

Halberton Parish Council
A meeting of Halberton Parish Council will be held on
Tuesday 13 February 2024 at 7.00pm in Halberton Village Hall

All members of the Parish Council are hereby summonsed to attend the above meeting for the purpose of considering and resolving the business as set out hereunder.

Members of the public are also invited and may speak in the Public Forum.

Susan McGeever
Clerk, Halberton Parish Council
6 February 2024

AGENDA

Item		Report Pages
1	Apologies	N/A
2	Declarations of Interest	N/A
3	Public forum Members of the public may speak for a period of 3 minutes on matters they wish to bring to the attention of the Parish Council and these matters may be related to the items on the agenda. Unless the Chairman elects to put down standing orders, members of the public may not speak during the remainder of the meeting.	N/A
4	To approve the minutes of the Council meeting on 18 January 2024	3-6
5	Chairman's announcements	N/A
6	Mid Devon District Council matters a. To receive a report from the MDDC Council Member b. Grand Western Canal Group	7
7	Devon County Council matters To receive a report from the DCC Council Member	8-10
8	Police matters To consider any correspondence from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Council Advocate Scheme	11
9	Vacancies on the Parish Council To consider and, if agreed, approve any applications received.	12
10	Consideration of Mid Devon District Council's planning applications The planning application with its supporting documents and comments made by the public and other consultees which are published on the MDDC planning website prior to the meeting will be considered as part of the Council's deliberations on planning applications.	13-14

11	Consideration of Mid Devon District Council's Planning Decisions The following planning decisions have been received	15
12	Highways matters and the Road and Snow Warden Schemes Update and any new matters to report excluding those reported under the Traffic Committee.	16
13	Amenity matters Update and any new matters pertaining to the amenities located within the parish not covered by the Recreation and Amenities Working Group	17-18
14	Recreation and Amenities Working Group The Recreation and Amenities Working Group	19-20
15	Community items To consider any other community matters	21
16	Traffic issues	22-23
17	Newsletter Working Group The Newsletter Working Group will meet on 5 March 2024	24
18	Financial accounts 2023/24	25
19	Members business including meetings attended, and miscellaneous matters (not for decision) Devon Council Climate Network Connecting the Culm/Catchment Visioning Workshop Cullompton Health and Wellbeing Devon Community Resilience Forum conference on March 22 nd 2024	N/A
20	Items for next meeting	N/A

Next meeting: Tuesday, 12 March 2024 at 7pm

*Signed: Susan McGeever
Clerk to Halberton Parish Council*

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
4	To approve the minutes of the Council meeting on 18 January 2024	3-6

**Halberton Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held at Halberton Village Hall on Tuesday, 18 January 2024 at 7.00pm**

Present

Councillors Batchelor (Chairman) (arrived during Item 2), Ayre, Browse, Campbell, Furmedge and Graham. The Clerk, Mrs S McGeever, was also present.

Councillor Furmedge opened the meeting at 7pm and thanked everyone for their attendance.

223-1 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillors E Slade and Saunders.
Councillor DuChesne (MDDC) and Councillor C Slade (DCC) were not present.

223-2 Declarations of interest

Councillor Batchelor declared an interest under Item 5, planning.

223-3 Public Forum

No members of the Public were present.

223-4 To approve the minutes of the Council meeting on 9 January 2024

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting and for the Chairman to initial each page and sign the final page.

223-5 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman advised that he had no announcements to make.

223-6 Consideration of Mid Devon District Council's planning applications

Councillor Furmedge had put together details of each application so that they could be viewed on screen during the meeting.

24/00021/FULL

Proposal: Change of Use of existing B1/B2/B8 (sui generis) building and associated land to Use Class E
Location: 4 Willand Road Business Park Willand Cullompton
Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 304342 / 111956
Parish: Halberton 25

Application 24/00021/FULL was on the MDDC planning portal.

Application 24.00044/FULL (see below) was no longer on the MDDC planning portal and was essentially the same application.

