

**A meeting of the Traffic Committee of Halberton Parish Council will be held at
Halberton Village Hall on Wednesday, 7 June 2023 at 7.30pm**

All members of the Traffic Committee are summonsed to attend for the purpose of transacting the business specified in the Agenda below.

**Sue McGeever
Clerk for Halberton Parish Council
01/06/2023**

AGENDA

Item		Report Page
1	Apologies	N/A
2	Declaration of Interest	N/A
3	Public Forum	N/A
4	Approval of the Minutes of 5 April 2023	2 to 9
5	Update of Vision Zero South West	10
6	Update on actions resulting from the Petition	11-12
7	Update on ways to submit traffic incidents/submissions	13
8	Update on lorries and potential action on weight limits	14
9	20mph speed limits	15
10	Joint speed limit committee	16
11	Other traffic related items	17
12	Date of next meeting	N/A

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Page
4	Approval of the Minutes of 5 April 2023	2 to 9

Halberton Parish Council

Minutes of the Traffic Committee of Halberton Parish Council held at Halberton Village Hall On Wednesday, 5 April 2023

Present: Councillors Batchelor, Browse and Graham together with Margaret Anderson, Georgie Fice and Jerry Mahany. The Clerk was also in attendance.

Councillor Batchelor chaired the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Christina Curee e Couto , Liz Brooks, Terry Payne and Neil Purves.

2. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public Forum

There was no-one present for the public forum.

4. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 1 March 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

5. Update of Vision Zero South West

VAS posts

It was RESOLVED that Councillor Batchelor would meet with the landowners where the posts would be sited on private land and agree the location. It was further RESOLVED that the Clerk would draw up a simple contract between the Parish Council and the landowners to allow for the placement of the posts on the land and the continued maintenance of the VAS units. One month's notice would be given on other side.

Action: Councillor Batchelor/Browse and Clerk

VAS signs

Councillor Browse requested that the signs be delivered to his address as soon as possible to assist with the location and height of the posts.

Action: Clerk

Other Action points:

- Press Release upon receipt of VAS units (GF)
- Press Release when VAS units in place (GF)

Road Signs

A delivery date for the pedestrian signs is awaited. This was followed up in January, February and March 2023 with a copy to Councillor Slade.

Action: Clerk in contact with DCC

Flashing lights at school

The process for having the lights in now known and an email was sent in January 2023 to move the project forward. This was followed up in January, February and April 2023 with a copy to Councillor Slade

Action: Clerk in contact with DCC

Accounts

The Parish Council has till not been invoiced for works by DCC – this is likely to occur in the next financial year. This is understood to be acceptable to Vision Zero.

Action: Clerk to monitor

6. Update on actions resulting from the Petition

The Clerk reported as follows:

Speed limits

At present there is no intention to bring speed limits within the parish into alignment.
(Joint Parish Meeting to co-ordinate action)

Pedestrian Crossing at the Village Hall

When the Clerk met Highways at the DALC conference, we were advised it was highly unlikely that we would be able to organise to have a pedestrian crossing at the Village Hall.

The Clerk has requested the criteria for applying for a pedestrian crossing and the associated costs. An application to Transport Planning in May 2022 and just received an automated reply. Emails have been sent in November, February and March as follow up.

A pedestrian crossing would be used not just by people using the Village Hall and attending the various meetings and events but also by those using the church, the road to the canal etc.

It was felt that public interest was needed and it was RESOLVED to put an article in the Newsletter and then onto social media and the website with a poll to register interest/support.

Action: Clerk to remain in contact with DCC and contact the Newsletter team

Local Traffic Only

When the Parish Council met DCC in July 22, it was indicated that DCC would see if it was possible to add the wording 'Local Traffic Only' on the exit sign to Sampford Peverell at the first junction of the A361 heading towards Tiverton in a bid to encourage drivers to stay on the A361 rather than take the back route through SP and Halberton.

This was followed up in February and March 23 with a copy to Councillor Slade.

Action: Clerk

Temporary Traffic Lights

The following question was asked of DCC.

Would DCC consider temporary traffic lights at Halberton when the A361 is closed?

