

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH  
COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008 AT 7.30PM AT  
HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

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**79. Present**

The Chairman (Cllr Browse), Vice-Chairman (Cllr Britton), Cllrs Mesdames \*\*Cuthbert, Jepps and Johnstone, Corden, Gibbs, Lane-Smith, \*Radford, Saunders and Wooding, CCllr Des Hannon, Jonathon Underwood Prospective Liberal Democratic Candidate for Tiverton and Honiton and approximately eighteen members of the public

\*Cllr Radford arrived later on in the meeting

\*\*Cllr Corden explained that Mrs Cuthbert had had to leave the meeting early due to becoming upset by Cllr LSmith's manner at the meeting

**80. Apologies**

Beat Officer – Katie Rich

**81. Public Forum**

Parishioners raised concerns as to various hedges in Halberton which required trimming urgently as they had now become a safety hazard, in particular the hedge belonging to Cllr Radford and the hedge outside the Farmshop along the bend. The towpath from Greenway Bridge towards Sellack required top dressing. Various Parish Councillors would pursue these issues. Another parishioner indicated his concerns about the proposed licensing application for the Farm Shop. The item would be discussed later in the meeting. CCllr Hannon introduced Jon Underwood, the prospective Lib Dem Parliamentary Candidate for Tiverton and Honiton. The PC warmly welcomed him to the meeting.

**82. Police Matters**

Jon Sims the new PCSO introduced himself the meeting. He provided background information about himself and indicated that he was looking forward to serving the local community. He advised that the crime figures for the last two months were:- shed break-ins 17, dwelling break-ins – 4, theft from vehicles - 3, car theft – 1, other thefts – 1, taking car without consent - 1, criminal damage to vehicles - 4, criminal damage to dwellings - 4, criminal damage to property - 2, domestic -1, false representation of a cheque - 1, assaults - 3. He advised that one arrest had been made in connection with the burglaries but they had still continued. It had however been noted that there been no further burglaries since early September. Shed alarms were available free of charge to victims of shed break-ins. They were also available at a cost of £5 from Devon and Cornwall Police, to anybody else who required them. Burglars were tending to look for power tools when breaking into sheds. House to house enquiries had been carried out. There had also been increased police patrols during the night in view of the increase in criminal activity in the Parish. Jon emphasised the importance of reporting all incidents to the police on 0845 2777444 or 999. The police intended to work far closer with Neighbourhood Watch and meetings would be organised shortly with Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators. The matter of enforcing the 30mph speed limit along Willand Road was raised by CCllr Hannon. Jon explained that the police had been out and about in the vicinity with their speed guns. The police were keen to increase the use of cycles by their officers as this was proving to be an effective means of apprehending certain offenders. The advantage of cycles was that they significantly increased the speed at which officers could pursue offenders. However, prior to police being able to use the cycles, they would need to undertake a training course. Concern was expressed by a parishioner about the inefficient policing in respect of the vandalism in the village. It was understood that the culprits had been spoken to by Jon and Beat Officer Katie Rich. Jon was thanked for his help and support in the Parish to date.

### **83. Approval of the Minutes**

Cllr LSmith considered that two areas of Minute 59 of the July 2008 minutes were factually incorrect. He did not go into detail as to what these areas were, but proposed the motion that the minutes be adjourned. Cllr Gibbs initially seconded the motion and then withdrew as he had not been present at the July meeting at which the item had been discussed. No other member of the PC wished to second the motion, as the other members present considered that the minutes were correct. Therefore Cllr LSmith's motion failed. Cllr Mrs Johnstone proposed the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> July 2008 be approved without amendment. Cllr Corden seconded them and the motion was carried.

### **84. Matters Arising**

- i. Cllr Corden had checked the swings now that the height of the swings had been adjusted to the correct height and confirmed they were satisfactory. It was understood that the fencing had been replaced and those members of the PC involved in erecting the new fence had said that the great team spirit and camaraderie had ensured that the work had been carried out in an atmosphere of good fun and mutual co-operation. It was noted that hardcore was now urgently required for the entrance and this would have to be considered as soon as possible.
- ii. Cllr Corden advised members that he had not forgotten about the recycling signs which needed to be removed and would attend to it, as soon as he was able.
- iii. Vitalise had sent a letter of thanks for the PC's donation of £50.
- iv. Mrs Stoneman had sent a letter of thanks to the Clerk for all her help regarding a monumental stone repair
- v. It was confirmed that the sweeper lorry had visited Halberton immediately after the Clerk's phone call to MDDC and had cleared Halberton of debris
- vi. The PC had been unsuccessful in its bid to win one of the Devon Rural Housing Partnership Housing Awards.
- vii. The crash barrier near the Barge had still not been repaired despite the Clerk reporting the matter. The Clerk would pursue the matter.
- viii. The Clerk asked if anyone had recently checked the state of the cemetery paths as complaints had been made at the July meeting that the paths needed to be weeded. The cemetery had not been checked recently so the situation was unknown. However as there has been no further complaints made to the PC it was presumed that the problem had been addressed by the grass cutters.
- ix. The problem with the footpath at the Willand Industrial Estate (it appeared the entrance had been moved) was ongoing

