

# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2002 AT 7.30PM AT ASH THOMAS VILLAGE HALL

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## **70. Present**

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Anderson, Hugill, Payne, Radford, Stevens, Mesdames Fisher, Jepps and Lunn, and three Members of the Public

## **71. Public Forum**

Concern was expressed by two parishioners at the speed of vehicles travelling too fast on the bend near the properties adjacent to 'The Barge'. The parishioners requested that a road sign be erected stating 'road narrows'.

## **72. Apologies.**

Cllr Saunders and PC Auger

## **73. The Minutes of:-**

the Parish Council Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> June 2002, were approved without amendment.

## **74. Matters Arising**

- i. There appeared to be no further complaints raised about the rottweiler dogs being exercised along the canal bank..
- ii. Mr D Scott of MDDC had advised that with regard to funds being available for play areas and public open spaces the PC was eligible for the following:  
Contributions received: £1848, Agreement signed but development not commenced £1604, P.Permission granted subject to agreement £802 = **TOTAL £4254**  
However, it was understood that only £1848 could be released, but the remainder could be anticipated. Contributions may be spent on improvements to existing play areas or public open spaces or the provision of new facilities. The scheme could not fund the repair or maintenance of facilities.
- iii. The Office of the Prime Minister had acknowledged the PC's views concerning the Parish Boundary Review and would take them into consideration when making its final decision.
- iv. Cllr Mrs Fisher and her husband attended the District Council's Annual Church Service at St. John the Baptist Church, Sampford Peverell on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> July

## **75. Chairman's Announcements**

- i. The Chairman, Mrs P Armstrong, Mrs C Onley-Gregson and Mr Mathias of MDDC recently met to consider the possibility of part of the old vicarage site being used for car parking purposes. However it was concluded that the site was inappropriate and the cost prohibitive. Instead, land at the side of Old Cordwents, owned by DCC, was now being considered as a possible site as it would link up with the proposed new footpath. A further meeting would be arranged to consider this. The Clerk in the meantime to write to Mr Holman at DCC to ask him to attend the next meeting, in order to involve DCC with the project and at the same time to convince him that a car parking area would be of immense benefit to the whole community.
- ii. The Chairman had recently attended a training course on playground safety at Exeter which he found to be extremely interesting and useful.
- iii. The Chairman expressed his concern at the recent acts of vandalism in the Church yard and reminded everyone to be especially vigilant.

## **76. MDDC Matters**

- i. With regards to the local improvement scheme, it was agreed that the matter of relocating the service pole outside of 79 High Street, be left in abeyance as the costs were too prohibitive. However the Clerk to ascertain from Mr Mathias of MDDC whether stone planters previously considered could now be included in the scheme, in view of the savings, which would be made from not relocating the service pole. It was agreed that the Interpretation Board be sited as previously suggested, which was at Pond Hill. The Interpretation board had been prepared in draft and would be considered at the next meeting of the Amenities Committee. It was noted that Cllr Browse was now the point of contact for the scheme.
- ii. MDDC was seeking suitable photographs to be used for the Chairman's Christmas Card for 2002. It was suggested that photographs on the Parish Web site may be suitable for this purpose and the Clerk to advise the Chairman's Secretary accordingly.
- iii. MDDC's Development Control Dept, had now opened a Development Control Web Site, which provided a range of useful features eg new planning application forms etc
- iv. MDDC was undertaking a study of services for children and young people. It required the completion of a questionnaire. The Clerk to deal with this.

## **77. DCC Matters**

- i. The Devon Structure Plan 2016 was being circulated amongst the PC's Members. The draft Plan would set out policies and proposals for housing, employment, conservation of the environment, transport, tourism and recreation. The deadline for comment was 6<sup>th</sup> September. Anyone who had any comments to make which they wished to be passed to DCC would have to let the Clerk know before the deadline date.
- ii. The Clerk had now obtained the document "Tourism – Everybody's Business", which was being circulated amongst the PC Members. Anyone who had any comments to make which they wished to be passed to DCC would have to let the Clerk know before 12th July.
- iii.** The documents 'Devon Best Value Performance Plan – Fire Authority' and 'DCC Best Value Performance Plan' would be circulated amongst the PC Members. Comments by the PC Members would be welcome on the content, presentation or other aspects of the documents.

## **78. Model Code of Conduct for Councillors**

- i. Mrs Shadbolt, Solicitor, MDDC had advised that there were no rules to suggest that a Member of the public shouldn't drink alcohol at the Annual Parish Meeting. Further there was nothing to suggest to her that the Chairman had acted in breach of the Code of Conduct by allowing alcohol to be consumed during the meeting. She concluded that treatment of the public needed to be with a light touch and not autocratic in order to encourage the public to attend these meetings.
- ii. It was agreed that the taking of snuff by any PC Member would not be allowed whilst meetings were in progress.

## **79. Parish Newsletter**

A number of advertisers had been lost. However it was hoped that with special advertising features, eg garden centres etc, that this would soon be built back up again. In addition it was hoped to use improved technology which should result in the long term in cutting the costs of publication. Cllr Hugill had provided a graph of income and expenditure. The Clerk advised that from the 1<sup>st</sup> April to date the income was £428.70 and the expenditure £226.31

## **80.Meetings Attended**

- i. NHS Trust Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2002  
Cllr Mrs Fisher attended this. Topics discussed were the new Tiverton hospital and the increase in costs of the project, the lack of a doctor's surgery in Halberton, problems with prescriptions etc
- ii. Mid Devon Police Liaison Meeting – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2002 at 7.30pm at Halberton Village Hall  
Cllr Mrs Fisher attended this. She said it was very poorly attended. The new Chief Inspector was introduced. Topics discussed were break-ins and burglaries in Halberton, the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, vandalism, speeding, complaints about the lack of traffic calming measures in Lower Town. In response to the Lower Town problem the police suggested that the PC should make an action plan about speeding vehicles.
- iii. Strimmer Course – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2002  
The Vice-Chairman and Cllr Hugill attended the course and are now suitably trained to use a strimmer.
- iv. Telecommunication Mast Seminar - 5<sup>th</sup> July 2002.  
Cllr Radford attended this. He found it most interesting. He advised that there was no medical evidence to suggest that the siting of these masts was detrimental to health. Planning permission to erect a mast could not be refused on medical grounds.

## **81.Future Meetings**

- i. Mid Devon Partnership Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> July, Tiverton Town Hall  
One of the items on the Agenda would be the canal. It was important that as many Members of the PC attend. Public question time commenced at 2.15pm.
- ii. Mid Devon Association of Local Councils – Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2002 at 7.30pm at Tiverton Town Hall
- iii. Culm Area Cttee – 24<sup>th</sup> July 2002 Clayhidon Village Hall – 7.00pm  
Cllr Hugill suggested that as many members of the PC as possible should attend this meeting. It was agreed that the exorbitant car parking costs at Tiverton Parkway Station should be an item to be included on the Agenda.
- iv. DAPC AGM – Peter Chalk Centre, Exeter University – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2002 10.30am  
It was agreed that the Vice-Chairman and Cllr Hugill should attend this meeting. The PC to pay the cost for each delegate.

## **82.Mid Devon Rural Transport Development Officer**

It was agreed to invite Catherine Kenny the new RTD Officer to the November PC Meeting, in order that transport issues could be discussed with her.

## **83.Committee Reports**

- i. Highways  
Concern was expressed as to the ongoing problems of cars speeding on the bend near 'the Barge'. This problem had already been raised in the 'Public Forum' part of the meeting. Complaints had been raised about the number of vehicles parking adjacent to 'the Barge'. However, Cllr Mrs Jepps maintained that whilst they were parked there, they assisted in making passing vehicles reduce speed. Cllr Radford would be meeting Mr Mitchard from DCC and would raise this problem with him. In addition a further meeting to be arranged with Mr Mitchard attended by the Chairman, Cllrs Radford and Payne.
- ii Cemetery  
The Clerk would be contacted by a parishioner shortly to arrange the allocation of Plot 167. A burial would be taking place on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> July. The grass cutting of certain areas in the cemetery was poor. Cllr Anderson would speak to the contractor accordingly and report back at the next PC Meeting. The Vice-Chairman advised

that if he had sufficient time and the machinery he would cut the hedge abutting the road.

iii Amenities

Complaints had been made by members of the public as to the lack of childrens swings in the playing field, which had been removed as they required repairs. Urgent repairs were also required to be carried out to another item of play equipment. Cllr Mrs Jepps had obtained one quote for the work but this was in excess of £1,000. The Clerk had contacted Mr B Sharland who maintained MDDC's play equipment and who had visited the site accompanied by the Vice-Chairman. It was resolved that Mr Sharland be authorised to carry out all the repairs to the play equipment as specified in the Rospa report without delay. The PC agreed that the maximum expenditure allowed would be £250. The Clerk reminded Members that she had to inform the PC's insurers that the work had been carried out. An Amenities Committee Meeting would be arranged for 23<sup>rd</sup> July at 7.30pm in the Village Hall and if necessary a Planning Committee Meeting on the same day but to commence at 7.00pm..

iv. Footpaths

Mr Page was making a good job of the maintenance work. The Vice-Chairman attended a Print and Publicity Workshop which would be useful re the footpath network. He would like to get interested persons together to form a small group in September/October to consider this idea further. He requested that Cllr Radford ascertain from Vicki Thomas as to the amount funding available to be spent on the section of canal which lay in Halberton parish. The Vice-Chairman said that more areas of the canal needed to be opened up so people could observe the wildlife more easily. It was noted that a programme of weed clearance had been implemented in some areas of the canal.

v. Policy and Finance

There was nothing to report

**84. Clerk's Report**

The Clerk handed to each member an updated handbook from the Charity Commission which contained information advising of the full responsibilities which each member had as a Trustee of the Recreational Ground Charity. She stressed it was most important that they were made fully aware of their responsibilities and the requirements of being a Trustee. She explained to Cllr Hugill that as he was now a Member of the PC he would subsequently become a Trustee. However she suggested that he look at the contents of the handbook before confirming he was happy to take on this role. She advised that Mr K Abraham had informed her that for an annual fee of £60 he would be willing to carry out the internal auditing of the PC's accounts. However the PC had already appointed an Auditor, therefore at the present time his services would not be required.

**85.Accounts**

***RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> - 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2002:***

<i>Newsletter Advertising</i>	<i>91.50</i>
<i>Cemetery Fees</i>	<i>12.00</i>
<i>Bank Interest</i>	<i>22.07</i>
<i>Sale of mugs</i>	<i>126.60</i>
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>	<b><i>£252.17</i></b>

***PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> - 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2002*** ***£755.17***

**PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED**

<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Details</b>
100611	24.36		24.36	Petty Cash
100612	99.92	17.49	117.41	Landscaping & Grounds Maintenance
100613	160.00		160.00	A Tindle – Grass Cutting Cemetery
100614	119.83	20.97	140.80	Education Matters
100615	20.00		20.00	Halberton Ringers Society
100616	200.72		200.72	Mrs C McIntyre – Salary (£257.33 – tax £56.61)
100617	5.09	0.90	5.99	Mrs C J McIntyre – repayment of cost of computer discs
100618	135.00		135.00	N Page – maintenance on footpaths
100619	10.00		10.00	A Cooper – repayment of cost of text book
100620	36.00		36.00	DAPC – cost of sending two delegates to AGM

*The PC approved the above payments*

<i>Balance of bank accounts carried forward</i>	<i>16,553.66</i>
<i>Plus receipts for period 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2002</i>	<i>252.17</i>
	<b>TOTAL £16,805.83</b>
<i>Minus payments made for the above period</i>	<i>755.17</i>
	<b>TOTAL £16,050.66</b>

<i>Made up as follows:- Current</i>	<i>572.69</i>
<i>High Interest</i>	<i>15,477.97</i>
	<b>TOTAL £16,050.66</b>

<b>VILLAGE HALLS FUND</b>	<b>£ 4,000.00</b>
<b>PARISH PATHS FUND</b>	<b>£1,713.72</b>
<b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>	<b>£10,336.94</b>

**86.Members Business**

- i. Cllr Anderson was of the view that as the Mid Devon Show was shortly to be held in the Parish then details of this should be included on the Parish Website.
- ii. Cllr Hugill was of the view that as many Members of the PC should start to attend MDDC meetings in addition to Cllr Radford who would be present in any event in his capacity as a MDDC Councillor. He considered that this would improve members knowledge of the workings of the District Council and would give Halberton PC a higher profile.

**87.AOB**

- i. The Highways Agency had sent a copy of the A39 and A361 Detrunking Orders for information purposes, which came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2002.
- ii. The Clerk had details of a future training course organised by DAPCs (New Chairman Training) if any member was interested.
- iii. Mr G Edwards, Chairman informed the Clerk that the bid for Cullompton and surrounding district to enter the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative (M&CTI) had been successful. He would keep the PC informed of all developments in this matter.
- iii. The Clerk advised that the Grand Western Canal Country Park Photography Competition had been launched. It would be free to enter and would be open until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2003. The Clerk had left a number of entry forms in the Post Office. However further forms could be obtained through her or directly from Stuart Howell at the Grand Western Canal Country Park.

**88. 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)).

**89. Next Meeting**

The meeting closed at 10.35 pm. The next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting would be on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2002 at 7.30pm at Halberton Village Hall. A Planning Committee Meeting at 7.00pm would precede it.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHAIRMAN**

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**DATED**

**CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

The Clerk confirmed that she was happy with her pay award and payment towards the cost of the Internet charges, as proposed at the June PC Meeting.