

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 9TH NOVEMBER 2010 AT 8.00PM AT
HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

140. Present

Cllr Browse (Chairman), Cllrs Mesdames Cuthbert, Graham, Jepps and Johnstone and Cllrs Britton (Vice-Chairman), Corden, Hand, Radford and Saunders, CCllr Des Hannon, Beat Officer Katie Rich and 2 members of the public

141. Apologies

There were none

142. Public Forum

Parishioner, Wendy Harris was extremely angry and frustrated by the poor level of service currently being offered by the Post Office in the Village Hall. Due to the computer system not being operational recently, a full service was not being offered by the Post Office. Concern was also expressed as to the security of mail, as it was alleged that the person collecting it was transporting it on public transport in carrier bags! It was understood that the times that the service should be operating were not being adhered to either. It was agreed that full details of the complaints raised should be submitted to the Clerk who would then send a letter to the Area Office.

143. Police

The Clerk had been contacted by PCSO Jonathan Sims who advised that he would be carrying out speed checks in Lower Town following the concerns of Alan Perkins, parishioner. Jonathan would also contact Mr Perkins to see whether he wished to accompany him whilst he carried out the checks. Beat Officer Katie Rich advised that if a vehicle was seen causing an obstruction in Halberton and it was witnessed by a police officer or police community support officer, then the culprit would be issued with a penalty ticket for £30. If the vehicle was seen by the police and was not causing an obstruction, at that time, then the police would try and locate the person concerned to offer words of advice or stick a warning notice on the vehicle. The police would be checking the High Street for any offenders and if a vehicle was seen parked on the pavement then that offence would be dealt with. Katie would arrange for an article to go in the Newsletter about the parking issue.

There had been a spate of rural thefts – power tools had been taken from a car parked on Willand Road and a theft of tools and computers had occurred at a property at Crown Hill. It was apparent that the thieves were targeting items of value. At Brithem Bottom a suspicious white van was reported as being driven around the area and its occupants asking about scrap metal. A horse had been stolen and then returned some time later! A man was spotted acting suspiciously at Lower Town. 400 eggs had been stolen from a farm at Sutton Barton which had then been dumped by the thieves. Speedwatch had been carried out recently on Willand Road for a period of 1.5 hours.. Out of 250 vehicles – 14 vehicles had been driven at excessive speeds.

Speedwatch would continue on Willand Road and Lower Town.

A letter had been drafted which it was intended be sent to businesses etc raising the issue of speeding through the village. It was hoped these businesses would make their employees aware of the speed restrictions in the village. Katie confirmed her agreement to the contents of the letter. It was agreed that the letter should contain CCllr Hannon`s contact details (address and e-mail address). The Clerk to ascertain from him, as to who would meet the postal costs. Cllr Hand would search on Yell for a list of businesses in the area, which he would forward to Cllr Radford who would then compile a spread sheet with this information. If other members of the

PC had contact name details, it was requested that they also forward these to Cllr Radford. Letters could then be sent to these businesses. The police had been in contact with Terry Payne regarding several policing issues he had raised and which the police were trying to address. There had been progress made with regards to the vandalism at the Church. Blood had been left at the scene from which a DNA profile had been made. A suspect would be interviewed and hopefully charged. It was hoped that compensation would be paid by the offender. Two vehicles parked at end of Orpington Close were allegedly causing an obstruction. An Officer attended and felt that neither car was causing an obstruction. Both owners were spoken to. Another report received of men in a white van acting suspiciously – different vehicle. With regards to the incident at the Barge Inn which spilled out on to the street – Licensing had been involved and banning orders served on some individuals

144. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 12th October 2010 were approved and signed accordingly

