

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH  
COUNCIL ON MONDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2004 AT 7.30PM AT ASH  
THOMAS VILLAGE HALL

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**109. Present**

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllrs Gibbs, Hugill, Lane-Smith, Radford, Saunders, Mesdames Armstrong, Fisher and Jepps and PC Dodd.

The Chairman announced the sad death of Frank Bowerman an Ash Thomas resident. Condolences to be sent to his wife Mary and family from the PC. Good wishes were also expressed for the speedy recovery of Rob Stevens who was currently ill.

**110. Apologies**

Cllr Mrs Hull

**111. Public Forum**

There were no members of the public present.

**112. Approval of the Minutes of:**

The Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> October 2004 were approved.

**113. Matters arising from the aforementioned Minute**

1. The Vice-Chairman had followed up the PC's concerns regarding the lack of response from the Royal Devon and Cornwall Hospital Trust about a representative attending a PC meeting to talk about the Trust's future plans. It was understood that he would be meeting with a representative shortly.
2. Cllr Lane-Smith had been unable to make the 'No Dogs' signs for the Rec` due to pressure of work but hoped to deal with the matter as soon as he was able.
3. The grant monies for £540 towards the cost of the Village Hall improvement works had been acknowledged by Uffculme Environmental Limited and Viridor Credits.
4. Dave Scott from MDDC had advised that \$106 money would not be made available for the cost of new planters for the village as requested by Carole Graham. Mr Scott advised that planters did not meet the criteria laid down.
5. The overgrown area at Briton Close had now been trimmed by MDDC
6. Mr Mitchard at DCC advised that the replacement sign for Brithem Bottom was in hand but it could take some time before it was in situ. The overgrown area at the bus stop at Halberton Court on the Jubilee bank, in the first instant would be examined to ascertain whether it was the responsibility of DCC or a private landowner. The 20mph scheme proposal drawings should have been received by Mr Mitchard at the end of October. These would then be passed to the PC for consultation. Subject to the PC's views the scheme should be implemented after Christmas and finished before the end of the financial year. The Clerk to chase up Mr Mitchard to ensure that the drawings were available for the December PC meeting.
7. The Clerk had obtained a copy of the Minutes of the Mid Devon Highways and Traffic Order Ctte Meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> September 2004. The request for a pedestrian controlled crossing near the Post Office on Halberton High Street had been discussed at this meeting. It was minuted as follows: 'The Local Services Officer explained that in this years Local Area programme there was a scheme to provide a 20mph speed limit through the village but this did not include the provision of a pedestrian controlled crossing. Any such request would be discussed with

the Parish but he was of the opinion that it would be very unlikely that such a crossing could be justified in this location`.

#### **114.Chairman`s Announcements**

The Chairman had no announcements.

#### **115.Police Matters**

PC Dodd in response to a concern raised by a parishioner regarding cars parked outside of the Barge public house advised that having cars parked there did have a benefit in that it slowed traffic down to some extent, but it also forced both pedestrians and vehicles onto the offside of the road which was not desirable on a right hand bend. He went on to say that vehicles could legally park on the length of road provided that they did not prevent vehicles driving along the road itself or turning into the road to Willand and were lit at night. He also stated that lights were required on cars parked within 10 metres of a junction, not just cars parked outside of the Barge. There was no offence of blocking people`s view out of a junction nor parking outside of the white line painted along the edge of the roadway. The only way of preventing parking would be to apply for a bye-law, and to then put down double yellow lines. PC Dodd thought this would be inappropriate outside The Barge Inn. He agreed to respond directly to the parishioner who had raised the concern. The Clerk advised about ` Operation Mackintosh which was a scheme set up to tackle rural crime and in particular to prevent the theft of agricultural plant and power tools in Mid Devon. It was noted that the implementation of the Countryside Watch scheme to protect rural property from the possibility of crime had been very successful due to the number of people participating and the cascading of information amongst the members.

#### **116.Playing Field**

The Chairman advised that immediate advice had been sought from Rospa regarding the safety issues surrounding the shredded tyre safety surfacing. Rospa had advised in writing that it did not have any grave reservations about the safety surfacing. The long term effects on health by ingestion were not known to Rospa but it did not have any indication of any problems. The material was likely to easily meet the head injury criteria of the appropriate standard EN1177. The surface dimension was noted as meeting the requirements of EN 1176. The Clerk also advised that a copy of Rospa`s annual report was also forwarded to the PC`s insurers for their information. The insurers had not raised any concerns about the safety surfacing. In view of the aforementioned it was considered that there was no reason to close the play area as had been suggested by an MDDC Officer previously. Cllr Radford to convey the PC`s concerns to MDDC`s Officer about the conflicting advise the PC had received about this matter and for a copy of Rospa`s letter to be passed to Mr Hill by Cllr Radford. The Clerk to also speak to MDDC`s Safety Officer for guidance. In the meantime the Sub Cttee of the Playing Fields Cttee to contact various suppliers to obtain quotes for new play equipment etc.

#### **117. The Parish Plan**

A meeting would take place on Friday. The material for the A3 flyers and the 25 page book had been passed to the printers. The final versions may be available for 19<sup>th</sup> November. Cllr Mrs Armstrong had received another letter from Mr Folley regarding the ongoing matter of the car park/entrance. Mr Folley required the PC`s input regarding this matter. It was agreed that a Working Group be set up of all members present other than Cllr Mrs Jepps who was unable to become a group member due to other commitments. It was not known if Cllr Mrs Hull wished to participate as she was absent. A site meeting was arranged for 16<sup>th</sup> November at 9.30am. In the

meantime the Clerk to forward Mr Folley a holding e-mail to advise that draft plans would be submitted to him shortly.

### **118. Mid Devon District Council Matters**

No matters were raised.

### **119. Devon County Council Matters**

The Devon Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 Consultation Document, The Devon County Minerals Local Plan and the Devon Structure Plan 2001 – 2016 were now available from the Clerk

### **120. Meetings Attended**

i. Devon and Cornwall Police - 14<sup>th</sup> October 2004 – The New Hall, Tiverton at 7.30pm

Cllr Mrs Fisher attended this. She said it was poorly attended. Matters discussed included the improvements to mobile phones, concerns relating to the speed of farm traffic travelling through Thorverton, vehicles coming off the motorway at Honiton and violence occurring outside of local pubs.

ii. Devon Association of Local Councils – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2004

Cllr Gibbs attended this. Matters discussed included MDDC's Planning Department and improved liaison between the Planning Department and Parish Councils. Concerns were expressed about the refusal of some planning applications relating to barn conversions which, it was alleged, would stump village growth

iii. Cheriton Fitzpaine - Parish Plan Meeting - 14<sup>th</sup> October 2004

Cllr Mrs Armstrong and Mrs Graham attended this.

iv. Licensing Forums 20<sup>th</sup> October at Sandford Village Hall

Cllr Brian Lane-Smith attended this. He found the meeting most informative and Mrs Parish, to be a knowledgeable and helpful speaker.

v. Active Lifestyles Meeting Ash Thomas Village Hall– 28<sup>th</sup> October 2004

The meeting was attended by several members of the PC. Matters discussed included routes, the responsibility of organising walks etc. . Further courses would be run at Exeter on 20<sup>th</sup> November, and Tiverton 27<sup>th</sup> January. Cllr Mrs Fisher was thanked for providing refreshments

vi. MDDC – 'Good Value for Money?' State of the District Debate

20<sup>th</sup> October – Bow Village Hall, 27<sup>th</sup> October Oakford, 3<sup>rd</sup> November Burlescombe

The meeting examined the expenditure of MDDC such as the funding of leisure centres, recycling etc. and invited debate. The Grand Western Canal was considered to be an amenity for Devon and other counties and there was national interest in the canal.

vii. Moving Parish Plans Forward – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2004

Cllrs Mrs Armstrong attended this. A copy of her report is attached.

viii. MDDC Cemeteries Best Practice Group Meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2004

Cllr Mrs Armstrong attended this as Cllr Mrs Fisher was unable to attend due to another commitment. A copy of her report is attached. Cllr Mrs Fisher thanked Cllr Mrs Armstrong for attending on her behalf.

### **121. Future Meetings**

i. 16<sup>th</sup> November 2004 – Halberton Village Hall AGM at 7.00pm

ii. 25<sup>th</sup> November 2004 - Mid Devon Association of Local Councils — Tiverton Town Hall at 7.00pm

iii. 9<sup>th</sup> December 2004 – Parish Plan Meeting – Tiverton Town Hall at 7.00pm

iv. 13<sup>th</sup> January 2005 - Affordable Housing – MDDC Phoenix House at 7.00pm

## **122. Committee Reports**

### Cemetery

The invoice for the repaired gravestones had now been received. It was resolved that it should be paid as the work had been carried out satisfactorily. The grass cutting contract was now completed. Additional cuts to be carried out on an 'as and when' basis.

