

**A meeting of the Traffic Committee of Halberton Parish Council will be held at
Halberton Village Hall on Wednesday, 5 April 2023 at 7.30pm**

All members of the Traffic Committee are summonsed to attend for the purpose of transacting the business specified in the Agenda below.

**Sue McGeever
Clerk for Halberton Parish Council
28/03/23**

AGENDA

Item		Report Page
1	Apologies	N/A
2	Declaration of Interest	N/A
3	Public Forum	N/A
4	Approval of the Minutes of 1 March 2023	2 to 7
5	Update of Vision Zero South West	8
6	Update on actions resulting from the Petition	9 to 10
7	Update on ways to submit traffic incidents/submissions	11
8	Update on lorries and potential action on weight limits	12 to 14
9	20mph speed limits	15
10	Joint speed limit committee	16
11	Other traffic related items	17
12	Date of next meeting	N/A

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Page
4	Approval of the Minutes of 1 March 2023	2 to 7

Halberton Parish Council

Minutes of the Traffic Committee of Halberton Parish Council held at Halberton Village Hall On Wednesday, 1 March 2023

Present: Councillors Browse and Graham together with Liz Brooks, Georgie Fice and Jerry Mahany.
The Clerk was also in attendance.

In the absence of Councillor Batchelor, Councillor Browse chaired the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillor Batchelor, Margaret Anderson, Christina Curee e Couto and Neil Purves.

2. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public Forum

There was no-one present for the public forum.

4. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 4 January 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

5. Update of Vision Zero South West

The Clerk reported as follows:

VAS posts

DCC had provided the specifications for the posts that will go on the private land.

Councillor Browse wished to clarify exactly where the posts were going and the report on the placement of poles for the VAS units and the new pedestrian signs were reviewed in detail.

Councillor Batchelor had advised the Clerk that he was looking at potential contractors to insert the posts.

It was felt that the installation of three of the posts should be given priority so that the VAS units were in situ as soon as possible. It was felt further discussion may be required on the siting of the fourth pole.

Action: Parish Council to organise installation

VAS signs

The signs are ordered and will be delivered once the posts are in place.

Action: Clerk

Other Action points:

- Press Release upon receipt of VAS units (GF)
- Press Release when VAS units in place (GF)

Signs

A delivery date for the pedestrian signs was awaited.

Action: Clerk in contact with DCC

Flashing lights at school

The process for having the lights in now known and an email was sent in January 2023 to move the project forward. This was followed up in February 2023.

Action: Clerk in contact with DCC

Accounts

Information has been received that the Parish Council may not be invoiced for works by DCC until the next financial year. This is understood to be acceptable to Vision Zero.

6. Update on actions resulting from the Petition

The Clerk reported as follows:

Speed limits

At present there is no intention to bring speed limits within the parish into alignment. SCAT facts showed that most drivers complied with or drove under the speed limits from Sampford Peverell to Halberton and Halberton to Willand.

Drivers are expected to drive at a speed that is safe for the road.

Pedestrian Crossing at the Village Hall

When the Clerk met Highways at the DALC conference, she was advised that it was highly unlikely that a pedestrian crossing could be placed at the Village Hall.

The Clerk had requested the criteria for applying for a pedestrian crossing and the associated costs. An application to Transport Planning in May 2022 and just received an automated reply.

Action: Clerk

Local Traffic Only

When the Parish Council met DCC in July 22, it was indicated that DCC would see if it was possible to add the wording 'Local Traffic Only' on the exit sign to Sampford Peverell at the first junction of the A361 heading towards Tiverton in a bid to encourage drivers to stay on the A361 rather than take the back route through SP and Halberton. Follow up emails have been sent.

Action: Clerk

Temporary Traffic Lights

The following question had been asked of DCC.

Would DCC consider temporary traffic lights at Halberton when the A361 is closed?

It does not happen very often but when the A361 is closed, Halberton becomes a complete bottleneck as drivers strive to keep going through the various give way signs and not give way to allow cars to move in the opposite direction. This has resulted in High Street residents having to go out and direct traffic and have drivers backing up to allow lorries to pass etc.

If temporary traffic lights were placed at the two ends of the 20mph limit, it would allow traffic to flow freely in one direction and then the other. This would also allow emergency vehicles to access the village if required.

Action: Clerk in contact with DCC

Average Speed Cameras

The question was also asked of DCC as to whether they felt average speed cameras through the 20mph limit would encourage people not to speed?

Action: Clerk in contact with DCC

Rose Cottage Bridge (formerly referred to as Spatford Bridge)

The Parish Council had been informed that the bridge would be undergoing works in April 2023.

Works will involve the narrowing of the carriageway on both approaches with the installation of bollards to delineate the new approach. On the bridge itself kerb lines will reduce the road width to 3.5m. This is all to be done as the bridge parapets are often being struck by vehicles as the current road width over the bridge is deceiving and drivers unfamiliar with it think it wide enough for two cars to pass when it is not. Subsequently to avoid the oncoming car vehicles are striking the bridge, particularly on the western approach. The upstream bridge parapet is currently in need of repair due to one such incident and will be done alongside the works.

There will be sign posting that the road narrows on the approaches to the bridge.

The bridge doesn't have any weight restrictions on it so is suitable to take all loads. However, there is a 7.5ton restriction on the road. Such restrictions do not apply to agricultural vehicles.

Councillor Browse felt that this was a major step forward given the number of times the bridge had been hit over the years and once a positive result from the meeting.

Other Actions:

- All to work on obtaining signatures on the petition
- All to work on encouraging people to report traffic issues
- SMS text for Traffic Issues to be more widely circulated

It should be noted that no further signatures have been added to the petition and there are 59 signatures online. The majority of these had been forwarded to Councillor Slade in the autumn.

7. Update on ways to submit traffic incidents/submissions

Report from Councillor Furmedge.

There have been no further submissions online in the past months.

There have been no submissions via the mobile number. There were two options:

1. drop the experiment
2. carry out the promotion over the next two/three months and see if there is a response

It was felt important to record as many minor traffic incidents as possible. Any major traffic incident would involve the police and a police report which would then appear on appropriate website. However, it was important that action was taken before another serious incident occurred.

The use of Facebook could be a possible way to increase the number of incidents submitted.

It was noted that potholes resulting in damage to cars had been reported. The latest pothole was due to a burst water pipe which was outside DCC's control.

It was felt that weight of vehicles travelling on roads designated at 7.5 ton and the width of vehicles taking the along the middle of the road together with old water pipes could be a potential reason. The Clerk was asked to contact South West Water.

Action: Clerk

Other Actions:

- All to work on encouraging people to report traffic issues
- SMS text for Traffic Issues to be more widely circulated

8. Update on lorries and potential action on weight limits

The Parish Council is working to set up a meeting with the Devon and Cornwall Police's Commercial & Agricultural Vehicle Lead and Road Casualty Reduction Officer to discuss the movement of lorries and tractors in the parish.

The Parish Council continues to pursue the possibility of setting up the AD Liaison Group to understand the number of tractor and HGV movements through the village.

The Parish Council has also used recent planning applications to highlight the amount of HGVs and tractors moving through the High Street and Lower Town.

Other Actions to be completed:

1. Clerk to photograph lorry signs at Willand leading to Halberton and provide them to DCC with a copy to Councillor Slade
2. Clerk to investigate costs and Parish Council be requested to agree the funds to purchase the two units to monitor the impact of traffic on buildings and air quality.

[Vibration Measurement Equipment & Accessories \(thesafetysupplycompany.co.uk\)](http://thesafetysupplycompany.co.uk)

The Clerk was in contact with a company based in Devon that carries out surveys – long term this might prove more effective as it would result in a document that could be submitted to Highways. It was hoped an approximate cost would be known by the next meeting.

[Air Quality Monitors | Air Quality Meter | RS \(rs-online.com\)](#)

The price varies considerably but the link above gives an indication of cost.

3. Councillor Furmedge has provided the Clerk with information on Teleraam – click link to see more [Telraam](#)

While doing more research the parish of Lymm in the Borough of Warrington, Cheshire has these counting devices deployed and is actively counting traffic on a few of their roads. They have couple of web pages that show they are taking a keen interest in traffic safety :

<https://www.lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk/speeding>

<https://www.lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk/traffic-survey>

This page also has links to a document that describes the counting device and its usage and finally a link to the [live map](#) (click on the highlighted roads) that shows the traffic counts and by drilling down on the day can see the history.

Note: It appears they have configured the device to not post pictures, likely for GDPR reasons.

Teraam are soon to have a much slicker S2 version.

Action: Councillor Furmedge/Clerk to investigate further – the more information on traffic movements the more informed responses to the traffic problems could be produced.

Action:

- Clerk to follow up on 'Local Traffic Only' on the signage at the first exit of the A361
- Clerk to photograph lorry signs at Willand leading to Halberton and provide them to DCC with a copy to Councillor Slade

Discussion then took place on the potential damage to property and health as a result of the number of HGV and tractor movements.

It was felt the purchase of a vibration monitor and air quality monitor could be beneficial.

Action: Clerk to investigate costs and Parish Council be requested to agree the funds to purchase the two units. These units could then be lent to individuals around the village to monitor the impact of traffic on buildings and air quality.

9. Update on 20mph extension submission

Expression of Interest for 20mph speed limit

The Clerk had submitted a revised bid to cover Lower Town from the turning off the main road to Pethertons. This covered access to the school, car park and playing field and represented an area where there was little or no pavement.

Bids were being assessed but it was unlikely a decision would be know before June.

In the meantime, work was ongoing to try and improve road safety in the area.

This includes a short pavement at the end of Church Lane.

Action: Clerk to remain in contact with DCC

20's plenty campaign

Halberton Parish Council is signed up to the campaign.

A Zoom meeting on 22 February brought together all parishes signed up for the scheme in Devon following the announcement from Cornwall that they are seeking to adopt 20mph limits.

Signs for windows, bins and cars are available from the Clerk.

Seddon signs

It was agreed that these signs would not be used in the existing 20mph area.

One or two signs have appeared in the 30mph areas.

Information had been received to suggest that provided they are on private land, Highways is happy for them to be displayed.

Action:

- Councillor Batchelor to look at Crossparks
- Clerk to speak to Councillor Furmedge and residents of Brithem Bottom
- Clerk to liaise with Seddons

10. Joint speed limit committee

Emails were being circulated to establish the date of the next meeting with Halberton, Sampford Peverell, Uffculme and Willand as the members of the group.

An invitation to attend the meeting will be put out to Uplowman and Crazelowman and consideration given to Cullompton and Tiverton.

11. Other traffic related items

Overgrown hedges

Letters were delivered to properties whose hedges come into road and affect the safety of pedestrians and drivers.

One hedge had been cut and Councillor Browse would advise the Clerk of the contractor.

Action: Councillor Browse/Clerk

The situation will now be monitored.

Pavement at The Hickory Inn

The Parish Council continues to liaise with MDDC Enforcement to identify whether or not the parking spaces can be sold off given the original intention was to provide parking for residents.

The Parish Council is also looking to see if there are any other parking solutions at the Sampford Peverell end of the village..

It was felt that the decision should be taken to put a pavement in at the Hickory Inn to improve the road safety for pedestrians.

Action: Clerk to contact DCC

It was noted that barrier next to The Hickory Inn had been flattened and there was the potential for a vehicle to go down the drop.

Action: Clerk to contact DCC

Concern was raised about cars parking in the cycle lane before the Hickory Inn.

Action: Clerk to contact police.

12. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on 5 April 2023 with a start time of 7.30pm.

Action: Councillor Graham to book the Jubilee Room

Signed _____ Date _____

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Page
5	Update of Vision Zero South West	8

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Action: Parish Council to organise installation

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Action: Clerk

Other Action points:

- Press Release upon receipt of VAS units (GF)
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Action: Clerk in contact with DCC

Flashing lights at school

The process for having the lights in now known and an email was sent in January 2023 to move the project forward. This was followed up in February and March 2023.

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Accounts

Information has been received that the Parish Council may not be invoiced for works by DCC until the next financial year. This is understood to be acceptable to Vision Zero.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Page
6	Update on actions resulting from the Petition	9 to 10

Speed limits

At present there is no intention to bring speed limits within the parish into alignment.
(Joint Parish Meeting to co-ordinate action)

Pedestrian Crossing at the Village Hall

When the Clerk met Highways at the DALC conference, we were advised it was highly unlikely that we would be able to organise to have a pedestrian crossing at the Village Hall.

The Clerk has requested the criteria for applying for a pedestrian crossing and the associated costs. An application to Transport Planning in May 2022 and just received an automated reply.

Action: Clerk – followed up in March

Local Traffic Only

When the Parish Council met DCC in July 22, it was indicated that DCC would see if it was possible to add the wording 'Local Traffic Only' on the exit sign to Sampford Peverell at the first junction of the A361 heading towards Tiverton in a bid to encourage drivers to stay on the A361 rather than take the back route through SP and Halberton.

Follow up emails have been sent again in March

Action: Clerk

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This would also allow emergency vehicles to access the village if required.

Action: Clerk in contact with DCC – followed up in March

Average Speed Cameras

The question was also asked of DCC as to whether they felt average speed cameras through the 20mph limit would encourage people not to speed?

Action: Clerk in contact with DCC – followed up in March

Bridge at Rose Cottage

The work was due to be undertaken in April.

Other Actions:

- All to work on obtaining signatures on the petition
- All to work on encouraging people to report traffic issues
- SMS text for Traffic Issues to be more widely circulated

It should be noted that no further signatures have been added to the petition and there are 59 signatures online. The majority of these had been forwarded to Councillor Slade in the autumn.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Page
7	Update on ways to submit traffic incidents/submissions	11

Report from Councillor Furmedge.

There have been no further submissions online or via SMS in the past months.

On the community website halberton.org.uk there is a new facility to receive an email notification of any planned road closures we are made aware of. The signup page is <https://halberton.org.uk/email-notification-sign-up/>
For information the same notification are sent to Facebook.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Page
8	Update on lorries and potential action on weight limits	01/12/14

The Parish Council met on line with members of the Devon and Cornwall Police's Commercial & Agricultural Vehicle Department and the Road Casualty Reduction Officer to discuss the movement of lorries and tractors in the parish.

The following information is provided from that meeting:

Weight restriction TRO – Willand to Halberton Road :

The Weight restriction Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) document number 49468 reference IMR/B14522-5584 dated 5th December 2018. As with most Weight Restrictions this TRO refers to Heavy Goods vehicles and makes a distinct definition within section 2 of the TRO as follows:

*2. In this order **Heavy Goods Vehicle** has the same meaning as 'heavy commercial vehicle' in section 128 of the Act*

It then goes on to identify the particular areas that the order relates too:

*3. Save as provided in articles 6 and 9 no person shall cause a **Heavy Goods Vehicle over 7.5 tonnes** to proceed within the lengths of road specified in schedule 1*

*4. Save as provided in articles 7, 9 and 10 no person shall cause a **Heavy Goods Vehicle over 7.5 tonnes** to proceed within the lengths of road specified in schedule 2*

*5. Save as provided in articles 8 and 9 no person shall cause a **Heavy Goods Vehicle over 18 tonnes** to proceed within the lengths of road specified in schedule 3*

The Order is very specific and therefore an Agricultural vehicle (Tractor) being used for agricultural purposes is not a Heavy Goods/commercial Vehicle and is exempt from the conditions of the Order.

If the vehicles are travelling to and from the Anaerobic digester then there may well be a traffic management policy/plan in place to reduce such annoyance to local residents and as you have rightly pointed out this may be worth raising with the plant management.

However, if the ownership of the tractor is not in the farmer's name and is a contractor brought in specifically to transport material from A to B then it can be classified as general haulage and not agriculture with the proviso that if the contractor had also been carrying out agricultural tasks eg harvesting the maize he was then carrying to the AD plant which would be deemed agricultural.

Doc 23006 on www.devon.gov.uk provides

Overweight vehicle combinations:

The current legislation permits a maximum gross train weight of 31 tonnes (max of 18.29 tonnes of towing load) on an agricultural Tractor an trailer combination. If these Tractor and Trailer combination are regularly delivering to the Digester unit then I will carry out some enquiries with the plant and check the weigh bridge data as they are arriving.

They are however restricted to 25mph (40KPH) which with the size and power of modern tractors is quite often overlooked. This may warrant some road side speed checks by local PCSO or Neighbourhood teams to either gather data or enforce.

Failing to display rear registration plates:

In respect to the issue of Number plates on agricultural vehicles this is an offence under the 'Construction and Use' regulations. This is not something that would normally be retrospectively dealt with by way of report from a member of the public but more so by officers witnessing such offences when out on local patrols & stopping the vehicles. If, however there appears to be a particular repeat offending vehicle or contractors vehicles then this could warrant a follow up call by myself to point out the offence and request they get there vehicles in order. In these circumstance then the towing vehicle registration, date and place witnessed would be required in order to follow up.

Or a different number plate, provided the trailers/tractors are all in the same ownership, it would not be an offence to have a different number plate to the tractor – but if the tractor and trailer were not in the same ownership, it would be.

Clarification of Police Powers:

The Weight restriction TRO is certainly enforceable but only when relevant to a Heavy Goods Vehicle. An Agricultural tractor and trailer combination is exempt and therefore no enforcement required.

Overweight vehicle issues can be dealt with by way of roadside enforcement but this would need to be done by either specialist Roads Policing Officers or Driving & Vehicle safety agency (DVSA). We do regularly hold enforcement days covering commercial & agricultural vehicle safety at the DVSA test site not far from Halberton at Samford Peverall. Our normal manner of operation is to monitor M5 & A361 traffic and pull in any vehicles of concern. I will see if we can build into our operation some time to send out a roving mobile DVSA and RPU unit to monitor the Willand road area to show a presence and employ some education and enforcement around the issues you have raised.

Speed Limits

Different speed limits apply to tractors – normally 25mph.

If the width is 2.55m then the speed limit is reduced to 20mph.

If the width is 3.5m then the speed limit is reduced to 12mph.

Driving age

- A category F licence will only allow the holder to drive an agricultural tractor and trailer on the road. A category F licence does not allow the holder to drive any other type of vehicle (e.g. telehandler) on the road.
- At age 16 a person with a category F licence is restricted to driving an agricultural tractor with a maximum width of 2.45m. This width restriction applies to both the tractor and the trailer.
- A 16-year-old can tow either a two wheeled trailer or a four wheeled close coupled trailer. A close coupled trailer is one with axle centres no more than 840mm apart.
- A 16-year-old with a provisional F category licence is not permitted to practice on the road. The only time a person with a provisional F category licence can go on the road at 16 is either when they are travelling to or from the place where the F test is held.
- If a 16-year-old is caught driving a tractor and trailer wider than 2.45m in width, he could be prosecuted and given up to six penalty points and a £1,000 fine.

All tractor drivers should wear the seatbelt provided.

Passengers

Provided there is a training seat and lap belt you can have a passenger but they must not be under 13 years of age.

If there is no seating, you cannot have a passenger.

Mobile phones

The same rules apply to any driver – you cannot use a mobile phone whilst driving.

Research done in 2019 showed that the vast majority of vehicles travelling to the AD were compliant and the weigh bridge information accurate.

Actions:

The police will run a check on lorries along the Willand-Halberton road and suggested the weigh bridge information at Crown Hill be reviewed.

Move the 7.5t sign on the Willand-Halberton road to the roundabout.

It was not felt that the 7.5t sign on the roundabout in Willand was effective. (Lorry signs are part of an ongoing review by the Traffic Committee – see below.)

Other Actions to be completed:

Clerk to photograph lorry signs at Willand leading to Halberton and provide them to DCC with a copy to Councillor Slade – TO DO

Clerk to investigate costs and Parish Council be requested to agree the funds to purchase the two units to monitor the impact of traffic on buildings and air quality.

The Parish Council has asked that the Traffic Committee investigate who would be prepared to carry out the necessary work and have the equipment placed at their premises.

A quote for a survey conducted by an outside source was obtained and is circulated with this agenda.

It would still require active resident to assist with collecting the information.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Page
9	20mph speed limits	15

Expression of Interest for 20mph speed limit

Awaiting the result of the application from DCC.

Awaiting feedback from DCC with regard to the short pavement at the end of Church Lane.

Action: Clerk to remain in contact with DCC – followed up in March

20's plenty campaign

Halberton Parish Council is signed up to the campaign.

A further Zoom meeting is scheduled for 24 April 2023.

Signs for windows, bins and cars are available from the Clerk.

Seddon signs

It was agreed that these signs would not be used in the existing 20mph area.

One or two signs have appeared in the 30mph areas.

Should a note be put in the Newsletter to say they are available for Brithem Bottom, Crossparks, Lower Town etc.

Information would suggest that provided they are on private land, Highways is happy for them to be displayed.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Page
10	Joint speed limit committee	16

Given the election, the meeting will take place in May as councillors might change.

An invitation to attend the meeting will be put out to Upplowman and Crazelelowman and consideration given to Cullompton and Tiverton.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Page
11	Other traffic related items	17

Overgrown hedges

A second resident has advised that they will be getting their hedge cut back.

Action: Clerk to monitor.

Pavement at The Hickory Inn

The Parish Council has received a response from MDDC Enforcement as follows:

This will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on 11 April 2023.

The Parish Council is also looking to see if there are any other parking solutions at the Sampford Peverell end of the village.

The Parish Council and the Traffic Committee believe safety for pedestrians should take precedence over parking.