It does not happen very often but when the A361 is closed, Halberton becomes a complete bottleneck as drivers strive to keep going through the various give way signs and not give way to allow cars to move in the opposite direction.

This has resulted in High Street residents having to go out and direct traffic and have drivers backing up to allow lorries to pass etc.

If temporary traffic lights were placed at the two ends of the 20mph limit, it would allow traffic to flow freely in one direction and then the other.

This would also allow emergency vehicles to access the village if required.

This was followed up in February and March with a copy to Councillor Slade.

Action: Clerk

Average Speed Cameras

The question was also asked of DCC as to whether they felt average speed cameras through the 20mph limit would encourage people not to speed?

This was followed up in February and March with a copy to Councillor Slade.

Action: Clerk

Bridge at Rose Cottage

The work was due to be undertaken in April. DCC Highways had sent out notifications to all parishes.

It was felt that they would also have emailed businesses as they had done so when the High Street had been resurfaced.

Other Actions:

- All to work on obtaining signatures on the petition
- All to work on encouraging people to report traffic issues
- SMS text for Traffic Issues to be more widely circulated

It should be noted that no further signatures have been added to the petition and there are 59 signatures online. The majority of these had been forwarded to Councillor Slade in the autumn.

South West Water

The Clerk had been asked to contact South West Water and this item was outstanding.

Action: Clerk

7. Update on ways to submit traffic incidents/submissions

Report from Councillor Furmedge.

There have been no further submissions online or via SMS in the past months.

On the community website halberton.org.uk there is a new facility to receive an email notification of any planned road closures we are made aware of. The signup page is

<https://halberton.org.uk/email-notification-sign-up/>

For information the same notification are sent to Facebook.

Other Actions:

- All to work on encouraging people to report traffic issues
- SMS text for Traffic Issues to be more widely circulated

8. Update on lorries and potential action on weight limits

The Parish Council met online with members of the Devon and Cornwall Police's Commercial & Agricultural Vehicle Department and the Road Casualty Reduction Officer to discuss the movement of lorries and tractors in the parish. It had been a very instructive and positive meeting and it was felt that the information should be passed on to residents via the Newsletter and website.

The following information is provided from that meeting:

Weight restriction TRO – Willand to Halberton Road :

The Weight restriction Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) document number 49468 reference IMR/B14522-5584 dated 5th December 2018. As with most Weight Restrictions this TRO refers to Heavy Goods vehicles and makes a distinct definition within section 2 of the TRO as follows:

*2. In this order **Heavy Goods Vehicle** has the same meaning as 'heavy commercial vehicle' in section 128 of the Act*

It then goes on to identify the particular areas that the order relates too:

- 3. Save as provided in articles 6 and 9 no person shall cause a Heavy Goods Vehicle over 7.5 tonnes to proceed within the lengths of road specified in schedule 1*
- 4. Save as provided in articles 7, 9 and 10 no person shall cause a Heavy Goods Vehicle over 7.5 tonnes to proceed within the lengths of road specified in schedule 2*
- 5. Save as provided in articles 8 and 9 no person shall cause a Heavy Goods Vehicle over 18 tonnes to proceed within the lengths of road specified in schedule 3*

The Order is very specific and therefore an Agricultural vehicle (Tractor) being used for agricultural purposes is not a Heavy Goods/commercial Vehicle and is exempt from the conditions of the Order.

If the vehicles are travelling to and from the Anaerobic digester then there may well be a traffic management policy/plan in place to reduce such annoyance to local residents and as you have rightly pointed out this may be worth raising with the plant management.

However, if the ownership of the tractor is not in the farmer's name and is a contractor brought in specifically to transport material from A to B then it can be classified as general haulage and not agriculture with the proviso that if the contractor had also been carrying out agricultural tasks eg harvesting the maize he was then carrying to the AD plant which would be deemed agricultural.

Doc 23006 on www.devon.gov.uk provides more information.

Overweight vehicle combinations:

The current legislation permits a maximum gross train weight of 31 tonnes (max of 18.29 tonnes of towing load) on an agricultural Tractor and trailer combination. If these Tractor and Trailer combination are regularly delivering to the Digester unit then I will carry out some enquiries with the plant and check the weigh bridge data as they are arriving.

They are however restricted to 25mph (40KPH) which with the size and power of modern tractors is quite often overlooked. This may warrant some road side speed checks by local PCSO or Neighbourhood teams to either gather data or enforce.

Failing to display rear registration plates:

In respect to the issue of Number plates on agricultural vehicles this is an offence under the 'Construction and Use' regulations. This is not something that would normally be retrospectively dealt with by way of report from a member of the public but more so by officers witnessing such offences when out on local patrols & stopping the vehicles. If, however there appears to be a particular repeat offending vehicle or contractors vehicles then this could warrant a follow up call by myself to point out the offence and request they get there vehicles in order. In these circumstance then the towing vehicle registration, date and place witnessed would be required in order to follow up.

Or a different number plate, provided the trailers/tractors are all in the same ownership, it would not be an offence to have a different number plate to the tractor – but if the tractor and trailer were not in the same ownership, it would be.

Clarification of Police Powers:

The Weight restriction TRO is certainly enforceable but only when relevant to a Heavy Goods Vehicle. An Agricultural tractor and trailer combination is exempt and therefore no enforcement required.

Overweight vehicle issues can be dealt with by way of roadside enforcement but this would need to be done by either specialist Roads Policing Officers or Driving & Vehicle safety agency (DVSA). We do regularly hold enforcement days covering commercial & agricultural vehicle safety at the DVSA test site not far from Halberton at Samford Peverall. Our normal manner of operation is to monitor M5 & A361 traffic and pull in any vehicles of concern. I will see if we can build into our operation some time to send out a roving mobile DVSA and RPU unit to monitor the Willand road area to show a presence and employ some education and enforcement around the issues you have raised.

Speed Limits

Different speed limits apply to tractors – normally 25mph.

If the width is 2.55m then the speed limit is reduced to 20mph.

If the width is 3.5m then the speed limit is reduced to 12mph.

Driving age

- A category F licence will only allow the holder to drive an agricultural tractor and trailer on the road. A category F licence does not allow the holder to drive any other type of vehicle (e.g. telehandler) on the road.
- At age 16 a person with a category F licence is restricted to driving an agricultural tractor with a maximum width of 2.45m. This width restriction applies to both the tractor and the trailer.
- A 16-year-old can tow either a two wheeled trailer or a four wheeled close coupled trailer. A close coupled trailer is one with axle centres no more than 840mm apart.
- A 16-year-old with a provisional F category licence is not permitted to practice on the road. The only time a person with a provisional F category licence can go on the road at 16 is either when they are travelling to or from the place where the F test is held.
- If a 16-year-old is caught driving a tractor and trailer wider than 2.45m in width, he could be prosecuted and given up to six penalty points and a £1,000 fine.

All tractor drivers should wear the seatbelt provided.

Passengers

Provided there is a training seat and lap belt you can have a passenger but they must not be under 13 years of age.

If there is no seating, you cannot have a passenger.

Mobile phones

The same rules apply to any driver – you cannot use a mobile phone whilst driving.

Research done in 2019 showed that the vast majority of vehicles travelling to the AD were compliant and the weigh bridge information accurate.

Actions to be monitored by the Clerk:

The police will run a check on lorries along the Willand-Halberton road and suggested the weigh bridge information at Crown Hill be reviewed.

Move the 7.5t sign on the Willand-Halberton road to the roundabout.

It was not felt that the 7.5t sign on the roundabout in Willand was effective. (Lorry signs are part of an ongoing review by the Traffic Committee – see below.)

Other Actions to be completed:

Clerk to photograph lorry signs at Willand leading to Halberton and provide them to DCC with a copy to Councillor Slade – TO DO

Air quality and vibration caused by lorries

Clerk had investigate the cost of units to monitor the impact of traffic on buildings and air quality, however, the Parish Council has asked that the Traffic Committee investigate who would be prepared to carry out the necessary work and have the equipment placed at their premises.

