

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY 2010 AT 7.30PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

196. Present

Cllr Browse (Chairman), Cllrs Mesdames Cuthbert, Graham, Jepps and Johnstone and Cllrs Britton, Corden, Gibbs, Hand, Radford and Saunders, CCllr Hannon and six members of the public

197. Apologies

PCSO Sims and PC Custance

198. Public Forum

A parishioner expressed a wish to start a Sunday League Football Team in Halberton for 16 year olds upward. However League requirements meant that changing room/shower facilities had to be in situ before a team could be accepted into the League. Cllr Mrs Jepps had the contact details of the parishioner wishing to set up the team. It was agreed that the matter be included on the Amenities Ctte Agenda (meeting to take place on 23rd February). There was a reminder that the new goal post ceremony would take place on 6th March at the Mead at 10.00am. It was hoped to organise a team for the event

199. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 18th January 2010 were approved and signed without amendment

200. Matters Arising from Minutes Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

- i. Halberton Pre-School had sent a letter of thanks for the grant monies provided by the PC
- ii. The Society of Local Council Clerks in Taunton appeared to have taken over the administration responsibilities of BRAMM. A check was made to see if Halberton was registered with this organisation (the Chairman had previously received an email which implied that this may be the case). However according to Bramm`s records the PC was not registered.
- iii. The Clerk had not heard further from BT with regards to providing the PC with a certificate of electrical compliance re the Ash Thomas phone box. It was agreed that the Clerk should progress the adoption of the phone box and steps would be taken by other members of the PC to deal with the certificate
- iv. The Rospa inspection of the play equipment would be carried out in March (actual date not known)
- v. Cllr Radford advised that the provision of parking at Pethertons was being progressed by the Tiverton Tenants Group. Costs were being obtained and Cllr Radford was liaising with Sandra Hunt at MDDC. It was understood that other persons in the Parish had also indicated their desire for parking provision near their homes.
- vi. The Clerk mentioned that she was currently awaiting the certificate of insurance from the new grass cutting contractor. The requirements for a certificate of Competence for Application of herbicides was also mentioned
- vii. Hogco was making good progress with enthusing persons in Halberton to participate with growing produce through recent courses run by Hogco etc. . It was understood from John (parishioner) that for a local group to be set up it would require a formal constitution and business plan etc. Another meeting would be required to progress this.

- viii. The Clerk had now received a copy of the text book for PCs to adopt Model Standing Orders. The matter to be considered at a future PC meeting
- ix. The diverters across the pond were still in situ. However the Chairman was in the process of writing to Western Power to try and bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion
- x. Problems of overhanging tree branches/uncut hedges etc which were sited on the land of various parishioners were still on-going. The PC members would deal with this issue shortly. The Vice-Chairman had however managed to speak to a couple of errant parishioners in the meantime.
- xi. The Chairman and Cllr Corden would speak to the landowner about the drainage problems at Lower Town
- xii. The Clerk advised that the S.106 monies had to be spent by Nov 2011

201. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman had nothing to report other than those matters which would be discussed at other points in the meeting.

202. Code of Conduct

Cllr Corden impressed upon the PCllrs that it was imperative that the Code of Conduct was followed at all times. He had spoken to Simon Johnson (now MDDC's Monitoring Officer). MDDC was maintaining that the PC should have a site meeting policy protocol, by adopting MDDC's protocol. Cllr Corden explained how this would work and said it was simply not feasible. He concluded that the meeting with Mr Johnson had been a complete waste of time.

203. Cemetery- Matters

The Vice-Chairman had yet to speak to Simon Tucker (WH Squires) about the health and safety issues concerning the grave digger and steps (if any) which had to be taken in order that the PC was not in breach of its own insurance policy. A number of trees had been cut down on 28th January. The Clerk would send a letter of thanks to Nigel Cuthbert for his help with this matter. It was resolved that Cllr Mrs Cuthbert be tasked to purchase a winter flowering cherry tree at a cost not exceeding £30. The car park had been swept with a motorised brush. Pete Grabham helped the Vice-Chairman with this job. The PC was very grateful for all their hard work. It was noted that the tarmac was quite badly pitted. The Vice-Chairman would obtain a quote to deal with this problem. It was understood that a request for a third person to be buried in a grave had been received by the Clerk. On measuring the depth of the grave by two of the PCllrs, it was found to meet the PC's specifications. It was noted that the grass was very mossy and required raking

204.DCC Matters

- i. The Clerk reminded everyone of the Willand Road Speeding Meeting on Tuesday, 23rd February 2010 at 6.30pm at the Village Hall.
- ii. Cllr Hannon advised that the bus stop sign requested past the junction of Orpington Court was now in situ. The request for a grit bin at Greenway had been added to DCC's list. CCllr Hannon was progressing the removal of the white line along the High Street (travelling from Tiverton to Sampford Peverell on the left after the old post office) as it was forcing cars into the middle of the road and vehicles travelling the other way were forced onto the new pavement. It was understood that DCC had placed an order with South West Highways to re-align 58 metres of the edge of the carriageway markings. The following matters were also referred to Cllr Hannon for his attention:-
 - a. the white line at the farm shop needed to be re-instated
 - b. repeat speed roundels going out of the village needed attention
 - c. white line coming into village from Tiverton end needed attention
 - d. drain covers needed unblocking adjacent to golf course

iii. DCC` mobile library service was being reviewed. It was agreed that this item be included on the March Agenda. In the meantime the Clerk would circulate the questionnaire to the PCllrs in order for them to bring their responses to the March meeting. Cllr Hand would canvass the mobile library staff about usage etc

205. MDDC Matters

- i. The Planning Inspectorate had refused planning permission for the erection of a wind farm at Bickham Moor, Oakford
- ii. Culm Valley Sports Centre was now fully operational following the recent spell of extreme weather which had affected the Centre`s heating units
- iii. MDDC was introducing a new and faster way of letting council and housing association homes, by advertising homes on the internet, in newsletters, and on digital TV. The new scheme would allow for weekly rather than two weekly advertising cycles to speed up the process
- iv. MDDC evicted a tenant who owed over £1,700 in rent. The man had failed to adhere to a Possession Order granted at Exeter County Court on 27th January 2009
- v. MDDC planned to increase council tax by 1.5% one of the lowest rises in Mid Devon since the start of council tax in 1993
- vi. For a trial period MDDC would be bringing forward free parking from 6.00pm to 5.00pm at the West Exe car park, Tiverton in order to try and alleviate parking and traffic congestion in the area
- vii. The Examination of the Mid Devon Allocations & Infrastructure Development Document hearing sessions would commence on Wednesday, 7th April 2010. Prior to this Pre-Hearings Meetings would be held on 22nd February 2010 at the Town Hall, Tiverton. It was understood that CCllr Hannon and Cllr Radford would be attending to confirm the PC` views
- viii. Cllr Radford was questioned regarding neighbouring villages acquiring Clean Zone Status. He would report back at the next meeting, with regards to the PC`s interest in becoming a Clean Zone
- ix. It was noted in the Allocations and Infrastructure Development Plan Document that Hartnoll Farm was being included for 1500 dwellings, and also 45,000 square metres of employment floorspace. This was not being proposed or supported by MDDC. It was agreed that Cllr Corden would prepare a letter of objection reiterating the PC`s previous comments which would be considered at the next Planning Cttee meeting on 23rd February. It was noted that the closing dates for comments was 5th March
- x. It was understood that recycling had been brought back in-house by MDDC and was currently operating from Hartnoll Farm but this would not be a permanent arrangement.

206. Buckingham Palace Garden Party – 22nd June 2010

It was noted that at this year`s party, only PC Chairman and guest could be nominated. The Clerk to make the relevant application to DAPC

207. Village of the Year Monies

It was resolved to purchase 20 trees from Thornhayes. These would consist of cooking, eating and cider apple trees, plum and pear trees, at maximum expenditure of £380. It was agreed that the purchase of the trees using part of the Village of the Year monies would be important in maintaining a healthy and sustainable environment. Planting of the trees would take place behind the Village Hall on 20th February. The Chairman, Cllrs Mesdames Graham and Johnstone and Cllrs Corden and Gibbs declared prejudicial and personal interests and left the room whilst the matter was being discussed. It was also suggested that any remaining monies could be used with regards to the wildlife garden at the school. However, it was understood that in view of pending works at the school, this may not be the ideal time for these monies to be used for this purpose.

208. Update on Unitary Devon

It was understood that an announcement would be made shortly and that Exeter City would get Unitary status despite the alternative recommendations of the Boundary Commission and the fact that the figures produced by Exeter City Council would not make it viable..