### **85. Chairman's Announcements**

Alan Hunt had very generously offered to make a replacement bench for the Dick Drew bench which had had to be removed from its site, due to vandalism. Mr Hunt would only require the cost of the materials which he estimated to be in the region of £100 - £150. It was agreed that this was a very kind offer and the item to be included on the October agenda for further discussion. The Chairman advised that there was now a new Code of Conduct in relation to the canal towpath which appeared to have approval from all interested parties.

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

- i. The local foods section at Tiverton Pannier Market had expanded and in view of this the food hall had moved from the north to the south end of the market to allow more room for the increasing number of local traders. Angela Browning opened the extension to the local foods area in August
- ii. "Trickster" is a performance by Soloman Theatre Group which provides a short and enjoyable musical performance to get across an important message to elderly people about bogus callers,

unscrupulous workmen etc. It would take place on 19<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30pm at the Old Heathcote School Community Centre

iii. Mid Devon would offer free swimming to over 60s for a trial period of one year commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009

iv. MDDC was currently working on the allocation of housing land to meet the needs of the next 20 years. MDDC would be publishing an "Allocations and Infrastructure Development Plan Document" next year which would identify sufficient private sector and affordable housing sites

v. MDDC's Licensing service had exceeded targets for issuing licences within the appropriate timescales. From April 2007 – March 2008, MDDC received a total of 1,037 applications. Of these 99.3% were issued within the statutory timescales, exceeding the target of 95% which is set locally

vi. MDDC was reminding people to be aware when travelling in a taxi that the vehicles and drivers were properly identified. It was important to check the driver was wearing a identity badge and that his vehicle displayed either a hackney or private hire plate.

vii. MDDC was responding to concerns by local traders by agreeing to take action on a number of fronts to boost trading conditions in Tiverton town and contribute to town centre regeneration. The package of measures included introducing free parking on Sundays by opening the multi-storey car park in December for the run-up to Christmas and improving the environment of the multi-storey car park, etc

viii. A pilot non-medical support service to help older people continue living on their own had been launched by DCC and the South Western Ambulance Service Trust. MDDC operates a pendant alarm service which is included in the pilot. This will enable a new team of equipped and trained non-medical staff, free up the ambulance service to deal with medical emergencies

### **87. DCC Matters**

i. CCllr Hannon advised that the problems with flooding in Lower Town may be resolved earlier than anticipated. He advised that if the agreement of two landowners to place drainage pipes in their land came to fruition, this should cure the problem of flooding in the vicinity.

ii. CCllr Hannon advised that the Tour of Britain cyclists coming Tiverton and Halberton had been a great success. 1500 children had turned out to watch in Tiverton and also the children from Halberton School when the Tour passed through Halberton. He concluded that the event had been quite spectacular.

iii. The problem of drainage issues at Cllr LSmith's house had still not been resolved. CCllr Hannon would pursue the matter further.

iv. It was understood that the road from Thurlscombe Cross to Rowridge had been patched but would be surface dressed next year.

### **88. Code of Conduct Matters and Further Developments**

The Clerk reported that the review sub-cttee of the Standards Cttee of Mid Devon District Council met again to reconsider all the complaints and in all the complaints the original decision of the Assessment Sub-Cttee was upheld whereby it would not refer the complaints for investigation or other action. There followed a discussion about the issue and the last Council minutes. Cllrs LSmith and Corden spoke on the issues. A parishioner Mr Anderson submitted a letter requesting information and the Clerk agreed she would follow up the points raised in the letter."

### **89. Registration of the title deeds in respect of the Rec at the Land Registry**

It was resolved that the Clerk effect the registration at a cost of £40

### **90. Update on Unitary Situation**

The Clerk had received substantial correspondence from Mid Devon District Council, DCC and the Boundary Cttee which she would make available to any interested member of the PC. MDDC

did not consider the unitary option was in the best interests of Mid Devon residents. The Boundary Ctte had until 26<sup>th</sup> September to consult all stakeholders in Devon on the proposal for a single Unitary Council for Devon before they made their final recommendations to the Sec of State by 31<sup>st</sup> December. DCC was convening a series of meetings around the county during the second half of September and it would be useful for any interested persons to attend. The Clerk had details. MDDC was holding a "State of the District Debate" on 10<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm at Tiverton Town Hall which would concentrate on Local Government Review and would form one of the final stages of the District Council consultation process. The results would be fed into the final representations to the Boundary Ctte. There would be a number of guest speakers.