A quote of £2400 had been obtained for a survey conducted by an outside source and expensive. It would still require active resident to assist with collecting the information.

Action: Clerk to monitor

9. Update on 20mph extension submission

Expression of Interest for 20mph speed limit

Awaiting the result of the application from DCC.

Pavement at Lower Town

Feedback was still awaited from DCC with regard to the short pavement at the end of Church Lane. This was followed up in January, February and March 23.

Action: Clerk to remain in contact with DCC

20's plenty campaign

Halberton Parish Council is signed up to the campaign.

A meeting of Devon parish councils took place in February and a further Zoom meeting was scheduled for 24 April 2023. Details had been circulated to the Parish Council.

The Clerk had put the signs for windows, bins and cars in the Village Hall so people could pick them up.

Seddon signs

It was agreed that these signs would not be used in the existing 20mph area. One or two signs have appeared in the 30mph areas.

It was agreed a note should be put in the Newsletter to say they are available for Brithem Bottom, Crossparks, Lower Town etc.

Information would suggest that provided they are on private land, Highways is happy for them to be displayed.

10. Joint speed limit committee

Given the election, the meeting will take place in May as councillors might change.

An invitation to attend the meeting will be put out to Upplowman and Crazelowman and consideration given to Cullompton and Tiverton.

Action: Clerk

11. Other traffic related items

Overgrown hedges

A second resident has advised that they will be getting their hedge cut back.

Action: Clerk to monitor.

Pavement at The Hickory Inn

The Parish Council has received a response from MDDC Enforcement and it would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on 11 April 2023.

The Clerk read out the response and the Traffic Committee RESOLVED to ask the Parish Council to write to 3 Rivers. Note: The wording of the response was available to view in the Parish Council meeting agenda for 11 April 2023.

It was agreed to review all the planning documentation and email exchanges and look through the Parish Council minutes (2018) to identify the condition that the six additional parking places would be for the use by residents near the development who had no off-road parking. This was in part to ensure that the visibility splay for owners coming out of the development was not blocked by parked cars. It was car parking donated to the people of Halberton. It was believed that under the Freedom of Information Act, the Parish Council could request all documentation and correspondence relating to the application.

It was also agreed to identify the S106 agreement.

The Parish Council is also looking to see if there are any other parking solutions at the Sampford Peverell end of the village.

The Parish Council and the Traffic Committee believe safety for pedestrians should take precedence over parking.

Rally driving

Councillor Batchelor advised that there were a number of rallies held around the lanes in Halberton passing his property during the year. Normally, residents were made aware of the events so that due care could be taken. This was not the case on this occasion and the police had been called in.

Planning applications

The planning application at Bycott Farm and the possible application for a landfill site in Greenway would only result in a higher number of agricultural vehicles and HGVs coming through the village. The Traffic Committee considered that any increase in traffic would be detrimental to the village and cause further damage to the roads which were already unable to cope with the volume of traffic.

Mirror at the top of Orpington

It was suggested that a mirror at the top of Orpington would be beneficial to traffic users.

12. Date of next meeting

Due to the Bank Holidays in May, it was agreed that the next meeting will be on 7 June 2023 with a start time of 7.30pm.

Action: Councillor Graham to book the Jubilee Room

Signed _____ Date _____

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Page
5	Update of Vision Zero South West	10

VAS posts

DCC have provided the specifications for the posts that will go on private land.

Action: Parish Council to organise installation

VAS signs

Delivered

Other Action points:

- Press Release upon receipt of VAS units (GF)
- Press Release when VAS units in place (GF)

Signs

A delivery date for the pedestrian signs is awaited.

Action: Clerk in contact with DCC

Flashing lights at school

The process for having the lights in now known and an email was sent in January 2023 to move the project forward. This was followed up in February and March 2023.

Action: Clerk in contact with DCC

Accounts

Information has been received that the Parish Council may not be invoiced for works by DCC until the next financial year. This is understood to be acceptable to Vision Zero.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Page
6	Update on actions resulting from the Petition	11-12

Speed limits

At present there is no intention to bring speed limits within the parish into alignment.
(Joint Parish Meeting to co-ordinate action)

Pedestrian Crossing at the Village Hall

When the Clerk met Highways at the DALC conference, we were advised it was highly unlikely that we would be able to organise to have a pedestrian crossing at the Village Hall.

