

Halberton Parish Council

Meeting of Halberton Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 7 April 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
1 April 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 7 March 2025	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	15-17
8	Police matters To consider any correspondence from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Council Advocate Scheme	18
9	Vacancies on the Parish Council To consider and, if agreed, approve any applications received	19
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.	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	25-26
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 and 2025/26	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 7 March 2025	3-12

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

Present

Councillors Batchelor (Chair), Browse, Campbell, Fairclough, Furmedge, Graham, Barnard-Taylor and Saunders together with the Clerk, Mrs S McGeever.

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

239-1 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillors DuChesne and Lock (MDDC) and Councillor Slade (DCC)

239-2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

239-3 Public Forum

The following matter was raised in the public forum:

Red Linhay

- The agent for the application spoke about the removal of the limitations on the site to include electrical output, tonnages and feed stock so that the plant was only subject to any conditions relating to the Environmental Agency permit and not the conditions relating to the actual planning permission decision. The planning statements covered the pollution impact whilst the traffic statement advised that the traffic movements would not differ from if it was a working farm rather than a farm with an anaerobic digester and that this activity should not be considered along side other planning applications. The conditions and controls would come through the Environmental Agency permit.
- Members of the public raised their concerns over the anaerobic digester operating without the current limitations and controls bearing in mind the applicant had been in 'breach of the conditions'.
- Members of the public felt that the statement the increase in electrical output of anaerobic digester would have no impact on residents and, indeed, there was no existing impact, was given without any evidence to back the assumption. The anaerobic digester had a significant impact on residents in terms of noise, dust and pollution together with road safety given there was no commitment to the routes taken through the Halberton, surrounding parishes, Braid Park and Blundells School.
- Members of the public referred to previous planning applications and appeals where residents had strongly objected to any change in the planning conditions and believed that the sustainability of the operation, the traffic generated and the noise, dust and odour impact should be taken into consideration. Surrounding parishes had sent in objects and it was understood the Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Group would also be submitting an objection.
- Members of the public had lobbied MDDC Enforcement to take the appropriate actions when the applicant had been in breach of the conditions of the planning application. OFGEM would be able to provide MDDC with the required information.

- Members of the public felt the removal of the limitations could only bring harm to the village and surrounding areas. With no limitations the impact could not be accessed. Traffic volumes were already far in excess of those given in the original application, tonnages were higher, the distance power crops were being transported to the anaerobic digester were significantly more than the planning conditions allowed further calling into question sustainability and the 'green' credentials. Anaerobic digesters were green when using bi-products such as slurry and food waste not when crops were being specifically grown to feed an anaerobic digester. OFGEM recognised the impact power crops were having on food production and had reduced the thresholds of power crops being used for anaerobic digesters by 20%.

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- Members of the public felt that the traffic statement was a key document and traffic movements equated to one every 2 minutes and 20 seconds each day. More in peak harvest times. Over 200 movements had been recorded in a day on Blundells Road passing through the school crossing area.
- Members of the public advised that the road to/from the anaerobic digester was often blocked because two tractors could not pass each other.
- The applicant advised that the Environment Agency's permit would cover odour, noise, air quality and dust. The planning conditions were unenforceable and this application would create a better and more profitable anaerobic digester given the current lack of revenue on normal farming activities.
- Members of the public felt that they had no redress with the Environmental Agency who were difficult to contact. Quite simply the on-farm anaerobic digester had become an industrial site that did not abide by the planning conditions which had been put in place to protect residents. Residents were given to understand that an anaerobic digester should not be within 200 metres of residential properties.
- Members of the public called for the Parish Council to continue its strong objection to any changes to the conditions which had been upheld by the Planning Inspectorate.

239-4 To approve the minutes of the Council meeting 11 February 2025

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

239-5 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman asked if there were any residents present with regard to the new residential parking permits at The Orchard as he would bring the item forward. No members of the public were present to speak on this topic.

239-6 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 Parish Council had no questions.

b. To receive a report on the Grand Western Canal JAC

Councillor Browse had attended the meeting on 3 March 2025 and Aggregate Industries had been present to advise on the water scheme. It was also noted that MDDC were looking to further protect the Grand Western Canal conservation area.

239-7 Devon County Council matters

Councillor Slade had submitted a report and it was included on the agenda for the meeting. Councillor Batchelor felt that an overspend of £5m on SEND was considerable. However, this represented 100 pupils each having a £20,000 spend. The number of pupils being referred as SEND was on the increase.

239-8 Police Matters

Police Matters

Information had been circulated to Parish Councillors.

Councillor Advocate Scheme

Councillor Browse advised he would be attending the online conference on Anti-Social Behaviour on 12 March and meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner on 26 March.

239-9 Vacancies on the Parish Council

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

Vacancies would continue to be published in the Newsletter.

Action: Clerk

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239-10 Consideration of Mid Devon District Council's planning applications

The following planning applications were considered:

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

The Parish Council felt that this application was simply re-visiting previous applications and that the material planning conditions used in each objection were just as, or more, relevant when considering a removal of all limitations on its operation.

The Parish Council noted the very strong objections that had been brought forward by residents and the operation of the anaerobic digester was clearly very important to them.

The Parish Council had initiated potential breaches of conditions with MDDC Enforcement and felt that without such conditions, there could be no policing of the site and no re-dress in the future.

The Parish Council noted that the Environmental Agency's powers were limited and the original planning applications had been put in to safeguard the community. The Parish Council noted that there was, perhaps, a need to re-write the conditions so that they could be enforced but that they should not be removed. Small-scale AD plants did not need the use of power crops and should not be located close to residential sites.

The Clerk was instructed to put together a comment which reflected the Parish Council's previous objections to the removal of conditions on the site especially given that if this application was approved, the site could simply grow in size again and circulate to Parish Councillors.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to ask the Ward Councillor to call the application in.

Action: Clerk

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

The Parish Council noted that this had been a timber yard but it appeared not to have been operation for some time.

Action: Clerk to relay the comments to MDDC Planning

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

The Parish Council noted that the area of land had been Unit 5 in the original masterplan and thus had been earmarked for development. The Parish Council felt that, as with all applications on this site, the importance of ensuring permitted footpaths for workers from both Willand and Uffculme was crucial to its development. There should be adequate screening and a plan to decrease light pollution for nearby residents.

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The Parish Council RESOLVED that, with the above comments, it had no objection to the application.

Mid Devon District Council Call for Sites

06 February – 14 March 2025

The Parish Council did not own any sites for development but sites had been approved in the parish and the emphasis should be on affordable housing and improvements to the infrastructure.

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 the Clerk had asked for an update on the ongoing issues.

239-11 Consideration of Mid Devon District Council's Planning Decisions

The following decisions were noted:

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

239-12 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.

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 where the P3 forms had included requests for strimmer training.

Lower Town pavements etc.

The working party continued to look at areas that could be cleared to improve road safety. An email had been received regarding the hedge up the hill from Lower Town on DCC land and this would be followed up.

There was also need to tidy up the pond area.

c. Snow Warden Scheme

Councillor Batchelor gave no 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 and the site visited. A further site visit would take place in wet weather.

f. Tonnage signs on Willand to Halberton road

The signs have been turned round and DCC had confirmed they would put them back the right way.

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239-13 Amenity matters

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.

The question had been asked if there should be CCTV in the car park but it was felt the school who benefited from the collection point could write to parents and put up a sign.

Action: Councillor Campbell

The Clerk had attended an online meeting discussing the roll-out of electric chargers in car parks. The determination of accepted sites would take place in May 2025 and the Platinum Jubilee Car Park would be assessed.

The Clerk had provided the Parish Council with information received from MDDC (see agenda) regarding the possibility of extending the car park. It was felt that it would be possible to accommodate more spaces without the need to carry out major works.

b. Footpaths

Councillor Furmedge reported that

- the walking of the footpaths for P3 submission would be complete by 28 March 2025 and the P3 forms submitted. The Clerk noted that better signage was needed on the Exe Valley path.
- An update on Footpath 7 had been circulated to Parish Councillors and notices would be published on the website
- the Clerk was hopeful that DCC would refund the PROW payment for 2024-25.

c. Cemetery

The Clerk advised that all cemetery matters were ongoing and noted that several of the low rails required mending. The Parish Council RESOLVED that Councillor Saunders would carry out this work.

Action: Councillor Batchelor/Saunders and the Clerk

The wildflower area had been cut and Councillor Graham asked that the grass be collected. Councillor Graham would look to source wildflower seeds.

Action: Councillor Graham

d. Defibrillators

The Clerk advised that SWAST contracts would not be renewed but the defibrillators would be gifted to the parish at the end of the contract.

Action: Councillor Graham/Clerk

e. The Orchard Car Park

The final agreement has been received and signed and the signed copy from MDDC was 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

One other individual had requested two spaces if they were available.

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A member of the public drew the ballot and the forms were handed to the Clerk to record and advise the Parish Council and MDDC. It was hoped that the residential parking permits would take some of the cars off the road.

Action: Clerk

f. Ground Maintenance

The Clerk had met with the current contractor and a full report had been sent to the Parish Council. The brambles opposite the lane leading to Bycott Farm needed to be cut back.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to accept the quote but look to ensure that a full schedule of work was recorded and monitored to ensure value for money and that work was not carried out if not required. This might mean less cuts in the summer if it was dry with a need to continue to cut grass during the winter months.

g. Parish Maps

The Parish Maps would be brought to the next meeting.

h. Postbox at Pethertons

The request to re-instate the post box has been sent but not logged by Royal Mail. The Clerk was following up.

Action: Clerk

i) Pond Area

Councillor Furmedge had reviewed the land registry for the pond area and it belonged to the next door property. Its development had been part of MDDC's enhancement scheme and MDDC would be contacted in the first instance to understand the work done.

Action: Contact MDDC

239-14 Recreation and Amenities Working Group

The Recreation and Amenities Working Group had met on site to look at the works required.

a. The Mead

The following actions were being carried out:

- Quotes for work to be undertaken on the path from the Jubilee car park.

The area had been cleared and it was RESOLVED that Councillor Saunders could fit two existing gates.

- Request to install football nets

Ongoing

- The new lease starts in March 2025

Details of the equipment to be installed together with risk assessments needed to be sent to DCC.

b. Community Growing Area

The Clerk reported that the fence was being installed week commencing 10 March and Councillor Batchelor was going to plough the area.

Action: Councillor Campbell would create some PR

The Clerk had updated DCC and S106 had indicated a bid could be submitted with one quote and an explanation as to why other quotes had not been forthcoming.

Action: Clerk

c. Halberton Children's Recreation Ground

i) update on installation of new equipment and financing

The Clerk was awaiting a date for the initial visit to the site prior to the installation of the new equipment.

Action: Clerk

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

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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

The Parish Council noted that the report from the latest ROSPA inspection and items would be actioned.

iv) safety gate instead of five bar gate

The new gate had been installed. The old gate would go to The Mead footpath.

Action: Item can come off the agenda

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.

239-15 Community items

a. Council IT tools Working Group to include Facebook page/Website/Communicating with Parishioners
Councillor Furmedge had put together a presentation on the way forward which would reduce costs.

The Parish Council RESOLVE to accept Councillor Furmedge's recommendation.

Action: Councillor Furmedge

b. Anaerobic Digester Liaison Committee

The new application has delayed meeting.

Action: Clerk

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

The Clerk advised that she had spoken to a planning consultant who would talk to several parish councils at a meeting now that a clearer picture of the new planning policies were evolving together with Devolution Plans. The advise was to keep the plan simple with 5 or 6 policies.

Action: Clerk to arrange meeting

f. Signs for Footpaths

The Clerk was corresponding with several suppliers to ensure the best price and that the signpost fittings would work with the existing posts.

g. Parking in the Lower Town

The police have written to the school.

h. MDDC Community Risk Register

Response submitted

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239-16 Newsletter Working Group

Issue 178 was in the production process and all contributions should be submitted by 14 March 2025.

The Newsletter Working Group had expressed their desire to remain a Working Group rather than become a Committee. Councillor Batchelor would contact the members of the group.

Action: Councillor Batchelor

239-17 Traffic

Ongoing Halberton matters:

Flashing lights at the school in Lower Town

The flashing lights have been installed. The SIM pod had been programmed by DCC and a meeting was being set up to bring the lights into action.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to purchase two more school signs to go with the flashing lights.

Action: Clerk

The pavement at Church Path

Letters had been delivered and some foliage taken down.

Action: Road Warden Working Party to review

VAS units

Councillor Furmedge advised that data collection was ongoing. Analysis of data had taken place and feedback was awaited from the police. The Community Speedwatch would be able to assist in verifying the data. He had also contacted the manufacturer to resolve a few anomalies.

Councillor Furmedge advised that scaffolding would be required to install the solar panels.

Potential pavement at The Hickory Inn

Councillor Slade had advised double yellow line application ongoing.

Lorries on the Halberton to Willand road and Chains Road

The Clerk was in contact with DCC and the police to try and resolve the issues relating to the lorries and damage to property.

Rose Cottage Bridge

As and when re-surfaced

Lorries between Halberton and Brithem Bottom
The Clerk had asked for the signage to be moved.

Community Speed Watch

Councillor Browse had set up the group and finished his training.

Action: Councillor Browse/Clerk to organise a meeting

20mph limits

Nothing to report.

Portable Air Quality Monitor

Councillor Furmedge had heard from MDDC and it was unlikely that the NO2 levels would warrant action from them. It was important that data was collected from other areas within the parish.

2390-18 Financial accounts 2024/25

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

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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 28/02/25		£	4627.01	

Reserve account

Opening balance 31/01/25	£30006.18
Receipts	
Payments	£10000.00
Closing balance 28/02/25	£20006.18

The Chairman signed the cumulative bank reconciliation form.

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

Culm Valley Christmas Trees (Christmas Tree)	£ 40.00
Land Registry	£ 14.00
Service Charge (DD)	£ 6.00
Utility Warehouse Refund	£774.97

The Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the payments.

Due to the time spent on Item 3 Public Forum, the following items would be brought forward to the next meeting:

- b. Halberton Children's Recreation Ground
- c. Unity Debit Card
- d. Additional signatories on the Unity Trust Bank Account
- e. Clerk Review

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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. Given the very low usage, which would not increase if electric car charges were fitted as these would be a separate supply, it was RESOLVED to adopt a tariff that did not have a daily standing charge.

Action: Clerk

239-20 Items for next meeting

As above.

239-21 Date of the next meeting

8 April 2025 – Parish Council Meeting – 7.00pm
to be held at Halberton Village Hall.

13 May 2025 – Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – 7.00pm

15 May 2025 -Annual Parish Meeting – 7.00pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____

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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

Elections

Elections will take place 1 May and we are presently in a Pre-election Period (PEP) which used to be called Purdah.

Council business continues. All sitting councillors, whether seeking re-election or not, should have regard for the Publicity Code.

Carers to get discounts at leisure Centres

A pilot scheme to provide free access to carers under 18 is due to start in May. It will operate at any one of the three council centres at Culm Valley, Exe Valley or Lords Meadow. The pilot will also include drop-in sessions with care ambassadors aimed at providing social activities for carers and to help them to get to know others.

Business Survey

MDDC has launched a six-week business survey available at:

[Mid Devon Business | Let's Talk Mid Devon](#)

This business survey is an opportunity for Mid Devon businesses to tell us about what you might need in the future to help you grow and prosper.

The information collected in this survey is for the purpose of understanding local business needs and tailoring our business support offer to address these.

The deadline for responses is Friday 25 April 2025.

Cullompton Relief Road

Mid Devon District Council and Homes England signed a funding agreement, which means construction contracts can progress. The long awaited relief road will ease town centre congestion, improve air quality and encourage a more vibrant town centre, while supporting the planned growth of the town.

The construction of the relief road will unlock planned homes – both at North West Cullompton and to the east of the M5 where the initial phase of homes associated with the Culm Garden Village are proposed.

The main body of construction work is due to start in 2026. The relief road will run from Station Road in the north to Duke Street in the south and will also include enhanced walking and cycling facilities to support sustainable and active travel within the town.

The Council is also progressing with plans to upgrade Junction 28 of the M5 to accommodate increased capacity and is committed to re-opening Cullompton Railway Station as part of a wider project to improve train services in the sub-region.

HRA Housing

The council has secured significant external government grant funding for both our HRA housing pipeline and the general fund provision of temporary accommodation for homelessness use. In total this equates to an outstanding inward investment of almost **£6.5m**.

The quality of our bids and the specification of our housing including our modular, high-energy efficiency and net-zero homes means we're attracting more grants and in doing so are lowering the net cost to the council in comparison with lower-specification, typically traditional build schemes. The result is better, more-cost effective homes for our tenants.

Call for sites

Even though the date has now passed if there are sites that landowners would like to have considered please email details into the Forward Planning Team

Planning and Infrastructure Bill

This will reform the delivery of planning services.

1. Planning Committee and the Scheme of Delegation

The government want to change the way that planning committees operate against a back drop that they (planning committees) can halt or delay planning applications. They are holding a consultation – to reduce the number of applications that could be referred to committee and the circumstances for their referral. Post consultation the housing secretary has proposed that the national scheme will be introduced in 2026

What does it mean? It is likely that planning committees will not be required to meet as often, the decision being made by officers to see the applications move through the system faster. It will also mandate a programme of certified training for any councillor wishing to sit on a planning committee.

2. Planning fees

The Bill includes measures to enable authorities to set fees that allow for costs for processing and determining planning applications, but excludes some other planning functions including development plan work or enforcement.

3. Strategic Planning

The Bill requires combined authorities to produce a “Spatial Development Strategy” which, once adopted would become part of the development plan.

Recycling and Residual Performance, MDDC vs National 23/24

Late last week we received data for 2023/24 performance with regards to recycling and residual tonnage. It looks at first hand very good.

In short, for recycling we have come either **12th out of 197 District Councils or 17th** out of 321 for all types of authority including Unitary and disposal (so top 6.1% or 5.3% depending on your choice of comparator). For reduction in residual tonnage (kg per household) it's 9th out of everything (both 197 or 321) so that's top 4.5% or 2.8% depending on your choice of comparator.

In short, good news. As ever, the challenge is now to sustain this performance and build on it.

Other bits & Pieces.

Gym for carers

Mid Devon is Active

As part of Active Mid Devon, today, we launched a new Leisure Management System (LMS) which will make booking classes and managing memberships much easier. For elected Members who are also leisure members you will need to log in and then activate your account in the new system. For now the LMS only works for existing leisure members, but once our payment system is integrated (hopefully in the coming days) the online booking system will be available for anyone who wishes to use our leisure centres.

Although we have launched a new logo, values and mission our focus is much more on what we can deliver to customers

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/mid-devon-is-getting-active/>

A brand-new series of Food & Craft Markets is set to launch at [Tiverton Pannier Market](#), bringing a refresh to the well-loved town experience.

Replacing the previous farmers markets, these monthly events will take place on the first Saturday of every month (except January) from 9 am to 2 pm, offering an exciting celebration of local food, drink, and craft.

Read the full press release at:

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/new-food-craft-markets-launch-at-tiverton-pannier-market/>

Next market:

Saturday 5 April

Gwen

GDuchesne@middevon.gov.uk

b. Grand Western Canal Group

Report at the meeting.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
7	Devon County Council matters To receive a report from the DCC Council Member	15-17

As we are now in the pre election period I simply bring you some news updates from DCC:

A 12-month trial which will alter the dimming regime of around 80% of Devon's residential streetlights will get underway this month.

It follows our pilot last year in Abbotskerswell, Holcombe Rogus, Kingskerswell and Sidmouth, where 550 streetlights underwent earlier switch-off times and additional dimming.

The trial is possible thanks to the upgraded technology of our Central Management System, which allows adjustments to be made remotely to around 80% of Devon's 80,000 streetlights.

We calculate that this change will achieve a reduction of circa 225 tonnes of carbon per annum. At current energy prices this proposal could save DCC as much as £300k per year.

Our councillors agreed in December to rollout the scheme to all areas where residential streetlights can be remotely adjusted.

It will be introduced in phases over the first couple months of the trial, starting in Exeter, before moving on to the previous pilot areas (Abbotskerswell, Holcombe Rogus, Kingskerswell and Sidmouth) followed by other market towns such as Ashburton, Barnstaple, Crediton and Honiton, and then rural areas.

The scheme will mean that in Exeter, residential streetlights will be dimmed to 40% output from 9:30pm – 12:30am, before being switched off from 12:30am until 5:30am, and returning to 40% output from 5:30am-6:30am.

In market towns, they will be dimmed to 40% output from 8:30pm-midnight, then switched off from midnight to 5:30am, with 40% output from 5:30am-6:30am.

Rural areas will see residential streetlights dimmed to 40% from 7pm to midnight, switched off from midnight to 5:30am, with 40% output again from 5:30am-6:30am.

There will be no change to the current policy on street lighting on main roads.

We worked closely with Devon and Cornwall Police throughout the small-scale pilot earlier last year, and in developing this 12-month trial. If Police raise any safety concerns over the lighting levels during the trial, they can be reviewed and, where necessary, altered via our Central Management System.

Next month we're launching an innovative new Domestic Abuse Support Service, where an individual's background and experiences are used to shape the support that they receive.

On April 1 the new integrated Domestic Abuse Support Service will be launched, and it aims to transform how people in the county access and receive support.

The service will be provided by the Devon Domestic Abuse Alliance, a partnership of seven local organisations, North Devon Against Domestic Abuse (NDADA), Encompass Southwest, CoLab Exeter, More Positive Me, The Olive Project, CRAFT Training and Development and Surviving Abuse North Devon.

Each partner brings a wealth of expertise which will help ensure that those in need of the service, their friends and families as well as professionals receive the right advice, information and care at the right time.

At the heart of this approach is My Story, a person-centred approach led by a dedicated support team which aims to avoid individuals being referred to multiple services and then asked to share their traumatic experiences multiple times.

The service will include:

- **Single Entry Gateway** – A single point of contact offering clear, accessible pathways to support, with phone, text, email, and online chat options to make help easy to reach.
- **Community Domestic Abuse Support** – Specialist teams providing risk management, and safety planning tailored to each person's situation, as well as whole family support and interventions to address the behaviours of those causing harm.

- **Safe Accommodation, Staying Put, and Resettlement Support** – A range of refuge and dispersed safe accommodation solutions and help for people to remain safely in their own home.
- **Trauma-Responsive Recovery** – Dedicated one-to-one and group therapeutic interventions and peer support, ensuring survivors receive the emotional support needed to heal.
- **Specialist Support** – Addressing complex needs such as mental health, substance use, and homelessness, including safe accommodation and outreach options.
- **Behaviour Change** – Interventions to help those who harm break the cycle of abuse and take responsibility for change.

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Work to install EV chargers for new bus fleet begins

Work has started on the installation of charging infrastructure at Exeter bus depot in readiness for the arrival of the new electric fleet later this summer.

Located in the Matford Park and Ride, the charging points will be available for use by the public when not in use by a Stagecoach bus, creating a Community Charging Hub with high-speed charging technology.

We secured the initial Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) funding from the Department for Transport (DFT), with Stagecoach South West investing £15 million in to the project. This was announced in March 2024.

The first of the electric buses will be arriving in Exeter this summer, followed by Torbay and North Devon.

The full fleet will be rolled out across the South West by early 2026.

A Devon County Council spokesperson said:

"We are committed to reducing carbon emissions and given that on road transportation makes up more than a quarter of Devon's total carbon emissions the decarbonisation of public transport is a crucial part of our response to the climate emergency and helping us to achieve our targets.

"These new electric buses can help transform our local bus network in Devon and hopefully they will appeal to more people and encourage them to travel by bus."

Polling day is on May 1st; in the meantime I remain your county councillor so 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	18

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.	19

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.	20

New applications:

25/00357/CAT

Proposal: Notification of intention to to reduce 2 multi-stemmed Cherry trees by 1.5m overall to include the removal of the west facing lateral limb and removal of 1 Cherry tree within the Conservation Area

Location: Village Hall 18 High Street Halberton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 300799 / 112985

Parish: Halberton 25

Deadline for comments: 2 April 2025 extension granted to 8 April 2025

25/00336/FULL

Proposal: Conversion of barn to 1 self-build agricultural workers dwelling

Location: Land and Building at NGR 298041 109611 Lower Ford Farm Cullompton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 298038 / 109609

Parish: Halberton 25

Deadline for comments: 7 April 2025 extension granted to

25/00482/FULL

Proposal: Retention for the use of first floor gym and office as ancillary accommodation

Location: Langlands Farm Uffculme Cullompton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 305386 / 111970

Parish: Halberton 25

Deadline for comments: 22 April 2025

Existing applications:

24/01847/MFUL

Red Linhay

MDDC Planning redacted some of the comments in the Parish Council's response. Following contact with the Clerk, the statements were re-instated as

Having reviewed the redaction on your submission I have asked for the redaction to be removed as your comment about an enforcement notice being served is a statement of public record and your point about future breach possibilities is worded in a neutral tone.

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:

25/00010/HOUSE – APPROVED – 27 February 2025

Proposal: Replacement windows and doors

Location: Meadow Lea Uffculme Cullompton Devon

25/00092/PIP – APPROVED – 7 March 2025

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

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

24/01748/PNCOU – APPROVED – 26 March 2025

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

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.

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 is being replaced.

e. Surface water at the pond

Reported to DCC – will look when it next rains.

f. Tonnage signs on Willand to Halberton road

The signs have been turned round and DCC will rectify.

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

Awaiting update on EV Charges

Increasing the number of spaces at the car park
Recreation and Amenities Working Group

b. Footpaths

Councillor Furmedge (short presentation)

- P3 submission summary
- Proposed next steps

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

Report by Councillor Saunders

vii) Wildflower area

Clerk to check if grass removed.

d. Defibrillators

Update from Councillor Graham.

Action: Councillor Graham/Clerk

e. The Orchard Car Park

The names of those wishing to apply for a residential parking permit have been forwarded to MDDC and letters have been sent out.

Update awaited.

f. Ground Maintenance

The Clerk has circulated the work undertaken in March to the Parish Council.
Comments received have been relayed to the contractor.

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

g. Parish Maps

Maps will need to be re-printed with 7b.

h. Postbox at Pethertons

Request to re-instate post box has been refused – this has been challenged.

i) Pond Area

Update

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
14	Recreation and Amenities Working Group	25-26

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 has been carried out.

Councillor Batchelor has ploughed the area.

Clerk is submitting an application for S106 monies.