### **91. Parish Plan/Emergency Plan Update**

Cllr Mrs Johnson had advised that there has been a disappointing response to the Questionnaires re updating the Parish Plan. Out of 83 distributed, only 3 responses had been received. Until further responses had been received it was not further to progress this matter. It was also agreed that the distribution of the Parish Newsletter be included on the October agenda as there were areas of the Parish which did not receive it. The Emergency Plan was ongoing.

### **92. Licensing Application - Halberton Court Farm Shop**

The Licensing application for the Farmshop was discussed. There was much debate. The PC resolved to approve the application. The Chairman and Cllr LSmith declared personal interests. Cllr Radford abstained as he was a member of MDDC's Licensing Ctte

### **93. Proposed Removal of BT phone boxes in Halberton**

MDDC had submitted to BT representations on behalf of the PC for retaining the two phone boxes in Halberton and Ash Thomas. MDDC was presently awaiting the outcome from BT. However in respect of the Ash Thomas phone box, BT was now offering the PC, the opportunity to either adopt the phone box at a cost of £500 per annum, or for it to be transferred over to the PC for nominal consideration of £1, with the phone equipment being removed so that the box would be for ornamental purposes only. The PC discussed the matter and concluded that the costs involved of either adopting or purchasing the box were prohibitive (there would be on-going maintenance costs if the PC purchased the phone box to meet its insurance requirements, additional insurance premium payments etc), and decided to take no further action in this matter.

### **94. PO Closure Update**

Cllr Mrs Johnstone advised that there were problems with setting up the Outreach Centre in the Village Hall. The PO should have contacted her to progress the new arrangements but this had not occurred, to date. She advised that the PO would close at the end of October. Angela Browning MP had also advised that she was also waiting for full details of the outreach service intended for Halberton

### **95. Digital UK**

The Clerk provided a timetable of the countdown to the digital switchover. It was agreed that the information should be included in the Newsletter so that all parishioners were aware of the changes, in particular, the elderly.

### **96. Community Council for Devon – Community Buildings Research Survey Results**

CCD had undertaken the first comprehensive research for 10 years into Devon's village halls. The research set out to investigate and report on the use, impact, and potential of multi-use community buildings across rural Devon. It assessed the financial, environmental, and social issues that they faced. The survey gave a clear picture of the activities and impact of community buildings in Devon. It demonstrated some of the economic, social and environmental outcomes of their work and highlighted key recommendations to sustain and build on these achievements.

## **97. Car Park/Footpath Update**

There was nothing further to report at this stage.

## **98. Future Meetings/Events**

11<sup>th</sup> September 2008 - Newton Abbot Race Course 10.00am – South West Life Long Learning Network Conference -

17<sup>th</sup> September 2008 – Hatherleigh Community Centre – Local Food and Drink Event

17<sup>th</sup> September 2008 – Verbeer Manor, Cullompton, Get Involved Mid Devon Voluntary Sector Conference

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2008– Cullompton Town Hall – 2.00pm Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership

24<sup>th</sup> September 2008 – Brimpts Farm, Dartmeet – Local Food and Drink Event

27<sup>th</sup> September 2008 – County Hall, Exeter - DAPC AGM – 11.00am

It was resolved that both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman would attend at a cost of £30 per delegate

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2008 – CCD Rural Health Conference at Bridestow

28<sup>th</sup> November 2008 – Coaver Conference Centre, County Hall – Plastic Packaging – One Day Conference -

## **99. Courses**

16<sup>th</sup> September 2008 – Sutcombe Village Hall – Introduction to sustainable funding for Community Buildings - £20

18<sup>th</sup> September – Clyst St George Village hall – Community Leadership – Free

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2008 – Moretonhampstead – Managing, Maintenance and Inspections for Playgrounds and Recreational Areas - £30 - Cllr LSmith would attend

30<sup>th</sup> September 2008 – Farringdon Village Hall – Making Projects Happen - Free

8<sup>th</sup> October 2008 – Filleigh Village Hall – Physical Access (DDA Legislation) - £20

14<sup>th</sup> October 2008– Bridestow Village Hall – Planning & Funding for Capital Projects - £20

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2008 – Poltimore Village Hall –Governance – What is it?

