

Halberton Parish Council

The Annual Meeting of Halberton Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 13 May 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
6 May 2025

AGENDA

Item		Report Pages
Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman		
1	Election of Chairman for 2025/6 Elected Chairman to sign Declaration of Acceptance for Office	N/A
2	Election of Vice-Chairman 2025/6 Elected Vice-Chairman to sign Declaration of Acceptance for Office	N/A
Apologies, Declarations, Public Forum and Minutes		
3	Apologies	N/A
4	Declarations of Interest	N/A
5	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
6	To approve the minutes of the Council meeting on 8 April 2025	4 to 14
Standing Orders and Business of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council		
7	Nominations to Committees and Working Groups: Joint Traffic Committee, Newsletter Working Group, IT Working Group, Footpaths Working Group and Recreational Facilities Working Group	15
8	Representation on External Bodies To approve Council representation on external bodies and arrangements for reporting back.	16
9	General Power of Competence Sufficient councillors were elected at the May 2023 elections to allow for the General Power of Competence. The Clerk has completed the training and but has not completed the submitting of documentation by May 2025.	N/A

10	Bank signatories To approve bank signatories for the Parish Council and Halberton Children's Recreation Ground accounts	17
11	Review of Core documents	18
Annual Review of Governance and Accounts Due to the change in bank accounts, the draft paperwork will be presented to this meeting with the approval and signing of the documentation moving to the June meeting.		
12	Internal Audit Report: The internal audit will be completed prior to the June meeting To formally appoint the auditor for 2025/26	N/A
13	Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 (see above)	N/A
14	Accounting Statements 2024/25 (see above)	N/A
General Council Business		
15	Chairman's announcement	N/A
16	Mid Devon District Council matters a. To receive a report from the MDDC Council Member b. Grand Western Canal Group	19-20
17	Devon County Council matters To receive a report from the DCC Council Member	
18	Police matters To consider any correspondence from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Council Advocate Scheme	23
19	Vacancies on the Parish Council To consider and, if agreed, approve any applications received	24
20	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.	25
21	Consideration of Mid Devon District Council's Planning Decisions The following planning decisions have been received.	26
22	Highways matters and the Road and Snow Warden Schemes	27
23	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	28
24	Recreation and Amenities Working Group The Recreation and Amenities Working Group	29
25	Community items To consider any other community matters	30
26	Newsletter Working Group The Newsletter Working Group did not hold a May meeting	31

27	Traffic Issues To consider information from the Joint Traffic Working Group and other matters relating to the parish of Halberton	32
28	Financial accounts 2024/25 and 2025/26	33
29	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
30	Items for next meeting	N/A
31	Meeting dates for 2025/26	N/A

*Signed: Susan McGeever
Clerk to Halberton Parish Council*

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
6	To approve the minutes of the Council meeting on 8 April 2025	4 to 13

**Halberton Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at Halberton Village Hall on Tuesday 8 April 2025 at 7.00pm**

Present

Councillors Batchelor (Chair), Browse, Campbell, Furmedge, Graham, Barnard-Taylor and Saunders together with Councillors DuChesne (MDDC) and Councillor Slade (DCC) and the Clerk, Mrs S McGeever.

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

240-1 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillor Fairclough.

240-2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

240-3 Public Forum

The following matter was raised in the public forum:

Traffic:

- Thank you for installing the VAS units and solar panel
- Upcoming road closure – would it be possible to cut back hedges whilst the road is closed?
- Ongoing traffic issues such as flooding at the top of Chapel Close and the removal of the ‘keep clear signs’ – can the Clerk escalate these?

VAS speeds

- The article in the newsletter was very misleading given that two-thirds of the traffic is over the speed limit
- The interpretation of the data was questioned given it appears that both units appear to be recording a single car

Traffic signs

- Were the weight limit signs at the bottom Willand roundabout turned or wrongly installed?

Precept

- Why has there been no explanation of the huge hike in the precept?
- Is there a lack of communication?

It was noted that the Chairman’s letter in the most recent Newsletter addressed the increase in the precept.

240-4 To approve the minutes of the Council meeting 8 March 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.

240-5 Chairman’s Announcements

The Chairman welcome Councillor DuChesne back to the meeting following her enforced absence.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Campbell for his work on the Recreation Ground play park equipment and the community growing area.

The Chairman asked councillors to consider whether or not they would like to take on the role of Chairman at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May. He would be prepared to serve one more term.

240-6 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.

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Councillor DuChesne voiced her concern as to how planning consultations would be conducted and the role of Parish Council's under the devolution plans.

The Chairman put standing orders down to allow questions to be asked.

The Parish Council had no questions.

Councillor Slade advised the Parish Council that Councillor Frank Letch has passed away in the night and MDDC had opened a book of condolence.

The Chairman put standing orders up.

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

Councillor Slade advised the GWC had written to Mid Devon Show regarding the proposed campsite and received assurances that those using the campsite would have to comply with the existing access routes to the canal.

Work had been undertaken to improve the towpath.

240-7 Devon County Council matters

Councillor Slade had submitted a report which, due to the pre-election period, was simply a news update. The report was included on the agenda for the meeting.

Councillor Slade advised that the proposed works in Lower Town scheduled from 7-11 April would not be going ahead. It would be re-scheduled but could not be undertaken during term time.

Councillor Slade was pleased to see the new gate in place at the Recreation Ground which had been part-funded through the locality budget.

240-8 Police Matters

Police Matters

Information had been circulated to Parish Councillors.

Councillor Advocate Scheme

Councillor Browse advised he had met with the Police and Crime Commissioner and would be submitting ideas on how to combat Rural Crime. The number of attendees had been disappointing and it was important to realise that the Councillor Advocate Scheme was a method for Parish Councils to relay information to the police given the lack of police in rural areas. An example would be the police coming to look at the school parking situation.

He noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner was not responsible for the succession of Chief Constables and the processes took time and had a financial cost.

240-9 Vacancies on the Parish Council

Councillor Browse advised that he knew of an individual who was still interested and details would be sent to the Clerk when confirmed.

Vacancies continued to be published in the Newsletter.

Action: Clerk

240-10 Consideration of Mid Devon District Council's planning applications

The following planning applications were considered:

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

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

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

The Parish Council RESOLVED that it had no objection in principle to the application given the possible Class Q fallback position and the designation that the self-build was an agricultural workers dwelling.

The Parish Council would ask MDDC Planning to consider that the resulting self-build agricultural workers dwelling be subject to an agricultural tie and that any change of use from the designated purpose of the building require full planning permission.

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

The Parish Council RESOLVED that it had no objection to this application and noted that no new access was required to provide for the ancillary accommodation in an existing building.

Existing applications:

24/01847/MFUL

Red Linhay

MDDC Planning had redacted some of the comments in the Parish Council's response. Following contact with the Clerk, the statements were re-instated as the comments about an enforcement notice was reflection a public record and the possibility of future breaches had been 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.

Councillor DuCheshne would contact Enforcement.

240-11 Consideration of Mid Devon District Council's Planning Decisions

The following decisions were noted:

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

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240-12 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.

Councillor Batchelor raised a pothole on Cloggs Hill.

Action: Clerk

b. Road Warden Scheme

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

Councillor Furmedge noted that the P3 scheme would be putting on strimmer training and Councillor Campbell had been included on the application.

Lower Town pavements etc.

The working party continued to look at areas that could be cleared to improve road safety. The Clerk had not heard from residents who had received the email regarding hedge cutting.

It was noted that the bird season could restrict some hedge cutting if not a road and safety issues.

Councillor Batchelor undertook to contact the farmer responsible for the hedge going out of Lower Town towards the main road.

The working party would make a further list of works that could be undertaken.

The Clerk would contact DCC regarding the area just before the High Street.

Action: Clerk

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.

240-13 Amenity matters

a. Platinum Jubilee Car Park

The Clerk noted that the clothes bin area had been kept tidier.

The Clerk advised no further information had been received on the roll-out of electric chargers in car parks.

Action: Clerk to contact school to ascertain if staff would use electric charges.

The possible extension to the car park would be discussed in Part 2.

b. Footpaths

Councillor Furmedge reported that

- the P3 submission had been sent to DCC and he thanked everyone who had walked the paths and reported back. As reported earlier in the meeting, strimming training had been requested. Requests had been submitted as follows:

Footpath 5 – installation of a kissing gate

Footpath 15 – maintenance work

Footpath 23 - maintenance work

There were jobs which could be carried out by a working party such as standing up way marker poles and a list would be made.

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- Footpath 7, 7A and 7B

The two small extensions to Footpath 7 had been approved and the footpath now linked to roads.

Action: Clerk to request new PROW map

-Further work

Councillor Furmedge would contact the working group to discuss the way forward and how best to assist The Ramblers to in pursuing other old paths.

- Pond Hill

Councillor Furmedge ask for clarification on the ownership of Pond Hill.

Councillor Browse advised that it fell under DCC Highways to the point in changed to a path.

c. Cemetery

The Clerk advised that all cemetery matters were ongoing and noted that several of the low rails required mending.

Action: Councillor Batchelor/Saunders and the Clerk

The woodchips would be left to rot down.

The wildflower area had been cut and as much grass as possible collected.

It was noted that the benches needed repair and that the Parish Council was going to purchase a memorial bench in the name of Barrie Corden.

Action: Councillor Batchelor to report on the status of the benches. Clerk to source a recyclable bench.

d. Defibrillators

Nothing to report.

e. The Orchard Car Park

The names of those interested had been forwarded to MDDC who were sending out letters.

Action: Clerk to request an update to see if any further action from the Parish Council was required

f. Ground Maintenance

The Clerk continued to liaise with the contractor and the permissive paths would only be cut when necessary.

Action: Clerk to arrange a meeting between Councillor Graham and the contractor.

g. Parish Maps

The maps will need to be re-printed with 7a and 7b.

h. Postbox at Pethertons

The request to re-instate the post box had been refused – this has been challenged.

i) Pond Area

The Clerk had contacted MDDC and was awaiting a response.

Action: Clerk to follow up

240-14 Recreation and Amenities Working Group

The Recreation and Amenities Working Group continued to meet to discuss works required.

a. The Mead

Councillor Campbell reported that:

- Quotes for the work to be undertaken on the path from the Jubilee car park were being requested
- The football nets had been installed

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that the new lease had started and details of the equipment to be installed together with risk assessments needed to be sent to DCC.

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b. Community Growing Area

The Clerk reported that the fencing has been carried out (see Finance).

Action: Clerk to submit S106 application

Councillor Batchelor had ploughed the area but the ground was still very rough.

Councillor Campbell had submitted the following proposals:

1. Halberton Community Growing Area Membership Code of Conduct

The Recreation and Amenities Working Group would like to propose that the Parish Council adopts the "Halberton Community Growing Area Membership Code of Conduct" as the means of managing the area.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to adopt the above document.

2. Halberton Community Growing Area Risk Assessment

The Recreation and Amenities Working Group would like to propose that the Parish Council approves the "2025.03.25 Risk Assessment Halberton Parish Council Community Growing Area".

The Parish Council RESOLVED to adopt the above document with a small number of changes.

A meeting of interested parties would take place on Thursday, 10 April 2025.

c. Halberton Children's Recreation Ground

i) update on installation of new equipment and financing

The installation of the new play park equipment started on 8 April 2025 and should be completed within a 2-3 week period.

Action: Councillor Campbell would be putting up a sign to advise of the works.

An opening ceremony would be held and those who had backed the project invited.

Action: Clerk

ii) monthly safety report

Monthly safety reports were undertaken by Councillor Campbell.

iii) ROSPA report actions

The working group were considering the ROSPA inspection report and would carry out any necessary works.

iv) safety gate instead of five bar gate

The Parish Council RESOLVED to close the gap between the gate and the fence.

Action: Councillor Saunders

The Parish Council RESOLVED to put a sign on the gate advising parents and children that they should not climb on the gate.

