was resolved to pay the above invoices

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Balance of bank accounts carried forward | 33846.49 |
| Plus Receipts for period 1 st – 31 st May 2010 | 1371.82 |
| TOTAL: | £35218.31 |
| Minus Payments made for the above Period | £877.54 |
| | TOTAL £34340.77 |

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| Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c | 32502.22 |
| Current A/c | 1838.55 |
| TOTAL | £34340.77 |

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| *VILLAGE HALL FUNDS | 3420.00 |
| PARISH PATHS FUND | 2058.00 |
| VILLAGE OF THE YEAR PRIZE | 252.00 |
| DONATION FROM PARISHIONER | 2186.00 |
| PARISH PLAN FUND | 434.00 |
| CAR PARKING | 3500.00 |
| TRAINING | 200.00 |
| RECREATIONAL GROUND | 1858.25 |
| GENERAL FUNDS | 20432.52 |
| TOTAL | £34340.77 |

***Ash Thomas £1750 and Halberton £1670**

Halberton Newsletter: Income to date £571.52 - less expenses of £413.75 = credit of £157.77

52. Members Business

Cllr Corden was carrying out a weekly inspection of the Rec and would ensure that a log book of his visits was kept up to date for insurance purposes.

53. Miscellaneous Matters

The Clerk produced a copy of the Viridor Credits Annual Brochure in which the Parish Council was mentioned as providing funding for improvements to the Village Hall

54. Future PC Meetings

29th June at Halberton Village Hall

7.30pm - Planning Ctte Meeting

13th July 2010 at Ash Thomas Village Hall

7.00pm - Planning Ctte Meeting

7.30pm - Ordinary PC Meeting

The Meeting closed at 9.50pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED