

Halberton Parish Council

Meeting of Halberton Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 14 January 2025 at 7pm 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
7 January 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 10 December 2024	3-12
5	Chairman's announcement	N/A
6	Mid Devon District Council matters a. To receive a report from the MDDC Council Member b. Grand Western Canal Group	13-14
7	Devon County Council matters To receive a report from the DCC Council Member	15-16
8	Police matters To consider any correspondence from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Council Advocate Scheme	17
9	Vacancies on the Parish Council To consider and, if agreed, approve any applications received	18
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.	19-20
11	Consideration of Mid Devon District Council's Planning Decisions The following planning decisions have been received.	21

12	Highways matters and the Road and Snow Warden Schemes	22
13	Amenity matters Update and any new matters pertaining to the amenities located within the parish that are not covered by the Recreation and Amenities Working Group	23-24
14	Recreation and Amenities Working Group The Recreation and Amenities Working Group	25
15	Community items To consider any other community matters	26
16	Newsletter Working Group The Newsletter Working Group did not hold a May meeting	27
17	Traffic Issues To consider information from the Joint Traffic Working Group and other matters relating to the parish of Halberton	28
18	Financial accounts 2024/25	29-30
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	N/A
20	Items for next meeting	N/A
21	Date of next meeting	N/A

*Signed: Susan McGeever
Clerk to Halberton Parish Council*

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
4	To approve the minutes of the Council meeting on 10 December 2024	3-12

**Halberton Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at Halberton Village Hall on Tuesday 10 December 2024 at 7.00pm**

Present

Councillors Batchelor (Chairman), Browse, Campbell, Furmedge, Graham, Herrod-Taylor and Saunders together with Councillor Slade (DCC). The Clerk, Mrs S McGeever, was also present.

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

236-1 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillor DuChesne (MDDC) and Councillor Lock (MDDC) and Councillor Fairclough.

236-2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

236-3 Public Forum

There were no matters raised in the public forum.

236-4 To approve the minutes of the Council meeting 12 November 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.

236-5 Chairman's Announcements

Councillor Batchelor thanked parish councillors members and staff for their hard work during the year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

236-6 Mid Devon District Council matters

a. To receive a report from the MDDC Council Member

Councillor DuChesne had submitted a report and it was included on the agenda for the meeting. There were no questions raised by councillors.

b. Grand Western Canal Group

There was nothing to report on the Grand Western Canal.

236-7 Devon County Council matters

Councillor Slade had submitted a report and it was included on the agenda for the meeting.

Councillor Slade advised that the County Council had given its support to the farmers following the budget and also sent an All Party Protest to the Government regarding the cuts in funding for rural areas.

With the change of Government, he advised that the Devon/Torbay devolution deal remained on the table and it was looking to be expanded to include Cornwall, Dorset and Somerset and he had attended an online briefing. Plymouth was under pressure from the Government to join the group. At present, there were no plans for a mayor. It should provide improved resources and economies of scale and was designed to sit

above the district councils. However, again this might change with the new Government bill.

236-8 Police Matters

Police Matters

Information had been circulated to Parish Councillors

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Councillor Advocate Scheme

Councillor Browse advised he had attended an online meeting and advised that the acting chief constable had been suspended. A decision on a successor was expected in the near future.

236-9 Vacancies on the Parish Council

The Clerk had recontacted those who had expressed an interest but there had been no response.

Vacancies would continue to be published in the Newsletter. The Clerk was asked to send an email wishing those who had expressed interest a Merry Christmas.

Action: Clerk

236-10 Consideration of Mid Devon District Council's planning applications

24/01066/FULL

Proposal: Erection of self build dwelling following demolition of garage

Location: 59 High Street Halberton Tiverton Devon

Grid Ref: 300948 : 112856

Parish: Halberton 25

The updated drawings reflected comments made by the Conservation Officer. The footprint of the building had not changed and the question had been raised about parking.

The Parish Council RESOLVED that it was content with the application but that sufficient parking should be provided for both the existing property and the new property.

Action: Clerk to submit comments.

Existing applications:

21/01576/MOUT

Re-determination of Appeal

Proposal: Outline for the extension of existing business park for up to 3.9ha of employment land and up to 150 dwellings with associated infrastructure and access with all other matters reserved - APPEAL DISMISSED 20.10.23 - Quashed by High Court of Justice 05.06.24 - Redetermination of Appeal

Location: Land at NGR 298976 112882 (Hartnoll Farm) Tiverton Devon

Application No: 21/01576/MOUT

Appeal Ref No. APP/Y1138/W/22/3313401

Appellants Name: Waddeton Park Ltd

Nick Govier who had represented the Parish Council advised that in had been an intense 4-day inquiry and the Appellant had put forward a strong case.

The Parish Council's statement had been amended to reflect the lack of reference to Halberton during the opening statements by both the Appellant and Mid Devon District Council. The Appellant had cross-examined Mr Govier following the statement.

Mid Devon District Council had reiterated the presence of a 5 year plan and housing land available and the Enforcement Officer had put forward a hard-hitting email on the lack of adherence to planning conditions of the AD Plant which the Appellant advised was a key element in providing a net zero development.

The Parish Council had not allowed to be part of the summing up on 6 December 2024.

The Chairman thanked Mr Govier for his hard work and noted it might be some weeks before the Inspectorate's decision was known.

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23/01141/FULL

Proposal: Variation of condition 13 of planning permission 22/00868/MFUL (Removal of condition 13 of planning permission 17/01142/FULL - further noise assessments) relating to the submission of a noise assessment

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

Application No: 23/01141/FULL

Appeal Ref No. APP/Y1138/W/23/3334670

Appellants Name: Mr John Clapp

The Inspectorate had upheld the appeal but only in as much as a noise assessment within one month would have been difficult to achieve and advised that a noise assessment should take place within three months.

Enforcement

Outstanding Enforcement issues will be placed on the agenda as and when there is further information. There are currently 13 enforcement issues in the parish of Halberton. Two meetings have been held with the enforcement officer and work was ongoing on the various issues. Such work was confidential until available in the public domain.

236-11 Consideration of Mid Devon District Council's Planning Decisions

The following decisions were noted:

24/01421/CLP – APPROVED 25 November 2024

First Schedule

The proposed relocation of an existing driveway access.

in accordance with submitted plans/drawings – details referred to below.

Second Schedule

Crosslands House, Ash Thomas, Tiverton.

24/01576/CAT – NO OBJECTION – 26 November 2024

Proposal: Notification of intention to fell one Ash tree within the Conservation Area

Location: 1 Chapel Close Halberton Tiverton Devon

23/01542/HOUSE – APPROVED – 29 November 2024

Proposal: Erection of two storey rear extension

Location: Meadow Lea Uffculme Cullompton Devon

236-12 Highways matters and the Road and Snow Warden Schemes

The Clerk had reported as follows:

a. Potholes

Repairs continue to take place across the Parish including some patching.

b. Road Warden Scheme

Councillors Browse and Furmedge were the Parish Council's Road Wardens

Councillor Furmedge was still awaiting strimmer training. The Parish Council could organise and Highways would pay part of the cost but DCC had PROW had organised courses in 2024 and dates for 2025 were awaited. Councillors Batchelor and Browse were both had strimming certificates.

The nearest training unit did not provided spraying courses, however, Councillor Batchelor advised he was

qualified to spray.

It was noted some work, particularly at Pond Hill, was on the grass specification and the Clerk would once again contact the contractor

Action: Clerk

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Lower Town pavements etc.

Following emails sent to DCC and MDDC, it appeared that the majority of the responsibility lay with DCC with MDDC responsible for road sweeping. DCC had indicated that the Road Warden scheme covered Parish Council's taking on the work of clearing pavements and overhanging hedging within a 30mph area.

It was noted that some hedge cutting had been done but there was still work to be done particularly on Church Lane. The Clerk had visited properties on a number of occasions without success and would be putting letters through letterboxes.

The Clerk would also contact MDDC regarding the foliage on the boundary wall at Britton Close which was their responsibility.

Action: Clerk

The Parish Council RESOLVED that a working party under the guidance of the Road Wardens would meet on Saturday, 11 January at 10.30am in the Jubilee Car Park to carry out clearance work. Councillor Browse would bring a trailer and burnable waste would be taken to Councillor Batchelor's premises. If 11 January was not possible then the working party would meet on 18 January 2024.

Action: All

Councillor Radford had confirmed that his land at the entrance to Halberton High Street could be cleared and this would again be done on either 11 or 18 January 2025.

c. Snow Warden Scheme

Councillor Batchelor had no update on moving the salt supplies.

The broken grit bin at Crosslands had been reported to DCC and a new bin was in place.

Other matters:

The Give Way sign had been ordered and delivery was expected in 1-2 weeks.

236-13 Amenity matters

a. Platinum Jubilee Car Park

A second bin has been installed and the area appears to be tidier.

b. Footpaths

Councillor Furmedge reported as follows:

- the permissive path at Greenway was very muddy at the lower end due to run off from the adjoining field. The Parish Council RESOLVED that additional scalplings would be added to the path.

- the proposed re-opening of the path from Sellake Bridge had been declined on lack of user evidence. Councillor Furmedge had thanked Mike Britten for attending the meeting and reading out a statement. The Ramblers Association would be taking up the possibility of re-instating the path under Schedule 14 and more user evidence may come forward.

Councillor Furmedge was writing to the Working Group to thank them for their support and work.

Councillor Browse raised the possibility of it being made a permissive path with landowners consent. The path would be fenced which would mean walkers kept to the designated path.

Action: Councillor Batchelor

- Verbal update on P3 submission

Councillor Furmedge advised that work on the submission was ongoing.

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c. Cemetery

Councillor Batchelor and the Clerk confirmed that work was ongoing on the following items:

- i) Grave lowering completed
- ii) safety inspection of the gravestones completed - ongoing
- iii) Noticeboard
- iv) Gravel pathways
- v) Wood from fallen tree

d. Defibrillators

Councillor Graham advised the defibrillators were in working order.

Action: Councillor Graham/Clerk

e. The Orchard Car Park

The MDDC Cabinet had agreed to the five spaces at The Orchard becoming residential parking permit spaces. The paperwork was being prepared by MDDC and the Parish Council was working on its responsibility to inform residents and advise MDDC of those who wished to take a place.

Action: Bring forward to January meeting

f. Ground Maintenance

A meeting with the current contractor is being arranged to cover all aspects of the ground maintenance contract and discuss any improvements to the schedule.

Action: Clerk

g. Parish Maps

An updated parish map following the boundary changes is now available and PROW had confirmed they were able to provide two A4 footpath maps. The maps provided to date were slightly off colour due to printer problems but two further copies would be provided.

Action: Clerk

h. Postbox at Pethertons

The request to re-instate post box had been sent and a response was no awaited.

236-14 Recreation and Amenities Working Group

The working group (Councillor Batchelor/Browse and Campell) had met on 19 November 2024 and the report circulated to all councillors.

a. The Mead

The Working Group noted the following actions:

- Quotes for work to be undertaken on the path from the Jubilee car park were required
 - The request to install football nets had not been actioned
 - With the new lease starting in March 2025, details of the equipment to be installed together with risk assessments needed to be sent to DCC. An area of 20m x 9m had been identified for teenage facilities which would need to be of a non-permanent nature due to the lease. There were S106 funds available for the teenage equipment. Risk assessments would need to be written.
- It may be possible to increase the width of the Mead by cutting back the area by the ditch.

b. Community Growing Area

The Clerk reported that the legal documentation to go alongside the lease had been received and,

therefore, work on the fence could be undertaken. A request for the cost of the fencing as per the new specification was being sent as well as requests for revised quotes for installing the fence. Councillor Batchelor had topped the land and it was due to be ploughed the week following the meeting.

S106 funding should cover half the cost of installing the fence. Tree quotes were required for the application form.

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c. Halberton Children's Recreation Ground

i) update on installation of new equipment and financing

The Clerk had received confirmation of a £1000 grant from DCC Community Growing Fund thus providing a shortfall of £2570.18. A response from the Heathcoat Amory Trust was awaited.

The Parish Council RESOLVED that Parish Council funds would be identified to allow the work to be commissioned in the New Year so that the funding deadlines could be met. Work on identifying monies from other grant funding streams would continue to be pursued.

Action: Councillor Campbell/Clerk

Councillor Campbell reported that some items of the existing equipment would need to be replaced and the work was outstanding on the fence repairs.

ii) monthly safety report

Councillor Campbell advised that the monthly reports were being recorded

.

iii) ROSPA report actions

As reported above the action on the fencing was outstanding.

iv) safety gate instead of five bar gate

The Clerk reported that, following payment by the Parish Council and the school, everything should be in place to install the new gate.

The Parish Council RESOLVED that either Ian Alcock or Councillor Saunders would be asked to install the gate.

v) work is ongoing on finding the additional funding required

d. Fund raising

Nothing to report.

e. Mid Devon Wildlife Warden Scheme

Nothing to report.

f. Ideas for solar farm cooperation

It was noted that the site was due to be developed in 2025.

236-15 Community items

a. Council IT tools Working Group to include Facebook page/Website/Communicating with Parishioners
Councillor Furmedge had provided Terms of Reference for the IT Tools Working Group and the Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the terms of reference.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to start the process of winding up the halberton.org site and email addresses with a view to it being completed within a year to allow users time to move to a new format.

The use of google workspace would be considered with the main users being Councillor Batchelor, Campbell and Furmedge. The Clerk tended to use Microsoft products. Costs would be presented at the next

meeting.

b. Internet Connectivity Working Group

The latest information received was as follows:

Having looked up Halberton on our mapping portal we can see that most of the parish sits in cluster E04, to which build is complete. There are some premises to the North East of the parish, including in the Hitchcock Farm and Braddons Farm House areas which are within cluster E5 and therefore will unfortunately not now be built to.

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c. Anaerobic Digester Liaison Committee

The Clerk was awaiting further dates in the New Year.

Action: Clerk to follow-up

d. Flies in Halberton

Environment Health Officer (EHO) notice in place

e. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Dave Charles had reported that he felt Halberton did not need a formal NW scheme but rather the Parish Council should ensure that social media communications get any important messages out quickly and effectively and that the newsletter should be used to keep people informed about crime prevention.

f. Emergency Plan

Councillors Batchelor advised that work was ongoing on the Emergency Plan.

An open meeting would be called in the New Year.

Action: Clerk to access funding for a meeting once needs had been identified

h. Neighbourhood Plan

Funding is available to start the process of an neighbourhood plan and parish councils could put forward bids for funding up to £10,000.

Action: Clerk to advise date of meeting for parishes with a consultant.

It was also felt an online survey may be beneficial to understand residents views of housing needs.

i) Signs for Footpaths

The Clerk advised quotes were awaited.

Action: Clerk

236-16 Newsletter Working Group

The Clerk advised that Issue 176 had been published and distributed and the Working Group would meet again in January.

236-17 Traffic

Devon Countywide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

The Parish Council was in favour of any plan that improved the local cycling and walking infrastructure.

Devon and Torbay Local Transport Plan (LTP4).

The Parish Council was in favour of any plan that improved public transport but noted that changes were mainly in urban areas.

Ongoing Halberton matters:

Flashing lights at the school in Lower Town

Setting up the work and purchasing the lights is in hand.

Action: Clerk to monitor

The pavement at Church Path – ongoing
See discussion on Lower Town

The solar batteries for the VAS units have been received.
Councillor Batchelor/Browse advised that work to install was ongoing.
Councillor Furmedge advised that work to retrieve data was ongoing

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Potential pavement at The Hickory Inn
The double yellow line application was ongoing.

Lorries on the Halberton to Willand road – a meeting with DCC Highways and Safety Officers and PC
Tim Walsh has now been organised for 15 January 2025

Rose Cottage Bridge – as and when re-surfaced

Lorries between Halberton and Brithem Bottom – asked for signage to be moved

Community Speed Watch

Councillor Browse has undertaken the 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 has submitted a new application for the DCC funded programme.

Portable Air Quality Monitor

No further progress this month

235-18 Financial accounts 2024/25

The Parish Council noted the financial information provided by the Clerk.

Current account

Opening balance 31/10/24		£ 5303.44	
Receipts			
Newsletter		£ 306.00	
Utility Warehouse		£ 494.15	£800.15
Payments			
30Nov2024	Service Charge	-6.00	
20Nov2024	B/P to: Rob Furmedge	-47.79	
20Nov2024	B/P to: Upcott	-696.00	
20Nov2024	B/P to: HMRC	-130.20	
20Nov2024	B/P to: Mrs S McGeever	-614.22	
20Nov2024	B/P to: Carol Graham	-30.00	
20Nov2024	B/P to: Parish Online	-96.00	
20Nov2024	B/P to: R Saunders	-40.00	
20Nov2024	B/P to: DALC	-60.00	
20Nov2024	B/P to: Mrs S McGeever	-70.00	
20Nov2024	B/P to: David Williams	-393.35	

20Nov2024	B/P to: McVeigh Parker	-238.99	
13Nov2024	B/P to: Rob Furmedge	-48.00	
13Nov2024	B/P to: Rob Furmedge	-319.38	
13Nov2024	B/P to: Rob Furmedge	-35.97	
13Nov2024	B/P to: Rob Furmedge	-42.00	
	Direct Debit (MDDC DIRECT		
01Nov2024	DEBITS)	-43.00	
	Direct Debit (MDDC DIRECT		
01Nov2024	DEBITS)	-17.54	£2,928.44

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Closing balance 30/11/24 £ 3175.15

Reserve account

Opening balance 31/10/24 £32816.13

Receipts

Payments

Closing balance 30/11/24 £32816.13

Cumulative bank reconciliation form produced in Scribe was signed by Chairman.

b. Payments to approve:

The Parish Council RESOLVED to make the following payments:

Google workspace (November)	£ 48.00
HMRC (PAYE - November)	£ 225.17
S McGeever (wages November plus NALC)	£ 844.30
C Graham (newsletter distribution)	£ 30.00
Source for Business (cemetery)	£ 27.59

Other information:

UW £651.43 (overpayment)

The cost of the Christmas Tree was also approved.

c. Halberton Children's Recreation Ground

The Parish Council RESOLVED to make a payment of £1500 to the Halberton Children's Recreation Ground Charity. The accounts had been approved in November for the annual return submission.

Information was awaited from DALC with regard to bringing other amenity assets under the charity umbrella.

d. New Financial Regulations

Circulated to councillors in August 2024 and awaiting comments from Councillor Furmedge prior to approval at the January meeting.

e. Budget and precept

Budget information had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and this was to be considered when setting the precept.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for keeping her hours within the amount set albeit that some actions were taking longer to achieve.

The Clerk advised that in order to build the recommended reserve, the precept would need to be increased again in the coming year by as much as 49%. One of the reasons was that the number of Band D properties had been reduced as a result of the boundary changes. In addition, the October budget would see an increase in the wage bill due to National Insurance contributions and the overall increase this would

inevitable bring to contractors costs and prices. There was also the need to put provision aside for the Orchard car parking and other proposed works in 2025.

Parish Councillors would study the figures over the Christmas period and a decision made at the January meeting.

The cemetery charges would also be reviewed.

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f. Unity Debit Card

Awaiting further information from the bank.

g. Grant applications

The following grant applications would be considered at the January meeting.

- Church Bells
- CAB
- Mid Devon mobility
- CHAT

236-19 Members business including meetings attended, and miscellaneous matters (not for decision)

Devon Council Climate Network

Nothing to report.

Connecting the Culm/Catchment Visioning Workshop

Nothing to report.

Cullompton Health and Wellbeing

Nothing to report.

236-20 Items for next meeting

236-21 Date of the next meeting

14 January 2025 – Parish Council Meeting – 7.00pm
to be held at Halberton Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm and gave his apologies for the next meeting.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chairman

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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	13-14

a. To receive a report from the MDDC Council Member

Council Meeting and Decisions

There were several meetings held during the month:

- Cabinet Meeting 10 December

Questions were raised about a press article where it was stated that 1200 Council properties had been **overcharged on their rents** whilst 1600 had been undercharged.

This administration and the Council had no control over the historical issues.

- However, the Council's priority was to resolve it swiftly and effectively. The Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Risk reassured the Cabinet, and importantly the tenants, that they were secure in relation to their tenancies. The HRA remained financially sound, with sufficient reserves to address this matter responsibly and without jeopardising its long-term viability.

- It was highlighted in the report the steps that had already been taken, including a self-referral to the Regulator for Social Housing (RSH) and engagement with the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP), the Council's auditors, and the Valuation Office Agency (VOA). To ensure the actions were legally robust, external legal advice had been sought from a King's Counsel.

2025/2026- DRAFT BUDGET The Cabinet had before it a report * from the Deputy Chief Executive (S151) presenting the 2025/2026 draft Budget Report. The Cabinet Member for Governance, Finance and Risk outlined the contents of the report with particular reference to the following:

- At the last Cabinet meeting, the projected shortfall stood at £431k. Since then ,a thorough review had shown that some previously identified savings were not achievable for 2025/26 and would need to be revisited in future years. However, the Council had been able to reduce other pressures and identify additional savings, bringing the shortfall down to £191k.

The Council were deeply disappointed by the government's decision to remove the Rural Services Delivery Grant. This, along with the uncertainty of the funding settlement, expected on 19 December 2024;this was unacceptably late in the budget-setting cycle, and had created significant challenges for financial planning.

More information on other topics covered at the Cabinet meeting is on our website.

- Scrutiny Committee 16 December

There is a lot of information in the Scrutiny Committee – I have highlighted just a couple of points below: Examination and review of **Freedom of information processes** within Mid Devon District Council and concluded that:

ON review, the disclosure log in its current format would be published monthly from January 2025 but may take some time to implement due to due to cyber security activities that the team were committed to. Quarterly performance reports would come to the Scrutiny Committee.

A quarterly dashboard would show the numbers of request, reviews and the number escalated to the ICO and how many had been upheld.

The Scrutiny Committee **AGREED** that the Head of Digital Transformation and Customer Engagement provide an Annual Performance Report to the Scrutiny Committee of the performance of Mid Devon District Council's Freedom of Information and Environmental Information Regulations processing.

Other items discussed at Scrutiny included:

Destination Management Plan

This provides a summary of Tourism data and through the Destination Management Plan directly supports the Economic Strategy which in turn is supported by project work such as the Shared Prosperity Fund Delivery Plan.

Visitor Survey:

- The 2024 Visitor Survey, undertaken between Easter and October this year, surveyed just over 600 people.
- It showed that Mid Devon's visitors were predominantly day visitors (66% coming from within the South West).
- 2024 saw a slight increase in family visitors from the 2016 survey which directly linked to the growth of new attractions since then such as Bear Town and the funded project work through Shared Prosperity Fund such as the Swan Trail.
- Visitor Satisfaction was high with a percentage of 83% being repeat visits.
- 34% of visitors were couples over 55, which was the target customer base for the Mid Devon Walking Festival

Coming forward:

- A new Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) for Devon was formally approved by Visit Britain earlier this year. This was a collaborative partnership consisting of Devon authorities and key destination management stakeholders across Devon. This Partnership was in its early stages and was working on forming its Business Plan. Mid Devon District Council had a seat on the Partnership Board and the Team would continue working with them. The Destination Management Plan would both support and be supported by the LVEP's wider business plan.

Secondly, a new organisation called Screen Devon was seeking to create a database of potential film/TV locations across Devon to support requests from that industry. Once up and running, the Economic Development Team should receive data about requests for the Mid Devon area.

- **Full Council 18 December**
- Planning Enforcement and backlog

The Council reported significant advancements in addressing the backlog of enforcement cases. A new policy was approved to streamline the processes, and ensure timely responses to violations. This initiative reflects the council's commitment to maintaining and regulatory standards and supporting sustainable development within the district.

Community Engagement and Services

The council reminded residents that applications for the Household Support Fund would not be processed between December 24 2024 and 6 January 2025. Despite the processing pause, the fund remained open for applications, providing financial assistance to eligible households facing economic challenges.