Action: Councillor Campbell

It was noted to spare posts needed to be removed and utilised elsewhere,

Action: Councillor Batchelor

v) work is ongoing on finding the additional funding required

Nothing to report.

d. Fund raising

Nothing to report.

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e. Mid Devon Wildlife Warden Scheme

Nothing to report.

f. Ideas for solar farm cooperation

Awaiting installation.

240-15 Community items

a. Council IT tools Working Group to include Facebook page/Website/Communicating with Parishioners
Councillor Furmedge had put together a presentation detailing the migration to the new system which would take place over the weekend of 10 April 2025 and would result in a reduction in costs.

Action: Councillor Furmedge

The Parish Council RESOLVED to set up a WhatsApp group as a means of keeping up-to-date with announcements of the migration etc.

Action: Councillor Furmedge

The Clerk reminded all councillors that any formal method of communication fell under GDPR/FOI rules and thus all posts should be in line with the Code of Conduct.

b. Anaerobic Digester Liaison Committee

The new application has delayed meeting.

Action: Clerk

c. Flies in Halberton

The Parish Council would contact the Environmental Health Officer for an update given the reported presence of flies in Lower Town.

Action: Clerk

d. Emergency Plan

The Clerk continued to liaise 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 advice was to keep the plan simple with 5 or 6 policies.

Action: Clerk to arrange meeting and look to include Butterleigh/Uplowman

f. Signs for Footpaths

The Clerk was still in correspondence 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 and there had been a short-lived improvement.

The possibility of cones was considered and Councillor Campbell would contact the Headmaster.

The Parish Council could install a 'non-parking beyond this point' on its own land.

Action: Councillor Campbell/Clerk

240-16 Newsletter Working Group

Issue 178 had been produced and printed.

Due to the absence of one of the volunteers, a number of newsletters required delivering and Parish Councillors took on delivery.

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240-17 Traffic

Ongoing Halberton matters:

Flashing lights at the school in Lower Town

DCC have programmed the SIM pod and the flashing lights are working.

The Clerk met with the contractor on 7 April 2025 and received the SIM pod.

The contractor had indicated that signage was available but this was the blue weight limit sign that had been removed from the post when the flashing lights were fitted.

Action: Clerk to contact DCC re weight limit sign/purchase school signs

The pavement at Church Path

Ongoing

Action: Clerk to arrange a meeting

VAS units

Councillor Furmedge advised that:

- feedback from the police was awaited.
- the solar panels had been installed

Councillor Furmedge felt it was important to have a regular newsletter item.

He was also looking at the firmware to understand why the units might be flashing in both directions.

The integrity of the data could be verified by the Community Speedwatch project.

The VAS units did need to be moved and the Parish Council would consider alternative sites.

Action: Clerk to contact DCC

Potential pavement at The Hickory Inn

Councillor Slade advised double yellow line application ongoing.

Lorries on the Halberton to Willand road

The situation continued to be monitored and reported.

Rose Cottage Bridge

As and when re-surfaced

Lorries between Halberton and Brithem Bottom

Work was ongoing to move the signs.

Community Speed Watch

Councillor Browse has undertaken the training and a meeting would be held when the volunteers were available.

Action: Councillor Browse/Clerk to organise a meeting

20mph limits

No information had been received from DCC.

Portable Air Quality Monitor

Councillor Furmedge

- No progress this month

240-18 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 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. Financial accounts 2025-26

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
DALC Membership	£
Google Workspace	£ 48.00

The Parish Council RESOLVED to make the above payments.

Action: Clerk

Councillor Furmedge had raised membership of Devon Communities Together at a cost of £50 per annum. The Parish Council RESOLVED to join DCT.

Action: Clerk

b. Halberton Children's Recreation Ground

Work was ongoing on the bank accounts

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c. Unity Debit Card

The paperwork had been re-submitted.

d. Additional signatories on the Unity Trust Bank Account

The paperwork to add Councillor Barnard-Taylor as a signatory was signed at the meeting.

Action: Clerk to submit

e. Clerk Review

Councillor Batchelor/Furmedge to report to the next meeting.

f. Utility Warehouse

Given UW's stance on providing information on providing information, the Clerk would carry out a review of all payments.

The Clerk had circulate information on new suppliers through DALC's recommended supplier and the Parish Council RESOLVED to change to Tomato Energy.

Action: Clerk

240-20 Items for next meeting

Permissive pathway access

220-21 Date of the next meeting

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

15 May 2025 -Annual Parish Meeting – 7.00pm – Jubilee Room

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____

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HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
7	Nominations to Committees and Working Groups and Parish Council Appointments: Newsletter Working Group, IT Working Group, Footpaths Working Group and Recreational Facilities Working Group	14

Current Councillor representation:

Joint Traffic Committee

Councillor Batchelor

Councillor Browse

Newsletter Working Group

Councillor Graham

IT Working Group

Councillor Campbell

Councillor Furmedge

Councillor Barnard-Taylor

Footpaths Working Group

Councillor Browse

Councillor Furmedge

Recreation and Amenities Working Group

Councillor Batchelor

Councillor Browse

Councillor Campbell

Road Wardens

Councillor Browse

Councillor Furmedge

Snow Warden

Ian Batchelor

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
8	Representation on External Bodies To approve Council representation on external bodies and arrangements for reporting back.	15

Current Councillor representation:

Grand Western Canal

Councillor Browse

Halberton Village Hall, Halberton Community Association and the Defibrillators

Councillor Graham

Police Advocate Scheme

Councillor Browse

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
10	Bank signatories To approve bank signatories for the Parish Council and Halberton Children's Recreation Ground accounts	16

Halberton Parish Council
Unity Trust Bank

Councillor Batchelor
Councillor Barnard-Taylor
Councillor Browse
Councillor Furmedge and
Councillor Graham

Halberton Children's Recreation Ground

Councillor Batchelor
Councillor Browse
Councillor Furmedge and
Councillor Graham

Item		Report pages
11	Review of Core Documents	17

The Parish Council's Core Documents are available on the Parish Council website and can be downloaded:

[Policies and Procedures – Halberton Parish Council](#)

New Standing Orders will be circulated to the Parish Council before the together with an updated Risk Management document.

If any member of the Parish Council or Public requires a hard copy of these documents then please contact the Clerk (clerk@halbertonparishcouncil.gov.uk).

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
15	Mid Devon District Council matters a. To receive a report from the MDDC Council Member b. Grand Western Canal Group	18-20

Planning applications

Crown Hill Timber Crown Hill Halberton Tiverton Devon EX16 7AY

Ref. No: 25/00292/FULL | Validated: Fri 04 Apr 2025 | Status: Awaiting decision

Initially the application stated that MDDC were to be tenants. I queried this and was informed that this was not the case and had never been the case. The Application has been amended to reflect this fact. I have been clearly informed MDDC's Building Services Department is not interested in using the site. The Application now calls for a replacement commercial unit for unspecified business use. The proposed bat house is to replace the bat roosting that was in the timber yard's buildings lost in the November 2024 fire. The GWC JAC also have reservations about this application.

Tidcombe Hall Planning Enquiry: 24/00045/MOUT

The event will commence on 20th May 2025 at 10:00am (20th May – 23rd May (consecutive) and 3rd June – 5th June (consecutive)) and be held at Phoenix Chamber 1 & 2, Phoenix House, Phoenix Lane, Tiverton, EX16 6PP.

The MDDC 2025 State of the District Debate will take place 25 June with the theme **Local Government Reorganisation**. Invitations will be sent to Parish Councils shortly.

GWC JAC

The annual Joint Advisory Committee for the Grand Western Canal (JAC GWC) is due to have its annual outing to inspect the canal and its buildings soon – dates for the visit are likely to be early in July.

Frank Letch MBE

The parish was informed of the sad passing of Frank Letch last month. For those who wish to comment a Book of Condolence is open at [Phoenix House](#), or you can leave a message of condolence using the [online form](#).

Our thoughts are with Frank's wife, Natalia, along with his family and loved ones at this difficult time.

Planning and Infrastructure bill (second reading 24 March 2025).

Planning fees will be localised and it will be easier for councils to purchase vacant land for house building, under proposals in the new planning and infrastructure bill. As previously mentioned councillors will have to undergo mandatory training and certification to sit on planning committees and a national delegation scheme will set out which planning decision they will consider and which will be decided by officers. The bill will also make it easier for councils to purchase vacant land for housebuilding and increasing planning capacity. However, there are concerns around how the bill will ensure that councils, who know their area best and what is needed, remain at the heart of the planning process. The bill will now pass to committee stage.

Section 106 funding

The following message has been received from the section 106 officer with a link showing the funds available. I found the link easy to follow and the contents clear.

[Section 106 Funding - MIDDEVON.GOV.UK](#)

- *Public Open Space Project Funding Availability (by catchment area)*
- *Miscellaneous Infrastructure Projects (by catchment area)*
- *Air Quality (by catchment area)*
- *Affordable Housing (district wide)*

If the reports are showing availability for funds in your area, please get in touch if you would like to discuss your upcoming project, are ready to submit an application or have any questions. Please be reminded that money not spent within timescales stipulated by the s106 agreements they are associated with, are at risk of being returned to the original contributor.

For those of you who may not already be aware, s106 agreements are entered into in order to mitigate the impact of development, and make it acceptable in planning terms.

They may include obligations on the developer to make a financial contribution, and usually contain obligations on the Council to ensure any money collected is spent in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

Regulation 122 of the CIL regulations defines the limitation on the use of planning obligations: 'A planning obligation may only constitute a reason for granting planning permission for the development if the obligation is—

- Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;*
- Directly related to the development; and*
- Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development'*

The funding reports contain information regarding the allocation of funds collected by developers and what and where the money is intended for.

Included on the web page you will also find the following documents:

- Eligibility criteria for Public Open Space projects*
- Application form for s106 Funding*

Rates & Council Tax

The following statistics relate to collection for 2024/25 – in which MDDC have performed exceptionally well.

Council Tax

Actual **97.55%**

This is above target (97.50%)

Business Rates

Actual **99.83%**

This is above target (98%)

It will be a month or two before the national collection tables are published, however our business rate collection should see us towards the top of the league table. Mid Devon were positioned 11th in 2023/24, the 2024/25 is likely to see us in the high top 10. I can only compare to 2023/24 so 99.83% would have given us 5th place.

Recycling

This is another area where we have performed well as reported below by the **Head of People, Performance and Waste**:

Late last week we received the attached data for 23/24 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) its 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.

Well done to us all – we are showing we care for our environment.

Training to help charities and local groups

For those interested – and as reported in the Tiverton Gazette April 15, a training programme designed to strengthen organisations, charities and community groups across Devon has been launched. The training sessions offer essential skills and knowledge needed to help them thrive in this challenging environment. The courses will equip participants, with the tools they need to build stronger, more resilient organisations so that they can continue to support their communities effectively. The courses are managed by Devon Communities Together. Natalie Campbell from the charity said they had tailored the programme to meet the needs of Devon's communities. For further information, contact Natalie on natalie.campbell@devoncommunities.org.uk or call 01392 248919

VE Day

On Thursday 8 May 2025 at 09:00hrs MDDC will be commemorating VE Day by raising the unique VE Day 80 Flag, uniting the nation in remembering the sacrifices made by so many throughout WW11.

Kind regards,

Gwen DuChesne MBE

GDuChesne@middevon.gov.uk

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
16	Devon County Council matters To receive a report from the DCC Council Member	21

Councillor Colin Slade was not re-elected as the Tiverton East DCC Council Member.

The new representative is Neale Stephen Peter Raleigh – County Councillors do not yet have email addresses.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
17	Police matters To consider any correspondence from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Council Advocate Scheme	22

Police Matters

Information circulated to Parish Councillors

Councillor Advocate Scheme

Councillor Browse to report

Item		Report Pages
18	Vacancies on the Parish Council To consider and, if agreed, approve any applications received.	23

One application has been received and circulated to Parish Councils for consideration at this meeting.

Vacancies continue to be advertised in the Newsletter.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
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.	24-25

New applications:

25/00292/FULL

Proposal: Change of use of B2/B8 to Sui Generis to include the erection of office and store, detached double cart lodge for domestic use, replacement bat roosting building and associated works

Location: Crown Hill Timber Crown Hill Halberton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 299684 / 112870

Parish: Halberton 25

Deadline for comments: 25 April 2025 extension granted to 14 May 2025

25/00367/LBC

Proposal: Listed Building Consent to re-thatch roof with water reed

Location: 91 High Street Halberton Tiverton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 301123 / 112854

Parish: Halberton 25

Deadline from comments: 13 May 2025

25/00475/HOUSE

Proposal: Erection of single storey extension to connect house to barn, erection of porch to north elevation, relocation of oil tank, removal of existing conservatory and internal/external alterations to doors and windows to house and barn

Location: Middle Coombe Farm Brithem Bottom Cullompton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 301056 / 110309

Parish: Halberton 25

Deadline from comments: 19 May 2025

25/00476/LBC

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for the erection of single storey extension to connect house to barn, erection of porch to north elevation, relocation of oil tank, removal of existing conservatory and internal/external alterations to doors and windows to house and barn

Location: Middle Coombe Farm Brithem Bottom Cullompton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 301056 / 110309

Parish: Halberton 25

Deadline from comments: 19 May 2025

25/00590/FULL

Proposal: Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 24/01026/FULL (Erection of 2 dwellings and garages following demolition of agricultural building to include formation of vehicular access and associated works) to allow substitute plans relating to additional roof light to each dwelling and changes to garage roofs

Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 298968 111744 Manley Farm Tiverton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 298948 / 111794

Parish: Halberton 25

Deadline for comments: 21 May 2025

25/00431/HOUSE

Proposal: Erection of single storey front and rear extensions and external and internal alterations

Location: Cordwents Crown Hill Halberton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 300039 / 112593

Parish: Halberton 25

Deadline for comments: 28 May 2025

25/00622/PNCOU

Proposal: Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to 1 dwelling under Class Q

Location: Seckerleigh Farm Tiverton Devon

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 297326 / 109844

Parish: Halberton 25

INFORMATION ONLY

Enforcement:

An Enforcement Order has been issued for Red Linhay and circulated to Parish Councillors.

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

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
20	Consideration of Mid Devon District Council's Planning Decisions	26

The following decisions have been received:

25/00436/NMA – APPROVED – 2 May 2025

PROPOSED NON-MATERIAL AMENDMENT

Proposal: Non-Material Amendment for 24/01026/FULL to allow reduction in window sizes, change to timber cladding specification and change of roof specification

Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 298968 111744 Manley Farm Tiverton

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
21	Highways matters and the Road and Snow Warden Schemes	27

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

a. Potholes

Potholes continue to be reported online to Devon County Council.
Repairs have taken place across the Parish.

b. Road Warden Scheme

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

c. Snow Warden Scheme

Councillor Batchelor is the Parish Council's Snow Warden

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. Surface water at Chapel Close

Reported to DCC – will look when it next rains.

g. Tonnage signs on Willand to Halberton road

The signs have been turned round and DCC will rectify.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
22	Amenity matters	28

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

Further information is awaited on electric car charging from DCC and MDDC.

b. Footpaths

The PROW payment (£360.00) for 2024-25 has been received.

c. Cemetery

Action list:

- Open up the shed and review contents (Councillor Batchelor)
- Clean/repair benches
- Complete letters on grave lowering
- Completer letters on memorial stone audit
- Install noticeboard (Councillor Batchelor)

Broken fencing has been mended

Hedge height has been taken down as requested by the ground maintenance team

d. Defibrillators

Update from Councillor Graham.

Action: Councillor Graham/Clerk

e. The Orchard Car Park

Car parking permits were scheduled to become live on 1 May 2025.

f. Ground Maintenance

The Clerk has circulated the work undertaken in March to the Parish Council.

