

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 9TH JUNE 2009 AT 7.50PM AT
HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

25. Present

The Chairman, Cllrs Mesdames Cuthbert, Graham, **Jepps and Johnstone and Cllrs Corden, Hand, **Radford and Saunders, CCllr Des Hannon and PCSO Jonathan Sims and four members of the public

26. Apologies

The Vice-Chairman, Cllr Gibbs* and Beat Officer Katie Rich,

*Cllr Gibbs' apologies were received by the Clerk after the PC meeting

** Cllr Mrs Jepps and Cllr Radford had to leave the meeting early but Cllr Mrs Jepps returned to ensure there were sufficient members for a quorum for item 49

27. Public Forum

No issues were raised

28. Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman

Cllr Browse made his verbal declaration of acceptance of office of Chairman in the presence of the PC. He also signed the declaration which was countersigned by the Clerk

29. MDDC Matters

Completion of Survey re MDDC's relationship with Town and Parish Councils

The Clerk and the Chairman would liaise with other members of the PC regarding the completion of the same

Completion of Survey re MDDC's Housing Priorities

The Chairman had completed this and handed it to the Clerk for submission to MDDC

Miscellaneous MDDC Matters

i. At MDDC's Annual Meeting, Cllr Frank Rosamund was elected as Chairman of MDDC for 2009/10; Peter Hare-Scott was elected as Leader of the Council for a second year; Cllr John Berry was appointed as Vice-Chairman of MDDC and Cllr Mrs P Colthorp was appointed as Deputy Leader of MDDC for a second term of office. Cllr Rosamond was intending to visit each Town and Parish Council in the district during his term of office. It was agreed that on the July agenda, nominations should be considered for persons in the parish to attend the Chairman's Receptions in the autumn.

ii. MDDC advised that the Government would be offering help to council tenants during the recession. However as MDDC had already set its budget for the current financial year this late decision by central Government would now cost MDDC more than £50,000 and it was seeking confirmation that the Government would reimburse it for the monies lost.

30. DCC Matters

i. Cllr Hannon expressed his thanks to the community of Halberton for all their support in the local elections and for everybody else that took the time and trouble to vote for him, securing him another term as County Councillor for Tiverton East.

ii. The Clerk had circulated further information about the Country Mile Project. No questions were raised by the PC.

31. Police Matters

Jonathan Sims reported that there had been a road traffic accident on the Willand Road. Cllr Hannon would press forward with his commitment in getting a speed limit on this road. He advised he would be having a meeting with Meg Booth of DCC's Highways Dept., to progress this matter. A speed watch had been carried out on 4th June along the High Street. Some vehicles were driving at speeds in the top 20s'. A taxi was seen driving at 29mph. The taxi proprietor would be contacted by the police about this matter. It was understood if a speed gun was used then speeding tickets could be issued. Vehicles had also been spotted which had no insurance and these were being investigated. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert also raised concerns about a Stagecoach bus speeding through the village and Jonathan would also follow up this issue. Jonathan also advised that today, checks had been made to see if vehicles were complying with speed limits near the Farm Shop. It was noted that no vehicle had broken the speed limit on either entering or leaving the village. The bus shelter at Pethertons was being monitored but there were no problems to date. Jonathan reported that alcohol related problems were being clamped down upon. Other crimes committed during the past month were:- theft from motor vehicle; burglary from house at Pethertons (offender is being charged); theft of bank card; theft from Sellake House; failure to stop at RTA at Five Bridges; attempted burglary at landfill Ash Thomas and theft of cycle at Pethertons

32. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 12th May 2009 were approved and signed

33. Matters Arising

- i. The Clerk had written to the Pre-School requesting details of the funding they required but had not received a response. The Chairman would follow up this matter
- ii. The Clerk had contacted the various parties as suggested by the PC at the last meeting, regarding the 2010/11 school admission arrangements
- iii. Cllr Mrs Johnstone had now received a sufficient supply of "Money Matters" booklets from DCC which she had distributed
- iv. The parishioner who had very kindly donated an amount of money, which was primarily to be used for new goalposts and nets for the Mead, was agreeable to the PC applying for grant funding, thus reducing the amount of money required from the donation for this purpose. The parishioner had agreed that the remaining monies from the donation could be used towards other parish amenities as the PC saw fit. The grant application had been submitted by the PC and it was now waiting to hear the decision. To answer Cllr Mrs Graham's query it was confirmed that the ongoing maintenance of the football pitch was funded from general funds
- v. After considerable badgering by the Clerk she had managed to wheedle out of MDDC the fact that the PC's S106 monies stood at £32,021 – some £8,000 more than MDDC had originally estimated to be the amount! The Clerk also reminded members again that this sum needed to be spent by November 2011
- vi. The new fencing along one of the boundaries of the Rec had now been erected. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Corden, Hand and Saunders had all helped with the task and grateful thanks were expressed to all, for making such an excellent job. The Clerk would send a letter of thanks to Mr and Mrs Grant for providing tea and for allowing the PCllrs the use of their drive during the works. Mr Grant was very pleased with the appearance of the new fence and had made a contribution towards the cost which was much appreciated by the PC.
- vii. The picnic table at the Rec was now in situ and had been concreted in place
- viii. The missing dustbin lid had now been retrieved from the pond by Cllr Corden
- ix. It was noted that the bin in the Rec was overflowing. The situation would be monitored and if it continued the Clerk to be informed and to take appropriate action

- x. It was understood that the Vice-Chairman was consulting with Ryan Squires, Undertaker, concerning a grave in the cemetery and the question of the interment of ashes in the same grave
- xi. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert advised that despite sending a further e-mail to Hasnein Kanani (MDDC) re the skatepark equipment, he had failed to respond
- xii. It was understood that the caravan at Cordwents was still in situ despite the PC and Cllr Hannon making representations for its removal. It was also understood that there were other issues relating to the caravan and that for the moment the PC would leave matters in abeyance
- xiii. Darran Queenan of DCC advised that the overgrown hedges at Polly's Meadow and other areas in the village were being investigated and the pot hole at Pethertons had been inspected and an order issued to DCC's contractor for any defects found. It was understood that nettles were growing out of hedges near the Farmshop resulting in parishioners having to walk into the road. It was clear that this matter needed to be addressed before a serious accident occurred. The Clerk to pursue
- xiv. It was agreed that a replacement concrete seat would be made for Cloggs Hill. Cllr Corden agreed he would be happy to make a mould and Cllr Hand would assist with the materials
- xv. As Cllr Radford was not present, the matter concerning the required street lighting at Pethertons/Mead would have to be left for discussion until the next meeting. As far as the Clerk was aware the Tenant's Association was to inform Cllr Radford if they were in favour of the scheme

34. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman congratulated CCllrs Hannon and Radford on their recent successes in the County Council elections and advised that the PC looked forward to working with CCllr Hannon as its CC representative for another four years

35. Request for Third Party Sponsorship Monies for Halberton Village Hall Impt.

It was agreed to discuss this matter later when the PC had a full quorum

36. Newsletter

Concerns had been expressed about the spiralling publication costs. After much discussion it was suggested that costs could be kept to a consistent level if the Newsletter was limited to 7 double sided sheets of paper, per edition. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert was happy to discuss the matter with Judy Austin, Acting Editor.

37. DAPC Annual Report Contributions

It was agreed that if any one had a suitable item for the Report to let the Clerk know and she would forward it on. Cllr Hand indicated he may have a suitable photograph and would try and download it for inclusion. The Clerk advised that the deadline for contributions was 12th June. In the meantime it was agreed that Halberton's own celebrity Barbara Flew who was awarded the top award for services as an 'Outstanding Volunteer' and the 'Outstanding Volunteer Contribution to Community Transport in Devon' be an item for the website. It was agreed that the award had been very much deserved. The Clerk to send a letter of congratulations on behalf of the Chairman to Barbara

38. The Common Players and Heathen Harvest – A Show for Rural Communities

Cllr Saunders thought Ash Thomas Village Hall may be interested in this event and the Clerk passed him the relevant information

39. Boundary Review Update

The Clerk read out the responses made by the Devon Association of Parish Councils to the Review Manager of the Boundary Committee for England, contained in a letter dated 12th May. Amongst the comments made by DAPC was the following:- “DAPC had not heard of one town or parish council which supported the 2 unitary proposal. All comments concerning the Exeter/Exmouth Unitary idea had been negative, as removing Exeter would unbalance the whole county. It would lessen the ability of a Devon Rural UA to draw down industry and services to the area. Exeter’s renaissance was key to the economic success of the whole county and to take any steps to weaken that relationship would be a retrograde move. It was vital that we are able to attract good, higher paying employers to Devon to counteract a traditionally low wage economy”.

40. Village of the Year Prize Monies

Cllr Mrs Jepps suggested that some of the monies could be put towards the extension costs of the school. However it was understood that this could not be discussed further at this stage, in view of ongoing matters with DCC about funding. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert suggested an avenue of trees oaks/horse chestnuts along the pathway between the cemetery and the canal and perhaps a granite memorial re Devon Village of the Year winner

41. Parish Plan Update

The question of a generator for the village hall was further discussed. It was suggested initially that the generator could connect up to a power system of a tractor until something more substantial could be arranged. Emergency Plan/Contacts to be included on the July agenda.

42. Future Meetings to be Attended

i. Eighth Annual Assembly of Standard Committees, Birmingham 12th & 13th October 2009

Cllr Corden had been selected by MDDC to attend this

ii. Drop in Community Buildings Team Sessions

23rd June 2009 9.30 – 12.30 Upton Pyne Village Hall

9th July 2009 2.00 – 5.00 Bratton Clovelly Village Hall

iii. DPFA Conference and AGM Chulmleigh Playing Field and Pavillion

2nd July 2009 AGM 9.15am – 10.30am Conference 11.00am – 3.00pm

43. Committee Reports

The Cemetery

Concern was expressed by Cllr Mrs Jepps about the appearance of the cemetery and whether the grass cutter was keeping up to scratch with the job. There was however a difference of opinion about this matter, as Cllr Corden was of the view that when he had visited the cemetery recently he thought its appearance was very good.. It was agreed to monitor the situation. The Clerk had asked Mr Smale to put down weed killer on the paths in the cemetery and also to cut the bank outside Corner Lane (‘the Rec’). He had advised that the work would be carried out this week

The Rec

The “Springer” had been removed, as a bolt needed to be replaced. Unfortunately the replacement bolt ordered by the manufacturers needed to come from Denmark which would take a little time to arrive. It was suggested that as the Springer was relatively new then consideration should be given to having a replacement product rather than a replacement bolt. It was agreed that advice should be sought from Graham Isaac and the Vice-Chairman in this respect.

Footpaths

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	28,182.23
Current A/c	4,811.08
TOTAL	£32,993.31

VILLAGE HALL FUNDS	2500.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	2493.79
VILLAGE OF THE YEAR PRIZE	500.00
DONATION FROM PARISHIONER	2500.00
PARISH PLAN FUND	433.54
CAR PARKING	2500.00
GENERAL FUNDS	22065.98
TOTAL	£32993.31

Halberton Newsletter: Income to date £601.73 - less expenses of £461.25 = profit £140.48

46. Approval of 2008/09 Parish Council Accounts

The Clerk advised that the accounts had been circulated prior to the June Meeting to all members by e-mail and post. They had also been circulated at the May Annual Parish Meeting. Mrs Erasmus had subsequently completed the internal audit of the accounts and discovered a couple of small errors amounting to no more than a couple of pounds which the Clerk had subsequently corrected! However it was necessary for Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2009 to be approved. The Clerk subsequently went through the statements with the PC and it was resolved as follows:-

- i. to approve the accounts as set out in Section 1
- ii. to approve the `Statement of Assurance` as set out in Section 2

It was agreed that Mrs Erasmus who had very kindly audited the PC accounts, be rewarded with garden tokens in the sum of £20, as the PC's appreciation for her hard work.

47. Members Business

It was agreed that Cllr Hand should participate on behalf of the PC in the School Community Health Team. Halberton School had been accredited as a Healthy School last autumn and had been encouraged to put together a group of individuals who served the local community to discuss matters relating to health in the area. The next stage was to draw up a plan for the Tiverton area which was to be submitted by July 11th with action plans. Cllr Hand would liaise with Richard Lough of Halberton School regarding his interest.

48. Miscellaneous Matters

It was understood that orange balls (diverters) had been fitted by an electricity company along the power lines at the pond, to reduce the risk of swan collision. It was understood that swans could be at greatest risk where cables cross established flight paths or are close to feeding or nesting sites. Fitting the diverters was a means of making the cables more visible to the birds. However the pond's owner had indicated that these diverters needed to be removed asap, otherwise he may not be prepared to allow the 2010 Duck Race to take place. The matter was being dealt with and it was hoped that a satisfactory solution could be reached.

49. Request for Third Party Sponsorship monies for Halberton Village Hall Improvement

The Chairman, Cllrs Mesdames Johnstone and Graham and Cllr Corden all declared personal and prejudicial interests and were absent from the room whilst this item was discussed. The remaining members resolved to make a donation of £75, being 10% of the grant monies, with the remainder of the grant monies being paid by Viridor Waste Management Ltd toward the cost of a new roller shutter system

50. Next Meeting

i. 30th June 2009

7.30pm Planning Ctte Meeting

ii. 14th June 2009

7.00pm Planning Ctte Meeting of Halberton Parish Council

7.30pm Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

The Meeting closed at 10.10pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED