

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY, 8th MARCH 2005 AT 7.30PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

190 .Present

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Gibbs, Lane-Smith, Radford, Saunders, Mesdames Armstrong, Fisher, Hull and Jepps, PC Dodd and four Members of the public

191. Apologies

There were no apologies

192. Public Forum

No questions were raised.

193. Approval of the Minutes of:

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 8th February 2005 were approved without amendment:

194. Matters arising from the aforementioned Minutes

- i. The Chairman had not heard anything further from Colin Carey at MDDC about a replacement litter bin for the Rec`. He would chase him up about this matter.
- ii. The Clerk had e-mailed Tim Hugill to update the Parish Website.
- iii. The Clerk had requested the information about the Countryside Watch scheme to be inserted in the next edition of the Newsletter.
- iv. Not all members had seen MDDC`s Corporate Plan which was on circulation. The Clerk would take steps to circulate the document to those members who hadn`t seen it.
- v. Catherine Simmons, Rural Housing Development Officer had confirmed that the PC`s response to the Affordable Housing Strategy by e-mail was acceptable. (The PC had advised Ms Simmons that the Parish Plan should be the point of reference for her to glean parishioners views on affordable housing)

195. Chairman`s Announcements

There were none.

196.Parish Council Vacancy

There were three candidates: Mr Rod Greenhill, Mr Colin Constable and Mr Brian Wooding. Each candidate gave a short presentation as to why they wished to be considered for the vacancy. A vote subsequently took place and Mr Greenhill was the successful candidate. (he received five votes and the other candidates two votes each). He was welcomed to the Parish Council and the unsuccessful candidates were thanked for their interest.

197.Police Matters

PC Dodd was frustrated by the fact that the vandalism in Halberton was continuing. Nobody was prepared to come forward with information that would lead to the identity of the culprits and the police were unable to deal with the matter unless they received full information. Cllr Lane-Smith had produced notices which he was intending to display at various points around the village relating to this matter, asking members of the public to telephone in with information, which PC Dodd was agreeable to, subject to minor amendments.

198. BT Payphone at Pethertons

The Clerk had not received any formal objections to the proposed removal of this payphone by BT, despite publicity in the 'Newsletter'. It was agreed that the PC would not raise any objections to BT's intentions in this respect. The Clerk to relay this information to BT.

199. Parish Representative on Halberton Village Hall Ctte

It was resolved that the Vice-Chairman be the PC's representative. The Vice-Chairman was agreeable to this.

200. 2004/05 Cemetery Grant.

MDDC had made an error with its calculations of the grant and the PC had been overpaid by £ 147. MDDC would make an adjustment to the following year's grant to address its error.

201. Sponsorship

Cllr Lane-Smith suggested that in view of precept restrictions, the matter of sponsorship be considered with regard to being able to provide items for the parish such as planters, equipment for the Rec' etc. It was agreed that the next step would be to arrange an Amenities Ctte Meeting to identify which companies could be approached. Cllr Lane-Smith advised that he would also liaise with the Halberton Flower Group about their requirements. The Clerk to be advised of the date for the meeting in order that she could prepare agendas etc.

202. The Parish Plan

The Clerk had submitted to the Countryside Agency the necessary information in order that the final grant payment could be made. Cllr Mrs Armstrong advised that each of the Topic Groups were preparing presentations for the Steering Group Meeting to be held on 22nd March at 7.30pm.

203. Future Legislation affecting Parish Councils

- i. The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill was important as it included specific recognition of the important role of parish and town councils. The Bill would increase parish councils powers so that they could issue fixed penalty notices for litter, dog control, graffiti and fly posting.
- ii. The Code of Conduct was being reviewed. Input from parish councils was required in order for the Standards Board for England to gauge opinions on the areas the Code could benefit from change. A leaflet had been prepared to assist parish councils
- iii. Two documents had been produced from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The documents: 'Citizen Engagement and Public Services: Why Neighbourhoods Matter' and 'Vibrant Local Leadership'. The documents were part of the development of local vision – the strategy for the future of local government.

The Clerk would circulate these documents around the members. Any points/issues could be raised at the next PC Meeting

204. Request for donations by Ash Thomas Village Hall Ctte and Sampford Peverell Caring Friends Group

It was agreed that a grant of £500 be awarded to the Ash Thomas Village Hall Ctte to assist with work which needed to be carried out, following a formal Disability Access Audit. The Chairman and Cllr

Saunders took no part in the discussion. Nine members of the PC were agreeable to the request for funding but Cllr Radford abstained from voting. It was agreed that the request for funding by the Caring Friends Group be considered at the January 2006 budget meeting, after the Group had been operational for some time.

205. DCC Matters

Details of the proposed order for the 20mph speed restriction in Halberton, had been displayed around Halberton and advertised in the Mid Devon Gazette on 15th February 2005. Any objections to the proposed order had to be submitted to DCC by 9th March 2005.

206.MDDC Matters

Members Code of Conduct training sessions had been arranged. It was suggested to newly co-opted Cllr Greenhill that it would be useful for him to attend. The Clerk provided him with details of dates and venues.

207. Meetings Attended

i. 16th February 2005 - Signage Sub Group Grand Western Canal

The possibility of including more information on local businesses/services and amenities along the canal was discussed. A suggestion was made for a simple sign to be erected directing people from the canal into Halberton which could be easily missed. The Signage Sub Group would bring recommendations to the Canal Advisory Ctte at its next meeting, in March

ii. 28th February 2005 – Code of Conduct

Cllr Lane-Smith attended this. He found it most informative and was particularly impressed by the expertise of Jan Shadbolt (MDDC Solicitor) and Lesley Smith (DAPC)

208.Dates of Future meetings

22nd March 2005 – Halberton Village Hall 7.30pm

Steering Group Meeting re the Parish Plan

22nd March 2005 – Canal Advisory Ctte Meeting

209.Committee Reports

Cemetery

Cllr Mrs Fisher would collect the grave markers from an employee of Fine Memorials in Halberton. It was hoped that the grass in the cemetery would be cut shortly as the grass cutting contract commenced from the beginning of March. The water leak at the cemetery was being attended to.

Amenities

The grant monies from MDDC in the sum of £2797 had now been paid into the PC`s bank account. The Clerk had ordered the new play equipment and chippings and the items would be delivered shortly. An Amenities Ctte Meeting was arranged for 5th April, at Halberton Village Hall at 7.30pm. The Clerk would book the hall and draw up an agenda. Items to be included were: sponsorship, the pond and miscellaneous matters. The Clerk advised that Rospa would be carrying out safety checks of the play equipment `sometime in March`.

Footpaths

The Vice-Chairman had submitted the PP3 forms to DCC for the grant payment to cover the costs of work previously carried out on the paths.

210Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST – 28TH FEB 2005:

Bank Interest	15.59
Newsletter	48.85
MDDC – Grant	2797.67
TOTAL	£2862.11

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST - 28TH FEB 2005 : £877.88

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Cheque No	Amount	VAT	Total	Details
100906	221.91		221.91	Mrs C McIntyre – Salary Dec/Jan (less tax deductions)
100907	3.94		3.94	PO Ltd – Water Charges Cemetery
100908	16.24		16.24	Petty Cash
100909	23.00		23.00	Mrs C J McIntyre – Expenses Nov – Feb
100910	160.00		160.00	N Page – Footpath work
100911	4.48		4.48	Mrs P Armstrong – Parish Plan phone calls etc

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	9,315.70
Plus receipts for period 1 st - 28 th Feb 2005	2,862.11
	TOTAL £12,177.81
Minus payments made for the above period	877.88
	TOTAL £11,299.93

Made up as follows:- High Interest	8,000.34
Current	3,299.59
TOTAL	£11,299.93

VILLAGE HALLS FUND	£1,410.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	£1,741.72
PARISH PLAN FUND	
*GENERAL FUNDS	£8,148.21
TOTAL	£11,299.93

*Awaiting a grant payment re Parish Plan of £1,254.64 to be repaid to General Funds

NEWSLETTER :

Income for period 1/4/03 – 28/02/05 £1291.20 minus expenditure £1187.47
= NET PROFIT £103.73

211. Members Business

i. Cllr Mrs Armstrong inquired as to whether any progress had been made with the car park at Cordwents. The Chairman replied that he considered the way forward would be to have a meeting with representatives from DCC Highways to progress matters. Cllr Mrs Armstrong would take the matter back to the Parish Plan Steering Group for further discussion.

ii.Cllr Mrs Jepps advised that a large mobile home was currently parked on the driveway of 26 Pethertons and appeared to have electricity connected up. The Clerk would make inquiries of MDDC's planning department and also the relevant housing association to check whether this was permissible.

Miscellaneous Matters

DAPC was organising courses on Planning and Cemetery Management. The Clerk had details available for any interested parties.

213. Confidential Matters

The Chairman asked the remaining member of the public to leave in order that the confidential item could be discussed (in accordance with Resolution 62 of the PC's Standing Orders (admission of the Public and press to meetings)).

214. Next Meeting

A Meeting of the Council's Planning Ctte would take place on 12th April 2005 at 7.00 pm at Halberton Village Hall followed by an Ordinary Meeting of the PC at 7.30pm

The Meeting closed at 9.30pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED
