

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH
COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 9th DECEMBER 2008 AT 7.40PM AT
HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

157. Present

The Chairman (Cllr Browse), Vice-Chairman (Cllr Britton), Cllrs Mesdames Cuthbert and Johnstone, Corden, *Radford, Saunders and Wooding, CCllr Des Hannon and four members of the public

*Cllr Radford had to leave the meeting for a prior engagement but returned later on

158. Apologies

Cllr Mrs Jepps

159. Public Forum

A number of parishioners had attended the meeting to express their concerns at the increase in levels of speeding vehicles along Willand Road. A wall had been knocked down and there had been other incidents occurring and the parishioners considered it was only a matter of time before someone was killed. It was requested that there should be a police presence along the road, the speed limit be reduced as a matter of urgency and in the meantime a speed monitor be provided, which it was understood had been requested some months ago. It was agreed that the parishioners would liaise with CCllr Hannon about this matter and Beat Officer Katie Rich would contact Traffic Police about the problem.

160. Police Matters

Katie reported problems involving a group of youngsters who had gone on the rampage. This resulted in broken windows, a drain pipe being ripped off a wall etc. Other incidents in the Parish during the last month were:- 1 burglary at Brithem Bottom, a theft of a bottle of milk at a Crown Hill property and a vehicle abandoned at Pethertons. The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme was expanding in the Parish. The Green Acre Scheme was up and running with two co-ordinators being appointed. The Pethertons Scheme was in the process of being set up

161. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of 11th November were approved un-amended

162. Matters Arising

- i. Cllr Corden advised that he had attempted to paint over the recycling signs but due to inclement weather it had not been possible for him to do this as yet.
- ii. The crash barrier near the Barge had now been repaired
- iii. As far as the Clerk was aware DCC was dealing with the matter or pursuing owners of properties in the Parish who had overgrown hedges
- iv. It was understood that the school sign was still obscured by overhanging trees despite the Clerk referring this to the Parish Lengthsman previously. She would remind him again of this matter
- v. Mr Alan Hunt had written to the Clerk confirming he would be happy to make a seat to replace the vandalised Dick Drew seat. It was agreed that the seat should be in accordance with Mr Hunt's suggestion of it being 5 feet in length. Cllr Mrs Johnstone would seek information

about the late Dick Drew as Mr Hunt was interested to learn about this former parishioner.

vi. Cllr Saunders was warmly thanked for carrying out the hedge trimming at the cemetery

vii. Ian Quance had agreed to attend a PC meeting in February regarding cemetery regs, health and safety issues etc. The Clerk would chase him up about literature he had promised to provide, in advance of the meeting.

viii. Cllr Corden had now spoken to Mr Edge who had agreed to the layering of the hedge down by the pond. Cllr Saunders would examine the hedge to determine when was the best time to carry out this task. It was resolved that Cllr Saunders should carry out all necessary works. In addition, the seat could be concreted in situ. Concern was expressed about the fact that there was no street lighting along the public footpath. This was a matter which needed to be considered more fully.

ix. A representative from Home Grown ('Home Grown – Community Owned') would attend a January PC Meeting

x. The Clerk advised that as the cemetery was a non domestic property, it was classed as a commercial property and therefore was rated accordingly. It would have been valued by the District Valuer at some point in order to gauge its rateable value. It did not have charitable status in order to obtain rate relief. Business rates were a contribution made by businesses to the cost of local services

xi. The Clerk had not placed an advert in the Mole Valley Newsletter for grass cutting tenders as unfortunately the cut off date for the December publication of its Newsletter was the day before the PC had actually agreed that the Clerk should action this.

xii. Mr C Constable on behalf of the Royal British Legion had sent a letter of thanks to the PC for its donation to the Poppy Appeal. £1282 had been raised for the Appeal in the locality. Mr Constable also thanked Halberton Primary School, the Governors, staff and pupils for their support.

xiii. The Clerk had reported the state of the railings at the pond to DCC stressing that they were in a dangerous condition. However, the Highways Superintendent from DCC had checked the railings and had indicated that they were not in a dangerous state and would be added to the general repair list for the 2009/2010 financial year.

163. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman advised that both he and Cllr Mrs Cuthbert had had a marvellous time at the Calor Village of the Year Awards Ceremony in London on 2nd December. The event was held at the Guildhall and was quite spectacular. The Parish had been awarded a cheque for £500 for winning the Business Category of the Competition. It was agreed that an item be included on the January Agenda for Cllrs to make suggestions as to how the money could be spent. The Chairman concluded that it had been a privilege to attend the event and both he and Cllr Mrs Cuthbert and everybody else who had been involved with the Parish's entry were warmly thanked for their outstanding efforts. It was agreed that the certificate along with the other certificates associated with the competition should be displayed in a prominent position.

164. Mid Devon District Council Matters

i. Following consultation with customers, MDDC was making improvements to its Customer First area at Phoenix House, Tiverton.

ii. In order to try and reduce the amount of food waste going to landfill, MDDC was promoting the booklet "Eat Well Waste Less" The booklet was on sale at MDDC at £2.50

iii. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert raised the question about the falling rates paid for recycled items and her concern that Councils would not be able to properly finance this service and in turn treat it as low priority. It was understood that this item be referred to Cllr Radford when he arrived back at the meeting

Cllr Radford upon his return, advised that MDDC had a six year contract for recycling so there would not be a reduction in monies paid during this time period

165. DCC Matters (including Willand Road Speed Restrictions)

- i. The date of the Boundary Commission's recommendations had been put back to February 2009. However meetings between various Councils were continuing to take place in preparation for a Unitary Authority, if it was to go ahead
- ii. The PC advised CCllr Hannon of their preferred pavement option (Option 2) for the High Street. He did stress that due to budget restrictions and as Option 2 was the more expensive choice, it may be difficult for it to be implemented
- iii. CCllr Hannon referred again to the problems at Willand Road and advised that he would do what he could to urgently progress the acquisition of the speed monitor for the area. It was resolved that 40mph should be enforced throughout the area with the exception of 20mph in the High Street

166. Freedom of Information

Under the Freedom of Information Act it was the duty of all public authorities to adopt and maintain a publication scheme. The Information Commissioner had approved a new model publication scheme which should be adopted by all public authorities by 1st January 2009. The Clerk had prepared a draft Guide to Information which had been circulated amongst the PCllrs. The Clerk advised that she had been unable to fully complete Section 5 – "Our Policies and Procedures". It was resolved by the PC, after some discussion, that the draft Guide be approved subject to the Clerk obtaining the required information to complete Section 5

167. Information about Admission to Reception Classes at Primary School

DCC was seeking the views of parents, schools, Early Years settings etc to gauge the strength of support for Devon community and voluntary primary and infant schools operating a single point of entry to Reception, or continuing the general practice of entry in September and January. If there was support for the suggestion of a single point of entry, a new policy would be submitted later this year for consideration with a view to the introduction of it from the 2010/11 academic year. There was much discussion and it was resolved that the proposals be accepted with the proviso that if it does go ahead it does not affect the viability of pre-schools particularly those with charitable status. It was also agreed for the Clerk to make enquiries to ascertain as to whether the PC could use part of its precept to assist Halberton pre school with its running costs.

168. RNIB – Secret Garden Day

A request had been made by Sharon Woodhams of the RNIB for people to open up their gardens to the public in return for a small donation being made to the RNIB. It was agreed that a notice be placed in the Newsletter to gauge support.

169. Parish Plan Update

An update had been prepared by Cllrs Mesdames Cuthbert and Johnstone a copy of which had been circulated amongst the PCllrs. Matters were being progressed and it was suggested that in

the New Year an invitation be placed in the Newsletter (as well as sending out personal invitations to persons who had already expressed an interest) to gauge support for forming an historical society. Cllr Corden indicated that in order to be a “green” council he would like to see more trees planted in the Parish. Cordwents was suggested as an appropriate area. It was agreed that “Trees” be placed on the January agenda.

170.Meetings Attended

3rd December 2008 – Mid Devon District Council’s Standards Ctte Meeting

Cllr Corden attended this and advised that former Cllr, Brian L-Smith was not being replaced on the Ctte.

8th December 2008 – DAPC – County Committee held at Cardinal Newman House

The Chairman attended this

171.Future Meetings/Courses

16th December 2008 – NALC’s Annual Meeting of the National Council

The Chairman would be attending this

172. Committee Reports

Amenities

- i. Cllr Mrs Johnstone agreed that she would contact the Community Services Team to re-establish a good working relationship with them
- ii. The Clerk to contact MDDC to request the bench by the pond to be repaired as it required a replacement heavy duty plastic plank (the seat had been provided by MDDC as part of a Parish enhancement scheme)
- iii. Matters in the cemetery re checking the hedging inside the gate and checking the three random slabs, was yet to be carried out
- iv. It was understood that the keys to the Rec had still not been obtained from Mr L-Smith. Cllr Mrs Jepps was pursuing this with him

Footpaths

An inspection of the footpaths was to be carried out. The Vice-Chairman and Cllr Mrs Cuthbert were keen to be involved with this

173. Clerk’s Report

The Clerk wished all members a merry Christmas and looked forward to 2009 with renewed enthusiasm and keenness to serve the Parish Council

174. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST - 30TH NOVEMBER 2008:

Bank Interest	23.49
Newsletter	126.01

TOTAL £149.50

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST - 30TH NOVEMBER 2008 £1095.37

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Cheque No	Amount	Vat	Total	Details
DD	24.00		24.00	MDDC – Cemetery Rates (Dec)
1257	408.52		408.52	Mrs C McIntyre – salary Dec/Jan (inc back pay for 9 months)
1258	40.00		40.00	Mrs C J McIntyre – repayment of ¼ internet and phone charges Oct – Dec
1259	290.32		290.32	HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax & Nat Insurance Concs Oct – Dec
1260	10.92		10.92	South West Water – Cemetery water rates (Aug – Nov)
1261	370.00		370.00	Mr N Page – Footpath Work
1262	339.75	59.46	399.21	Gardencare – Grasscutting Oct
1263	163.00	28.52	191.52	M Britton – repayment of costs of vehicles/ equipment used in the cemetery

The above invoices were approved for payment

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	22095.15
Plus Receipts for period 1 st – 30th Nov 2008	149.50
	TOTAL £22244.65
Minus Payments made for the above Period	£1095.37
	TOTAL £21149.28

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	19635.12
Current A/c	1514.16
	TOTAL £21149.28

VILLAGE HALL FUNDS	1500.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	2108.79
PARISH PLAN FUND	433.54
CAR PARKING	1500.00
GENERAL FUNDS	15606.95
TOTAL	£21,149.28

Halberton Newsletter: Income for Period 1st April - 30th Nov 2008 = £1476.45 less expenditure £1470.92 = Credit -£5.53

175. Miscellaneous Matters

i. Cllr Corden advised that MDDC was now adopting its own procedure in Code of Conduct matters, whereby subject members would not be contacted by MDDC until after the Cttee had met with its findings

ii. The Clerk advised that notices had been placed around the parish announcing Mr L-Smith's resignation. MDDC would advise the Clerk when it was in order to advertise for a new PCllr in accordance with legal requirements.

176. Next PC Meetings

13th January 2009

- i. 7.00pm Planning Ctte Meeting of Halberton Parish Council
- ii. 7.30pm Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

*There may also be other Planning Ctte Meetings arranged prior to this date

The Meeting closed at 9.32pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED