

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 9th JANUARY 2007 AT 7.00PM AT ASH THOMAS VILLAGE HALL

163. Present

The Chairman (K Browse), Vice-Chairman (B Lane-Smith) Cllrs Constable, Cooper, Gibbs, Radford, Saunders, Mesdames Fisher, Jepps and Hull and three Members of the Public

164. Apologies

Cllr Mrs Armstrong and CCllr Des Hannon

165. Amenities

Mr Isaacs had very kindly obtained three quotes for new play equipment on behalf of the PC.

These were as follows:-

FRS - £10,728 + vat

SNC - £8235 + vat

Kompan Ltd - £14,630 + vat

In addition the cost of loose fill would need to be considered. It was resolved that the quote from FRS be accepted. It was understood that this quote was valid for three months. To progress this matter it was agreed that the Clerk would now need to chase up Dave Scott at MDCC to ascertain when the PC would be in funds to purchase the equipment, (he had not responded to her original request) and, in addition, for her to contact Tebbits, supplier, to ascertain the cost per cubic metre of loose fill. In the meantime the PC to calculate the amount of loose fill required and Cllr Cooper to contact Rospa about the edging specification. Mr Isaacs was thanked for all his help and assistance in the matter.

166. Public Forum/Police/Result of Traffic Survey

PC Dodd reported a small number of crimes had taken place in the Parish, these included a non criminal domestic incident, theft and criminal damage. An abandoned car at Manley Bridge had been removed. The results of a further speed survey, carried out at the instigation of the Parish Council, along the High Street, were considered in depth. PC Dodd explained that because the survey result showed, on average, that speeding was just only over the legal limit, the problem would not be considered severe enough to result in enforcement action by the police. He suggested that perhaps the flashing speeding sign should be set at a slightly higher speed level eg to flash when vehicles were travelling at 23mph to indicate they had to slow down to 20mph. Cllr Lane-Smith was surprised by the result of the survey, particularly as he had witnessed boy racers on a number of occasions. Mr Slack, a member of the public was concerned about the speeding situation and made various points. He did not consider altering the flashing speed sign to be a sensible idea and concluded that perhaps only an accident resulting in death or serious injury would need to happen before something was done to deal with the problem, which he considered was most unsatisfactory. PC Dodd indicated that if requested by the PC, he may be prepared to carry out another speed survey in the future and suggested a couple of members of the PC be in attendance. It was understood that the Parish Council had explored every avenue with regard to the problem of speeding traffic, having consulted fully with DCC and the police and would continue to monitor the situation and to ensure that all feasible courses of action available to it, to adequately deal with the problem, were considered. A gentleman from Pethertons, on behalf of a number of residents in the area, expressed concern about the access to the development site (for affordable housing). Contractors lorries were travelling through the village and it appeared to him that access to the site did not seem wide enough to accommodate a number of these vehicles. He was also concerned about the dangers to children who may be playing in the area. The Clerk would refer the matter to MDCC's Planning Dept.

167. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meetings of 12th December 2006 were approved and signed accordingly

168. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- i. The Clerk had still not received a response from MDDC requesting a paper copy of information, relating to the implementation of a Choice Based Lettings Scheme to replace the current points based scheme in allocating its properties. The Clerk would be unable to attend the meeting which was being held to discuss this topic and therefore had requested paper information. She would chase MDDC again.
- ii. Adrian Cook of MDDC had promised the Clerk details about the type of signage MDDC used in its playing fields and details of manufacturers of the signs. However these had still not materialised. She would chase him again.
- iii. The Clerk had written to Angela Browning MP about its opposition to the government's proposals to close a number of rural post offices and in addition had written to Jim Fitzpatrick MP, the minister responsible for Post Offices

169. Chairman's Announcements

A meeting would be taking place in Halberton Village Hall regarding the inclusion in the Newsletter of rural information. The Chairman had been visited by an officer working on behalf of DCC, regarding the Bio Diversity Audit being carried out in the Parish. He had provided the officer with information and documentation and she would compile a report as to her findings shortly.

170. DCC Matters

1. In his absence Cllr Hannon had forwarded an e-mail. He advised on the following points:-
 - i. Funding by MDDC for the canal was under serious threat. Cllr Hannon had sent a letter of protest to Cllr E Dennis.
 - ii. He had spoken to various persons concerning the erection of the one metre high wall at 91 High Street, Halberton which had raised a number of safety issues. At his insistence Mr Guscott, Head of Planning (MDDC) met with Meg Booth from DCC to consider a number of issues raised. Once Cllr Hannon was in receipt of the replies he would pass them onto the PC.
 - iii. The increase in Council Tax was expected to be approx 5%. The central government grant would be £49 per head less for Devon than the average of other counties (£47 last year). Therefore Devon would have received £35.5million more if it had received the County Council average for England.
 - iv. Exeter Airport had been sold off by DCC for £60million. One of the priorities for DCC with the sale proceeds, would be to reduce its ongoing revenue costs,.
2. The Clerk had received a Community Emergency Plan kit from DCC. She said the information would be extremely useful when the PC came to updating its present plan.
3. The Clerk provided members with a list of new direct line telephone numbers of various departments at DCC. DCC now operated a Customer Service Centre. The hours of operation were 8am – 8pm Mondays – Fridays and 9.00am – 1pm Saturdays.

igh Street, which had raised various safety issues.

171. Mid Devon District Council

- i. MDDC was currently investigating different options for its Area Development Plan Documents which looked to allocate land for different development types (eg housing, employment, retail etc) The Council would be looking to prepare three of these documents to cover each area in the district to form part of the Local Development Framework for Mid Devon. These allocation documents would need to conform with the general approach set out in the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy identified 21 villages in the District including Halberton for a limited level of growth where MDDC would look to allocate land for affordable housing to meet identified local need, local community facilities and small scale retail and employment. MDDC was inviting parishes to make suggestions on any land use aspects for consideration. It was agreed that the Clerk should send MDDC a copy of the Parish Plan and explain that more affordable housing was needed in the Parish and also land for small industry and car parking use.
- ii. A copy of the Standards Ctte Annual report had been received by the Clerk. If any member required to see it, to get in contact with her. It was agreed that the Clerk should invite a member of this Ctte to attend the July PC meeting.
- iii. The Clerk advised that she had received £300 cemetery grant and £50 churchyard grant from MDDC for 2006/07. However she had discovered that a payment of £153 had still not been received from MDDC for 2005/06. The Clerk had contacted MDDC who had advised that this error would be rectified.

172. Grass Cutting Tender

The Clerk had received only one tender and this was from Gardencare. The cost of the grass cutting for the cemetery would be £1784 (an increase of £40 from last year) and the grass cutting of the Mead and the Rec` would be £840 (an increase of £24). The contract to run from 1st March – 31st October. It was resolved to accept the tender.

Cllr Radford left the meeting at this point for another engagement

173. Planning – Public Forum

Nothing was raised.

174. Planning Applications for consideration

<u>Planning App No</u>	<u>Name/Address</u>	<u>Details</u>
06/02460/FULL	Mr & Mrs Britton, 1 Golden Harvest Cottages, Uplowman	Erection of agricultural building for tractors etc

PC`s Comments:- No objections

175. Planning Decisions received from MDDC

<u>Planning Ref:</u>	<u>Name/Address</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>No. of Conditions</u>
06/02347/CAT	Mr K Fenwick, Box Tree Cottage, Halberton	Granted	

176. Miscellaneous Planning Matters

- i. 06/02456/FULL – Mr S Burge, 3 High St, Halberton – Erection of extension and change of use to self contained annexe etc

This application had been withdrawn

ii. 06/01787/CAC – Conservation Area Consent - Town Centre Heritage – 26A -26B High Street, Halberton The creation of pedestrian and highway access through retaining walls

The application had now been refused and was the subject of an Appeal to the Secretary of State. The Appeal would be on the basis of an exchange of Written Statements. The Appeal Ref No was:- APP/Y1138/E/06/2033382/NWF

iii. Planning Applications 06/00971/OUT and 06/00973/CAC – Land between Nos 38, 40, 46 and 48 High Street, Halberton (Canworthy Cottage) Messrs Steele and Radford

The Clerk had not yet been advised of the date of the Appeal. She would chase the matter up. It was confirmed that two members of the PC would be present at the hearing.