209. Police Matters

The Clerk had forgotten to bring PCSO Sims` Police Report which he had e-mailed to her today. She indicated that there was very little to report but she would forward the information to members in the next day or so.

PCSO`s Sims report contained the following:

“There have been no crimes this month and only a few incidents.

31/1/10 traffic lights stuck on red Willand Rd.

28/1/10 bogus caller to test water at Rock View(caller did not let the two males in, police attended but no trace of vehicle or men).

22/1/10 vehicle broken down Willand Rd.

I **INCIDENTS**

Cullompton Police will continue to target Speeding motorists in Halberton and will issue fixed penalties/ report for summons where appropriate.

PCGraham Custance and myself will be attending the Public meeting on the 23rd,

210. Car Park/Footpath Project

There was nothing to report at the present time. It was suggested that a toilet block could be constructed at this location, in the light of the earlier request for shower/changing room facilities for a football team. This to be considered at the Amenities Ctte meeting.

211. Dates of future meetings

12th February - Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Committee 7.30pm at the Canal Basin to discuss proposed new Visitors Centre

(Members of the public invited to attend a meeting being held on 11th February about this matter)

212 Clerk`s Report

It was resolved that the Clerk should attend a course on burial law to include the transfer of burial rights as this was an extremely complex subject. In view of the PC updating its rules and regulations recently and wishing to have updated procedures in place, the Clerk considered it was essential that she attended a course in order that she was fully conversant with statutory requirements.

213. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST - 31ST JANUARY 2010:

Bank Interest	1.06
Newsletter	66.40
Cemetery	638.00
TOTAL	£705.46

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST - 31ST FEBRUARY 2010 £1044.17

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Cheque No	Amount	Vat	Total	Details
1368	353.71		353.71	Mrs C McIntyre – salary
1369	20.00		20.00	Mrs J Austin- delivery of Newsletter
1370	393.75		393.75	Education Matters – publication costs of the Newsletter
1371	25.00		25.00	DAPC – Model Standing Orders
1372			312.70	Thornhayes Nursery – cost of trees

The above invoices were approved for payment

Balance of bank accounts carried forward 25499.74

Plus Receipts for period 1st – 31st January 2010 705.46

TOTAL: £26205.20

Minus Payments made for the above Period £1044.17

TOTAL £25161.03

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c 21693.11

Current A/c 3467.92

TOTAL £25161.03

*VILLAGE HALL FUNDS	2420.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	2058.59
VILLAGE OF THE YEAR PRIZE	500.00
DONATION FROM PARISHIONER	2186.00
PARISH PLAN FUND	433.54
CAR PARKING	2500.00
GENERAL FUNDS	15062.90
TOTAL	£25161.03

***Ash Thomas £1250 and Halberton £1170**

Halberton Newsletter: Income to date £1973.73 - less expenses of £2122.05 = debit £148.32

214. . Members Business

- i. It was noted with sadness that the Halberton Sub Branch of the Royal British Legion would be folding shortly due to falling numbers. Steps were being taken regarding continuance of the Annual Remembrance Ceremony. Documents, books etc providing the history of the branch were being donated to the local history society for safe keeping. It was suggested that the memorial board in the Village Hall be updated with other service personnel to take into account recent wars etc. However, it was understood it would be difficult to obtain this information
- ii. It was noted that there would be a number of events celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Village Hall and it was hoped that these events would be fully supported

215. Miscellaneous Matters

- i. The Clerk advised of the Best Kept Village Competition 2010 organised by CPRE/Mole Valley Farmers Devon. It was agreed that as the PC was involved in a number of current ventures in the Parish that it would consider entering the competition next year
- ii. Cllr Saunders would report the problem of pot holes at Chaves Lane, Plum Tree Cottage and Cloakes Hill to DCC

iii. Cllr Hannon would follow up the problems at Merrimead with regards to overhanging trees/hedges that were so overgrown that buses were having to drive into middle of the road and farm vehicles were getting caught up in the branches etc. Cllr Hannon would also deal with the Jubilee Corner sign which needed to be permanently fixed

216. Future PC Meetings

23rd Feb 2010 – Planning Ctte Meeting – Halberton Village Hall – approx 8.00pm

23rd February 2010 – Amenities Ctte Meeting – Halberton Village Hall approx 8.30pm

9th March 2010 - Halberton Village Hall

7.00pm Planning Ctte Meeting of Halberton Parish Council

7.30pm Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

The Meeting closed at 9.20pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED