

Halberton Parish Council

Meeting of Halberton Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 10 March 2026 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
3 March 2026

AGENDA

Item		Report Pages
1	Apologies	N/A
2	Declarations of Interest	N/A
3	Public forum Members of the public may speak for a period of 3 minutes on matters they wish to bring to the attention of the Parish Council and these matters may be related to the items on the agenda. Unless the Chairman elects to put down standing orders, members of the public may not speak during the remainder of the meeting.	N/A
4	To approve the minutes of the Council meeting on 10 February 2026	3-12
5	Chairman's announcement	N/A
6	Vacancies on the Parish Council To consider and, if agreed, approve any applications received	13
7	Mid Devon District Council matters a. To receive a report from the MDDC Council Member b. Grand Western Canal Group	14-16
8	Devon County Council matters To receive a report from the DCC Council Member	17
9	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.	18-20
10	Consideration of Mid Devon District Council's Planning Decisions The following planning decisions have been received.	21
11	Financial accounts 2025/26 To consider the accounts, budget monitoring, grant applications etc.	22-24

12	Police matters To consider any correspondence from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Council Advocate Scheme	25
13	Newsletter Advisory Committee The Committee will met on 2 March 2026 and the minutes will be circulated	26
14	Community items To consider any other community matters	27
15	Highways and Traffic/Road Safety To consider any matters relating to highways, traffic and Road Safety	28-29
16	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
17	Items for next meeting	N/A
18	Date of next meeting 14 April 2026	N/A

*Signed: Susan McGeever
Clerk to Halberton Parish Council*

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
4	To approve the minutes of the Council meeting on 10 February 2026	3-12

**Halberton Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at Halberton Village Hall on Tuesday 10 February 2026 at 7.00pm**

Present

Councillors Batchelor (Chair), Barnard-Taylor, Browse, Campbell, Furmedge, Graham, Prout, Saunders and Slade together with Councillor DuChesne (MDDC), Councillor Raleigh (DCC) (arrived at Item 9) and the Clerk, Mrs S McGeever.

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

250-1 Apologies

Apologies had been received and were approved for Councillor Fairclough.

250-2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

250-3 Public Forum

Members of the public present did not raise any matters.

250-4 To approve the minutes of the Council meeting on 13 January 2026

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

250-5 Chair's Announcements

Councillor Batchelor referred to the need for an Action Plan and details of how the Parish Council would deliver a real benefit for the parish through the increased budget and precept. The need for due diligence and accountability was noted and he proposed that a Finance Working Group be formed.

Councillors Batchelor and Furmedge together with the Clerk were working on a proposal that would be brought to the next meeting.

250-6 Vacancies on the Parish Council

The Parish Council was at its full complement but would have a vacancy in May 2026.

250-7 Mid Devon District Council matters

a. To receive a report from the MDDC Council Member

Councillor DuChesne had submitted a written report which had been published in the agenda for this meeting. The key points were the National Planning Policy Framework, Business Rates, disposal of batteries and the budget.

Councillor Furmedge had noted that MDDC were no longer using 'X' and Councillor DuChesne advised that concern had been expressed over the power and capability of AI.

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

Councillor Browse advised that there were sections of the path that had potholes and puddles and this had been report to the GWC manager.

247-8 Devon County Council matters

Councillor Raleigh had provided a written report prior to the meeting, the key points were:

Permissive Path at Lower Town

A meeting had taken place on 22 January 2026 with Devon County Council Officers and their Land Agents and a response was now awaited as to whether or not permission would be granted for the path which would be funded by the Parish Council.

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Planning

Councillor Raleigh had followed up on resident's concerns over the Rhode Farm planning application and the proposed transport routes. DCC had confirmed that bridges along the route could comfortably take 40/44t vehicles.

Locality Grant

A grant of £300 had been given to the Parish Council to finance the cost of a grit bin to be sited on the slope at the end of the Jubilee Path.

The Parish Council had no questions to raise.

Councillor Slade advised that he was now the Devon Association of Local Council's representative on the HATOC committee and had attended his first meeting.

250-9 Consideration of Mid Devon District Council's planning applications

The following planning applications were considered bearing in mind that Mid Devon District Council was in tilted balance due to having insufficient housing developments being built to meet Government targets.

26/00020/FULL

Proposal: Erection of extension to livestock shed

Location: Land at NGR 299536 112864 (Red Linhay) Crown Hill

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 299384 / 112863

Parish: Halberton 25

The Parish Council noted that the application was for agricultural purposes only and to meet environmental and agricultural best practices.

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

26/00034/CAT

Proposal: Notification of intention to fell one Hankerchief tree (*Davidia involucrata*) in a Conservation Area

Location: Overrock Halberton Tiverton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 301675 / 113185

Parish: Halberton 25

The Parish Council RESOLVED that they would defer to the knowledge of the Tree Officer on this application.

DCC/4447/2025

County Matter Planning Application

The construction and operation of covered agricultural silage clamp with a capacity of up to 21,500m³ together with all ancillary services and infrastructure, landscaping, vehicular access and ecological enhancements.

at Land Adjacent To Devon Green Power, Lloyd Maunder Road, Willand, Devon, EX15 2PJ

The Parish Council noted the reasoning behind the application to improve the operation practices of the site. It was considered that the proposed silage clamp would not increase traffic movements but could concentrate them to specific times of the year.

The company had confirmed that none of their suppliers would be allowed to use the side roads or cut throughs, and at no point would there be movements in or out of the site through Halberton on the Willand-Halberton road.

The Parish Council RESOLVED that it had no objection to the application based on the company's assurances regarding traffic movements through Halberton.

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26/00113/CAT

Proposal: Notification of intention to carry out works to 1 Chestnut, 1 Poplar, 1 Copper Beech, 1 Maple, 2 Hedge Hazel, 1 Damson, 1 Oak, 1 Apple, 1 Magnolia, 2 Hawthorn, 1 Evergreen Conifer and 1 Hazel tree within a Conservation Area

Location: Corners Corner Lane Halberton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 300666 / 112794

Parish: Halberton 25

The Parish Council RESOLVED it had no objections to this application.

25/01688/FULL

Proposal: Erection of a replacement agricultural building

Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 299030 111435 Rowridge Farm Ash Thomas

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 299019 / 111415

Parish: Halberton 25

The Parish Council RESOLVED it had no objections to this application.

25/01469/FULL

Proposal: Erection of two dwellings

Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 300539 113085 High Street Halberton Devon

Grid Ref: 300539 : 113085

Parish: Halberton 25

The Parish Council considered the revised plans to the application received via notification on 4 February 2026. It did not consider the second set of revised plans to the application received via notification on 9 February 2026 which would go forward to the March meeting.

The Parish Council noted the revised plans included improved provision for car parking which had been one of the concerns raised.

However, the Parish Council considered its remaining objections to the application, as listed in its response on MDDC's planning portal, remained valid.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to continue its objection to the application and comments relating to its initial response.

If MDDC were mindful to approve the application then a full Construction Traffic Management Plan would be required to ensure that commuter times and school pick up/drop off times were avoided and the safety of all road users was taken into consideration.

25/00292/FULL

The Planning Officer was currently reviewing the application.

Other matters:

Two Trees Solar Farm

The Clerk had followed up on the Community Benefit offer and an increase was being considered.

Willand AD Plant

Information from the company has been circulated.

Mid Devon District Council Caravan site and mobile homes policy consultation

The information had been circulated to Parish Councillors and it was considered that individual councillors should respond not the Parish Council as a whole. The deadline for comments was Wednesday 8, April 2026.

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Invitation to Planning Training for Town and Parish Councils

The Parish Council noted that MDDC were providing planning on Thursday, 26th March 2026 and Councillor Furmedge advised that he would be attending.

250-10 Consideration of Mid Devon District Council's Planning Decisions

The following decisions were noted:

25/01692/CAT – APPROVED – 9 January 2026

Proposal: Notification of intention to fell 1 Mimosa tree and reduce the height of 1 Laurel tree by 3-4m within the Conservation Area

Location: 3 Pond Hill Halberton Tiverton Devon

25/01319/FULL – APPROVED – 21 January 2026

Proposal: Change of use of agricultural land and erection of 2 dwellings

Location: Land at NGR 300301 112448 Lower Town Halberton Devon

The Parish Council noted that the key reason for approval was the lack of a five year housing supply.

25/01732/LBC – APPROVED - 22 January 2026

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for the replacement of 2 external timber doors

Location: Halberton Primary School Church Path Halberton Tiverton

DPX/DCC/4449/2025 – APPROVED – 27 January 2026

Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992 - Regulation 3 Replacement external doors at Halberton Primary School, Church Path, Halberton, Devon, EX16 7AT

250-11 Finance

The Parish Council noted the report prepared by the Clerk:

a. Financial report for the year 2025/26

Current account

Opening balance 01/01/26		£ 5380.12	
Receipts			
Newsletter		£ 442.00	
Payments			
02-Jan-26	Direct Debit (MDDC DIRECT DEBITS)	1277346	-43.00
02-Jan-26	Direct Debit (MDDC DIRECT DEBITS)	DTW 953043	-17.78
15-Jan-26	B/P to: HMRC	070/AZ13079	-219.26
		REIMBURSEMENT	
15-Jan-26	B/P to: K Browse	REC	-11.95
15-Jan-26	B/P to: Rob Furmedge	GOOGLE	-7.00

15-Jan-26	B/P to: Halberton VH	ROOM SEPT-DEC25	-92.00	
15-Jan-26	B/P to: Mrs S McGeever	WAGES DEC 25	-644.41	
15-Jan-26	B/P to: Mrs S McGeever	EXPENSES OCT-DEC	-78.00	
30-Jan-26	Direct Debit (VALDA ENERGY LIMIT)	VALDAENERGY	-18.88	
31-Jan-26	Service Charge		-6.00	-1138.28

Closing balance 31/01/26 **£ 4683.84**

Reserve account

Opening balance 01/01/26 £23529.77

Receipts

Payments

Closing balance 31/01/26 **£23529.77**

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The Clerk presented the cumulative bank reconciliation form in Scribe to the Parish Council and this was duly signed by Chairman.

The ten-month budget report had been circulated to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. There were no questions raised.

b. Payments to approve:

January payments awaiting authorisation:

R Furmedge (Google Workspace)	£ 7.00
HMRC (PAYE)	£219.46
S McGeever (Wages)	£644.21
S McGeever (Expenses)	£ 26.00
Brightsea (Newsletter printing)	£926.00
C Graham (Newsletter delivery)	£ 50.00
Newsletter advertising refund (S)	£ 32.00 (details awaited)

The Parish Council RESOLVED to make the payments listed above.

b. Unity Debit Card

The Parish Council noted that two years of accounts had to be submitted.

c. Utility Warehouse

Of the work done to date in reviewing the invoices, it so far appeared that the actual cost of electricity per annum was under £200.

d. Local Government Reorganisation

The Clerk had met with MDDC and discussed assets and services within the parish. Information was now awaited on the procedure for acquiring assets and potentially taking over services to improve open spaces.

e. Budget/Precept discussions

A paragraph explaining the increase has been sent to Mid Devon District Council.

f. Clerks remittance and hours

Brought forward to the March meeting.

g. Assertion 10

Following webinars throughout January, the Clerk would be bringing recommendations to the Parish Council at the March meeting.

The Clerk had circulated a Bring Your Own Device policy and Parish Councillors noted that a councillor leaving the Parish Council should delete all files from their own computers.

Any document produced should be copied to a Clerk so that a full record of council business was held on the Parish Council computer and back-up systems.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to adopt the Bring Your Own Device policy.

The Clerk advised that bank reconciliations and budget monitoring documents could accompany the minutes of each meeting on the website.

In this regard, a budget document had been prepared and circulated to all councillors prior to publication alongside the minutes of the January meeting.

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250-12 Police Matters

Police Matters

Information had been circulated to Parish Councillors and there were a number of scams taking place.

Councillor Advocate Scheme

Councillor Browse advised that he had met with the police and had information to bring to the Recreation and Amenities Advisory Committee.

250-13 - Recreation and Amenities Advisory Committee

The Recreation and Amenities Advisory Committee met on 28 January 2026 and the minutes have been circulated to Parish Councillors.

The following recommendations were considered by the Parish Council:

The Parish Council utilise available S106 monies to purchase:

- Hinged bottoms for the football nets: Cost £300-500
The Parish Council RESOLVED to allocate S106 funds to purchase suitable hinged bottoms.
- Shelter for the Mead to accommodate teenagers: Cost £20045 excluding VAT this will reduce as not all the groundworks will be required.
Councillor Browse advised that the police had recommended a shelter that had not been considered by the Parish Council and the Clerk was currently in the process of obtaining a quote. Councillor Browse also believed further consultation should be undertaken and it was suggested that a picture of the shelter and the proposed location be brought to the Duck Race, posted in the bus shelter and circulated to Year 6 children at the school.
Councillor Batchelor considered enough consultation had been undertaken.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to allocate S106 funds to purchase a suitable shelter.

- An outdoor table tennis table: Cost £1100-2000 depending on construction
The Parish Council RESOLVED to allocate S106 funds to purchase a table tennis table, if sufficient funds were available.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to accept the following quotes noting that the surface of the path was not included as this had not been decided:

The Mead

To make a new entrance into the Sports pitch from the car park

To trim back the brambles and mulch them.

To replace the broken gatepost with a new 7in gate post. To make a gateway into the sports pitch through the existing fence and fit two 6in gateposts and hang your gate. To dig in two posts and hang your gate to make an entrance to maintain the ditch and fit rails between the two gates and leading up to the gate from the car park.

Price for this will be £825.00 + vat

Opposite Bycott and along the road

To trim the brambles on the bank beside the road and mulch them. Also to clear up the hedge trimmings in the road and spread them on the bank.

Price for this will be £250.00 + vat

To Fill in the gaps either side of the gate to the play area with metal railings to prevent access. Also to fit a new latch to the pedestrian gate to the mead.

Price for this will be £325.00 + vat

The work to remove brambles and mend the gates should take place as soon as possible.

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The Clerk was asked to identify if S106 monies could be allocated to the path between the car park and The Mead.

Action: Clerk

The Community Growing Area

The RAAC had identified that spraying would be required from time to time.

There were two options a) employ a contractor or b) train council members to undertake the work.

The Clerk was sourcing quotes from contractors.

The Clerk had circulated details of spraying courses to members of the Parish Council.

It was noted that Councillor Batchelor was qualified to spray and had the appropriate equipment which could be used for another councillor to undertake the training which cost approximately £500 depending on provider. A second trained Parish Council would allow other areas that required spraying to be undertaken.

Charity Commission

The annual return for the Halberton Children's Recreation Ground has been submitted.

Permissive Paths

DCC had been contacted regarding the broken gate post at the Jubilee Path and a response awaited.

The Locality Budget application for a grit bin had been submitted and approved.

250-14 Community items

To consider any other community matters.

a. Council IT tools Working Group to include Facebook page/Website/Communicating with Parishioners
Councillor Furmedge advised he had nothing to report.

b. Anaerobic Digester Liaison Committee

On hold until planning applications resolved.

c. Emergency Plan

The Parish Clerk had circulated a draft Emergency Plan – further work was required to ensure that all the maps, equipment lists and contact information for the Community Response Team were in place. In

addition, the lists of risks had been put together by the Clerk and further input from Parish Councillors was required to ensure that all risks were covered.

Councillor Furmedge would work with the Clerk to insert all the maps required and Councillors Graham and Prout would review the draft Emergency Plan and advise of any additional risks that might need to be included.

A revised draft Emergency Plan would be brought to the March meeting and a Public Meeting would then be called and volunteers sought from the community.

d. Neighbourhood Plan

Councillors Barnard- Taylor and Fairclough had attended the Neighbourhood Plan meeting together with the Clerk and the resulting presentations circulated to parish councillors.

The recommendation was to create a Planning Statement with public consultation. This could then be used as a basis for a Neighbourhood Plan which would need to include policy details of the new MDDC Local Plan and National Planning Policy Framework.

Whilst the Planning Statement could be undertaken by the Parish Council, the Neighbourhood Plan would require a consultant.

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The Clerk had identified a template which could be used as a starting point. Mid Devon District Council should be able to provide the housing requirements for Halberton.

Councillors Barnard-Taylor and Furmedge would work with the Clerk on this project.

e. Parking in the Lower Town

No further update

250-15 Highways and Traffic/Road Safety

The Parish Council noted the Clerk's report as given in the agenda.

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

c. Snow Warden Scheme

Councillor Campbell advised that not all salt bins were shown on the DCC map.

The Clerk advised that some might have been purchased by the Parish Council.

Councillor Campbell would check bins for serial numbers.

d. Surface water at the pond

Reported to DCC – will look when it next rains.

Update awaited

e. Surface water at Chapel Close

Reported to DCC – will look when it next rains.

Update awaited

f. Flooding at the Farm Shop

Southwest Water works – did not flood as a result of Storm Chandra.

Information on flooding has been requested from all councillors to submit to DCC.

A media statement was received from DCC regarding the flooding on the Cullompton-Willand road inside the Halberton boundary and this was published online.

Traffic and Road Safety

Joint Traffic Group: Councillor Batchelor, Browse and Slade

Meeting arranged for 23 February 2026

Ongoing Halberton matters:

Flashing lights at the school in Lower Town

Nothing to report

Double yellow lines in Lower Town/at the Hickory Inn

The double yellow lines are now in place.

Devon County Council (Mid Devon HATOC) (Traffic Regulation) Amendment Order 2026 - 6238

The pavement at Church Path

Ongoing

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VAS units

Councillor Furmedge advised there was nothing to report.

Potential pavement at The Hickory Inn

The Parish Council would need to provide a set of drawings of your proposal, these should be ideally undertaken by a consultant, however if you have a parishioner that is proficient with engineering drawing, then it will be more cost effective.

Note: Councillor Barnard-Taylor has volunteered to produce the drawings at no cost.

The drawings could then be used to assess the proposal and provide costings for the work which the Parish Council will have to fund.

Lorries between Halberton and Brithem Bottom

Awaiting update on moving existing signs

Further lorries have taken routes out of Halberton in the Ash Thomas direction and got stuck.

Community Speed Watch

Councillors Browse advised that the sites for the community speed watch had been agreed and he was in the process of acquiring the equipment so that training could take place.

Action: Councillor Browse/Clerk

Portable Air Quality Monitor

Councillor Furmedge advised that he had nothing to report.

250-16 Members business including meetings attended, and miscellaneous matters (not for decision)

Councillor Slade advised he had attended the Devon County Council's HATOC meeting.

Councillors Barnard-Taylor and Fairclough had attended the Neighbourhood Plan meeting.

250-17 Items for next meeting

Action plan meeting

Annual Parish Meeting

250-18 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting would take place on 10 March 2026 at Halberton Village Hall.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

Following the meeting, a short discussion took place on establishing an Action Plan.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
6	Vacancies on the Parish Council To consider and, if agreed, approve any applications received.	13

A call for councillors will be included in the next Newsletter.

Posters have been put on all the noticeboards and at the Farm Shop/Steamers/Hitchcocks.

No applications have been received since the last meeting.

A new councillor will be required in May.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
7	Mid Devon District Council matters a. To receive a report from the MDDC Council Member b. Grand Western Canal Group	14-16

a. To receive a report from the MDDC Council Member. Gwen Duchesne, MBE.

1st Mar 2026 Halberton District Report

The Extraordinary Council meeting on 25 February 2026

This meeting was held to approve Mid Devon's Council Tax Resolution for 2026/27. The average Band D Council Tax across the district will be £2,656.41 for the year ahead, which represents an increase of £135.24, or 5.36%, compared with the previous year and includes all major precepting authorities.

Mid Devon District Council's own share will rise by 2.99%, bringing its Band D charge to £246.29, an increase of £7.17.

Devon County Council's precept will increase by 4.99%, partly due to additional Adult Social Care responsibilities, resulting in a Band D charge of £1,891.17.

The Devon & Cornwall Police precept will rise by £15 to £303.20 for Band D, while Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue's precept increases by £5 to £109.68.

Town and parish council precepts vary, with **Halberton's Band D precept set at £89.**

Across Mid Devon, parish precepts have risen on average by £18.15, or 20.65%, creating an average parish Band D charge of £106.07. Unlike other authorities, parishes are not subject to central government referendum limits on tax increases.

The financial position for 2026/27 is shaped by the first year of funding changes under the Fair Funding Review 2.0. Although Mid Devon has experienced a reduction in funding, the impact was less severe than originally expected, allowing a balanced budget to be set without reducing service levels. A one-off government grant has been provided to offset changes in Business Rates Pooling, and the district has also received additional funding for homelessness services.

Rising costs have largely been driven by inflation, increased demand for certain services such as housing support, national changes to local government funding arrangements and the need to protect financial reserves against future pressures.