177. Car Park/Footpath update

There was much discussion. The Clerk advised that Midas had signed a declaration confirming the free services of its architect and that the gesture was made as goodwill to the community of Halberton, without prejudice to any future council business affecting Midas. Mr Copleston of Midas had requested a plan indicating the location of the proposed car park with a brief note setting out access, footpath route, layout, number and type (disabled etc) of parking spaces, to enable him to provide a brief for the architect. The Clerk had acknowledged the letter. It was considered necessary at the next Amenities Cttee Meeting to identify certain requirements of the project, including the access which DCC would need to agree to in order that its requirements were incorporated into the plans drawn up by the architect. At the Amenities Cttee Meeting, a site meeting would also need to be arranged at which representatives from Midas and DCC would need to be present. This item to be included on the February agenda. The Clerk had understood from Cllr Mrs Armstrong that there would be representation from St Andrews Church at the meeting of 23rd January. However she had not heard from Mrs Onley-Gregson to date, so was unsure as to whether she would be attending the meeting or sending in a written response to be considered at the meeting,

178. Local Elections 2007

The Clerk had received a pack produced by the South West Conference of Local Councils Association, providing full information about becoming a Parish Councillor. It was agreed that this should be published in the next edition of the Newsletter, together with information about the forthcoming elections.

179. Village Competitions

The Clerk had received details of the Best Kept Village Competition 2007. However it was agreed that the PC should not enter this but concentrate all its efforts on entering the Calor Village of the Year Competition 2007, in which the PC was runner up last year.

180. Meetings Attended

There had been no meetings attended.

181. Future Meetings

i. The East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership would be holding a series of meetings during 2007. The Clerk had the dates available if any member was interested.

ii. Devon Playing Fields Association – 18th January 11.am – 1.00pm – Exeter Arena.

The Vice-Chairman was unable to attend. If anyone else could go the Clerk had the details available.

182. Committee Reports

i. Amenities and the Cemetery

Amenity matters had already been discussed earlier in the meeting. The tree in the cemetery which had fallen had now been cut up. The site would be tidied in time for a funeral which would be taking place shortly.

ii. Communications, Footpaths & Environment

The surveys of the footpaths was ongoing.

183. Clerk`s Report

The Clerk had transferred all the information from her old computer onto her new system, which had taken considerable time. She would order the photocopier/scanner/printer in the next week.

184. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST – 31ST DECEMBER 2007:

Bank Interest	25.36
Newsletter	86.00
TOTAL	£111.36

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST – 31ST DECEMBER 2006 £1286.14

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Cheque No	Amount	Vat	Total	Details
SO	22.00		22.00	MDDC - Cemetery rates
1068	243.88		243.88	Mrs C McIntyre – Salary Jan/Feb
1069	5.00	0.88	5.88	Mr K Browse – repayment of Mole Valley Advert

The above invoices were approved for payment

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	16903.12
Plus Receipts for period 1 st – 31 st December	111.36
	TOTAL £17014.48
Minus Payments made for the above Period	1286.14
	TOTAL£15728.34

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	14581.84
Current A/c	1146.50
	TOTAL £15728.34

VILLAGE HALL FUNDS	400.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	1778.79
PARISH PLAN FUND	433.54
GENERAL FUNDS	13116.01
TOTAL	£15728.34

Halberton Newsletter: Income for Period 1st April – 31st December = £1439.54 less expenditure of £1309.77 = £129.77 net profit

185. Members Business

Cllr Cooper reported that the Cordwents hedge (travelling from Halberton to Canal Bridge) had not been cut. It was understood that the responsible person had until March to carry out this work. The situation would be monitored.

186. Miscellaneous Matters

i. A query was raised as to the delivery of a number of copies of the Newsletter by a young man of the Parish and the question of payment was also raised. The Chairman would speak to Judy Austin about this matter.

ii. The Clerk provided details about proposals to develop a Senior Council for Devon. The intention of the Council was to raise issues that were important to older people and to seek to improve their quality of life. Membership would be open to people over the age of 50. A programme for developing local associations and district federations would be taken forward throughout 2007 and early 2008. The aim would be to have the shadow Senior Council set up by September 2007 and to have all local associations and the Senior Council in place by March 2008.

187. Next Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday, 13th February 2007 at Halberton Village Hall at 7.00pm

The Meeting ended at 9pm

DATE

CHAIRMAN

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