

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 8TH OCTOBER 2002 AT 7.30PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

114. Present

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Hugill, Payne, Radford, Saunders, Mesdames Fisher, and Lunn, PC Auger, Catherine Kenny, Rural Transport Development Worker and four Members of the Public

115. Public Forum

Mr A Harding wished to make representations about the Local Plan. As this item was already included for discussion later on in the agenda, it was decided to discuss it at that point. Mr P Gibbs advised that a member of his family may possibly have been the target of a bogus caller. This would be discussed under 'Police Matters'

116. Catherine Kenny – Rural Transport Development Worker

Mrs Kenny gave an outline of her role as a Rural Transport Development Worker. She also advised that if the PC wished to address any transport problems in the Parish she could support the PC if it wished to apply for a Parish Transport Grant, by offering guidance on how to apply for a grant and assistance with form filling etc. The excessive costs of car parking at Tiverton Parkway were talked about in depth. Mrs Kenny advised that various options were being considered to try and remedy this problem. The current problem of the service bus terminating at Pethertons and the service not extending to Crossparks on a Tuesday, Tiverton Market day, (and possibly on a Friday also) as requested by a number of parishioners, was also mentioned. Mrs Kenny would look into this matter.

117. Apologies

Cllr Mrs Jepps

118. The Minutes of:-

the Parish Council Meeting of 10th September 2002 were approved subject to the following amendments: Para 91 – third and fourth lines – delete 'Parish boundary' and insert 'settlement limit'

Para 110 – Accounts - at 'Total' delete £16,050.66 and insert '£15,330.41' and in 'General Funds' delete £10,336.94 and insert '£9,616.69'

119. Matters Arising

- i. The Mill Stream/Leat had been cleared. However Cllr Hugill indicated that it may need another clearance visit in a couple of months. The Clerk had advised the complainant, Mr Slack of this course of action.
- ii. The Clerk advised that she had received an update from Mr Densham at MDDC regarding the Local Improvement Scheme. He advised that an order had been placed with a contractor for the installation of mesh panels. (The Clerk to query this as the PC had previously requested railings which did **not** have a mesh infill unless this type would be in contravention of Health and Safety Regulations). The Interpretation Board was currently being manufactured. Planting would be undertaken in the autumn. It was not possible to obtain a breakdown of costs which had been spent on the project to

date. (Cllr Radford would look into this. The Clerk would also pursue the matter further). The proposed adoption of Orchard View was ongoing. The owner of land required for this project was willing in principle to consider making land available to create suitable visibility splays to enable the adoption as public highway. Residents would need to be consulted and other land may need to be relinquished to enable the adoption to proceed. The adoption would not be funded from the Local Improvement Scheme budget. The request for a car park in Halberton was being considered sympathetically by DCC. Further discussions would be needed with the landowner. With regard to planters around the village, Mr Densham confirmed that MDDC made a commitment to fund these, together with funding the cost of name signs and works to the verge at the junction of Willand Road. Mr Densham concluded that the previous suggestion of relocating a telegraph pole had been considered and discounted.

It was requested that the Clerk contact John Mathias to advise that the PC required the planters to be made from local stone.

120. Resignation of Parish Councillors

Cllr Anderson had previously indicated that he wished to consider deferring his resignation. However the Clerk had ascertained from Mrs Shadbolt at MDDC that the Local Government Act quite categorically stated that if a person submitted in writing a letter of resignation it could not subsequently be withdrawn. The Clerk had subsequently informed Cllr Anderson of this fact. Cllr Anderson in response requested his letter of resignation be read out in its entirety at the October meeting. The PC approved this course of action. His letter dated 12th August 2002 stated:

‘Dear Christine, at the July meeting of Halberton Parish Council I gave an undertaking to leave the meeting when it was necessary for me to take a pinch of snuff to facilitate my breathing. Having done so later at that meeting and again at the amenities meeting on July 23rd I felt I was not carrying out the duties to which I was elected as a Parish Councillor as I see them. I must therefore tender my resignation. Yours sincerely G Anderson.’

In addition Cllr Stevens had also resigned from the Council. He considered that much of the business of the PC, money awarded and projects supported had not been handled in the best interests of the village. The PC reluctantly accepted his resignation. The Clerk had informed MDDC. Notices would be displayed around the Parish. If an election was not required, MDDC would inform the Clerk at the appropriate time and the vacancies could then be filled by co-option. The Clerk would subsequently inform Cllr Hugill, who would also advertise the vacancies on the Parish Website.

121. Chairman’s Announcements

The Chairman had arranged for Miss Nightingale of the Devon Wildlife Trust to look at the Mill Pond area and advise as to what work she considered needed to be carried out without it being to the detriment to wildlife in the area. In view of potential problems which may arise in the forthcoming months it was agreed that the Clerk should contact HM Land Registry to see if the pond area was registered and if so to ascertain details of ownership.

122. MDDC’S Local Plan

Mr Harding, advised that he wished to have land within his ownership included within the settlement line in view of its development potential (low cost housing etc). MDDC had

previously refused this request as they classed it as a greenfield site. However according to Mr Harding, MDDC now accepted it as a brownfield site (a dwelling had previously been on it) but had still not progressed matters to allow the land to be within the settlement line. Objections and representations needed to be submitted to MDDC before 4th November to enable objectors to have their objections considered at a local inquiry or other hearing. The PC thanked Mr Harding for bringing this matter to its attention and asked to be kept informed of developments.

123Halberton Village Hall

The Village Hall Cttee was receiving a grant of £33,000 from MDDC and was looking to the PC for assistance towards the remaining monies required for the proposed improvement works. There was approx £4,000 in the PC's Village Halls Fund, which had been set aside for both village halls in the Parish. However £1,000 had already been allocated to Halberton Village Hall as a contribution towards a disabled access. The PC to be kept informed of funding developments by the Village Hall Cttee .

124Fence abutting Parishioner's Property (Eric Grants)

The Chairman would speak to Mr Stevens about the fence which was badly in need of repair and obtain quotes for the work required.

125.Proposed sign - `Environmentally Sensitive Area`

It was suggested that a sign be erected on the area of land behind the balustrade. The idea was to open up this area to the public. The Clerk to contact HM Land Registry to ascertain if the area was registered and if so to ascertain details of ownership.

126Police Matters

Mr Gibbs, a parishioner reported that a male caller had tried to gain access to a member of his family's property. Mr Gibbs was concerned that the caller may have been bogus with the intention of trying to gain entry for criminal purposes. PC Auger advised that the incident was being investigated but to date he had not received information to suggest that there were criminals operating in the area. He suggested that parishioners should be vigilant and if anyone saw a person or persons in the village who raised suspicions they must contact him immediately. He advised that bogus callers was a national problem. Car parking outside of the Barge, along the main road continued to be a problem. PC Auger could issue warning letters/ tickets to persons who were parking in a dangerous manner if the PC requested this course of action. Cllr Payne advised that Mr Mitchard from DCC had recently seen the problem and the matter was currently being considered by DCC. In view of the problems Halberton had encountered last year at Halloween, PC Auger would try and arrange for Special Constables to patrol the village during this year's Halloween. The Devon and Cornwall Police authority was looking for five independent Police Authority Members to serve from 2003. The closing date for applications was 28th October.

127MDDC Matters

- i. MDDC would be introducing a minimum payment of £11.75 for the collection of up to 4 items of bulky household waste wef 1st October. The service was previously free.
- ii. MDDC would be awarding a cemetery grant payment of £323 for 2002/03 and a grant of £50 for 2002/03 towards the cost of the upkeep of St Andrews Churchyard. It was agreed that the PC would top up this latter payment to £100. The Clerk to arrange for this amount to be sent to the Church Secretary.

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128DCC Matters

The Vice-Chairman and Cllr Saunders agreed that they would each complete a Survey Form after the Parish Lengthsman had completed his work in the Parish. The form to be returned to DCC to advise whether or not the standard of workmanship etc had been acceptable. The Clerk to advise both Councillors of the date of the Lengthsman's next visit.

129.Meetings Attended

- i. NHS Trust Meeting – 17th September 2002
Cllr Mrs Fisher attended this. Despite the wishes of the PC to have a locum GP in the village until the usual GP returned from sick leave, it appeared that due to staff shortages a locum would not be available. The PC was most unhappy about this and expressed concern about older parishioners having to travel to the Sampford Peverell surgery, particularly in the winter months. The proposed opening date of Tiverton hospital was July 2003.
- ii Culm Area Ctte – 18th September 2002 Uffculme Village Hall
Cllr Hugill attended this. Matters discussed included Land fill site at Broadpath Uffculme, delays in the environmental enhancement scheme at Halberton, affordable Housing etc
- iii. Reception held by Chairman of MDDC on 19th September at Magelake Hall
Mr Duncan the Headmaster of Halberton Primary School attended this, together with the Vice-Chairman of the PC.
- iv. Mid Devon Rural Transport Forum – 24th September 2002 New Hall, Tiverton
Cllr Mrs Fisher attended this. Eddie Dennis was elected as the new Chairman of the Forum. Transport ideas were needed. Shopmobility would start in Tiverton on 29th November.
- v. DAPC AGM – Peter Chalk Centre, Exeter University – 28th September 2002
The Vice-Chairman and Cllr Hugill attended this. They found the meeting most informative. There was funding available for future PC projects. Many PC's felt that they were not being listened to and were being 'stepped on'.
- vi. Planning Ctte Meeting at MDDC
A number of PCllrs attended this as the controversial 'Sunnyside' application was being discussed.
- vii. Canal Advisory Ctte Meeting
The Vice-Chairman and Cllr Radford attended this. It was an interesting meeting. The new bridge was going ahead and the footings were already in. Parts of the towpath were being resurfaced. Dredging was being carried out at the Tiverton end.

130. Future Meetings

Culm Area Ctte Meeting on 13th November 2002 at 7.00pm at Hemyock Primary School.

If any PCllrs wished to have an item included on the Agenda, they must inform the Clerk asap.

131. Committee Reports

- i. **Cemetery**
Cllr Mrs Fisher agreed to take over responsibility from Cllr Anderson who had now resigned from the PC. She advised that the hedge required trimming.
- ii. **Amenities**
The Clerk advised that according to the Rospa report the wood chippings in the recreational ground met the dimensional recommendations. However it was noted that the loose fill levels were too low to provide adequate protection. It would be

necessary to fork over and top up as required to maintain minimum depth (usually 300mm)

iii. Highways

Cllr Payne met Mr Mitchard of DCC to examine various highway problems in the village - Lower Town – suggestion of mini roundabout in the vicinity, possibility of reconvening Traffic Calming Ctte and having public consultation period etc.

iv. Footpaths

The footpaths brochure was progressing. Information would be put onto a Web Site. There were no footpath problems to report. A meeting to take place on 17th October.

132 Clerk`s Report

The Clerk advised that the 6th Edition of Local Council Administration by Charles Arnold-Baker was now available at a cost of £38.50. The Council gave approval for the Clerk to purchase a copy. The Clerk advised the PC of the National Training Strategy for Town and Parish Councils. For a Parish Council to gain Quality Parish Status it must have a competent Clerk and the National Training Strategy was charged with producing a customised qualification (‘The Assessment and Qualifications Alliance Certificate in Local Council Administration’). It was planned for a partnership to be formed between the Devon and Cornwall Associations of Parish Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks in Devon and possibly Cornwall in order to be able to offer appropriate training. The cost to each Council for their Clerk to obtain the qualification would be £55.

133.Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2002:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Cemetery Fees</i> | <i>12.00</i> |
| <i>Bank Interest</i> | <i>15.08</i> |
| <i>Sale of mugs</i> | <i>180.00</i> |
| <i>TOTAL</i> | <i>£207.08</i> |

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2002 £1710.31

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

| <i>Cheque No</i> | <i>Amount</i> | <i>VAT</i> | <i>Total</i> | <i>Details</i> |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>100638</i> | <i>45.00</i> | | <i>45.00</i> | <i>DAPC – Training Course fees</i> |
| <i>100639</i> | <i>99.92</i> | <i>17.50</i> | <i>117.42</i> | <i>Landscaping & Grounds Maintenance</i> |
| <i>100640</i> | <i>37.50</i> | | <i>37.50</i> | <i>DCC - Rent for the Meade year ending 29/9/02</i> |
| <i>100641</i> | <i>160.00</i> | | <i>160.00</i> | <i>A Tindle – Grass Cutting Cemetery Aug/Sept</i> |
| <i>100642</i> | <i>27.98</i> | | <i>27.98</i> | <i>Mrs C J McIntyre – repayment of cost of flowers for Mrs Erasmus and cost of stationery</i> |
| <i>100643</i> | <i>200.72</i> | | <i>200.72</i> | <i>Mrs C McIntyre – Salary (£257.33 – tax £56.61)</i> |
| <i>100644</i> | <i>100.00</i> | | <i>100.00</i> | <i>St Andrews Church – grant towards churchyard upkeep</i> |
| <i>100645</i> | <i>24.30</i> | <i>4.25</i> | <i>28.55</i> | <i>A Cooper – repayment of cost of weedkiller</i> |
| <i>100646</i> | <i>35.70</i> | | <i>35.70</i> | <i>Mole valley farmers – gate for playing field</i> |

The above payments were approved for payment

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Balance of bank accounts carried forward</i> | <i>15,330.41</i> |
| <i>Plus receipts for period 1st July – 31st August 2002</i> | <i>207.08</i> |
| | <i>TOTAL £15,537.49</i> |
| <i>Minus payments made for the above period</i> | <i>1,710.31</i> |
| | <i>TOTAL £13,827.18</i> |

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Made up as follows:- Current</i> | <i>1,292.82</i> |
| <i>High Interest</i> | <i>12,534.36</i> |
| | <i>TOTAL £13,827.18</i> |

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>VILLAGE HALLS FUND</i> | <i>£ 4,000.00</i> |
| <i>PARISH PATHS FUND</i> | <i>£1,373.72</i> |
| <i>GENERAL FUNDS</i> | <i>£8,453.46</i> |

NEWSLETTER : Income for period 1/4/02 – 30/9/02 = £507.20 (£688.75 has also been collected but this is in respect of previous years advertising fees)
Expenditure for above period = £489.19

134 Members Business

- i.* Cllr Mrs Fisher advised that the last remaining property in the village had now been connected to an electricity supply
- ii.* Concern had been expressed that the Clerk had not received a letter of receipt in respect of the £200 donation the PC had given to the Grand Western Canal Advisory Board. The Clerk to obtain this as a matter of urgency. Cllr Radford would also look into the matter.
- iii.* Cllr Payne advised of visibility problems at Lower Town. He suggested that when a further response had been received from DCC, then the matter must be considered in depth.
- iv.* Cllr Radford requested that the Clerk arrange for another key to be cut for the Village Hall, as the Council's various Committees frequently needed access to the Hall for their meetings.

135AOB

Confidential Matter

In view of there being no Members of the Public present when the Council was about to discuss the Confidential Matter it was not necessary for the Chairman to request the public to leave the meeting (in accordance with Resolution 62 of the PC's Standing Orders (admission of the Public and press to meetings)).

136.Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 10.35 pm. The next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting would be on Tuesday, 12th November 2002 at 7.30pm at Halberton Village Hall. A Planning Committee Meeting at 7.00pm would precede it.

CHAIRMAN

DATED

