

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 10th
NOVEMBER 2015 AT 8.20 PM AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL**

135. PRESENT

The Chairman (Cllr Browse) Cllr Mrs Graham and Cllrs Davis, the Vice-Chairman (Cllr Miller), Saunders and Walters, CCllr Des Hannon, MDDC Cllr Radford and three members of the public

136. APOLOGIES

PCSO Jon Sims, Cllr Radmore

137. PUBLIC FORUM

Trimming works had now been carried out at Greenway. Mr Grabham offered to assist with future trimming if necessary. The Clerk was requested to contact VOSA to check if agricultural tractors using red diesel travelling from Lloyd Maunders to the Red Linhay/Hartnoll Farm could be used to haul waste or maize/waste for digesters. Mr Payne suggested that the area behind the bus stop at Pond Hill area should be turned into a garden and the metal fence be moved back and also a bench or two put in situ. He also mentioned that there was an issue with tree roots. He suggested that a competition to design the actual garden could be organised. The Clerk had already contacted Marian Axtell at MDDC regarding the area. Apparently Marian was still waiting to receive two outstanding quotes and had asked if the PC would be prepared to contribute towards the costs. The Clerk had again requested Marian to provide her with details of the amount of the contribution MDDC would be seeking from the PC. She was still waiting to receive this information. It was suggested that the item be put on the agenda for December

138. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF PARISH COUNCILLOR BY MR M ELLIOTT

Mr Elliott made his declaration of acceptance of office and was warmly welcomed to the PC

139. UPDATE ON PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

A potential candidate had now advised that due to her work commitments for the next few months it was not possible for her to submit an application for co-option but if her circumstances changed then she would contact the Clerk accordingly

140. APPROVAL OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES DATED 13TH OCTOBER 2015

The Minutes were approved and signed accordingly

141. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

i. Review of the opening hours of the Post Office Outreach Service in the Village Hall

The PO had now confirmed that it would now operate a revised opening service from Wednesday 4th November from 10.00am – 12 noon

ii. Damage to gate at the Cemetery

The Clerk had reported the issue to Phil Norrey, DCC's Chief Executive. He in turn had referred it to Matthew Jones at DCC. Matthew had asked Dan Meek to request the Cordwents tenant to effect a repair without delay. However PCllrs reported that to date, it had not been dealt with. The Clerk to further pursue the matter with Matthew

142. APPROVAL OF PROPOSED PRECEPT FIGURE

The PC resolved to accept a precept figure of £12530 for 2016/2017

143. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised in his NALC role that he had been involved in the setting up of a Board to procure for the auditing of local councils now that the Audit Commission had been abolished.

144. AEE RENEWABLES – PROPOSED GRANT

It was understood that Barrie Corden had instructed Ashfords solicitors to act in this matter, as a form of undertaking was required with regards to the grant. The Clerk advised that the matter was going through a legal process

145. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO J Sims had provided the following report:-

Crimes Recorded - 01/10/2015 to 25/10/2015 - KU2S

| Offence | Recorded Crime 01/10/2015 to 25/10/2015 | Recorded Crime 01/10/2014 to 25/10/2014 | Recorded Crime % Difference |
|-------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| Violence without Injury | 1 | 2 | -50.0% |
| Other Theft | 1 | 0 | - |
| Total | 2 | 2 | 0.0% |

Incidents Recorded - 01/10/2015 to 25/10/2015 - KU2S

| Incident Closing Category | Incidents - 01/10/2015 to 25/10/2015 | Incidents - 01/10/2014 to 25/10/2014 | Incidents % Difference |
|---------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|
| Anti Social Behaviour | 1 | 0 | - |
| Crime Recorded | 1 | 0 | - |
| Public Safety | 8 | 5 | 60.0% |
| Transport | 2 | 3 | -33.3% |
| Total | 12 | 8 | 50.0% |

In addition Jon had advised with regard to a Speedwatch being carried out, that he would speak with the Road Casualty Reduction officer and look to see if a Speed Data Recorder (SDR) could be placed within the village. The two active Speed Watch Volunteers had now retired and although there were other members of the community who were signed up to Speed Watch they had not yet been utilised therefore Jon considered that this may now be an opportunity to use them. However his main problem was that there were only two sites to carry out the work neither which were in the High St. (Green Acre and the Farm Shop). He advised that if the police could place a SDR within the High St then it could analyse the data to determine if there was an issue. The Clerk to request a SDR in the High Street. Jon also advised that the police budget was going to be massively cut (£54 Million over the next 5 years including PCSO's and Police Officers) and although no decisions had yet been made the style of policing, from the New Year it was likely to drastically change!