Despite these challenges, Mid Devon has confirmed that it has been able to deliver a balanced budget for 2026/27 while maintaining existing service standards.

Business Rates Drop-In Day: Strong Turnout and Positive Feedback

Mid Devon District Council's recent **Business Rates Drop-In Day**, (Tuesday 17 February) saw an encouraging turnout, with **15 local business owners** attending to seek advice, clarity, and support on a range of business rates matters. According to Dean Emery, Head of Revenues, Benefits, Corporate Recovery, Corporate Fraud, Welfare & Leisure, the event proved both timely and valuable as recent media coverage had caused concern among local businesses.

Attendees were able to sit down with council officers to discuss topics including:

- How business rates are calculated
- What to do when a property needs to be split
- Guidance for changes in occupancy
- Understanding how upcoming changes may affect bills
- How to appeal
- How to use the self-serve system for council and HMRC requirements

One highlight of the session was that officers were able to provide many participants with their **new charges ahead of the formal bill issue**, giving early clarity and reassurance. Only one attendee faced a significant increase, and even in that case, officers were able to offer full guidance and next steps.

The session was also particularly well-received by pub owners—some of whom had been worried by misleading national reporting. After receiving accurate information, several commented that they felt reassured and prepared for the year ahead.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with all attendees leaving satisfied that their questions had been answered in full. A business owner who operates a pub and two other premises expressed particular appreciation for the clear advice provided.

The Council's Communications Team will be sharing broader thanks to the businesses who took the time to attend. With more bills due shortly, the Revenues team anticipates arranging **another drop-in event**, including support with interpreting actual bills once they arrive.

Local Government Reorganisation

The government has launched a consultation on proposals to overhaul Devon's local government—the biggest change in 50 years. Residents have until **26 March** to give their views. Under the plan, Devon's county and eight district councils will be abolished in **2028** and replaced with fewer, larger unitary councils responsible for all services.

Five options are being considered. Devon County Council proposes a single Devon-wide unitary alongside existing Plymouth and Torbay unitaries. District councils propose a three-unitary "4-5-1" model, with a modified version allowing limited Plymouth expansion. Plymouth and Exeter propose four unitaries, each expanding to take in surrounding parishes, plus a rural Devon council. Torbay also supports a four-unitary model, keeping its boundaries while creating expanded Plymouth and Exeter councils and a rural Devon authority.

Government argues unitaries will cut duplication and improve services, but some councillors warn of reduced democratic representation and rising local costs.

Car Charge Points

New rapid car charge points have been installed at Tiverton Pannier Market. Owned and run by Wenea, the 120 kilo-watt dual unit offers shoppers a high-speed recharge, powered by 100% renewable electricity.

Located in the Council's Market Place car park, just off Newport Street, the dedicated recharging bays offer accessible parking, positioned between the small trader cabins and Market Walk.

The Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2

A major investment programme has supported households across Devon to reduce energy costs and make homes warmer, greener, and more efficient.

Between April 2023 and March 2025, the **Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 (HUG2)** scheme delivered improvements to **176 off-gas, low-income homes** across the county. Here in **Mid Devon, 26 properties benefited**, including the installation of **14 heat pumps** and **80 kWp of solar PV**, helping residents cut bills and improve comfort.

The programme was delivered by **Devon County Council**, working closely with district partners in **East Devon, Mid Devon, Teignbridge, Torridge, North Devon**, as well as **Exeter City Council** and **Torbay Council**. Funding was provided by the **Department for Energy Security and Net Zero**.

This work forms part of a wider effort to support households who are most in need, reduce carbon emissions, and ensure that rural communities—especially those off the gas grid—are not left behind.

ACTIVE Mid Devon has taken a significant step toward improving accessibility for swimmers with the purchase of two Pool Pods—state-of-the-art equipment designed to help more people enter and exit the water safely, comfortably, and with dignity.

The Pool Pod 3.0 is a discreet, fully automated pool lift that enables swimmers with reduced mobility, disabilities, or additional support needs to get into and out of the pool independently.

Mid Devon is also set to become a hub for one of the UK's fastest-growing sports, with plans for several padel courts across the district. Active Mid Devon is currently exploring options to deliver up to eight padel courts at Active Tiverton (Exe Valley), along with the potential for two padel courts—or one padel court and one pickleball court—at Active Crediton (Lords Meadow).

In addition, the Active Mid Devon app continues to make booking faster, easier, and more convenient. The

free app puts customers in control of their fitness by offering 24/7 booking, real-time schedules, swimming lesson progress updates, waiting-list access, and personal reminders, making it simple to plan and manage activities on the go.

Cullompton Relief Road – Early Works Now Underway

I wanted to update residents on the latest progress with the Cullompton Relief Road, as Devon County Council has now begun preparatory works on the site. This marks another important step toward delivering the long-promised route that will help ease congestion, improve local air quality, and support the town's future growth.

Although the main construction phase is not scheduled to begin until the summer, a number of ecological and archaeological tasks are taking place now. These early works are carefully timed to avoid the bird nesting season and ensure that all environmental obligations are fully met. Specialist ecologists are overseeing the clearance of vegetation so that wildlife is properly protected, including the sensitive dormouse habitats along the route.

Progress on land acquisition has been positive, and alongside the road scheme, new public land is being created for the Cullompton Community Association (CCA). Replacement sports facilities are also being delivered for clubs affected by the project. The new junior football pitches are already installed and the grass is establishing well, with work on the new training pitch due to begin in May.

Some areas of the CCA land will be temporarily affected to allow access for both these early works and future construction. During this period, new paths and bridge links will be put in place to ensure residents can continue to move safely and easily across the site. Archaeological investigations are also underway to record and protect local heritage before full construction begins.

To minimise disruption for residents and improve traffic flow in advance, several upgrades will be delivered early. This includes a new layby bus stop opposite the Weary Traveller at the Station Road / Millennium Way roundabout, allowing buses to pull off the carriageway and reducing delays. Improvements at the Exeter Road junction will also be completed ahead of the main works to help with safety and congestion.

The main contractor for the relief road is expected to be appointed in the spring, with full construction planned to start in the summer.

Summary of the Devon Funding News bulletin

The bulletin provides an update on newly opened and upcoming funding opportunities across Devon. It highlights several grants and programmes, including:

- **School-Based Nursery Capital Grant (2027–2030):** Funding for local authorities to create or expand nurseries in state-funded primary schools and family hub sites. [[Devon Coun...ews Update](#) | [Outlook](#)]
- **Ending Homelessness in Communities Fund:** A new £37m fund opening 23 February to support organisations tackling homelessness between 2026 and 2029. [[Devon Coun...ews Update](#) | [Outlook](#)]
- **Royal Society Partnership Grants:** Grants for schools to partner with STEM professionals on investigative projects for students aged 5–18. [[Devon Coun...ews Update](#) | [Outlook](#)]
- **Boost Charitable Trust:** Small grants for programmes that improve the lives of disabled and disadvantaged people through sport. [[Devon Coun...ews Update](#) | [Outlook](#)]
- **Trading for Good Programme:** Support for community businesses in the South West, running from March to September 2026. [[Devon Coun...ews Update](#) | [Outlook](#)]
- **Geovation Accelerator Programme:** Applications open until 28 February 2026 for start-ups using geospatial and property data. [[Devon Coun...ews Update](#) | [Outlook](#)]
- **Speech, Language & Hearing Foundation:** Grants (£3,000–£20,000) for projects supporting children with speech, language, or hearing difficulties. [[Devon Coun...ews Update](#) | [Outlook](#)]
- **The Happiness Fund:** Two £5,000 grants for small UK non-profits delivering community-based wellbeing and inclusion projects (applications open 2 March). [[Devon Coun...ews Update](#) | [Outlook](#)]

The email also includes subscription management information and contact details for the Devon County Council Economy, Enterprise & Skills team. [[Devon Coun...ews Update](#) | [Outlook](#)]

I will continue to keep residents informed. If you have questions or concerns please do get in touch.

Gwen DuChesne MBE

b. Grand Western Canal Group (Councillor Browse)

A meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee took place on 2 March 2026.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

To receive a report from Councillor Neale Raleigh

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
9	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.	18-20

New applications:

26/00139/MFUL

Proposal: Variation of conditions 2 and 4 of Planning Permission 20/00876/MFUL (Construction of Cullompton Town Centre Relief Road comprising new 1350 metre road connecting Station Road to Duke Street and associated works) to allow substitution of approved plans to modify the design of the northern section of the relief road and noise mitigation

Location: Land at NGR 302456 107324 Cullompton Devon

Grid Ref: 302456 / 107324

Parish: Cullompton 21

Deadline for comments: 26 February 2026 – extension agreed to 11 March 2026

25/01469/FULL

Proposal: Erection of two dwellings

Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 300539 113085 High Street Halberton Devon

Grid Ref: 300539 : 113085

Parish: Halberton 25

Deadline for comments: 2 March 2026

The Parish Council has commented on this application twice pointing out its concerns.

The Planning Officer has commented as follows:

An extension of time to determine the application has been given to 5th March 2026, following the expiry of the standard re-consultation period.

I note that the Parish Council have commented on the recent amendments to the scheme. The further amendments since this relate to additional amendments to the parking and turning area to ensure sufficient space is provided for vehicle turning within the site. The plans have also been updated with the removal of the dormer windows, to align with the street scene visualisation.

26/00189/PNCOU

Proposal: Prior Approval for the change of use of an agricultural building to Class R (flexible business use) 557sq.m

Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 304202 111957 (Langlands Chicken House 3) Uffculme

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 304202 / 111957

Parish: Halberton 25

INFORMATION ONLY – no consultee comment required

26/00186/PNAG

Proposal: Prior approval for the erection of an agricultural storage building and access track

Location: Land at NGR 305021 112600 Bridwell Avenue Halberton

Site Vicinity Grid Ref: 305028 / 112587

Parish: Halberton 25

INFORMATION ONLY – no consultee comment required

26/00159/MFUL

Proposal: Construction of an earth-banked slurry lagoon, two silage clamps with associated retaining wall, yard extension, fencing and drainage

Location: Land at NGR 298043 107664 (Honey Park Farm) Butterleigh

Grid Ref: 298230 / 107587

Parish: Cullompton 21

Deadline for comments: 6 March 2026 – extension granted to 13 March 2026

26/00275/MARM

Proposal: Variation of condition 1 of Planning Permission 23/01172/MARM (Variation of condition 1 of planning permission 19/00364/MARM to allow substitute plans (Reserved Matters application, pursuant to Outline application 15/01332/MOUT, for employment development of up to 5,256m² of B1, 2,651m² of B2 and 4,919m² of B8 units together with internal access roads, parking and associated infrastructure) to allow amendments to the approved site layout to facilitate an extension to Unit B2 to provide additional office and production accommodation, together with associated access, parking, drainage and infrastructure works

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

Grid Ref: 303680 / 111678

Parish: Willand 59

Deadline for comments: 20 March 2026

Outstanding applications:

25/00292/FULL – Crown Hill

The Planning Officer is currently reviewing the application.

25/00961/MFUL – Rhode Farm (Slurry)

Update requested from the Planning Officer

25/01638/MOUT – 170 houses @ B3181

Extension agreed to 20/4/2026

ACTION:

Discussion required on potential uses for S106 monies (email circulated)

25/01652/MOUT – 650 houses @ Manley Lane

Update requested from the Planning Officer

25/01500/MOUT – 150 houses plus extension to business park at Hartnoll

Extension agreed to 17/06/2026

Other matters:

Two Trees Solar Farm

The Clerk has followed up on the Community Benefit offer and an increase is being considered.

National Planning Policy Framework
Consultation open to 10 March 2026

Mid Devon District Council Caravan site and mobile homes policy consultation
Information circulated to Parish Council.
Closing date for comments: Wednesday 8 April 2026.

Invitation to Planning Training for Town and Parish Councils

Date:- Thursday 26th March 2026

Time:- 18:00 – 20:30

Location: Microsoft Teams or in person at Phoenix House, Phoenix Lane, Tiverton, EX16 6PP

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

The following decisions have been received:

25/01763/CLP – APPROVED – 4 February 2026

First Schedule

Proposed siting of a caravan to provide ancillary residential accommodation in accordance with submitted plans/drawings – details referred to below.

Second Schedule

Braddons Barn, Muxbeare Lane, Willand.

25/01795/ADVERT – REFUSED – 11 February 2026

Proposal: Advertisement Consent to display 1 illuminated freestanding advertising board

Location: Keywise Commercials Unit 9 Forge Road Hitchcocks Business Park

Enforcement are aware that the sign is still displayed at the site.

26/00034/CAT – NO OBJECTION – 19 February 2026

Proposal: Notification of intention to fell one Hankerchief tree (*Davidia involucrata*) in a Conservation Area

Location: Overrock Halberton Tiverton Devon

25/01725/FULL – APPROVED – 19 February 2026

Proposal: Erection of a self-build dwelling and detached garage following demolition of an agricultural building utilising the Class Q fallback position

Location: The Pethers Crown Hill Halberton Tiverton

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report pages
11	Financial accounts 2025/26	22-24

a. Financial report for the year 2025/26

Current account

Opening balance 31/01/26			£ 4683.84	
Receipts				
Newsletter			£ 1121.50	
Locality Budget			£ 300.00	£1421.50
Payments				
02-Feb-26	MDDC DIRECT DEBITS	DTW 953043	-17.78	
12-Feb-26	B/P to: HMRC	070/AZ13079	-219.46	
12-Feb-26	B/P to: Mrs S McGeever	WAGES JAN 26	-644.21	
12-Feb-26	B/P to: Brightsea Print	HALB-INV 117017	-926.00	
12-Feb-26	B/P to: Carol Graham	NEWSLETTER DISTRIB	-50.00	
17-Feb-26	B/P to: Rob Furmedge	GOOGLE	-7.00	
28-Feb-26	Service Charge		-6.00	-1870.45
Closing balance 28/02/26			£ 4234.89	

Reserve account

Opening balance 31/01/26	£23529.77
Receipts	
Payments	
Closing balance 28/02/26	£23529.77

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

The monthly budget report will be circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. This budget will reflect the situation at eleven-months.

b. Payments to approve (Council):

R Furmedge (Google Workspace)	£ 7.00
HMRC (PAYE)	£219.46
S McGeever (Wages)	£644.21
S McGeever (Expenses - Jan)	£ 26.00
S McGeever (Expenses – Feb)	£ 26.00
Source for Business (cemetery)	£ 31.14
Richard Adams (Clearance at Lower Town)	£250.00
(Repairs to gates)	£325.00
(VAT)	£115.00 (Total £690.00)
Newsletter advertising refund (S)	£ 32.00 (details awaited)
Valda DD	£17.05

b. Unity Debit Card

It is understood two years of accounts have to be submitted.

c. Utility Warehouse

Review of all invoices to be carried out – ongoing

d. Local Government Reorganisation

MDDC assets and services.

Information awaited on handover mechanism for MDDC non-statutory assets.

e. Clerks remittance and hours

Part 2

f. Assertion 10

The Clerk will bring recommendations to the Parish Council at the March meeting.

A Bring your Own Device policy has been approved.

Councillor Furmedge: information on email usage

g. Transparency/Accountability

Discussion of documents circulated relating to long term financial planning and accountability.

h. Action Plan

Update on the production of an action plan linked to g. above.

Actions undertaken:

Brambles cleared opposite Bycott Lane

Gates at the recreation ground and the Mead mended.