145. Matters Arising from the Ordinary Minutes

- i. The Clerk had been in contact with Sue Hutter concerning a letter of complaint which the Clerk had been asked to write to the police and copy in Cllr Radford and Cllr Rosamond. However Sue had requested of the Clerk not to progress this as she had had a change of mind
- ii. DCC's Mobile Library Service would be operating a revised service wef January 2011. New timetables were being produced which would be circulated shortly. The Clerk advised that the mobile library would stop at Ash Thomas for 30 minutes and at Lower Close for 45 minutes. The last day of the current service was 26th November. The Clerk to obtain contact details for WRVS for the delivery of books to housebound persons.
- iii. Alan Cooper had sent a letter of thanks to the Clerk for the information booklet in respect of the telephone kiosk, which the PC had purchased from BT for £1 and which would remain in situ at Ash Thomas. Mr Cooper advised that the kiosk would be a landmark for the village
- iv. Nick Sanderson from MDDC had advised that the dog bin had now been installed at Muxbeare Lane. The cost of the bin was to be shared between the PC and Willand PC but as yet the Clerk had not received an invoice
- v. Mark Baker –Canal Ranger had raised the issue of the problem with ivy growth on the Tiverton Road Canal Bridge with DCC's Bridge Maintenance Team. He was hoping that the work would be carried out this financial year
- vi. Andrew Butler had e-mailed the Clerk to thank the PC for arranging to have the lagoon dug out. He thought a few tons of mud/silt had been removed which would greatly help to avoid bad flooding in the road and adjacent properties

146.The Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman produced the digital projector which the PC had purchased in conjunction with the Village Hall. The Chairman had been attempting to try and progress the re-introduction of the Pethertons bus service. The Chairman had obtained agreement from landowners/neighbours for the bus to turn round at Bycott Farm. There had also been further representations made by CCllr Hannon who had been in contact with Bruce Thompson at DCC. CCllr Hannon was of the view that the withdrawal of the service had more to do with convenience for Stagecoach rather than either safety or low floor buses issues. CCllr Hannon was awaiting further information from Mr Thompson and he would update the PC when this was to hand

147. 2011/12 Precept and Grant for Rec

It was resolved that there should be no increase in the 2011/12 precept and that it should remain at the 2010/11 figure of £11,353.00. It was also resolved that the grant monies for the Rec should be £600 for 2011/12

148. DCC Matters

i. CClr Hannon advised that Paul Wilson of DCC's Area East Highway Management had produced detailed plans of the recorded collisions on the road from Halberton to Willand from 1st January 2007 to 11 October 2010. There were 2 recorded collisions within the 30mph section and 14 in the unrestricted section. Mr Wilson could not see the justification for double white lines on the road as only 1 collision recorded, was the result of an overtaking manoeuvre. He had made a request for a Speed Watch sign to be erected inside the 30mph speed limit to assist the Community Policing Team. It was understood that a local resident had e-mailed CClr Hannon, as a car travelling a speed along this road had hit her with its wing mirror resulting in her falling onto the verge and causing a minor injury to her wrist. He was of the view that the evidence was such that a speed limit should be imposed along Willand Road. The PC resolved that a 40mph speed limit should be imposed along the route. The Clerk to formally advise CClr Hannon of this resolution which he would follow up with DCC.

ii. As a result of representations made by the PC and parishioner, Terry Payne a list of items needing attention in the Parish had been compiled by DCC with details of the proposed action to be taken. It was understood that two of DCC's officers had been assigned to deal with these matters. There were items which required the PC's attention and which the Clerk would progress.

iii. The road closure for 18th – 19th November from Battens Bridge to Willand Road had been cancelled

iv. The Annual Parish Paths Partnership Christmas Workshops would be taking place in the next few weeks. The Workshop for Mid Devon would take place on 7th December at Broadclyst Memorial Hall. The Chairman would attend and the Clerk would arrange to book him a place. If other members of the PC wished to attend they were to contact the Clerk. The Clerk to also provide the Chairman with details of footpath expenditure in order that DCC's Expenditure form could be completed

v. DCC was in the process of writing its Mineral Core Strategy which would provide the framework for mineral working and restoration in Devon over the next 20 years. DCC was inviting persons to complete a survey form which would provide useful information on the issues relating to minerals, locally. The leaflets/survey forms were handed to the PCllrs with an invitation to complete and return.