146. GRASS CUTTING PROPOSALS BY DCC AND MDDC TO BE CONSIDERED (AND IF APPROPRIATE) AGREED BY THE PC

The Clerk had now received plans showing the verges that DCC currently maintained. DCC was seeking for this work to be carried out wef 1st April 2016 with the PC being paid £400 for taking on this work (this allocation reflected Halberton's percentage of highway urban visibility verge compared to the rest of the county). She had e-mailed the PCllrs details of all the documentation and draft agreements received from DCC which the DCC would require the PC to enter into. It was resolved that the PC would carry out this task

MDDC was also hoping that the PC would take on their current grass cutting obligations. To maintain current standards in Halberton, a total of seven to eight cuts per annum would be required and MDDC should be able to provide two cuts per annum based on the income from DCC for the 2015-16 financial year. Based on this, the contribution amount required would be £1,229.94 for eight cuts per annum payable by the PC. It was agreed that the PC would not take this work on at the present time

147. THE REC – UPDATE ON REPAIRS AND DETAILS OF RECENT ACCIDENT

Following the accident involving a child of Halberton School who had injured herself on a piece of equipment on the Rec; the Clerk had provided the recent Rospa report to the school which it had asked for after obtaining consent from the Chairman. The Chairman had also visited the school to check that the school was happy that all matters concerning the accident had been satisfactorily addressed by the PC. It was understood that the depth of the rubber safety granules in the play area was still low. Cllr Davis would convey this information to the school in order that the pupils did not yet re-commence their use of the equipment until the depth had been rectified to the correct level. Several members of the Amenities Ctte Meeting agreed to deal with outstanding tasks to various areas in the Parish on Saturday 28th November at 10.00am. A previous meeting had been arranged but had had to be cancelled due to adverse weather. Barrie Corden and Mike Britton to be contacted to deal with the checking of the graves in the cemetery

148. CEMETERY MATTERS

The inspection of the Cemetery had still not been carried out. The Clerk again stressed that it was important to ensure this task was undertaken to ensure insurance compliancy.

149. MDDC MATTERS

- i. Exe Valley Leisure Centre has been awarded Gold in the category of public services at the Tiverton in Bloom competition
- ii. the appointment of Stephen Walford as Chief Executive of the Council had been confirmed

150. DCC MATTERS (including Snow Warden update)

i. The Clerk was waiting to hear whether Derek Hand could be permitted to train Cllr Davis as a Snow Warden. She would chase DCC up regarding this request

Steve Leigh from DCC had advised of the following:-

- ii. The potholes which urgently required filling at Pethertons and along Church Path had been inspected and pothole defects issued to the contractor. It was understood from Cllr Graham that the works to Church Path had now been completed
- iii. Steve would try and get the developer to finish the footway surfacing asap at Crown Hill. He was also trying to get DCC's development team to ensure everything was to an adoptable standard
- iv. Repairs had been carried out to the corner of the layby near the telegraph pole at Pond Hill

v. The timings of the street lights had been adjusted and they were now functioning at appropriate times

vi. Cllr Radford reported that a light was out by the Barge Public House. He would report back at the next meeting to advise if the situation had changed. It was also understood that the Jubilee light at the pond was being obstructed by a laurel tree. The PC to deal with the issue

vii. The consultation for the Minerals Plan would close in two weeks at 5.00pm on Monday 16th November 2015.

viii. Communities across Devon were being called on to nominate their unsung recycling heroes, whose efforts had helped the county become one of the greenest in the UK. The fourth Recycle Devon Thank You Awards were being held in February and from this week nominations for the eight categories, including those for schools, business, children and community groups, could be submitted. Entries need to be in by 30 November with judging takes place in December and January. It was agreed that the Village Hall Ctte should be nominated as they spend an inordinate amount of time sorting out items correctly for recycling. Ironically DCC was not collecting the Village Hall's waste as it treated the Village Hall as a business and as such was not required to collect it!

