

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH
COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 9th MARCH 2004 AT 7.00PM AT
HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

216. Present

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Mesdames Armstrong, Fisher, Jepps, and Hull, Cllrs Gibbs, Lane-Smith, Radford, Saunders and J Guscott, Head of MDDC's Planning Department and four Members of the Public

217. Apologies

Cllr Hugill

218. Condolences

The Chairman advised that Cllr Mrs Mary Fisher and Cllr Brian Lane-Smith had recently suffered the deaths of their husband and mother respectively. On behalf of the PC, the Chairman offered his sympathies and condolences to Cllrs Mrs Fisher and Lane-Smith and their respective families.

219 Public Forum

The PC was advised that work on the flower bed at Pond Hill was in hand. Concern was expressed that a tenant in Hillhead was putting out his/her rubbish too early which meant that animals were ripping open the bags and rubbish was being strewn around the area causing environmental problems. It was not known which tenant was causing the problem. The Clerk would contact MDDC's refuse department and request a letter be sent to all the tenants requesting that they put their rubbish out at the correct time. Mr B Corden on behalf of the Village Hall Ctte expressed grave concern at the suggested impropriety of the Ctte with regard to monies being used for possible litigation purposes between the Village Hall Ctte and another party as stated in Minute No. 200 (February 2004). A letter was read out by the Clerk from the Ctte which outlined all the concerns. Mr Corden strongly refuted the allegations made and outlined the steps the Ctte had taken to ensure that it was operating within the rules laid down by the Charity Commission. Cllr Lane-Smith provided reasons as to why he considered the Ctte was not acting properly. However the PC was of the view that the monies it had given (or had earmarked for future use) were (or would be) properly applied, which was its prime concern and therefore it had no wish to become involved in matters which were strictly of a private nature. Mr Corden's final word was that there was no litigation taking place and a settlement between the Village Hall Ctte and the other party was imminent. In response to a query, the Clerk advised that the PC usually set aside monies every year for both village halls. This year no monies were being set aside in an attempt to reduce expenditure. However the PC did not give monies to the halls on an annual basis. If a hall requested money for a specific purpose then the PC would consider the request and decide whether or not to allocate funds. The Clerk could make available the parish accounts if any parishioner required confirmation of this fact.

220. Minutes

- i. The Minutes of the Cemetery Ctte dated 2nd March 2004 were approved without amendment
- ii. The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting dated 13th January 2004 were approved subject to the following amendment
Minute 193 – Parish Plan Fund to state `£1227.63`
General Funds to state `£8314.55`
- iii. The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting dated 10th February 2004 were approved subject to the following amendment:
Minute 212 – Parish Plan Fund to state `£1227.63`
General Funds to state `£5953.96`

221. Matters Arising

- i. The Clerk had been unable to ascertain who was the Beat Officer for Halberton, as despite making enquiries the police themselves did not seem to know. The Clerk had been informed that PC Alan Bennett would be in this post. She subsequently spoke to him and he had no knowledge that he was being assigned to Halberton. PC Andy Auger now had responsibility for Bampton and it was understood that the new Beat Officer for Halberton would be based at Cullompton Police station rather than Tiverton. The Clerk would attempt to make further enquiries. Steve McLellan the Community Safety Officer was apologetic about the speedvisor still not being erected in Halberton. Cllr Radford would speak to Dave Huxham of DCC about the visor as he was the officer responsible for it. It was also understood that a police laser gun would be used shortly in Halberton to ascertain whether or not there was a problem. This would then add weight to any enforcement or re-engineering requests to the relevant authorities.
- ii. As the lorry at Orchard View was not parking in the vicinity so frequently it was decided to monitor the situation for another month and decide at the April PC Meeting whether to take further action.
- iii. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Mesdames Armstrong and Fisher, Gibson, Lane-Smith and Radford would attend an Open Day at MDDC Council Offices on 26th April at 10.00am
- iv. The litter bin had still not been replaced at Pethertons, despite the Clerk chasing the matter up. The Clerk to contact Mr Carey at MDDC again.
- v. Mr Dearing MDDC's Community Project's Officer had advised that with regard to the flooding at Lower Town; under the Land Drainage Act 1991 riparian owners of watercourses were required to repair them but not to carry out improvements. The District Council also had power to enter land not in its ownership and carry out repairs. However despite there being a number of worthy schemes that MDDC had compiled, it had made a conscious effort not to progress any of the projects which included Lower Town. (It was understood that Lower Town was joint third on the list of schemes) due to cost implications.