The Clerk has requested the criteria for applying for a pedestrian crossing and the associated costs. An application to Transport Planning in May 2022 and just received an automated reply.

Information was put into the Newsletter/online to assess support.

Action: Clerk – followed up monthly

Local Traffic Only

When the Parish Council met DCC in July 22, it was indicated that DCC would see if it was possible to add the wording 'Local Traffic Only' on the exit sign to Sampford Peverell at the first junction of the A361 heading towards Tiverton in a bid to encourage drivers to stay on the A361 rather than take the back route through SP and Halberton.

Follow up emails have been sent again.

Action: Clerk – followed up monthly

Temporary Traffic Lights

The following question was asked of DCC.

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It does not happen very often but when the A361 is closed, Halberton becomes a complete bottleneck as drivers strive to keep going through the various give way signs and not give way to allow cars to move in the opposite direction.

This has resulted in High Street residents having to go out and direct traffic and have drivers backing up to allow lorries to pass etc.

If temporary traffic lights were placed at the two ends of the 20mph limit, it would allow traffic to flow freely in one direction and then the other.

This would also allow emergency vehicles to access the village if required.

Action: Clerk in contact with DCC – followed up monthly

Average Speed Cameras

The question was also asked of DCC as to whether they felt average speed cameras through the 20mph limit would encourage people not to speed?

Action: Clerk in contact with DCC – followed up monthly

Bridge at Rose Cottage

The possibility of a priority sign has been raised with DCC.

Other Actions:

- All to work on obtaining signatures on the petition
- All to work on encouraging people to report traffic issues
- SMS text for Traffic Issues to be more widely circulated

It should be noted that no further signatures have been added to the petition and there are 59 signatures online. The majority of these had been forwarded to Councillor Slade in the autumn.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Page
7	Update on ways to submit traffic incidents/submissions	13

Report from Councillor Furmedge.

There had been no new submissions or incident reports.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Page
8	Update on lorries and potential action on weight limits	14

Actions:

The police will run a check on lorries along the Willand-Halberton road and suggested the weigh bridge information at Crown Hill be reviewed.

Move the 7.5t sign on the Willand-Halberton road to the roundabout.

It was not felt that the 7.5t sign on the roundabout in Willand was effective. (Lorry signs are part of an ongoing review by the Traffic Committee – see below.)

Other Actions to be completed:

Clerk to photograph lorry signs at Willand leading to Halberton and provide them to DCC with a copy to Councillor Slade – TO DO

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Page
9	20mph speed limits	15

Expression of Interest for 20mph speed limit

The application was unsuccessful – the points scored were not high enough – those receiving funding had incident evidence (i.e. injuries)

Awaiting feedback from DCC with regard to the short pavement at the end of Church Lane.

Action: Clerk to remain in contact with DCC – followed up in March

20's plenty campaign

Halberton Parish Council is signed up to the campaign.

Signs for windows, bins and cars are available from the Village Hall.

Seddon signs

It was agreed that these signs would not be used in the existing 20mph area.

One or two signs have appeared in the 30mph areas.

Should a note be put in the Newsletter to say they are available for Brithem Bottom, Crossparks, Lower Town etc.

Information would suggest that provided they are on private land, Highways is happy for them to be displayed.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Page
10	Joint speed limit committee	16

An invitation to attend the meeting will be put out to Uplowman and Crazelowman and consideration given to Cullompton and Tiverton.

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item		Report Page
11	Other traffic related items	17

Overgrown hedges

A second resident has advised that they will be getting their hedge cut back.

Action: Clerk to monitor.

Pavement at The Hickory Inn

The Parish Council is working with the new Ward Councillor to try to resolve the issue of the car parking spaces at The Orchard and identify any potential car parking land at the Sampford Peverell end of the village.

The Parish Council and the Traffic Committee believe safety for pedestrians should take precedence over parking.