Waste and Recycling Collection

Adjustments were made to waste and recycling collection to schedules during the Christmas and New Year holiday. Residents were informed of the revised dates to ensure proper waste management and maintain community cleanliness during the festive season.

Regional Developments

Beyond the district, significant regional development are underway:

Local Government Restructuring:

Plans were announced to merge Devon County Council with the county's eight other districts, including MDDC into a new unitary authority. This restructuring represents the most substantial change in local government organization in decades. As part of the process it is expected that DCC will approach the Government to suggest that elections are suspended this year.

Gwendoline DuChesne MBE

gduchesne@middevon.gov.uk

b. Grand Western Canal Group

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
7	Devon County Council matters To receive a report from the DCC Council Member	15-16

As this is my first report of 2025, I wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

There are just a couple of news items from DCC at time of writing- I will give any further updates at the meeting, including an update on the Government's plans for Local Government Reform, following a special meeting of Full Council on January 9th.

There will be more money to provide care for Devon's vulnerable adults and children in the county council's target budget for 2025/26.

New figures a proposed 8.2 per cent increase in the revenue budget for adult services with a 5.5 per cent rise in children's services and 3.4 per cent extra for climate change, environment and transport. Reductions in other departmental spending means an overall rise of 5.9 per cent in the budget for next year with a total spend of over £784.1 million.

Our Cabinet will discuss the details next month with our full council set to debate the budget in February. In a new report, Director of Finance, Angie Sinclair, says there has been a renewed drive across the council to cut costs.

But she adds: "Inflationary pressures continue to be felt across the economy, local government and our partners, despite the rate of inflation reducing in the past two years from its peak.

"Social care is particularly impacted by increases to the national living wage which are again increased by above inflation and the increases to National Insurance announced in the Chancellor's Budget."

"The cost of inflation places sustained financial pressures both on our households and communities and our suppliers and service providers and contributes to the ongoing impact in terms of price and demand pressures on the authority's budget.

"This is reflected in the proposed target budgets with total investment of £31.9 million to cover inflation and national living wage plus £33.8 million to cover demand and other spending pressures and priorities.

"To enable the authority to set a balanced budget, savings, alternative funding and additional income of £21.7 million have been identified.

"Overall, there is additional funding of £44 million or 5.9% for services next year compared to the adjusted base budget."

She says there are no plans to raid the council's balances to boost spending.

"This reflects a strategy of 'living within our means' and as such to set service budgets that are affordable within anticipated income and funding totals for next year."

Angie Sinclair will tell the Cabinet that the target budget includes the loss of £10.1 million in Government support to rural areas. The money is being re-directed to areas of deprivation and Devon will not receive any cash at all.

It means Devon has the lowest settlement increase of any of the 21 county councils.

We've welcomed a record £83.6 million "early Christmas present" from the Government for road repairs.

The funding of £83,640,000 for Devon is the largest share of a record £1.6 billion investment announced by the Government today (Friday 20 December) to fill potholes and repair roads.

An extensive repair programme using this latest funding will be compiled over the next couple of months to help tackle the highway maintenance backlog on Devon's 8,000 mile road network, which is currently in excess of £200 million. The funding will be used to prioritise extensive surfacing, patching and other preventative maintenance, as well as drainage improvements.

We've already embarked on a recovery programme of patching and surfacing through our own £12 million

investment earlier this year. The benefit from that work is already being felt and since April, more than 55,000 square metres of road have been patched at around 790 sites across the county. These repairs have targeted sections of road which are deteriorating, patching areas before potholes form.

As always please get in touch if you need help with any DCC related matters.

Colin Slade
Devon County Councillor for Tiverton East
Colin.slade@devon.gov.uk
07948 4432042

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
8	Police matters To consider any correspondence from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Council Advocate Scheme	17

Police Matters

Information circulated to Parish Councillors

Councillor Advocate Scheme

Councillor Browse to report

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
9	Vacancies on the Parish Council To consider and, if agreed, approve any applications received.	18

Emails have been sent to those who have previously expressed interest.

A call for councillors will once again go into the Newsletter.

Councillor Peter Herrod-Taylor has changed his name by deed to Peter Barnard-Taylor and this has been reflected on the website and conveyed to MDDC.

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.	19-20

New applications:

24/01748/PNCOU

Proposal: Prior notification for the change of use of land to a temporary campsite under Class BC for a period of 60 days from 22/07/2025 - 30/09/2025

Location: Land at NGR 302298 108992 (Herons Bank) Cullompton Devon

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 302344 / 108978

Parish: Halberton 25

INFORMATION ONLY

24/01810/PNCOU

Proposal: Prior notification for the change of use of land to a temporary campsite for consisting of 50 campervan pitches and associated structures under Class BC for a period of up to 60 days from 21/07/2025 - 24/09/2025

Location: Land at NGR 299668 113039 (Mid Devon Show Park and Ride Field) Crown Hill

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 299668 / 113041

Parish: Halberton 25

Deadline for comments: 7 January 2025 – extension to 15 January 2025

24/01703/CAT

Proposal: Notification of intention to remove overhanging branches from 3 Walnut trees and 1 American Beech tree within a Conservation Area

Location: 6 and 10 Lower Town Halberton Tiverton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 300434 / 112683

Parish: Halberton 25

Deadline for comments: 7 January 2025 – extension to 15 January 2025

24/01771/FULL

Proposal: Change of use and conversion of lincay barn to 2 'self build' dwellings, with associated parking and landscaping

Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 301166 110362 Merrys Farm Brithem Bottom

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 301167 / 110363

Parish: Halberton 25

Deadline for comments: 10 January 2025 – extension to 16 January 2025

25/00010/HOUSE

Proposal: Replacement windows and doors
Location: Meadow Lea Uffculme Cullompton
Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 304778 / 112764
Parish: Halberton 25

Deadline for comments: 27 January 2025

Existing applications:

21/01576/MOUT

Re-determination of Appeal

Proposal: Outline for the extension of existing business park for up to 3.9ha of employment land and up to 150 dwellings with associated infrastructure and access with all other matters reserved - APPEAL DISMISSED 20.10.23 - Quashed by High Court of Justice 05.06.24 - Redetermination of Appeal

Location: Land at NGR 298976 112882 (Hartnoll Farm) Tiverton Devon

Application No: 21/01576/MOUT

Appeal Ref No. APP/Y1138/W/22/3313401

Appellants Name: Waddeton Park Ltd

Further information was sent by MDDC to the inspectorate following changes in the National Planning Policy Framework advising that the changes did not affect MDDC's position.

A decision is awaited.

Enforcement

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

There are currently 13 enforcement issues in the parish of Halberton. Two meetings have been held with the enforcement officer.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
11	Consideration of Mid Devon District Council's Planning Decisions	21

The following decisions have been received:

24/01311/FULL – APPROVED – 13 December 2024

Proposal: Conversion of outbuilding to additional ancillary accommodation and erection of double garage with log store (following approved scheme 22/01012/FULL)

Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 300553 110978 (Bradley Farm) Ash Thomas Devon

24/01559/CLU – CERTIFICATE OF LAWFUL USE OR DEVELOPMENT – 16 December 2024

First Schedule

Erection and existing use of agricultural building for the period in excess of four years.

Second Schedule

The Pethers Crown Hill Halberton Tiverton Devon EX16 7AY

Land edged red on site location plan reference 2024036-HC-EX-XX-DR-E-7080-01 received
21.10.2024

24/01066/FULL – APPROVED – 20 December 2024

Proposal: Erection of self build dwelling following demolition of garage

Location: 59 High Street Halberton Tiverton Devon

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
12	Highways matters and the Road and Snow Warden Schemes	22

Update and any new matters to report excluding those reported under the Traffic Committee:

a. Potholes

Repairs continue to take place across the Parish.

Potholes on the road from Five Bridges to Canal Hill and Brithem Bottom to Sutton Barton have been reported.

b. Road Warden Scheme

Councillors Browse and Furmedge are the Parish Council's Road Wardens

Councillor Furmedge – strimmer training on hold awaiting response from P3 scheme

Lower Town pavements etc.

Update on work undertaken, working party and letters

c. Snow Warden Scheme

Councillor Batchelor to update on moving salt

Other matters:

Email send re cutting back vegetation and putting down scalpings – approved by Councillor Radford

Give Way sign – new sign has had to be ordered – delivery expected in 1-2 weeks - update

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
13	Amenity matters	23-24

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

Nothing to report

b. Footpaths

Councillor Furmedge

- We have the documents for P3 submission, required by 28th March 2025. These forms have been revised and now co-ordinated by Jon Boyd - PRoW Officer at DCC.
- Need to walk our footpaths - will create an online sheet for volunteers and publicise in Newsletter and social media.

c. Cemetery

i) Grave lowering completed

Action: Clerk to contact EROB holders - ongoing

ii) safety inspection of the gravestones completed - ongoing

Action: Clerk to contact EROB holders

iii) Noticeboard

With Councillor Batchelor for installation.

iv) Gravel pathways

Councillor Batchelor to report

v) Wood from fallen tree

Councillor Batchelor to report

d. Defibrillators

Update from Councillor Graham.

Action: Councillor Graham/Clerk

e. The Orchard Car Park

Documentation awaited from MDDC

PC to convey news to residents and seek applications

f. Ground Maintenance

A meeting with the current contractor is being arranged to cover all aspects of the ground maintenance contract and discuss any improvements to the schedule.

g. Parish Maps

An updated parish map following the boundary changes is now available.

