

**Minutes of the Traffic Committee of Halberton Parish Council held at Halberton Village Hall
On Wednesday, 2 November 2022**

Present: Councillors Batchelor, Browse and Graham together with Liz Brooks, Jerry Mahany and Terry Payne. The Clerk was also in attendance.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Margaret Anderson, Georgie Fice and Neil Purves.

Trevor Clarke. Tom and Nuala Gear and Lindsey Rowe had all asked to come off the committee.

Trevor Clarke whilst acknowledging the work of the committee felt only speed cameras would reduce speeding through the village.

2. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

Any items from members of the committee would be raised under the appropriate agenda item.

4. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 7 September 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Update of Vision Zero South West

The Clerk advised that the post for the VAS equipment on DCC Highways land had been installed.

James Anstee had confirmed that the posts on private land did not have to be installed by a DCC contractor. He had indicated that if any of these site proved to be not viable then he would re-visit potential sites.

Action: Jerry Mahany would confirm the exact locations of the posts as two of the posts were on private land and he believed one was actually on the high street.

Action: Clerk to request specifications of the post used so that this work could be commissioned. The VAS equipment would be delivered once the posts were in place.

James Anstee had also advised that the signs had been ordered but a delivery date had not been received.

DCC would bill the Parish Council for this work in the New Year and it should be paid before the end of the financial year.

James Anstee indicated that he was in support of any unused funds being used to put flashing lights and the signage required either side of the entrance to the school exit onto Lower Town.

Action: Parish Council to approve the introduction of the school lights. Details of costings had been circulated to the Parish Councillors (approx £2000). This work would be undertaken by DCC.

Other Action points:

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

6. Update on Petition handed to DCC

It was noted that there were now 58 signatures on the online petition – the last signature was 22 September. Some of these were in addition to the petition sheets handed to Councillor Slade.

Actions:

- Clerk to follow up on Tom Vaughan/Willie Pike on the actions agreed at the July meeting including the pedestrian crossing at the Village Hall.
- All to work on obtaining signatures on the petition

Tom Vaughan had indicated that a pedestrian crossing at the Village Hall was highly unlikely albeit that people crossed the road to the Village Hall to attend functions, classes, meetings as well as using the car park to attend church services. It was also noted that many people crossed the road at the entrance to Greenway as crossing at the Village Hall meant the need to walk in the road to access Greenway and from there the canal path and permissive footpath to the Farm Shop. It was noted that the permissive footpath was not lit and could not be fully used during the winter months.

Action: Clerk to contact Tom Vaughan again to establish the reasons why,

7. Update on submissions of traffic incidents

There had been 6 record traffic incidents up to 2 June and 9 issues reported up to 27 July.

Liz Brooks advised that she had a number of incidents to upload.

There had been no SMS reports (reports coming through on the mobile number provided so that issues could be texted through).

Action:

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

8. Update on lorries and potential action on weight limits

The lorry signage coming into the village from Sampford Peverell had been moved to the right hand side of the road and was now clearly visible.

It was noted that the wall and post exiting the Willand road had been hit again. Photographs of the damage had been sent to DCC and Cullompton police.

It was agreed to focus efforts on trying to have better lorry signage at the Willand roundabout and the roundabout past the motorway bridge.

Action:

- Clerk to follow up on 'Local Traffic Only' on the signage at the first exit of the A361
- Clerk to photograph lorry signs at Willand leading to Halberton and provide them to DCC with a copy to Councillor Slade
- Clerk to contact Nation Grid (formerly Western Power)

9. Update on 20mph extension submission

The Clerk was awaiting the next round of 20mph applications and the new submission would focus on a 20mph limit in Lower Town.

Action:

Clerk to watch for the next submission call.

National 20's plenty campaign

The Parish Council was now a member of this campaign which had also received the backing of the Devon Association of Local Councils.

It was agreed that their signage would be more effective on the High Street itself than the Seddon signs.

Action: Clerk to purchase signs as approved by the Parish Council before the next Traffic Committee meeting.

Seddons's 20 is plenty signs

Margaret Anderson was concerned that the 20 is plenty signs were not in place but given the comment above, it was felt that they should go in areas where a 30mph was in existence.

Action:

- Clerk to contact Margaret Anderson regarding Seddons signs to assist Jerry Mahany
- Councillor Batchelor to look at Crossparks
- Clerk to speak to Councillor Furmedge and residents of Brithem Bottom
- Clerk to contact MDDC re possibility of signs on verges
- Clerk to liaise with Seddons

It was noted that the signs had been challenged in Sampford Peverell and a response was awaited from DALC.

10. Any Other Business

Tractors to/from AD plant

The Clerk had been contacted by the person in charge of Willand's Community Speed Watch scheme. They were in contact with the central CSW team and police officers in the field eg, Speed Reduction Officers, HGV and farm vehicle officers and Roads Policing Team officers.

The Clerk noted the HGV and farm vehicle officers and asked if this could be a way of recording tractor movements in and out of the plant as well as along the High Street.

It was agreed to invite Willand Community Speed Watch to come and speak to the Traffic Committee at its next meeting and extend that invitation to other Parish Councils.

This could also provide access to traffic speeds in Willand as requested by Georgie Fice.

Action: Clerk to arrange

Letter to companies re road surfacing

As previously informed DCC had contacted all companies. The Parish Council had not written a letter.

A361 closures

It was agreed that it would be worthwhile approaching DCC with regard to the possibility of temporary traffic lights being used to prevent the High Street becoming a car jam when the A361 was closed.

Action: Clerk to follow up

Meeting with neighbouring parishes re speed limits

A meeting had taken place with Sampford Peverell, Uffculme and Willand to discuss traffic issues affecting all four parishes. There had been a consensus of opinion that working together could improve outcomes. The proposal to set up a working group would be taken to each Parish Council who would nominate a representative.

Parish Councils were being asked to list their top priorities for their parish and general thoughts had been

- a. standardised speed limits between and within parishes
- b. 20mph zones for all schools
- c. 30 mph in all residential areas with lighting

Examples would be the new development at Willand which comes out onto a 40mph road and the upcoming development of 60 houses at Sampford Peverell that will also come out onto a 40mph road. It was felt that these developments did not only impact on drivers but also pedestrians and safety should be paramount.

The minutes had been circulated to attendees and the Clerk was awaiting feedback before circulating to a wider audience.

Action: Clerk to organise the next meeting once approved

Walking along the High Street

Margaret Anderson had highlighted the danger of walking along the High Street especially as the mornings and evenings darkened.

It was noted that fluorescent jackets did make cars slow down and it was felt that providing school children and the elderly with fluorescent waistcoats may ameliorate the situation.

Action: Clerk to take the purchase of fluorescent waistcoats to the next Parish Council.

Hedgerows

Terry Payne raised the question of hedgerows that had not been cut back on either side of the road to the Farm Shop. The hedges were over the road and narrowed the road making it more dangerous for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.

DCC had specific criteria for hedgerows and adherence to those criteria was the responsibility of the home owner. It was noted that the Parish Council had written to individuals in the past and sending letters would be raised at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to bring forward to the next Parish Council meeting.

Average Speed Cameras

Terry Payne raised the question of average speed cameras.

It was generally felt that the stop start nature of the High Street may mean that even if a car sped along one section overall it would be under the speed limit overall.

Action: Clerk to follow up on the potential of average speed cameras.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, 4 January 2023

Signed _____ Date _____