### Footpaths

The monies for the cost of the hedge trimmer, recently purchased, to be taken out of the Footpath budget. Mr Page who carried out work on the footpaths was currently ill and there was some work still outstanding because of this. The PSA inspection had been carried out and the Vice-Chairman was meeting with Richard Spurway this week for feedback. If work was required to be carried out it may be necessary to get another contractor. The Clerk advised that a number of Christmas Parish Paths Workshops were being held. The Vice-Chairman may attend a Workshop if at all possible. The Clerk had also completed funding details as far as she was able and had passed the paperwork to the Vice-Chairman for completion of the outstanding matters.

### Highways

Cllr Gibbs reported that the traffic calming was to be repaired. He also advised that there were missing bus stop signs on the High Street, Orchard View, Rock View and Millstream Gardens. He understood that as BT owned the telegraph signs they were charging £100 per year per pole for the use of the poles to display 'Bus Stop' signs. Stagecoach provided the signs. DCC provided poles if required. Cllr Gibbs had e-mailed Mr Mitchard at DCC asking him to liaise with Stagecoach to rectify the problem. The Clerk to contact Nick Sanderson about the missing historic High Street sign. The directional DCC sign at the Old School Ash Thomas had dropped and needed attention. The Clerk to report the matter to Mr Mitchard. The Clerk to contact MDDC regarding the proposed adoption of Orchard View/ proposed acquisition of land from Mr Browse, as there had been no further progress made for over a year.

## **123. Accounts**

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> – 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2004:

Bank Interest	24.41
Newsletter	44.00
Cemetery	216.25
TOTAL	£284.66

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> - 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2004: £1614.59

### **PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED**

Cheque No	Amount	VAT	Total	Details
SO	21.00		21.00	MDDC – Cemetery Rates
100878	43.85		43.85	Mrs C McIntyre – Expenses June-Aug Internet, travel and telephone)
100879	37.48		37.48	Mrs C McIntyre – Cost of colour ink cartridges
100880	190.00	33.25	223.25	Fine Memorials – Repairs to headstones
100881	221.91		221.91	Mrs C McIntyre – Salary Nov (less tax deductions)
100882	310.00	54.25	364.25	Gardencare – Grass cutting
100883	20.00		20.00	Mid Devon Ass of Local Councils – Subs Fee
100884	21.63	3.79	25.42	Mr T Hugill – Repayment of cost of blade

The above invoices were approved for payment.

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	15,131.91
Plus receipts for period 1 <sup>st</sup> - 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2004	284.66
	<b>TOTAL £15,416.57</b>
Minus payments made for the above period	1,614.59
	<b>TOTAL £13,801.98</b>

Made up as follows:- High Interest	12,928.08
Current	873.90
	<b>TOTAL £13,801.98</b>

VILLAGE HALLS FUND	£1,410.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	£1,891.72
(hedge trimmer cost of £437 deducted from P.Paths)	
PARISH PLAN FUND	£29.33
GENERAL FUNDS	£10,470.93
	<b>TOTAL £13,801.98</b>

**NEWSLETTER :**

Income for period 1/4/03 – 31/10/04 £1003.65 minus expenditure £762.92  
= **NET PROFIT £240.73**

**124. 2003/04 Audited Accounts**

The Clerk advised that the District Auditor had now certified the completion of the 2003/04 accounts, as being in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements

**125. Members Business**

- i. Cllr Saunders to purchase a Christmas tree for the Parish in good time for Christmas and to report concerns about the overhead electrical cables near the Ash Thomas Village Hall to the appropriate authority.
- ii. Chairpersons of all Cttes to arrange meetings for 16<sup>th</sup> November at Halberton Village Hall to finalise their budget requirements for the Precept Meeting in January. Budget requirements to be submitted to the Clerk at the December PC Meeting.
- iii. Cllr Mrs Jepps explained that her e-mail facility was not working properly and for the foreseeable future the Clerk to send her hard copies of minutes, agendas etc.

**126. Next Meeting**

A Meeting of the Council's Planning Ctte would take place on 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm at Halberton Village Hall followed by an Ordinary Meeting of the PC at 7.30pm

The Meeting closed at 9.45pm

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**CHAIRMAN**

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**DATED**