A request has gone to PROW to have two A4 footpath maps. Maps awaited

h. Postbox at Pethertons

Request to re-instate post box has been sent.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
14	Recreation and Amenities Working Group	25

Councillors Batchelor, Browse and Campbell to raise any issues relating to:

a. The Mead

- Quotes for work to be undertaken on the path from the Jubilee car park
- Request to install football nets
- The new lease starts in March 2025 – details of the equipment to be installed together with risk assessments needs to be sent to DCC.

b. Community Growing Area

The request to allow stock fencing to be used has been approved.

The legal documentation (an email to be attached to the lease) has been received and circulated.

c. Halberton Children's Recreation Ground

i) update on installation of new equipment and financing

Response awaited from Heathcoat Amory. Parish Council RESOLVED to fund the differential pending further grant payments.

ii) monthly safety report

iii) ROSPA report actions
Report on fencing

iv) safety gate instead of five bar gate
The school is in the process of paying for the gate.

v) work is ongoing on finding the additional funding required

d. Fund raising

e. Mid Devon Wildlife Warden Scheme

f. Ideas for solar farm cooperation

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
15	Community items	26

To consider any other community matters.

a. Council IT tools Working Group to include Facebook page/Website/Communicating with Parishioners
Councillor Furmedge - IT Tools Review first (virtual) meeting to be arranged

b. Anaerobic Digester Liaison Committee

New email sent to arrange meeting

Action: Clerk awaiting response

c. Flies in Halberton

EHO notice in place

d. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Parish Council to decide if item should be taken off agenda

e. Emergency Plan

The Clerk is liaising with Councillor Batchelor to put together a draft plan updating the existing plan to the new format. A meeting will be held for residents and funding applied for.

f. Neighbourhood Plan

Funding is available to start the process of an neighbourhood plan (£10,000). It would be useful to have a consultant outline the processes

g) Signs for Footpaths

Councillor Browse and the Clerk have walked the route, identified the signage required and quotes are awaited for the making of the signs.

h) Parking in the Lower Town

Issues surrounding parking during school pick-up and drop-off have been raised by parishioners.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
16	Newsletter Working Group	27

The Newsletter Working Group is meeting on 7 January 2025 and the minutes will be circulated prior to the Parish Council meeting.

Reimbursement for volunteer deliverers.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
17	Traffic	28

Ongoing Halberton matters:

Flashing lights at the school in Lower Town

The posts have been installed – double checking lights correct before purchase.

Action: Clerk to monitor

The pavement at Church Path – ongoing

The wall alongside Church Path is quite overgrown and impacting road safety.

Letters delivered – working party organised.

The solar batteries for the VAS units have been received.

- Verbal update on data collection

- Verbal update on solar installation

Potential pavement at The Hickory Inn – Councillor Slade advised double yellow line application ongoing.

Lorries on the Halberton to Willand road – a meeting with DCC Highways and Safety Officers and PC Tim Walsh has been organised for 15 January 2025

Rose Cottage Bridge – as and when re-surfaced

Lorries between Halberton and Brithem Bottom – asked for signage to be moved

Community Speed Watch

Councillor Browse has undertaken the 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 has submitted a new application for the DCC funded programme.

Portable Air Quality Monitor

No further progress this month

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
18	Financial accounts 2024/25	29-30

a. Financial report for the year 2024/25

Current account

Opening balance 30/11/24		£ 3175.15	
Receipts			
Newsletter		£ 651.00	
Devon County Council		£ 1000.00	
Transfer		£ 3000.00	£4651.00
Payments			
Service Charge	-6.00		
Direct Debit (UTILITY WAREHOUSE)	-43.85		
B/P to: Pennon Water Servi	-27.59		
B/P to: HMRC	-225.17		
B/P to: Carol Graham	-30.00		
B/P to: Mrs S McGeever	-844.30		
B/P to: Brightsea Print	-926.00		
Direct Debit (MDDC DIRECT DEBITS)	-43.00		
Direct Debit (MDDC DIRECT DEBITS)	-17.52		
		£ 2163.43	
Closing balance 31/12/24		£ 5662.72	

Reserve account

Opening balance 30/11/24	£32816.13
Receipts	
Interest	£ 190.05
Payments	
Transfer	£ 3000.00
Closing balance 31/12/24	£30006.18

Cumulative bank reconciliation form produced in Scribe to be signed by Chairman.

b. Payments to approve (Council):

Google workspace (December)	£ 48.00
HMRC (PAYE - December)	£ 140.48
S McGeever (wages December)	£ 642.93
Nico Page (PROW)	£ 360.00
Halberton Children's Recreation Ground	£1500.00
Fasthosts (reimbursement)	£ 100.26

Other information:

UW £41.45

c. Halberton Children's Recreation Ground

Charity Return will be submitted prior to the meeting.

d. New Financial Regulations

Circulated to councillors in August 2024.

e. Budget and precept

Budget information was circulated to councillors prior to the December meeting to be considered when setting the precept. The deadline for submitting the precept calculation is 22 January 2025.

f. Unity Debit Card

Completion of the unity debit card paperwork.

g. Grant applications

- Church Bells
- CAB
- Mid Devon mobility
- CHAT