ix. It was understood that the new Government spending targets meant that a further £110m of savings were likely to be needed over the next 4 years with £35m of this in the coming year 2016/17. A meeting had been arranged for Tuesday 8 December from 6:30pm – 8:30pm at The Hayridge, Devon Centre, Exeter Hill, Cullompton EX15 1DJ at which John Hart the Leader of DCC would speak about the issues. Members of the public were invited

x. Cllr Hannon advised that negotiations had been going on behind the scenes to try and ensure that funding for the canal was treated as a core partnership piece of funding rather than a discretionary grant in view of its importance – tourist, economy wellbeing etc thus ensuring the long term sustainability for the canal was secured. Cllr Radford confirmed that funding would be taken out of discretionary grants and there would be a satisfactory result which was reassuring as the canal was very important for Halberton

xi. Cllr Hannon had a number of copies of the new town map and information from Tiverton Town Council which he suggested be sent out with newsletter. Cllr Graham gratefully agreed

151. FOOTPATHS

The P3 finance forms i.e. Summary of Expenditure, P3 Annual Grant Form and Summary of Works together with the annual survey required to be returned by Monday, 15th February 2016 in order for the PC to receive a grant. The Chairman will deal with this. Thanks should be given to Nico Page who had made such an excellent job of trimming the path leading from the church

152. TRANSPARENCY CODE

The Chairman advised that the requirements of the Transparency Code were not being strictly complied with by many councils due to lack of knowledge, equipment and time. He was therefore of the opinion that there was no immediate pressure on the PC to have to strictly comply with the stated timelines which applied to the Code as there were many councils who would not be doing so. The Clerk advised that she had everything ready for the Transparency Code items to go onto the Parish website but it would be matter for the Parish webmaster (Tim Hugill) or somebody else to upload the items on the website as she had no

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| SENSORY PATH/CANAL | £900.00 |
| NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN | £200.00 |
| *VILLAGE HALL FUNDS | £2920.00 |

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|----------------------------|----------|
| PLANTS FOR FLORAL DISPLAYS | £131.00 |
| PARISH PATHS FUND | £1578.00 |
| ELECTIONS | £333.00 |
| VILLAGE OF THE YEAR PRIZE | £212.00 |
| DONATION FROM PARISHIONER | £238.00 |

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|----------------------|------------------|
| PARISH PLAN FUND | £434.00 |
| CAR PARKING | £6500.00 |
| TRAINING | £200.00 |
| COMPUTER/SOFTWARE | £400.00 |
| CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE | £40.00 |
| GENERAL FUNDS | £8365.22 |
| TOTAL | £22451.22 |

*Ash Thomas Village Hall - £1750 and Halberton Village Hall £1170

Newsletter Income £ 2393 Outgoings £ 2480 Deficit = £87

HALBERTON CHILDREN'S RECREATIONAL GROUND REGISTERED CHARITY

PAYMENTS RECEIVED

| Date | Payer | Details | Amount |
|----------|--------|---|--------|
| Oct 2015 | Hal PC | Transfer of Licence Fee Recd from school | 75.00 |

PAYMENTS TO BE APPROVED

| Cheque No | Amount | Vat | Total | Details |
|-----------|--------|-----|-------|---------|
|-----------|--------|-----|-------|---------|

Income to date £ 1443.19 (£368.19 c/f from year end 2014/15)

Outgoings £533

Monies in Bank as at 31st October 2015 - £910.19

158. MEMBERS BUSINESS (TO RECEIVE ANY STATEMENTS MADE AND NOTICE OF FURTHER QUESTIONS)

Nothing was raised

159. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

A Devon Remembers Heritage Project event, was taking place at Tiverton Museum of Mid Devon Life on Wednesday evening 11th November. The event would provide the opportunity to find out more about the Devon Remembers Heritage Project, which will be working across the county to help to commemorate Devon's contribution to the First World War.

160. FUTURE MEETINGS

- i. Planning Ctte Meeting on 24th November 2015 at 7.30pm at Halberton Village Hall (Provisional)
- ii. Annual General Meeting of the Halberton Children`s Recreational Ground Charity on 8th December 2015 at 6.45pm at Halberton Village Hall
- iii. Planning Ctte Meeting on 8th December 2015 at 7.00pm at Halberton Village Hall
- iv. Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on 8th December 2015 at 7.30pm at Halberton Village Hall

The Meeting closed at 9.15pm

DATE

CHAIRMAN