Request to strim pond before Duck Race on 10 May.

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

g. Parish Maps

The maps have been received.

Further update required if Footpath 7 expands.

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
23	Recreation and Amenities Working Group	29

Councillors Batchelor, Browse and Campbell to raise any issues.

a. The Mead

Update

Request to use football pitch

New equipment for the Mead

Pathway

b. Community Growing Area

Update

£106 funding totalling £1205.00 is available.

Action: Clerk to submit application once quotes obtained for fencing. The fencing must be to the specification detailed in the lease.

c. Halberton Children's Recreation Ground

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

The installation is complete.

ii) monthly safety report (Councillor Campbell)

iii) ROSPA report

Group to report on works required.

d. Fund raising

See above

e. Mid Devon Wildlife Warden Scheme

f. Ideas for solar farm cooperation

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
24	Community items	30

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, decision on approach for shared data

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

No further update

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
25	Newsletter Working Group	31

Information on the status of the Newsletter Working Group has been circulated to the Parish Council and the Working Group.

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 May 2025 will be circulated prior to this meeting.

Issue 179 will be produced in May.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
26	Traffic	32

Ongoing Halberton matters:

Flashing lights at the school in Lower Town
Clerk awaiting date to pick up lorry sign.
Action: Clerk to monitor

The pavement at Church Path
Ongoing

VAS units (short presentation)
- Review of April data collection

Potential pavement at The Hickory Inn
Nothing to report

Lorries on the Halberton to Willand road
Ongoing

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.

Portable Air Quality Monitor

Councillor Furmedge
- Propose only report/agenda item if progress being made

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
27	Financial accounts 2024/25 and 2025/26	33-34

a. Financial report for the year 2024/25

The internal audit is being undertaken and will be reported at the June meeting together with the AGAR paperwork.

Year end figures from Scribe will be circulated to Parish Councillors prior to this meeting and form an attachment to the minutes of this meeting.

b. Financial report for the year 2025/26 (April)

A request to publish the budget information has been received and the document will be placed on the website.

Current account

Opening balance 31/3/25		£ 4631.60	
Receipts			
Newsletter		£ 835.00	
Precept		£19450.00	
Utility Warehouse		£ 691.87	£20976.87
Payments			
Service Charge		-6.00	
B/P to: DALC	HALBERTON 6473	-603.71	
B/P to: R Saunders	SCHOOL GATE	-70.00	
B/P to: Rob Furmedge	CLOUD/FASTHOSTS	-48.00	
B/P to: HMRC	070/AZ13079	-140.28	
B/P to: Mrs S McGeever	WAGES MAR 24	-643.13	
B/P to: Brightsea Print	HALB-INV 113598	-926.00	
B/P to: Upcott	Mar-25	-910.00	
B/P to: DCC	14586/55300817	-37.50	
B/P to: DCC	14586/55300816	-37.50	
B/P to: Stanbury Rural	0788/17/3/25	-2049.22	
B/P to: Culm Valley CT	HALBERTON	-40.00	
B/P to: Playsafety Ltd	HALBE001 86237	-96.00	
		-	
Transfer to 20502397		15000.00	
Direct Debit (MDDC DIRECT DEBITS)	1277346	-42.14	
			-20649.48
Closing balance 30/04/25		£ 4958.99	

Reserve account	
Opening balance 31/03/25	£20154.22
Receipts	
Transfer	£15000.00
Payments	
Closing balance 30/04/25	£35154.22

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

c. Payments to approve (Council):

Komplan (playground)	£13672.78
Upcott (ground maintenance)	£ 830.00
S McGeever (wages)	£ 679.30
HMRC (PAYE/Ni)	£ 234.38
C Graham (newsletter)	£ 50.00
Google (workspace)	£ 38.20

d. Halberton Children's Recreation Ground

Bank accounts

e. Unity Debit Card

Re-submitted

f. Clerk Review

Mandatory yearly review

g. Utility Warehouse

UW do not accept the complaint.

Review of all invoices to be carried out.

Appointment of a new supplier – Valda Energy