Path from car park to the Mead - scheduled for the Easter holidays

i. Footpath quote

The Footpath clearance quote for 2026/27 is £415.00. This represents a £15.00 increase from 2025/26.

j. S106 monies

1. Teen facilities on The Mead (10-year lease and removable equipment) **£28191.62**

S106 spending must be compliant with the purpose set out in the agreement and must deliver facilities that will be available for the community over the expected lifespan of the contribution.

A 10-year lease does not automatically prevent use of S106 funds, providing that:

- the equipment is fully removable,
- the Parish Council can relocate it to an alternative site at the end of the lease (if needed), and
- the Parish Council confirms that the long-term availability of the facility can still be secured.

We would therefore need written assurance from the Parish Council that the equipment can be retained or re-sited at the end of the term, so the investment is not lost.

If some items are better placed on Parish-owned land (with greater security of tenure), that may indeed be the more straightforward option both practically and in S106 compliance terms.

2. Car park to Mead pathway eligibility under “teen facilities” S106

The pathway could be eligible as long as its primary purpose is to provide safe access to the teen facilities.

3. Use of allotment S106 funds – shed and seating area **£1205.00**

A shed for storage and tools, and enhancements to create a small seating or amenity area for allotment users, would generally fall within eligible expenditure provided these are directly linked to supporting the allotments and their users.

k) Approval of P3 forms
Footpath documentation

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
12	Police matters To consider any correspondence from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Council Advocate Scheme	25

Police Matters

Information circulated to Parish Councillors

Councillor Advocate Scheme

Councillor Browse to report

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
13	Newsletter Advisory Committee	26

The Newsletter Advisory Committee will meet on 3 March 2026 and the minutes have been circulated to Parish Councillors.

The Parish Council will consider any recommendations from the Advisory Committee.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
14	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:

- Update on Google Groups (email digest)

b. Anaerobic Digester Liaison Committee

On hold until planning applications.

c. Emergency Plan

The Clerk has updated the Emergency Plan with comments from councillors.

An updated draft has been circulated to parish councillors.

Clarification on canal breaches has been requested from the GWC and received. Relevant information will be added to the Emergency Plan.

Councillor Furmedge and the Clerk are producing the maps.

ACTION

Date required for a Public Meeting.

Information has also been circulated on Emergency Community Hubs.

The workshops will explain how to set up a hub and how it functions. We will answer your questions and by the end you will be ready to go ahead and organise your Community Emergency Hub.

- Tuesday 3rd March, 6pm - 7pm
- Wednesday 11th March, 1pm - 2pm
- Thursday 19th March, 6pm - 7pm

Devon Community Resilience Forum – Spring Forum

26 March 2026, from 10am-4pm. At Teign Valley Community Hall

d. Neighbourhood Plan

Confirmation has been received that MDDC will fund a Housing Needs Survey.

Email from Devon Communities Together circulated to parish council members.

ACTION

Parish Council to promote

Documentation has been circulated on neighbourhood plans and planning statements.

e. Parking in the Lower Town

No further update

f. Connecting the Culm

Connecting the Culm annual Forum - 26 March, 7 - 9pm Cullompton Community Centre

This year our focus is on soils and their crucial role in both nature recovery and flood resilience. What can we do to maximise the amount of water soaking into the ground, rather than running over the surface and adding to flood risk? Two Devon farmers join us to talk nature, soils, water and business. And we'll have updates on our work with Network Rail and National Highways to use nature-based solutions to tackle flood risk and water quality.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Pages
15	Highways and Traffic/Road Safety	28-29

Highways

a. Potholes

Repairs continue to take place across the Parish.
Potholes **must be** reported online.

At the request of Devon County Council Highways Councillor Raleigh has visited a site in the parish to support major works to prevent a road collapsing.

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.
Locations and photographs have been sent to MDDC who have spare maintenance capacity.
Response awaited.

Fence alongside Boyes Close
Clarification sought from MDDC.

Pavement from Willand to Waterloo Cross
DCC have put clearing the pavement on the jobs list.

Village sign for Brithem Bottom
One of the signs went missing several years ago – DCC no longer fund new signs.

c. Snow Warden Scheme

Councillor Campbell
Update of grit bins/volunteers

d. Surface water at the pond

Reported to DCC – nothing could be found to be wrong. Need to check again in wet weather.
Update awaited

e. Surface water at Chapel Close

Reported to DCC – will look when it next rains.
Update awaited

f. Flooding at Millenium Way, Cullompton

The cause of the flooding on the Cullompton-Willand road inside the Halberton boundary is being investigated and has been found to be due to logs and debris under the bridge. This has now been cleared.

Traffic and Road Safety

Joint Traffic Group: Councillor Batchelor, Browse and Slade
Councillor Slade attended the meeting on 23 February 2026. The minutes of the meeting will be circulated to all parish councillors prior to the meeting.

Ongoing Halberton matters:

Flashing lights at the school in Lower Town
Nothing to report

The pavement at Church Path
Ongoing

VAS units
Councillor Furmedge has requested this item be taken off the agenda.
Data required for the joint traffic working group.

Potential pavement at The Hickory Inn
Councillor Barnard-Taylor to report on producing the drawings.

Lorries between Halberton and Brithem Bottom
Awaiting update on moving existing signs

Community Speed Watch

Update from Councillors Browse.

Action: Councillor Browse/Clerk

Portable Air Quality Monitor

Councillor Furmedge has requested this item be taken off the agenda.