vi. The Clerk had received a copy of DCC's Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Service Report 2009-10 which was available to any member of the PC. The Report was also available on line.

vii. CClr Britton advised that there was a weight restriction sign at Ash Thomas, to stop lorries accessing i Ash Thomas. Ian Hyde at DCC was looking into the matter. CClr Hand also advised that there was also a 7.5 weight restriction sign at either end of Bridwell Avenue

149. MDDC Matters

i. MDDC, for the third successive year had gained recognition for its Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG). The gazetteer was MDDC's corporate address database which enabled accurate and efficient service delivery to the local community.

ii. Residents of Uffculme had an opportunity to comment on MDDC's Appraisal and Management Plan of the Uffculme Conservation Area. The Appraisal was an assessment of what made a conservation area special. The draft consultation document would be available for viewing at MDDC and comments had to be submitted by 18th December

- iii. Arrangements had been made by MDDC to join with representatives of the Royal British Legion in Crediton, Cullompton and Tiverton to encourage people in the community to show their respect in observing the two-minute silence
- iv. Cllr Radford advised that free parking would be operational in Tiverton on 26th November for the switching on of the Christmas lights
- v. Cllr Radford was thanked for organising the Litter Pick in Halberton. It was agreed that by MDDC organising a sweep of the village prior to the Litter Pick, it had helped considerably with reducing the amount of litter having to be collected. Cllr Radford thanked everyone who had assisted with the event including the Village Hall
- vi. The Audit Commission had formally recognised Mid Devon's "significant improvements", as it had moved away from its "weak" status of three years ago and no longer needed to be in Voluntary Engagement
- vi. MDDC had been asked by two neighbouring councils to tender to provide audit and benefits services for them.
- vii. MDDC was sharing an increasing number of services with North Devon, in order to achieve cost savings, greater efficiency and deliver better service. So far, it was co-operating on waste management, emergency planning, economic regeneration, and licensing, with proposals being worked up for a shared planning service.
- viii. MDDC had flattened its management structure over the last few years and now had 12 fewer senior management posts. When staff left, it usually covered the vacancy by more flexible use of existing staff, rather than recruiting new people.
- ix. Mid Devon's finances had been completely turned round – it was under-spending its budget, had built up good reserves, its unit costs were falling, and it had prepared proposals for further cost reductions to cope with the government's financial squeeze. MDDC was not intending to slash services or sack staff.
- x. The housing service, had been greatly improved, in terms of rent arrears, the repairs service, and speed of reletting vacant houses.
- xi. Environmental Health Officers had successfully exercised a Warrant to Enter Premises and seized noise-making equipment from a privately owned house in Cullompton following a 6 week long investigation, where the occupiers of the house had repeatedly been playing loud amplified music, causing a noise nuisance to dozens of nearby residents often in the early hours of the morning
- xii. There was a legal requirement for MDDC to choose a new form of Executive arrangements by 31 December 2010. The Council was now consulting with residents until the end of November 2010 on two options: a Leader with stronger powers (the "Strong Leader" model) or a directly Elected Mayor.

The differences in the new systems of governance were:

The **Strong Leader** would be appointed by the Council from 42 District Councillors and could be removed or replaced by the Council during their period of office.

An **Elected Mayor** would be elected by residents, would not be a councillor and could be removed by the Council during their period of office. There would be additional cost implications for the election/referendum of a directly elected Mayor and the Mayor would be entitled to an allowance. At the conclusion of the public consultation the views received from local residents would be collated and presented to councillors and a formal decision on which model to implement will be made at a meeting of the full Council in December.

150. Car Park/New Footpath Update

Steve Gardner, DCC`s Rights of Way Officer was progressing the permissive path to the Farm Shop. The Chairman was liaising with Steve regarding information he required in order to draft the necessary agreement which should be ready shortly

151. Committee Reports

Cemetery

Works had been carried out to the cemetery including the trimming of the inside of the hedge. Cllr Corden would deal with the planning application for the removal/trimming of trees in the Conservation Area. The shrub area in the cemetery needed tidying up at some point. The Vice-Chairman and Cllr Corden would deal with the disposal of the trimmings. Cllr Saunders would deal with the rail which needed attention

152. Clerk`s Report

The Clerk was having problems with the PC`s insurers who were maintaining that the PC owed £14 in respect of its insurance premium. The Clerk disagreed with this view and was waiting to hear further from the insurers.

153. Accounts

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1ST - 30th OCTOBER 2010:

Bank Interest	1.55
Newsletter	136.50
Cemetery	25.00
TOTAL	£163.05

PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST - 30th OCTOBER 2010 £3964.15

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

Cheque No	Amount	Vat	Total	Details
SO	25.00		25.00	MDDC - Cemetery Rates
1447	353.51		353.51	Mrs C McIntyre – Salary
1448	8.07	1.41	9.48	Ottery Office – Photocopying
1449	370.00		370.00	Mr N Page – grasscutting work
1450	380.00		380.00	Mr N Cuthbert – grass cutting work - £350 work to wildlife area cemetery - £30
1451	60.00		60.00	J Cuthbert – tree work
1452	cancelled			
1453	75.00		75.00	Halberton Methodist Church – contribution towards cost of projector
1454	131.67	23.04	154.71	R J Hill – cost of crusher stones for Rec

The PC approved the payment of the aforementioned invoices

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	30843.44
Plus Receipts for period 1 st – 30 th Oct 2010	163.05
TOTAL:	£31006.49

Minus Payments made for the above Period	£3964.15
TOTAL	£27042.34

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c	25009.63
Current A/c	2032.71
TOTAL	£27042.34

VILLAGE HALL FUNDS	3420.00
PARISH PATHS FUND	2058.00
VILLAGE OF THE YEAR PRIZE	252.00
DONATION FROM PARISHIONER	1949.00
PARISH PLAN FUND	434.00
CAR PARKING	3500.00
TRAINING	165.00
RECREATIONAL GROUND	596.00
GENERAL FUNDS	14668.34
TOTAL	£27042.34

Halberton Newsletter: Income to date £1678.68 - less expenses of £1733.18

= deficit of £54.50

154. Members Businessi.

- i. Cllr Mrs Johnstone provided further information regarding the poor level of postal service being offered at the Village Hall. She had herself complained to the PO about various issues. She agreed to assist the Clerk with details of incidents which would require investigation.
- ii. It was understood that Gerry Anderson had recently died. He was a former Parish Councillor and quite a character in the village and would be very much missed. It was understood that Cllr Mrs Jepps in conjunction with Cllr Corden would deal with the re-designation of plot numbers in the cemetery. The grave allocated for Mr Anderson would be 201.
- iii. Large holes had appeared in the road at the Cordwents end up to the school. A boy had fallen in one of the holes. The Clerk to report the matter to Cllr Hannon
- iv. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert had very kindly offered free flower bulbs which could be planted in the bank outside of the cemetery. She was thanked for this most generous gesture
- v. Cllr Mrs Cuthbert would deal with the acquisition of the Christmas tree

155. Future PC Meetings

i. 23rd November 2010 at 7.30pm - Planning Ctte Meeting at Halberton Village Hall - (subject to there being planning applications received) followed by Charity Recreational Ground AGM at 8.00pm

ii. 14th December 2010

7.00pm - Planning Ctte Meeting

7.30pm - Ordinary PC Meeting

The Meeting closed at 9.45pm

CHAIRMAN

DATED

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