24/00044/FULL

Proposal: Change of use of B1/B2/B8 (sui generis) building and associated land for indoor sport and recreation (Use Class E)
Location: 4 Willand Road Business Park Willand Cullompton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 304342 / 111956

Parish: Halberton 25

Following discussion, the Parish Council RESOLVED to support the application for change of use under 24/00021/FULL.

Page 417

23/01953/CLU

Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness for the existing operation of a Biomass boiler for heating both domestic and commercial buildings for a period of more than 10 years

Location: Sutton Barton Cullompton Devon

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 301170 / 109229

Parish: Halberton 25

Councillor Batchelor, the applicant, left the meeting whilst discussion took place and a decision made.

The Parish Council RESOLVED that they would record a comment of no objection on this application given that it fell under CLU and had been in operation for more than 10 years.

Existing applications:

Ref: ABX/DCC/4358/2023

County Matter Planning Application

Retention of existing deposition and temporary landfill site for the deposition of additional inert waste and a construction waste recycling facility with associated works including temporary buildings, access and landscaping, at Land at Greenway, Upplowman, Tiverton

No further information had been received.

Other planning matters:

23/01798/FULL

Variation of Condition 9 to allow alternative feedstock types and quantity and Condition 20 to allow the anaerobic digester plant to produce and export 1.1 megawatts of renewable energy of planning permission 17/01142/FULL

Land at NGR 299621 112764 (Red Linhay) Crown Hill Halberton Devon

This application is on the portal as 'awaiting decision'.

23/01952/NMA

Change of description of works at Red Linhay.

Notification that the application had been refused was received on 16 January 2024 and this would be placed on the agenda of the next meeting.

223-7 Consideration of Mid Devon District Council's Planning Decisions

The following decisions were noted:

Appeal Ref: APP/Y1138/W/23/3323381

Red Linhay, Crown Hill, Halberton, Tiverton EX16 7AY

The appeal related to Condition 13 (the Noise Assessment report) whilst drawing attention to Condition 12 (Noise Assessment levels).

The appeal has been allowed and there is now a requirement that a noise assessment must be carried out within 3 months. The Inspector noted that it was in the public interest to ensure the noise limits are not being breached and therefore the condition is deemed as reasonable having regard to the living conditions

of neighbouring occupiers and the effects of noise.

23/01788/FULL - REFUSED

Proposal: Erection of 4 dwellings and associated works

Location: Land at NGR 300380 112580 (R/o Pethertons) Lower Town Halberton Devon

Page 418

23/01090/LBC - APPROVED

Proposal: Listed Building Consent to re-point joints, replace areas of brickwork and remove vegetation

Location: Manley Railway Bridge (2717) Manley Lane Tiverton Devon

223-8 Financial accounts 2023/24

a. Financial reports 2023/24

Members of the Parish Council had received the financial reports at the meeting on 9 January 2024.

b. Provisional budget for 2024/25

Members of the Parish Council had received budgetary information which included the financial figures up to end December 2023 and showed all individual payments made under the various cost codes relating to the Parish Council and the amenities for which the council was responsible.

The Clerk had provided several variations that met with best practice and allowed for a general reserve of 50% of the annual expenditure and looked to be build reserves for known expenditure and future projects.

The Parish Council was mindful that best practice needed to be observed and that reserves had been reducing over the past two years to meet the increased costs of running the Parish Council, maintaining existing amenities and meeting new projects for the benefit of the community.

It was noted that the Parish Clerk's hours had been increased to meet the growing workload and given other costs it was felt prudent to reduce the clerk's hours to 52 hours per month for the year 2024/25 and for Parish Council members, through the Clerk, to undertake more of the actions required to deliver existing amenities and improvements to the parish. In addition, it was felt, that an allocation of 5 hours per month should be given to the production of the Newsletter, given its community benefit, until such time as a volunteer editor could be found given that the production and distribution of the Newsletter was largely self-funded. From 1 April 2024, the Clerk's working hours would be published and included on the email signature.

The increase in subscriptions was noted, in particular, Google workspace and the use of this facility would be assessed over the coming six months. Insurance would also rise with the upcoming projects such as the new equipment on the Recreation Ground and the Community Growing Area.

Budgets for four-yearly items such as elections and renewing the defibrillator lease would be reduced during 2024/25.

Given the decision to look to have the general reserve running at 50% of costs, this would allow for some contingency funds such as Snow Warden, Road Warden and Footpaths to be reduced for 2024/25.

Overall there had been increases of between 10%-25% in delivering each of the current amenities to the village as a result of inflationary measures, minimum wage increases etc.

The budget will appear as an addendum to the minutes.

c. Setting of the 2024/25 precept

It was noted that Halberton was at the lower end of precept amounts in terms of Band D contributions

within the Mid Devon District.

The Parish Council RESOLVED with one abstention that to deliver the current level of service to the residents of the parish and complete the current project list, the precept should be set at £27,110.00. This would take the yearly Band D payment from £22.05 to £39.75 or 76p per week. Councillor Browse asked that his abstention from the vote be recorded in the minutes.

Page 419

The Chairman would write a piece for the February/ March Newsletter outlining the need for the increase and the Clerk would write the normal bi-monthly report.

Councillor Batchelor, Chairman, closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

The next Full Councill meeting will take place on:

Tuesday, 13 February 2024 at 7pm - Meeting of the Parish Council at Halberton Village Hall

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
6	Mid Devon District Council matters a. To receive a report from the MDDC Council Member b. Grand Western Canal Group	7

2nd January – 5 February 2024 - Halberton Monthly Report

Little to report on a personal basis as I have been on leave for the past two weeks. I remain involved with the Horse Drawn Barge 50th Celebration 13/14 July. A associated grant application has gone to MDDC.

I will be attending the OPPC meeting in Topsham 12 February.

DS Simon Andrews - as mentioned previously DS Andrews is very willing to come and talk to Parish Councils – plea to report crime to them if they don't know they cannot help. Also to remind us to use the Tiverton Town Police Centre.

I will be attending the official opening of the Bullring project in Cullompton 14 February 10:00hrs.

General MDDC news

Three weekly bin collection

Mid Devon is celebrating becoming the second highest performing district in the county for its recycling rates – helping us move to net zero.

Devon Housing Commission

The Commission will be reporting in the summer with a range of recommendations, and work is ongoing to collate the wide variety of submissions that have been received to date.

The submission form can be found here and anyone can comment.:

Devon Housing Commission | Regional Engagement | University of Exeter

A reminder that all members can contribute their views, thoughts and opinions to the ongoing work of the Devon Housing Commission, chaired by Lord Best. You can do this as individual members as you see fit and as relates to the specific pressures and challenges facing your ward (it doesn't need to be a 'council' response).

[Devon Housing Commission | Regional Engagement | University of Exeter](#)

Mid Devon Walking Festival – 14 to 29 September 2024

What is it?

This walking festival is a series of guided walks for groups, spread over two weeks in September. The festival will cover the whole of Mid Devon (participatory areas). The programme of events will include guided walks and promote walks which can be taken individually in the area as well. Walks will be varied in length and difficulty, and will often have themes (historic, nature, viewpoints). During the two weeks, we will promote any event which complements the festival as well.

If you would like to follow the walking festival news, please keep an eye on the Visit Mid Devon website www.visitmiddevon.co.uk and facebook page (and WIS).

This festival will be funded through the Shared Prosperity Fund, for more information about the funding programme please

visit <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/business/business-grants-and-financial-support/mid-devon-prosperity-programme/>

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
7	Devon County Council matters To receive a report from the DCC Council Member	8-10

Halberton DCC Report Feb 2024

The Devon County Council Budget Proposals have now been examined by the Three Scrutiny committees which have made their recommendations to Cabinet for consideration on the 9th February before coming to Full Council on the 15th for final approval.

One of the proposals is for councillors' locality budgets to be restored to £8000 per year, one that I personally fully support.

I am pleased to see that patching works have been carried out on Willand Road, which has made a noticeable improvement.

Devolution for Devon and Torbay has taken a big step forward with the publication of Government proposals for a ground-breaking deal that could re-draw the future relationship between local government in Devon and Torbay, and Whitehall.

The proposals announced by Levelling Up Minister Jacob Young at an event in Paignton today (Thursday 25 January) would enable more decisions to be taken locally by people who know their areas best and on things that matter to local people such as building more affordable homes, investing in new quality jobs and skills, and improving public transport.

The 40-page proposed Deal sets out in detail proposals that could see the transfer of a range of powers and funding to a Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (CCA), subject to public consultation.

Under the proposals the new body would have direct control of adult education to create up to 50,000 new training and retraining opportunities by 2030.

Through Local Skills Improvement Plans, the proposed CCA will work with business and education leaders to create a stronger, joined-up relationship between employers and schools, colleges and universities to provide the skilled workforce the local economy needs for the future.

The Government is proposing to transfer over £16 million of new funding to invest in new green jobs, homes, skills, and business growth and accelerate Devon and Torbay's transition to a net-zero economy, capitalising on the area's world-leading expertise in green science and technology.

The Government is offering a stronger partnership with Homes England, capitalising on the Affordable Housing Programme and Brownfield Infrastructure and Land Fund to create a joint action plan for affordable housing schemes for local people and reduce homelessness. The proposal includes additional land assembly and compulsory purchase powers and would facilitate greater Community Land Trust-led delivery.

On transport, the proposed Deal builds on Devon County Council and Torbay Councils' long history of working well together on local transport planning. The proposed Deal will strengthen this joined-up approach with Devon and Torbay working as equal partners on a CCA and improving the efficiency and co-ordination of public transport. There is an ambition to introduce a single ticketing system for travellers and investment in services to provide greater access to public transport.

The Government is also offering to transfer responsibility for developing, designing and delivering the next stages of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund from 2025.

The CCA would be responsible for working with Devon County Council, Torbay Council, District Councils and the business and education sectors to support high growth business sectors such as advanced marine engineering, defence, photonics and digital, and improve the look and feel of local communities with street and town centre enhancements.

Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy published

On behalf of the Safer Devon Partnership we have published a strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence in the county.

[The Devon Preventing Serious Violence Strategy 2024-29](#) is now available to view on the Safer Devon website.

The Strategy outlines Safer Devon's framework for preventing and reducing serious violence in the county and, through doing so, its ambition to keep people, families and communities safe from the risk and experience of violence.

Local Authorities, including us, and Devon's district councils, Police, Probation, Youth Justice, Fire and Rescue and Integrated Care Boards are subject to a Serious Violence Duty – this means that they are legally obliged to share information and work together to prevent and reduce serious violence.

The [Serious Violence Duty](#) was introduced through the [Police, Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022](#).

Part of this Duty is to produce and publish a response strategy, outlining steps that Devon partners are committed to taking to prevent serious violence from happening and reduce its harms in our communities.

This Strategy has been informed by a Needs Assessment, drawing together local and national data, input from Safer Devon's partner organisations and insights from young people living in Devon to outline the kinds of serious violence taking place in the county and its causes and drivers.

It will inform a wider response to the Serious Violence Duty across the peninsula. This includes arrangements overseen by the Police and Crime Commissioner through a new Serious Violence Prevention Strategic Partnership which will include representation from specified authorities across Devon, Torbay, Plymouth and Cornwall.

A campaign by young people to make care leavers in Devon exempt from paying Council Tax has been heralded a success, as each of Devon's eight District Councils have agreed the proposal.

The campaign was brought by our [Stand Up Speak Up](#) group, comprising care experienced young people who felt that waiving council tax would put all care leavers on a firmer footing financially, as they move into independence.

Young people in care often live with their foster families, and some choose to continue those arrangements as care leavers once they've turned 18. But some move on to live elsewhere more independently, and with bills and rent to pay, it's often difficult for those young people without having the financial security of a family behind them.

Our Councillors recently gave care leavers protected characteristic status, in recognition that young people's experience of being in the care system can be a potential source of discrimination, similar to other protected characteristics.

That status means not only will we do all we can to support children in care and care leavers, but that we will work with District Councils and other partners to improve support for care experienced people in all aspects of their lives, including housing and accommodation, health, employment and education.

The agreement by District Councils to exempt council tax for care leavers has been widely welcomed, as has our agreement to cover the costs of Council Tax for Devon care leavers living out of the county.

Do you have community equipment you no longer use?

Devon residents, who have been loaned community equipment that they no longer need such as walking frames, are being urged to take advantage of the final week of an equipment 'amnesty' and to arrange for it to be collected, free of charge.

Every month, around 5000 items of equipment are returned, more than 80 per cent of which are refurbished, sterilised and then put back onto warehouse shelves ready for reuse.

And almost 70 per cent of the equipment collected and refurbished in this way is reissued within a month to someone in the community.

Returning these items not only reduces how long people who need them have to wait it also saves on having to buy new equipment – it saves up to £100,000 a month which could then be spent on other things.

However, there are hundreds of pieces of community equipment, such as four-wheeled walking frames, toileting equipment, hospital beds, clinical mattresses, pressure cushions and hoists that are not being used, sitting in garages, and in storage for instance.

So, Devon County Council, the Integrated Care Board for Devon and Millbrook Healthcare Ltd, which provides community equipment to people on their behalf, launched an equipment ‘amnesty’ last month, asking those who no longer need their community equipment, to organise a collection free of charge.

The previous amnesty in 2021 resulted in hundreds of items being returned, refurbished, sterilised and put back into use in the community.

Please feel free to contact me with any queries or requests for assistance.

Colin Slade

Devon County Councillor for Tiverton East

Vice Chairman of the Council

Colin.slade@devon.gov.uk

07948 432942

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
8	Police matters To consider any correspondence from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Council Advocate Scheme	11

Councillor Advocate Scheme
Councillor Browse to report

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme
Update from Mr Charles

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
9	Vacancies on the Parish Council To consider and, if agreed, approve any applications received.	12

One expression of interest has been received and the CV circulated to the Parish Council. An application form was sent and an formal application is awaited.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
10	Consideration of Mid Devon District Council's planning applications The planning application with its supporting documents and comments made by the public and other consultees which are published on the MDDC planning website prior to the meeting will be considered as part of the Council's deliberations on planning applications.	13-14

New applications:

24/00131/CAT

Proposal: Notification of intention to reduce the height of 1 Ash tree to a stump at the main fork; felling of a number of Elms trees and coppicing of the remainder of trees within the hedgerow along the southern boundary of the car park; removal of Ash stems; removal of Elms and trimming of trees/shrubs within the southern boundary hedgerow; removal of 2 large stems/limbs of a Goat Willow tree within western boundary hedgerow which fall within the Conservation Area

Location: Car Park and Recreation Area Lower Town Halberton

Expiry date: 5 March 2024 then work can be commenced if no response received

24/00137/FULL

Proposal: Change of use of agricultural land to residential garden

Location: Land at NGR 304829 112756 The New Barn Uffculme

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 304837 / 112782

Parish: Halberton 25

Deadline for comments: 16 February 2024

24/00164/HOUSE

Proposal: Erection of single storey side extension and infill first floor rear extension

Location: The New Barn Uffculme Cullompton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 304803 / 112753

Parish: Halberton 25

Deadline for comments: 21 February 2024

24/00169/LBC

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for 2 replacement first floor windows

Location: Orchard House Halberton Tiverton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 301232 / 112830

Parish: Halberton 25

Deadline for comments: 26 February 2024

24/00205/FULL

Proposal: Installation of underground gas pipeline and associated connection kiosk

Location: Land at NGR 300595 112271 (Bycott Farm) Lower Town Halberton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 300503 / 112348

Parish: Halberton 25

Deadline for comments: 28 February 2024

Existing applications:

Ref: ABX/DCC/4358/2023

County Matter Planning Application

Retention of existing deposition and temporary landfill site for the deposition of additional inert waste and a construction waste recycling facility with associated works including temporary buildings, access and landscaping, at Land at Greenway, Upplowman, Tiverton

It will be necessary for DCC to agree a further extension of time on the application and this will be largely dependent upon the information submitted and the responses received from consultees and the general public on the revised proposals.

Red Linhay

Noise assessment awaited following appeal.

Bycott Farm

The planning portal is monitored with regard to further information being provided.

Outstanding Enforcement issues will be placed on the agenda as and when there is further information.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
11	Consideration of Mid Devon District Council's Planning Decisions	15

The following decisions have been received:

23/01952/NMA – REFUSED

Proposal: Non Material Amendment to 15/01034/MFUL to amend the description to read -Erection of an anaerobic digester and associated works with 2 silage clamps. Revised Scheme to include the change of orientation of the layout and installation of 2 driers

Location: Land at NGR 299621 112764 (Red Linhay) Crown Hill

23/01798/FULL - REFUSED

Proposal: Variation of Condition 9 to allow alternative feedstock types and quantity and Condition 20 to allow the anaerobic digester plant to produce and export 1.1 megawatts of renewable energy of planning permission 17/01142/FULL

Location: Land at NGR 299621 112764 (Red Linhay) Crown Hill Halberton Devon

Site Vicinity

23/01428/FULL - REFUSED

Proposal: Temporary retention of the land for the siting of storage containers and associated infrastructure (B8)

Location: Moon Self Storage Ltd Hartnoll Farm Tiverton Devon

23/01280/PIP - REFUSED

Proposal: Permission in Principle for the erection of 2 self-build dwellings

Location: Land at NGR 301040 112882 High Street Halberton Devon

24/00014/CAT - NO OBJECTION

Proposal: Notification of intention to reduce the height of a hedge, consisting of Laurel, Hazel, Holly and Elder to approximately 2.4m within the Conservation Area

Location: Glebe House Lower Town Halberton Tiverton

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
12	Highways matters and the Road and Snow Warden Schemes	16

a. Potholes

Potholes continue to be reported online to Devon County Council and mended throughout the parish and roads have been cleared.

b. Herne Bridge

Confirmation of work being undertaken from 12-16 February has been received and a notice will be placed on social media.

c. Road Warden Scheme

Training

Councillor Furmedge awaiting strimming training.

d. Snow Warden Scheme

Call for volunteers in the Newsletter.

The salt stocks can remain in place.

Action: Councillor Batchelor/Campbell

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
13	Amenity matters	17-18

Update and any new matters pertaining to the amenities located within the parish.
Given the setting up of the Recreation and Amenities Working Group – items under their Terms of Reference have been moved to a separate agenda item.

General safety checks on all Parish Council assets should be carried out.

a. Platinum Jubilee Car Park

The application for tree works has been completed (see planning).

b. Footpaths

Report from Councillor Furmedge

Footpaths

Existing paths

- P3 forms now available. Need to complete by Friday 15th March 2024

Next steps:

- Request volunteers for walking audit
- Create QR Code prototype sign and link to website (in progress)

Walking festival (takes place in September)

- Have suggested three walks to be included.

- 1) Lower Town and canal (Platinum Jubilee car park -> Church Path, Pond Hill, Greenway, Canal to Crown Hill Bridge, Lower Town)

- 2) Over the hill (Ash Thomas, FP10, FP4, FP5, FP6, return to Ash Thomas)

- 3) Canal stroll (Crown Hill, Canal over aqueduct, East Manley bridge, road to Herne Bridge, Crown Hill)

- Note: Swan's Neck Circular is already on the Walking Festival site

Next steps:

- Provide information on maps so can be incorporated into MDDC Walking Festival site
- Seek volunteers to potentially host some guided walks

DMR

- Awaiting DCC draft report.

- Some recent additional User Forms delivered

c. Cemetery

Report from Councillor Slade

Action list:

- Clean/possibly paint the gates (they do not require sandblasting)
- Clean the external sign (Councillor Browse -)
- Open up the shed and review contents (Councillor Batchelor)
- Scrap the moss of the path by the shed
- Spray moss in other areas
- Re-do the courtyard (Clerk to obtain quotes for both tarmac and gravel)
- Additional signs on the bins to prevent the wrong items being placed in them (Clerk)
- Clean/repair benches
- Next year cut a path through the wildflower area and put down more wildflower seeds

i) Grave lowering to take place in the Spring.

Action: Clerk to contact EROB holders

ii) safety inspection of the gravestones completed.

Action: Clerk to contact EROB holders

iii) Noticeboard

With Councillor Batchelor for installation.

iv) Quotes for courtyard

Action: Clerk additional quotes being requested

d. Defibrillators

Update from Councillor Graham.

Action: Councillor Graham/Clerk

e. Landmark Tree

The tree for the Pigeons (Ash Thomas) will be purchased and planted.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
14	Recreation and Amenities Working Group	19-20

Councillors Batchelor , Campbell/Browse/Ayre to raise any issues :

The recreation and amenities working group hasn't met but is hoping to next week.

In place of a full report:

We are working on a format of inspection form / report that will make it a quicker job to record state of our amenities.

The bench of the bus shelter opposite the farm shop has been damaged as has a light at the Jubilee Car Park.

Both these items we'll cover when the working group meet. Neither immediately urgent

a. The Mead

The account with the solicitor has been set up and they are in touch with DCC's solicitors regarding the review of the Heads of Terms agreement and registration of the lease with the Land Registry.

Action: Clerk to monitor

b. Community Growing Area

Provided the Parish Council is content with the draft lease, it can be signed and returned to DCC.

The following information has been received:

Once in legal occupation of the community growing area the County Council is unlikely to have objection to the Parish Council commissioning tree and hedgerow maintenance works to minimise shading of the growing space but any works that the Parish Council commission must be carried out:

- with all or any necessary consents and approvals in place,
- after an EIA has been carried out by a competent ecologist and if necessary, all works to be undertaken under an ecologists watching brief,
- outside the bird nesting season,
- outside the dormouse hibernation season
- by a competent contractor with appropriate professional indemnity and public liability insurance

The Parish Council must indemnify the County Council against all actions, costs, claims, damages and losses etc that might arise as a consequence of the works.

No healthy trees are to be removed. Only overhanging limbs interfering with reasonable cultivations of healthy trees can be removed if absolutely necessary.

If access and permission is required before the lease commencement date, then DCC is likely to require an access licence to be prepared by the solicitors which will obviously cost money and the Parish Council would be required to cover the County Councils reasonable costs.

Decision required by the Parish Council on the tree/hedgerow maintenance works.

S106 funding totalling £1205.00 is available.

Action: Clerk to submit application

Councillor Batchelor to report on fencing.

c. Halberton Children's Recreation Ground

i) update on installation of new equipment and financing (Councillor Campbell)

The S106 application has been submitted and the funds received.

The Community Growing Fund application is in the process of being submitted

Other funding sources.

ii) monthly safety report (Councillor Ayre standing in for Councillor Campbell)

d. Fund raising

See above

e. Mid Devon Wildlife Warden Scheme

f. Ideas for solar farm cooperation

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
15	Community items	21

To consider any other community matters.

a. Council IT tools Working Group to include Facebook page/Website/Communicating with Parishioners
Report from Councillor Furmedge

Website etc

Ongoing content being created as required.

- Website accessibility discussed with vendor
- Some changes made to cover new Yahoo and Gmail requirements (DMARC records)

Next steps:

- Hand over website additions of Minutes and Agendas to Clerk.
- Collaboration tools - complete final councillor migration
- Update accessibility statement

b. Internet connectivity Working Group

Report from Councillor Furmedge

Internet

- Still some "pole" work is taking place
- Follow-up on pole work in conservation area

c. Anaerobic Digester Liaison Committee

A new date for the meeting is being organised.

Action: Clerk to follow-up

d. D-Day 80

All local groups have been emailed for dates in the and a notice put in the Newsletter.

Action: Clerk to follow-up and re-send

e. Mid Devon Walking Festival

Parish involvement in the Mid Devon Walking Festival has been confirmed (14-19 September 2024).
Information has been submitted.

f. Flies in Halberton

Follow-up being carried out by the Clerk.

g. Town and Parish Charter Review

Documents circulated to councillors.