222.Grass Cutting Tenders/Proposed Increase in Cemetery Fees for 2004/05

The recommendations made at the Cemetery Cttee Meeting of 2nd March were proposed and seconded in respect of the grass cutting contract. It was decided to award the contract to Garden Care, Ottery St Mary in the total sum of £2,170. The contract would cover the grass cutting of the cemetery, the recreational ground and the Mead playing field.

The recommendations regarding the proposed increases to the cemetery burial charges were not proposed and seconded. MDDC had reduced its burial grant by 50% for 2004/05 and also the PC's burial income for 2003/04 had been lower. Cllr Lane-Smith suggested methods of increasing income by creating a memorial garden etc. After much discussion it was considered by the majority of Cllrs that the proposed increase was too low. A proposal of 20% increase was then made but this also failed. A proposal made by Cllr Gibbs to increase the fees to 25% was seconded by Cllr Radford. Seven members supported the proposal. The motion was carried.

The Clerk would now arrange to send out letters to the next of kin of persons who were buried in the cemetery and whose memorial stones were in a dangerous state. The letters had been formulated some time ago and it was agreed that there should be a reply by date, inserted in the letters before they were sent out. It was noted that grass cutting had recently been carried out by a contractor which had not been requested by the PC. The Clerk to investigate.

223.Chairman`s Announcements

There were none

224. Amendment to Standing Order No. 2.

The Clerk was attending a training course in Weston Super mare during the second week of May and as such would be unavailable for the May Annual Meeting. It was agreed to amend Standing Order No.2 in order that the date could be re-arranged for this year only so that the Clerk could attend. The Standing Order to read:

.....`**and on the year which is not an election year, the Statutory Annual Meeting to be held on the second Tuesday in May, with the exception of 2004 only, when this meeting shall be held on the third Tuesday of May`**

225. Police Matters

The Vice-Chairman advised that Rural Watch was working well.

226. Parish Plan

It was understood that with regard to the Parish Plans Biodiversity Project that monies had already been allocated to another Parish Council so there was no funding available at the present time for Halberton PC. However Halberton would be placed on the list for future consideration. The Parish Plan Steering Group had met on 20th February (Minutes attached). The main topic for discussion was to consider the information contained in the returned questionnaires. There had been a 70%+ response. The Steering Group would now have to try and implement the priorities of the parishioners.

227. Mid Devon District Council Matters

- i. MDDC was seeking a member for its Public Scrutiny Panel from a Parish Council. It was noted that there was strong representation already from Halberton. However the Clerk to pass the information to Cllr Hugill
- ii. The Clerk had received notification that The Barge Public House and Ash Thomas Village Hall wished to renew their Public Entertainment Licences. The PC had no objections or comments to make.
- iii. MDDC had recycling targets to meet. By 2005-06 it needed to more than double the 15.5% of household waste it achieved last year. In order to meet the target it needed to tackle organic waste which made up 30% of the total amount which was currently buried in landfill sites. Organic waste collections would gradually be introduced in June 2005 to 25,000 households that had existing kerbside recycling box service. Proposals as to how the scheme would work were outlined by the Clerk. It was agreed that Simon Hill, MDDC's Recycling Officer be invited to the June PC Meeting to give a presentation about the scheme and to answer any questions.

228. DCC Matters

- i. Cllr Radford advised that a speed restriction of 20mph would be introduced along the main street of Halberton during 2004/05.
- ii. Proposed Modifications had been set out, with regard to the Deposit Draft of the Devon Structure Plan 2001 to 2016. The deadline for comments was 25th march 2004.

229. Meetings Attended

- i. 17th February 2004 10.30pm at Cllr Mrs Armstrong's home re Car Parking
(See Report attached) Cllr Mrs Armstrong was thanked for all her hard work to date in respect of the project. It was agreed that the PC should now take the project forward. The Chairman and Cllr Radford to consider planning implications and arrange for plans to be drawn up. Costings to be obtained etc. The matter to be an item for the April agenda.

230. Future Meetings

- i. 17th March 2004 7.00pm MDDC – Local Forum –Padbrooke Park

ii. 23rd March – 7.30pm Halberton Village Hall – Parish Plan Steering Ctte

231. Committee Reports

i. Cemetery

Cemetery matters had been discussed earlier.

ii. Amenities

The Rospa report was awaited..

iii. Footpaths

Substantial work was needed to be carried out, following the return of the survey reports. There were some training days coming up throughout the year. The Clerk had passed details to the Chairman of the Ctte. He indicated that either him or Cllr Hugill would try and attend.

iv. Highways.

There was nothing to report

v. Policy and Finance

There was nothing to report

232. Clerk's Report

The Clerk had nothing to report

233. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST -29TH FEBRUARY 2004:

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Bank Interest | 11.26 |
| Newsletter | 60.60 |
| TOTAL | £71.86 |

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST – 29TH FEBRUARY 2004 £1017.96

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

| <i>Cheque No</i> | <i>Amount</i> | <i>VAT</i> | <i>Total</i> | <i>Details</i> |
|------------------|---------------|------------|--------------|--|
| 100803 | 216.24 | | 216.24 | Mrs C McIntyre – Salary (less tax deductions) |
| 100804 | 160.50 | | 160.50 | Halberton Village Hall – room hire (P. Plan £61.50 and PC £99) |
| 100805 | 24.34 | | 24.34 | Petty Cash |
| 100806 | 45.72 | | 45.72 | Clerk's Quarterly Expenses – telephone, Mileage, Internet |
| 100807 | 12.38 | | 12.38 | Mrs P Armstrong – Telephone calls etc re P.Plan |
| 100808 | 15.00 | 2.63 | 17.63 | Mr K Browse – repayment cost of advert |
| 100809 | 30.00 | | 30.00 | Com Council of Devon – P.Plan course |

All the above were approved for payment

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|---|-------------------|
| Balance of bank accounts carried forward | £10,805.31 |
| Plus receipts for period 1 st – 29 th February 2004 | 71.86 |
| TOTAL | £10,877.17 |
| Minus payments made for the above period | 1,017.96 |
| TOTAL | £9,859.21 |

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|------------------------------|------------------|
| Made up as follows:- Current | 1,073.24 |
| High Interest | 8,785.97 |
| TOTAL | £9,859.21 |

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|---------------------------|------------------|
| <i>VILLAGE HALLS FUND</i> | <i>£1,950.00</i> |
| <i>PARISH PATHS FUND</i> | <i>£1,428.72</i> |
| <i>PARISH PLAN FUND</i> | <i>£1,227.63</i> |
| <i>GENERAL FUNDS</i> | <i>£5,252.86</i> |

TOTAL £9,859.21

NEWSLETTER :

Income for period 1/4/03 – 29/02/04= £1,386.35

TOTAL INCOME = LESS EXPENDITURE = £1,218.58 AND PAYMENT MADE IN ADVANCE IN 2002/03 OF £68.57 FOR 2003/04

NET PROFIT = £99.20

234. Members Business

There was nothing to report

235. Miscellaneous Matters

- i. A new group attached to Sampford Peverell surgery had been set up. The aim of the 'Caring Friends of Sampford Peverell Patients' was to provide friendship, help with transport, home visiting etc. The Group was seeking "friends" and those interested were asked to contact the surgery.
- ii. The Clerk had been forwarded consultation papers on 'Local Investigation of Allegations of Misconduct'. Any comments had to be sent to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister by 18th May 2004. The papers to be passed to Cllr Hugill for his attention.
- iii. A number of courses were being organised by DAPC. It was agreed that a place be booked on the 'Moving Parish Plans Forward' course. As yet it was undecided who should attend.

236. Next Meeting

A Meeting of the Parish Council's Planning Cttee would take place on Tuesday, 13th April 2004 at 7pm, followed by the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm at Halberton Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATE