

Halberton Parish Council

Meeting of Halberton Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 11 March 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
4 March 2025

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 11 February 2025	3-14
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	15-16
7	Devon County Council matters To receive a report from the DCC Council Member	17-18
8	Police matters To consider any correspondence from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Council Advocate Scheme	19
9	Vacancies on the Parish Council To consider and, if agreed, approve any applications received	20
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.	21
11	Consideration of Mid Devon District Council's Planning Decisions The following planning decisions have been received.	22

12	Highways matters and the Road and Snow Warden Schemes	23
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	24-25
14	Recreation and Amenities Working Group The Recreation and Amenities Working Group	26
15	Community items To consider any other community matters	27
16	Newsletter Working Group	28
17	Traffic Issues To consider information from the Joint Traffic Working Group and other matters relating to the parish of Halberton	29
18	Financial accounts 2024/25	30-31
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 11 February 2025	3-14

**Halberton Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at Halberton Village Hall on Tuesday 11 February 2025 at 7.00pm**

Present

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

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

238-1 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillor DuChesne (MDDC).

238-2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

238-3 Public Forum

The following matters were raised in the public forum:

- Minutes

a) water gathering at the top of Chapel Close should be amended to read 'water collecting on the surface at the crossing point at the top of Chapel Close'

b) car parking on the High Street, at the Hickory Inn and in Lower Town should be amended to read 'the issue of parking had been raised during Traffic Committee meetings'

c) all references to the Jubilee Car Park (formerly Cordwents) should be referred to in full as the Platinum Jubilee Car Park

- Discount Scheme

A discount scheme had been put in place and was accessible to the Parish Council (see Issue 177 of the Newsletter)

238-4 To approve the minutes of the Council meeting 14 January 2025

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting and for the Vice-Chair to initial each page and sign the final page given the Chair had not been present at the meeting.

238-5 Chairman's Announcements

Given his absence at the last meeting, Councillor Batchelor wished all present a Happy New Year.

238-6 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. The Clerk briefly ran through the report.

Councillor Slade requested that a correction be made to Councillor DuChesne's report relating to the possible disposal of the Moorings.

The list of possible buildings and land owned by DCC for disposal was put together by Officers of Devon

County Council and not members of the Land and Property Committee. The Committee itself did not have input into the list. At the meeting, two decisions were made:

- a) That the Moorings should be taken off the list and
- b) That Officers should ensure that where there is a wider interest in a building or land, interested parties should be advised/consulted prior to such building or land being placed on the list

Councillor Slade added that there were no buildings or land in Halberton that were currently up for consideration.

Page 554

There were no questions on the report itself but Councillor Batchelor had a question relating to the name of the Economic Officer for MDDC which he would send to Councillor DuChesne.

b. Grand Western Canal Group

Councillor Slade had commented on the disposal of the Moorings under 6a) above.

The Appeal relating to the building of houses at Tidcombe Hall would be on the agenda of the next meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee on 3 March 2025.

238-7 Devon County Council matters

Councillor Slade had submitted a report and it was included on the agenda for the meeting. There were no questions on the report as written.

Councillor Slade advised that the Government had turned down DCC's request to postpone the elections and thus elections for District Councillors would be going ahead on 1 May 2025.

However, the legislation to allow Devon and Torbay to become a Combined County Authority (CCA) had been signed by the Government and the inaugural meeting of the CCA would take place on 19 March 2025. The CCA Board was made up of Devon County Council, Torbay, District Councils and the Police Commissioner. The CCA also had an Audit Committee of which Councillor Slade was a member and a Scrutiny Committee.

Devon County Council and the eight districts would no longer exist going forward and nobody currently knew what would happen to the staff and assets, however, it was hoped that the Grand Western Canal would be protected and probably taken over by the Unitary Authority. Assets such as the farm at Cordwents could be sold.

Adult Social Care

Councillor Slade advised that Devon County Council were one of the leading councils on customer satisfaction for those accessing Adult Social Care being ranked 4 out of 52.

There were no questions from Parish Councillors.

238-8 Police Matters

Police Matters

Information had been circulated to Parish Councillors

Councillor Advocate Scheme

Councillor Browse advised he would be attending a meeting at Middlemoor on 26 March 2025 and would report back to the Parish Council.

238-9 Vacancies on the Parish Council

Councillor Browse advised that he had knew an individual who might be interested. Details would be sent to the Clerk when confirmed.

Vacancies would continue to be published in the Newsletter.

238-10 Consideration of Mid Devon District Council's planning applications

25/00047/CAT

Proposal: Notification of intention to fell 1 fir tree in a Conservation Area

Location: 4 Mill Stream Gardens Halberton Tiverton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 300942 / 112798

Parish: Halberton 25

The Parish Council RESOLVED that it had no objection to this application.

25/00092/PIP

Proposal: Permission in Principle for the erection of up to 2 dwellings

Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 300538 113073 High Street Halberton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 300540 / 113077

Parish: Halberton 25

The Parish Council RESOLVED that it had no objection in principle to this application but did have a number of points to raise:

- In a conservation area
- Outside of settlement
- Potential brownfield site as a builder's yard since 1970
- Not in the MDDC Local Plan
- Usual build outside the settlement not allowed unless self-build or low-cost housing
- Access onto road and visibility splay
- No off-road parking for adjacent cottages (possibly using the site)
- If went ahead assurance adequate off road parking and no parking on the road
- Single dwelling or two semi-detached dwellings
- Sufficient parking

Action: The Clerk would write the response and circulate to councillors.

24/01658/FULL

Proposal: Erection of a detached garage and stables

Location: Land at NGR 301608 112527 The Cottage Halberton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 301621 / 112500

Parish: Halberton 25

The Parish Council RESOLVED that it had no objection to this application.

25/00141/MARM

Proposal: Variation of condition 1 of planning permission 23/01172/MARM (Reserved Matters application 19/00364/MARM, pursuant to Outline application 15/01332/MOUT, for employment development of up to 5,256m² of B1, 2,651m² of B2 and 4,919m² of B8 units together with internal access roads, parking and associated infrastructure) to allow substitute plans in respect of the layout for Plot A

Location: Land at NGR 303681 111677 (North Of Mid Devon Business Park) Muxbeare Lane

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 303680 / 111678

Parish: Willand 59

The Parish Council RESOLVED that it remained concerned about the proximity of industrial buildings to the residential buildings in Muxbeare Lane and the effects of noise and light pollution.

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

The appeal was dismissed on the grounds of the five year land supply and the site being out of settlement and the adherence to the National and MDDC planning policies.

Appeal Reference: APP/Y1138/W/24/3347484

Appeal By: Mr Ray Radford

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

Site Address: Land at NGR 301040 112882

The Parish Council noted that a decision was awaited.

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

Information received from the Planning Officer has been circulated to Parish Council's in relation to road safety concerns which are scheduled to be addressed.

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.

As requested, the Clerk had put in a potential breach of planning at Channings, Brithem Bottom.

238-11 Consideration of Mid Devon District Council's Planning Decisions

The following decisions were noted:

24/00271/FULL – APPROVED – 10 January 2025

Proposal: Demolition of agricultural building, erection of commercial building and change of use of agricultural land to Use Class B8

Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 304054 111974 Willand Road Business Park Uffculme Devon

24/01703/CAT – APPROVED – 20 January 2025

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 Devon

237-12 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.

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

The dumping of sludge in the lay-by at Hartnoll Business Park had 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.

The working party had undertaken work in Lower Town and would be walking around the village week commencing 17 February 2025 to identify further works. Councillor Browse advised that the clearing of the area coming into the village at the Sampford Peverell end would require the use of a digger. The working group would come up with a plan of work.

c. Snow Warden Scheme

Councillor Batchelor gave no update on moving salt

The broken speed monitor had been removed.

Actions:

Clerk to check if broken sign going out the village towards the Farm Shop had been mended.

238-13 Amenity matters

a. Platinum Jubilee Car Park

Nothing to report regarding maintenance issues.

b. Footpaths

Councillor Furmedge reported that

- Revised footpath pages added to website

It was asked if links could be put in where footpaths continued beyond Halberton's boundary

- Need to walk our footpaths for P3 submission (required by 28th March)

Noted by the Parish Council

- Newsletter article requesting volunteers published/social media

One volunteer had come forward

- Spreadsheet showing paths to be walked added to website along with checking criteria

The Clerk would walk the footpaths around Brithem Bottom and had already reported a broken sign to DCC.

Councillor Furmedge advised that the P3 forms had not been completed for 2024-25.

Action: Clerk to approach DCC with regarding to reimbursing this year's invoice for footpath clearance.

c. Cemetery

The Clerk confirmed the following items:

- i) Grave lowering completed – letters ongoing

- ii) safety inspection of the gravestones completed – letters ongoing

- iii) Noticeboard – be put up

- iv) Gravel pathways – to be costed

- v) Wood from fallen tree – to be removed

d. Defibrillators

The Clerk advised that the South West Ambulance Service were renewing contracts coming due in 2025, it was her understanding that all existing contracts would be given a further 4-year lease after which point, the defibrillators would be gifted to the parish and need to be maintained by the parish. The situation may change but the Parish Council would be kept informed.

Councillor Graham advised the defibrillators were in working order. The training day would be held at Ash Thomas and the date advertised.

Action: Councillor Graham/Clerk

e. The Orchard Car Park

The draft agreement had been received from MDDC and the Clerk had added comments from Councillor Batchelor and herself and this would now be returned to MDDC for approval.

The notice in the Newsletter had resulted in parishioners contacting the Clerk regarding the five permit parking places and requesting four places.

The Parish Council had also agreed to carry out a mail drop and it was RESOLVED that given the success of the Newsletter, only properties in the direct vicinity would be mail dropped. The letters would be delivered week commencing 17 February 2024.

A notice would also be placed on the railings of the car park itself.

Action: Clerk to ascertain parking permit charges for 2025-26.

f. Ground Maintenance

The Clerk advised that the contractor had asked if the grass should be cut in February.

The Parish Council RESOLVED that the grass should be cut either in the week of 17 February 2024 or 24 February 2024 and that a meeting should take place at the same time to discuss the current contract. The Clerk would also investigate the use of a robotic mower at the Mead.

Action: Clerk

The wildlife area in the cemetery needed to be cut and there were several small branches that would need to be moved before the grass could be cut. There was also a large branch near the wheelie bins that needed to be removed.

g. Parish Maps

The PRow printer had been repaired and the request for maps will be sent.

Action: Clerk

h. Postbox at Pethertons

The request to re-instate post box had been sent and a response was now awaited.

Action: Clerk

238-14 Recreation and Amenities Working Group

No meeting had taken place since the last Parish Council meeting but a meeting was planned for the week commencing 17 February 2024.

a. The Mead

The following actions would be carried out following the meeting week commencing 17 February 2025

- 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 Clerk reported that despite approaching a significant number of fencing contractors since the new fencing specification had been approved, only one quote (£1707.68) had been received.

Given the need to install the fencing prior to the planting of maize in the adjacent field, the Parish Council RESOLVED to go with the known supplier who could carry out the work in early March.

Councillor Batchelor advised that he would plough the area before the end of February.

The Clerk would contact S106 regarding accessing the monies available and also update DCC.

Action: Councillor Batchelor/Clerk

c. Halberton Children's Recreation Ground

i) update on installation of new equipment and financing

The Clerk advised that £1000 received from the Heathcoat-Amory Trust and a thank you letter was ready to be posted.

A deposit had been paid and the equipment ordered and documentation had been circulated to all Parish Councillors. The Parish Council RESOLVED that whilst the Clerk would manage the paperwork and the contract, any necessary site visits would be carried out by Councillors Barnard-Taylor and Campbell.

Councillor Barnard-Taylor advised that stability mats may be needed and this would be an additional cost to construction.

Action: Councillors Barnard-Taylor and Campbell/Clerk

The Clerk had completed the paperwork for the Community Grant and was in the process of completing the paperwork for the Locality Budget monies received.

Action: Clerk

The Parish Council would consider an event to mark the opening of the new play equipment.

ii) monthly safety report

Councillor Campbell reported that some repairs were necessary to the existing equipment and he had contacted the company involved.

iii) ROSPA report actions

No update on the fencing was given.

The Parish Council noted that the next ROSPA inspection would take place in March.

iv) safety gate instead of five bar gate

The gate and posts are ready for delivery and the Clerk would organise this and Councillor Saunders would be available to receive the gates and fit them.

Action: Clerk

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.

Page 560

238-15 Community items

a. Council IT tools Working Group to include Facebook page/Website/Communicating with Parishioners
Councillor Furmedge reported that the first IT Tools Review virtual meeting was yet to be arranged.
It was RESOLVED that a decision on the way forward would be made at the March meeting.

b. Anaerobic Digester Liaison Committee

No progress had been made on arranging a meeting.

Action: Clerk awaiting response

c. Flies in Halberton

EHO notice in place

d. Emergency Plan

Councillor Batchelor had attend the Tiverton Emergency Plan meeting which had been useful and would liaise with the Clerk.

e. Neighbourhood Plan

Whilst recognising the importance of a Neighbourhood Plan priority would be given to the Emergency Plan until the impact of the new National Planning Policy Framework and the Government White Paper on Devolution was known.

f) Signs for Footpaths

The Clerk circulated visuals of the proposed sign and the Parish Council RESOLVED that despite the small lettering, the size of the signs were sufficient given they would be situated at the end of existing paths on existing poles. The signs would be brown or green. It was RESOLVED that the best price would be taken once all three quotes had been received.

Action: Councillor Browse/Clerk

g) Parking in the Lower Town

The issues surrounding parking during school pick-up and drop-off was discussed at the meeting with Devon County Council Highways, Safety Officers and the police.

The police would be writing to the school and the Clerk would advise the Parish Council once the letter had been sent.

Highways would need to be contacted regarding the car parking on the pavement at the Church Lane junction.

The request for double yellow lines was with HATOC and an update was inspected in the summer.

The Clerk had contacted MDDC about the possibility of expanding the Platinum Jubilee Car Park and a response was awaited.

Action: Clerk

h) MDDC Community Risk Register

The Parish Council RESOLVED to write to MDDC and advise that the community risk to Halberton was the gridlock that occurred when the A361 was closed and the Tiverton-Sampford Peverell road was the diversion route and the subsequent impact on emergency services.

238-16 Newsletter Working Group

Issue 177 had been published and distributed.

Given that the Working Group published an agenda, invited public participation and published minutes, the Clerk put forward the proposal that it should be a Committee.

The Parish Council RESOLVED that the group should be renamed the Newsletter Committee and the Terms of Reference updated.

Action: Clerk

Page 561

237-17 Traffic

Ongoing Halberton matters:

Flashing lights at the school in Lower Town

The flashing lights have been installed. The Clerk was following up on programming of the lights.

It was felt school signs should also been added to the posts holding the flashing lights.

Action: Clerk

The pavement at Church Path – ongoing

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

Action: Road Warden Working Party to review

The solar batteries for the VAS units have been received.

Councillor Furmedge advised further work was needed to install the solar panels.

Councillor Furmedge advised that he downloaded the first set of data from the VAS units and the appeared to indicate that speeding occurred in the early morning and late at night. At least 30% of road users were over the 20mph speed limit.

The Parish Council would check the validity of the data prior to handing over to the police and writing an article for the Newsletter. It currently appeared that the maximum speed was over 70mph.

Action: Councillor Furmedge

Potential pavement at The Hickory Inn

The application for double yellow lines was ongoing and consideration would need to be given to the pavement going forward.

Action: Road Warden Working Party to review

Lorries on the Halberton to Willand road

The police were taking action when the companies operating the lorries were identified and BT had been contacted about making the telegraph poles more visible.

Rose Cottage Bridge

Potential give way lines as and when re-surfaced

Lorries between Halberton and Brithem Bottom

DCC Highways had agreed at the meeting that the 'unsuitable for lorries' signage should be moved to Herne Bridge which was the last turning point for lorries.

Community Speed Watch

Councillor Browse had set up the group and was moving forward to finish the online training. Once this was complete the group would meet and volunteers would also undertake training.

Action: Councillor Browse/Clerk to organise a meeting

20mph limits

Nothing to report.

Portable Air Quality Monitor

No further progress this month

238-18 Financial accounts 2024/25

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

Page 562

a. Financial report for the year 2024/25

Current account

Opening balance 31/12/24 £ 5662.72

Receipts

Newsletter £ 864.00

Payments

Service Charge		6.00	
Direct Debit (UTILITY WAREHOUSE)	8220048/8220048/22	966.14	
B/P to: Rob Furmedge	GOOGLE DEC 24	48.00	
B/P to: Rob Furmedge	FASTHOSTS	100.26	
B/P to: Mrs S McGeever	WAGES DEC 24	642.93	
B/P to: HMRC	070/AZ13079	140.48	
B/P to: Street Lighting	HALBERTON 0155	2841.42	
B/P to: Recreation Ground	ANNUAL GRANT	1500.00	
	GOOGLE		
B/P to: Rob Furmedge	WORKSPACE	48.00	
Direct Debit (MDDC DIRECT DEBITS)		1277346	43.00
Direct Debit (MDDC DIRECT DEBITS)	DTW 953043	17.52	6353.75

Closing balance 31/01/25 £ 172.97

Reserve account

Opening balance 31/12/24 £30006.18

Receipts

Payments

Closing balance 31/01/25 £30006.18

The cumulative bank reconciliation form produced in Scribe would be brought to the next meeting to be signed by Chairman.

A transfer of £10,000 was processed at the start of February to carry forward the decision to start the playpark.

Payments made since the last meeting not shown in the bank statement:

N Page (PROW) £ 360.00

Kompan (Play Park deposit) £4557.60

b. Payments to approve (Council):

Google workspace (January) £ 48.00

HMRC (PAYE – January) £ 140.28

S McGeever (wages December) £ 643.13

C Graham (Newsletter delivery) £ 50.00

Brightsea (Newsletter) £ 926.00

The Parish Council RESOLVED to make the above payments.

Page 563

Other information:

UW December £966.14

UW January 963.74

The majority of this money will be refunded. Imperative a reading is given to the Clerk to put in at the month end.

Investigations so far for a new provider indicate that a minimum usage of 1000kw is needed. The car park currently uses less than 100kw.

Action: Clerk

c. Halberton Children's Recreation Ground

Charity Return has been submitted

d. New Financial Regulations

Councillor Furmedge advised that he had found his comments to ask the Clerk and the replies had satisfied his concerns that there may be additional work required. The current procedures provided all the information requested in the new regulations.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to adopt the new Financial Regulations.

e. Precept

The precept paperwork has been submitted to MDDC.

f. Unity Debit Card

Work on the unity debit card was ongoing.

g. Quote for Footpath work 2025-26

The Parish Council RESOLVED to accept the quote for £410.00 for the annual clearance works for the footpaths in the parish.

h. Additional signatories on the Unity Trust Bank Account

The Parish Council RESOLVED that Councillor Barnard-Taylor should be added to the account.

Councillor Batchelor requested the Clerk to re-obtain his login details.

i. Pond area

The Parish Council RESOLVED to spend the £12 to obtain the land registry information relating to this part of the village.

238-19 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.

238-20 Items for next meeting

Page 564

238-21 Date of the next meeting

11 March 2025 – Parish Council Meeting – 7.00pm
to be held at Halberton Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

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	15-16

a. To receive a report from the MDDC Council Member

Planning applications of known interest

24/01847/MFUL| Continued operation of existing anaerobic digester plant without previous limitations on power output, feedstocks and tonnages

Under consideration.

24/01810/PNCOU Prior notification for the change of use of land to a temporary campsite consisting of 50 campervan pitches and associated structures under Class BC GPD 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

No further prior approval required.

Devolution/Unitary update

How Devon will deliver remains very contentious – latest plans could see Devon divided into 3 unitary authorities with one elected mayor.

Seven district councils have backed plans for South Hams, West Devon, Teignbridge and Torbay to form one authority, with Plymouth expanding its borders and another unitary authority then Exeter, East Devon, Mid Devon, North Devon and Torridge joining up for a third. Exeter has not signed up to the plans.

Cabinet meeting 4 February

Of note from the meeting:

National Non-domestic Rates Tax (NNDR1)

MDDC did not set business rates in the same way as Council Tax—the calculation of rates was set by the Government. The Valuation Office Agency calculated the rateable values from which bills were worked out by billing authorities. Whilst this Council administered the collection, the rates themselves along with many relief schemes were entirely outside of the Council's control.

The Government had made a number of adjustments to the Business Rates that would, in some cases, materially alter the amount of rates due for businesses. Changes to some reliefs were 'unfunded' and others funded by Government via s31, an example of this would be Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief

The key changes taking effect from April 2025 included:

- A reduction in Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief, which would drop from 75% to 40%. This meant businesses in those sectors would see an increase in the amount they were required to pay
- Private schools would no longer qualify for Charity Relief, following changes to primary legislation.
- The restriction preventing councils from awarding discretionary relief more than six months after the end of the financial year had been removed, giving the Council greater flexibility in decision-making.
- Those changes could have a significant impact on some businesses, and for those that were affected, the Council would be in contact when annual bills were issued in March 2025.

The calculation of the NNDR1 net yield of £19,854.365 from 3,562 Business Rated Properties was noted and approved for 2025

2025/26 Budget

A fully balanced budget has been delivered. Of particular interest:

- A capital Programme worth £135.6 million, with £41.6 million of deliverable investment in 2025/26 alone. This was about building infrastructure.
- Capital investments include social housing development. A fully funded provision for the Cullompton Town Centre Relief Road.
- General reserves not only maintained but also a net contribution to earmarked reserves, building resilience for future periods.

One of the challenges has been the Central Government which has once again handed the council another single-year settlement, making long-term financial planning nearly impossible.

This Council faced an expected additional cost of £466,000 as a result of the Government's increases to employer's national insurance contributions. Despite reassurances, the Council would only be receiving £151,000 in funding, essentially diverting the regressive Council Tax away from local services to Central Government. In addition the Government had slashed key grants at the last minute, including the Rural Services Delivery Grant, leaving Mid Devon with an 18% cut in real-terms funding. This was a direct hit on rural district councils, making it even harder to deliver essential services without increasing the financial burden on residents,

2025/26 Revenue Budget

A Council Tax Requirement of £7,348,850 calculated using a Council Tax of £239.12 for a Band D property, an increase of **£6.96 or 2.99%** from 2024/2025 was approved

Halberton Car Parking Spaces Revision to Off Street Parking Order

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Risk outlined the contents of the report with particular reference to the following:

- The Mid Devon Off Street Parking Places Order with recent changes to carparking provision across the district, ensured that parking regulations remained fit for purpose, supporting residents, businesses, and the wider community.
- One of the key amendments was the incorporation of five parking spaces within Halberton known as "The Orchard" into the Off Street Parking Places Order. As Members would be aware, on-street parking in some of the communities was extremely limited, and this measure would enable residents to use those designated spaces while helping to ease congestion on the highway, ensuring the free and expeditious movement of traffic.
- Additionally, the report sought to provide greater clarity around electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The Council had been actively working with contractors to install electric vehicle charging points at numerous locations across the district, improving infrastructure and supporting our climate sustainability goals. The proposed amendments included updated wording to reflect legislative changes and ensured the correct use of electric vehicle bays and charging points.

Planning enforcement

There is a new form available online for reporting alleged planning breaches – the form is available using the following link.

[Planning Enforcement - MIDDEVON.GOV.UK](https://www.middevon.gov.uk/planning-enforcement)

Winter Fuel Allowance

MDDC wrote to Department for Works and Pensions regarding the Winter Fuel Allowance (Motion 607) in October. A response was received February 2025 reiterating the Governments position that Winter Fuel will continue to be paid to pensioner households with someone receiving Pension Credit or certain other income-related benefits.

Claims for Pension Credit can be made online at: www.gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim also via Freephone 0800 99 1234

If you wish for my assistance on any matter please contact me by email: 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	17-18

Devon County Council set a balanced budget at a full council meeting on February 20th, pledging more money for Highways, Adult Social Care, and SEND. The Councillors' Locality budget will be maintained at £8,000.

Council tax will increase by 4.99%, which includes 2% for social care.

You can find the Budget Book and minutes on the DCC website.

Councils collaborate on devolution plans

In a bold move towards greater local autonomy, the Leaders of Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council, and Torbay Council are working together to explore the creation of a Mayoral Strategic Authority. A part of the Government's new devolution plans, this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to take power out of Whitehall, bring decision-making closer to the people of Devon, Plymouth and Torbay and unlock unprecedented opportunities for growth and innovation.

A Mayoral Strategic Authority promises to supercharge the region's ability to access greater powers and unlock additional funding for economic growth and infrastructure development, such as housing and transport.

By working together, the councils aim to ensure that Devon, Plymouth and Torbay are ready to seize this unique opportunity when the government calls for further submissions of interest.

The councils also emphasised that Cornwall Council is welcome to join their discussions at any time, should they choose to reconsider. This inclusive approach highlights the commitment to regional cooperation and shared prosperity.

I recently attended an all day joint members and SLT briefing on Local Government re-organisation. We learned about several possible options. DCC will hold a special meeting on 20th March to decide which proposal to support. The other councils in Devon will be putting forward their own proposals, but it will be for the Government to decide the outcome later in the year.

As councillors agree an additional £5 million for children's social care in the 2025/26 budget, Councillor Lois Samuel, Devon County Council's Cabinet Member with responsibility for services that support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), says solid progress in services is being made, but that challenging times still lie ahead.

Devon County Councillors have agreed a 5.5 percent increase in the children's services budget for the coming year, to provide a range of services for children and their families.

Speaking outside the council meeting, Councillor Samuel, welcomed the new budget, adding that council finances with regards to SEND remains very challenging, driven by demand and increasing costs.

She said:

"Devon received 2,400 requests for Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in 2024, roughly twice that of 2019.

"In the last 12 months, the council has issued an additional 946 EHCPs, an increase of 11 percent since December 2023.

"And the number of young people in Devon's population with an EHCP has doubled since 2020."

It means that the council is facing an overspend on SEND by around £50m this year, which is more than it had anticipated, with additional demand year on year driving additional costs.

But behind the overspend figure lies another story about young people's lives.

"This is spending that supports 10,000 young people with SEND across the county, helping them to achieve and thrive," she said.

"For example, in the past year alone, this includes supporting an additional 1,000 children at a cost of roughly £20 million, to access the education they need.

“It includes providing additional support for young people to access or stay in a mainstream education. “And for young people to be supported in maintained or academy special school places within the county. It is also supporting an additional 150 young people to stay in post-16 education.”

Figures can fluctuate, but the latest data from Devon County Council available at the beginning of February gave a snapshot that showed that progress on the timeliness of assessments and reviews is being made. It showed that for that reporting period, no family was waiting longer than a year for an assessment. The number of young people waiting more than 20 weeks for an EHCP assessment had fallen by 15 percent over the last year, with the backlog steadily falling.

And the number of annual reviews that were overdue (for a review) had also fallen by 15 percent in a year.

Looking ahead, the council is creating over 200 additional places in special schools this year, and have already secured over £20 million of additional funding for mainstream places.

It’s creating an additional 300 SEND places in its mainstream colleges, using a further £8.5 million that the council secured from the Government.

It’s investing in 100 additional places in existing mainstream secondary schools through Resource Centres and other partnership programmes.

And it’s working with early years settings and primary schools to support young people to stay in mainstream provision and help schools to meet pupils’ needs.

Twenty five schools in Devon are among the first in the country to offer free, daily breakfast clubs, [the Government has confirmed](#).

From April, all primary aged children in schools identified in the first phase of the Government programme will be able to access a free breakfast and at least 30 minutes of free childcare every day.

The free breakfast clubs will be available for half an hour before the start of the school day. It’s thought that they will support parents getting into work by enabling them to drop their children off half an hour earlier. the introduction of funded (free) breakfast clubs, which will be available for half an hour before the start of the school day.

Schools in the first phase were chosen from across England, in locations where there aren’t currently breakfast clubs.

All the schools will receive Government funding towards food and staffing costs.

If you have any questions about DCC please get in touch.

Colin Slade

Devon County Councillor for Tiverton East

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	19

Police Matters

Information circulated to Parish Councillors

Councillor Advocate Scheme

The terms of the scheme have been updated.

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.	20

No applicants have come forward.

A call for councillors was included in the latest Newsletter.

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.	21

New applications:

24/01847/MFUL

Proposal: Retention of anaerobic digester plant without previous limitations on power output, feedstocks and tonnages

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

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 299621 / 112764

Parish: Halberton 25

Deadline for comments: 11 March 2025 – extension granted to 14 March 2025

25/00160/CLU

Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness for the existing use as sawmill in breach of condition 4 (storage of timber) of planning permission 03/01339/FULL in excess of 10 years

Location: Timber Yard Ash Thomas Tiverton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 299910 / 110667

Parish: Halberton 25

Deadline for comments: 26 February 2025 – extension to 12 March 2025

25/00246/FULL

Proposal: Change of use from agricultural land to B8 open storage yard and associated hardstanding, fencing, lighting, drainage works and biodiversity net gain habitat enhancement gain habitat enhancement

Location: Land at NGR 305296 112051 Anthony Way Hitchcocks Business Park

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 305390 / 112177

Parish: Halberton 25

Deadline for comments: 19 March 2025

Mid Devon District Council Call for Sites

06 February – 14 March 2025

To provide information on sites that have the potential to be developed.

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	22

The following decisions have been received:

25/00047/CAT – APPROVED – 18 February 2025

Proposal: Notification of intention to fell 1 fir tree in a Conservation Area

Location: 4 Mill Stream Gardens Halberton Tiverton Devon

Appeal Reference: APP/Y1138/W/24/3347484 – DISMISSED – 12 February 2025

Appeal By: Mr Ray Radford

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

Site Address: Land at NGR 301040 112882

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
12	Highways matters and the Road and Snow Warden Schemes	23

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

a. Potholes

Repairs continue to take place across the Parish.

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, clearing area as you come into the High Street, working party and letters

c. Snow Warden Scheme

Councillor Batchelor to update on moving salt

d. Bollard on High Street

The broken bollard on the High Street has been reported and will be replaced.

e. Surface water at the pond

Reported to DCC

f. Tonnage signs on Willand to Halberton road

The signs have been turned round – reported to DCC

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
13	Amenity matters	24-25

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 Clerk reported that bags of clothes had been removed from the amenity area together with a basket and a car seat that had been dumped by the clothes bins. Thanks to the people who operate the bins who took all the items to the tip.

Should there be CCTV for clothes collection point?

The Clerk attended an online meeting discussing the roll-out of electric chargers in car parks. The determination of accepted sites will take place in May 2025.

The Clerk has received the following information on the possibility of increasing the size of the car park:

- *Firstly, the expansion of the parking space into the approved amenity space would require planning permission. At the moment, that area is required to remain landscaped, as per the plans approved in relation to 17/02010/FULL.*
- *Consideration would need to be given to highway safety and visual impacts primarily.*
- *In respect to visual impacts, the site is within the conservation area so reduction in green space may be seen as minor harm to the setting of the conservation area. As such, there will be a need to outweigh any harm with public benefits.*
- *It does look like there are trees within the amenity space area, which may need removal, which could also cause harm to the setting of the conservation area. Consideration would also have to be given to the trees themselves and whether their removal is acceptable*
- *Formal plans to tie in additional amenity space as part of the proposal may potentially lessen the impact of the impact on the character of the area, as well as replacing an recreational/amenity area lost.*
- *I'm not sure where you would stand in regard to the removal of works that were funded by s106 monies, or integral to the grant being made available. I see that the planning application had no links to a s106. It might be best to review the conditions of the grant.*

Advice has been sought from the Planning Obligations Monitoring Officer.

If there is a possibility then there would be need to carry out consultations with the Conservation team and/or carry out pre-application discussions.

b. Footpaths

Councillor Furmedge

- Walking our footpaths for P3 submission (required by 28th March)
- Review spreadsheet showing paths to be walked

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/woodchips from fallen tree

Councillor Batchelor to report

vi) Broken fencing

Reported by Clerk

vii) Wildflower area

The wildflower area will be cut as soon as possible. It is now mostly weeds.

d. Defibrillators

Update from Councillor Graham.