Deadline for Parish Council's agreement or suggested amendments to the Charter **by Wednesday 15 May 2024.**

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
16	Traffic	22-23

Uffculme Straight

The Parish Council has called a meeting of the parishes of Sampford Peverell, Uffculme and Willand to discuss re-instating the Joint Traffic Committee and extending its area to call for increased safety measures and reduced speed limits with the parishes.

Discussions have been had with:

Devon County Council Highways: It is unlikely that DCC would fund a pavement along the Uffculme Straight. A reduction in the speed limit, if agreed, has a timeframe on 18 months.

Devon County Council Democratic Services: a copy of the Officer Route Report on Uffculme Straight being suitable as a school walk has been received and it was noted that the decision was not taken to appeal. The school transport officers have been asked for further information.

Hitchcocks: Work is ongoing on footpaths within the business park to link to the footpath opposite the new housing estate to improve access. Further discussions will take place.

Vision Zero: linking to their social medial will give access to the road safety information they issue – cyclists are a priority group.

Cullompton and Tiverton Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP): the plan for improved cycling and walking routes includes Halberton, Uffculme and Willand and, in particular, an off road route between Willand and Uffculme. The plan will be going out to public consultation.

Ongoing matters:

1. Flashing lights at the school in Lower Town – confirmation of Vision Zero funds from James Anstee has been received. Discussion is ongoing with DCC and Simmons signs to acquire the correct equipment and link to the street lighting and a further site meeting has taken place.
2. The pavement at Church Lane – ongoing
3. The Mead Playing Field to Jubilee Car Park (can be actioned when lease signed)
4. Signage through Vision Zero grant – received
5. VAS units (posts being installed) – Councillor Batchelor/Browse to report
6. Flooding at the Farm Shop (appears to be better than prior to re-surfacing)
7. Pedestrian Crossing at the Village Hall – on hold
8. Potential pavement at The Hickory Bridge – dependent on The Orchard
9. Lorries on the Halberton to Willand road - report from PC Tim Walsh sent to DCC and is being followed up – potential site visit

10. Rose Cottage Bridge – as and when re-surfaced

11. Lorries between Halberton and Brithem Bottom – call for additional signage

Community Speed Watch

So far four residents have put themselves forward for Community Speedwatch and confirmed they are happy to undertake the online training.

Action: Councillor Browse/Clerk to organise a meeting

20mph limits

The Clerk is also looking into the cost of a parish council funded 20mph limit for Lower Town – response awaited from Devon County Council.

The Clerk is preparing a new application for the DCC funded programme.

Portable Air Quality Monitor

- Initial measurement carried out at Crown Hill (will display graphs)

Next:

- Continue to measure at other locations. Ongoing content being created as required.

- Website accessibility discussed with vendor

- Some changes made to cover new Yahoo and Gmail requirements (DMARC records)

Next steps:

- Hand over website additions of Minutes and Agendas to Clerk.

- Collaboration tools - complete final councillor migration

- Update accessibility statement

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
17	Newsletter Working Group The Newsletter Working Group will meet in March	24

Issue 171 has been published and delivered.

Work on Issue 172 has started.

The working group will meet in March.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
18	Financial accounts 2023/24	25

a. Financial reports 2023/24

The information for January has been input and the reports and bank reconciliations will be forwarded to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting.

b. Precept 2024/25

The paperwork for the Parish Precept has been completed and sent to MDDC who have confirmed receipt and it is being processed.

c. Payments to approve (Council):

Google workspace (monthly cost)	£ 36.80
HMRC	£ 101.54
S McGeever (wages)	£ 759.90
S McGeever (expenses - Fasthosts)	£ 5.58
S McGeever (expenses – Wondershare)	£ 113.83
S McGeever (expenses – Recovery toolbox)	£ 58.75
Brightsea (Newsletter)	£ 890.00
C Graham (Newsletter - delivery)	£ 30.00
DD Utility Warehouse (December)	£1127.43*

* to be re-imbursed

d. Bank signatories/change of bank

All information has now been received from councillors to complete the switch to the Unity Bank and the application form will have been completed prior to the meeting.

e. Grant applications

CAB
Devon Mobility
Dream a Way