4<sup>th</sup> November 2008 – Washfield Village Hall – Good Practice and red Tape Show - £20

11<sup>th</sup> November 2008 – America Hall - CCD \_Getting Engaged - Free

18<sup>th</sup> November 2008 – Offwell Village Hall - – Introduction to sustainable funding for Community Buildings - £20

25<sup>th</sup> November 2008 – Bridestow Village Hall – Figuring Out Finance - Free

9<sup>th</sup> December 2008 – Lustleigh Village Hall - Planning & Funding for Capital Projects \_£20

## **100. Committee Reports**

### **Amenities**

The Clerk advised that because the income/outgoings of the Rec` for 2007/08 had reached a particular financial threshold it was necessary for the PC to file accounts, as well as a report to the Charity Commission. It was agreed that an AGM be held prior to the precept meeting in November. An Amenities Ctte meeting would be arranged shortly. Cllr LSmith to let the Clerk know of the proposed date . This meeting would be followed by an Emergency Planning Ctte Meeting

### **The Cemetery**

Cllr Mrs Jepps asked as to what action was being taken regarding the heath and safety issues relating to the Cemetery. She was advised that a meeting had been set up some weeks ago with Ian Quance, Exeter City Council`s Bereavement Officer and would be taking place on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. (This information had been provided in the July Minutes). The Clerk would issue agendas shortly.

## 101. Clerk's Report

The Clerk had nothing to report.

## 102. Accounts

### RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> - 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2008:

Bank Interest	99.34
Newsletter	400.76
Cemetery	25.00
Sale of excess materials to B Corden	34.86
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£559.96</b>

### PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> - 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2008 **£1328.82**

#### PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Vat</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Details</b>
DD	24.00		24.00	MDDC – Cemetery Rates (July)
DD	24.00		24.00	MDDC – Cemetery Rates (Aug)
1229	340.83		340.83	Mrs C McIntyre – salary Sept/Oct
1230	10.86	1.89	12.75	B LSmith – repayment of cost of keys
1231	28.94		28.94	Repayment of costs to Mrs C J McIntyre of stationery
1232	679.50	118.92	798.42	Gardencare – Grass Cutting of Cemetery, the Mead and the Rec
1233	366.45		366.45	Education Matters – publication of Newsletter
1234	15.00		15.00	Mrs J Austin – delivery of Newsletter
1235	8.69		8.68	South West Water – Cemetery Water Rates (May – Aug)
1236	255.40		255.40	HM Revenue & Customs – Quarterly income tax July – September
1237	40.00		40.00	Mrs C McIntyre – Internet and tel calls July – September
1238	20.21		20.21	Mrs C McIntyre – repayment of cost of cartridges
1239	136.50		136.50	Halberton Village Hall – hire of hall Jan – Aug 2008
1240	20.00		20.00	Ash Thomas Village Hall – hire of hall in July
1241	186.95	32.72	219.67	M Britton - repayment for cost of fencing and additional materials
1242	23.89	4.29	28.18	Mrs J Cuthbert – repayment of cost of warning sign and hosting web site

The above invoices were approved for payment

Balance of bank accounts carried forward	25397.34
Plus Receipts for period 1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> Aug 2008	559.96
	<b>TOTAL £25,957.30</b>
Minus Payments made for the above Period	£1328.82
	<b>TOTAL £24,628.48</b>

Made up as follows:- High Interest A/c 23525.22

Current A/c 1103.26

TOTAL £24,628.48

<b>VILLAGE HALL FUNDS</b>	<b>1500.00</b>
<b>PARISH PATHS FUND</b>	<b>2108.79</b>
<b>PARISH PLAN FUND</b>	<b>433.54</b>
<b>CAR PARKING</b>	<b>1500.00</b>
<b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>	<b>19086.15</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£24,628.48</b>

**Halberton Newsletter: Income for Period 1<sup>st</sup> April - 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008 = £1053.75 less expenditure £723.68 = Profit £330.07**

### **103. Other Accounts Matters**

The Clerk explained that in the summer she had had to return an invoice to Mrs Hutter (the Barge) advising her in writing that she was unable to pay the invoice, until she had received a revised invoice for the correct payee . The matter had now been mentioned at two Parish Council meetings and the Clerk confirmed that until Mrs Hutter supplied her direct, or via Cllr Mrs Jepps with the correct invoice, then she was unable to issue Mrs Hutter with a cheque in respect of the coffees provided at the Barge for the judges at the Village of the Year Competition.

### **104. Members Business**

It was requested that the 20mph be extended around the bend to the Farm Shop and a virtual pavement created. Cllr Corden suggested the whole of the Lower Town area should have a restriction of 20mph. The Clerk to pass the request to CCllr Hannon. The Chairman would speak to landowners in the vicinity whose hedges required trimming back

### **105. Next Meeting**

23<sup>rd</sup> September – 7.30pm Cemetery Meeting Halberton Village Hall

\*14<sup>th</sup> October 2008 – 7.00pm Halberton Village Hall - Planning Cttee Meeting of Halberton Parish Council

Above date and location – 7.30pm Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

\*There may also be other Planning Cttee Meetings arranged prior to this date

The Meeting closed at 9.28pm

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**CHAIRMAN**

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**DATED**