Action: Councillor Graham/Clerk

e. The Orchard Car Park

The final agreement has been received and signed. Signed copy from MDDC awaited.

The response to the offer of parking permits has been high and are oversubscribed.

Individual 1 one space

Individual 2 one space

Individual 3 one space

Individual 4 one space

Individual 5 two spaces

Individual 6 one space

f. Ground Maintenance

A meeting with the current contractor has taken place and full report sent to the Parish Council.

Consideration to be given to the need to continue to cut grass during the winter months.

g. Parish Maps

Maps received.

h. Postbox at Pethertons

Request to re-instate post box has been sent and chased up.

i) Pond Area

Review land registry information. Decision on next steps.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
14	Recreation and Amenities Working Group	26

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 need to be sent to DCC.

b. Community Growing Area

The fencing should be done early March.

Councillor Batchelor to report on ploughing the area.

S106 have indicated that an application can be put in with the quotes received.

c. Halberton Children's Recreation Ground

i) update on installation of new equipment and financing

Equipment ordered and deposit paid. Waiting for first meeting date to be confirmed.

ii) monthly safety report

iii) ROSPA report actions

Report on fencing

The next ROSPA inspection will take place in March.

iv) safety gate instead of five bar gate

The gate and posts have been received and are being installed.

Gap in the fencing.

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	27

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 - present proposal, seeking approval.

b. Anaerobic Digester Liaison Committee

New application may delay meeting.

Action: Clerk awaiting response

c. Flies in Halberton

EHO notice in place

d. 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.

e. 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

f. Signs for Footpaths

Awaiting quotes

g. Parking in the Lower Town

The police have written to the school.

h. MDDC Community Risk Register

Response submitted

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
16	Newsletter Working Group	28

The Newsletter Working Group met on 4 March 2025 and the minutes were circulated prior to the Parish Council.

Feedback on name change.

Issue 178 is in production.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
17	Traffic	29

Ongoing Halberton matters:

Flashing lights at the school in Lower Town

DCC have programmed the SIM pod. Awaiting date to finish installation.

Action: Clerk to monitor

The pavement at Church Path

Ongoing

VAS units

- Update on data collection (presentation). Determine next steps.
- Update on solar panel installation

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

Lorries on the Halberton to Willand road – report on meeting circulated to Parish Councillors

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

- Review of Joanne Pope (Mid Devon District Council) response to reach-out email. Determine next steps.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
18	Financial accounts 2024/25	30-31

a. Financial report for the year 2024/25

Current account

Opening balance 31/01/25		£ 172.97	
Receipts			
Newsletter		£ 430.00	
Transfer		£10000.00	
Electricity reimbursement		£ 772.57	£11202.57
Payments			
03Feb2025	Kompan (play park)	4557.60	
03Feb2025	Nico Page (PROW)	360.00	
03Feb2025	MDDC DD (Waste)	17.52	
17Feb2025	Rob Furmedge (Google)	48.00	
17Feb2025	HMRC (Paye)	140.28	
17Feb2025	Mrs S McGeever (wages)	643.13	
17Feb2025	Carol Graham (newsletter delivery)	50.00	
17Feb2025	Brightsea Print (newsletter)	926.00	
28Feb2025	Service Charge	6.00	
		£ 6748.53	
Closing balance 31/01/25		£ 4627.01	

Reserve account

Opening balance 31/12/24	£30006.18
Receipts	
Payments	£10000.00
Closing balance 31/01/25	£20006.18

The cumulative bank reconciliation form produced in Scribe would be brought to the meeting to be signed by Chairman.

b. Payments to approve (Council):

Google workspace (January)	£ 48.00
Source for Business (cemetery)	£ 25.51
HMRC (PAYE)	£ 140.28
S McGeever (Wages)	£ 643.13
I Batchelor (Christmas Tree)	£ 40.00
Land Registry	£ 14.00
Service Charge (DD)	£ 6.00
Utility Warehouse Refund	£774.97

b. Halberton Children's Recreation Ground

Bank accounts

c. Unity Debit Card

Completion of the unity debit card paperwork.

d. Additional signatories on the Unity Trust Bank Account

Paperwork to sign

e. Clerk Review

Mandatory yearly review

f. Utility Warehouse

A formal complaint has been made regarding the estimated charges being unrelated to usage and UW will provide a complete breakdown of all payments made/credits received to ensure that no overpayment for the electricity has taken place. They stopped take business customers in 2022 and the current electricity supply is not subject to any contract.

A review of alternative providers/tariffs has been undertaken and information circulated to the Parish Council for discussion at the meeting. The possibility of paying a higher charge per unit but no standing charge may be a good option given usage.