Proposal

Halberton Community Growing Area Membership Code of Conduct

The Recreation and Amenities Working Group would like to propose that the Parish Council adopts the following document in relation to the Community Growing Area: "Halberton Community Growing Area Membership Code of Conduct".

The documents have been circulated to councillors.

The working group proposes to manage membership of the project through that code of conduct agreement. Access and use of the area will be subject to parishioners agreeing to and abiding by the document.

Halberton Community Growing Area Risk Assessment

The working group has produced the following risk assessment for the site: "2025.03.25 Risk Assessment Halberton Parish Council Community Growing Area". The working group would like to propose that the mitigations contained within are adopted to ensure the site is a safe environment and we meet the requirements of the public liability insurance we have in place.

The documents have been circulated to councillors.

The working group undertakes to organise the necessary reviews and inspections of the site alongside the general management that is already responsible for.

c. Halberton Children's Recreation Ground

i) update on installation of new equipment and financing
Councillor Campbell and the Clerk met the contractor on site.
Work will commence week beginning 7 April 2025.

ii) monthly safety report

iii) ROSPA report actions

Report on fencing

Report on the ROSPA inspection.

iv) safety gate instead of five bar gate
There is still a gap between the gate and the fence.

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 - update on status of migration (short presentation)

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 third quote and looking to ensure all fittings are correct.

g. Parking in the Lower Town

The police have written to the school.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
16	Newsletter Working Group	28

Issue 178 has been produced and distributed.

Councillor Batchelor update on name change.

Next meeting in May.

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 and the flashing lights are working.
Clerk meeting contractor on 7 April 2025.
Action: Clerk to monitor

The pavement at Church Path
Ongoing

VAS units (short presentation)
- Review of March data collection
- Solar installation complete
- Police feedback

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

Lorries on the Halberton to Willand road
Ongoing

Rose Cottage Bridge
As and when re-surfaced

Lorries between Halberton and Brithem Bottom
Ongoing

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

Councillor Furmedge
- No progress this month

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
18	Financial accounts 2024/25 and 2025/26	30-31

a. Financial report for the year 2024/25

Current account

Opening balance 28/02/25			£ 4627.01	
Receipts				
Newsletter			£ 552.50	
Cemetery			£ 280.00	
Grant			£ 1000.00	1832.50
Payments				
Direct Debit (MDDC DIRECT				
03Mar2025 DEBITS)	DTW 953043		-17.52	
14Mar2025 Pennon Water Servi	1689100901		-25.51	
14Mar2025 Rob Furmedge	GOOGLE FEB 25		-48.00	
14Mar2025 HMRC	070/AZ13079		-140.28	
14Mar2025 Mrs S McGeever	WAGES FEB 25		-643.13	
14Mar2025 Rob Furmedge	LAND REGISTRY		-14.00	
31Mar2025 Service Charge			-6.00	
31Mar2025 Utility Warehouse*	8220048/8220048/23		-933.47	-1827.91
Closing balance 31/03/25			£ 4631.60	

Reserve account

Opening balance 28/02/25	£20006.18
Receipts	
Interest	£ 148.04
Payments	
Closing balance 31/03/25	£20154.22

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

b. Payments to approve (Council):

HMRC (PAYE)	£ 140.28
S McGeever (Wages)	£ 643.13
Brightsea (Newsletter)	£ 926.00
Upcott (grass maintenance)	£ 910.00
DCC (The Mead)	£ 37.50
DCC (The Mead)	£ 37.50
Stanbury (fencing)	£2049.22
Play Safety (ROSPA play inspection)	£ 96.00

Other matters:

Devon Communities Together - should the Parish Council join (£50 per annum)
DALC membership – invoice awaited

b. Halberton Children's Recreation Ground
Bank accounts

c. Unity Debit Card
Re-submitted

d. Additional signatories on the Unity Trust Bank Account
Paperwork to sign

e. Clerk Review
Mandatory yearly review

f. Utility Warehouse
UW do not accept the complaint.
Review of all invoices to be carried out.

Appointment of a new supplier.