

Halberton Parish Council

Minutes of the Traffic Committee of Halberton Parish Council held at Halberton Village Hall On Wednesday, 1 March 2023

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

In the absence of Councillor Batchelor, Councillor Browse chaired the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillor Batchelor, Margaret Anderson, Christina Curee e Couto 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 4 January 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

5. Update of Vision Zero South West

The Clerk reported as follows:

VAS posts

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

Councillor Browse wished to clarify exactly where the posts were going and the report on the placement of poles for the VAS units and the new pedestrian signs were reviewed in detail.

Councillor Batchelor had advised the Clerk that he was looking at potential contractors to insert the posts.

It was felt that the installation of three of the posts should be given priority so that the VAS units were in situ as soon as possible. It was felt further discussion may be required on the siting of the fourth pole.

Action: Parish Council to organise installation

VAS signs

The signs are ordered and will be delivered once the posts are in place.

Action: Clerk

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 was awaited.

Action: Clerk in contact with DCC

Flashing lights at school

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

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. SCAT facts showed that most drivers complied with or drove under the speed limits from Sampford Peverell to Halberton and Halberton to Willand.

Drivers are expected to drive at a speed that is safe for the road.

Pedestrian Crossing at the Village Hall

When the Clerk met Highways at the DALC conference, she was advised that it was highly unlikely that a pedestrian crossing could be placed at the Village Hall.

The Clerk had 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.

Action: Clerk

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.

Action: Clerk

Temporary Traffic Lights

The following question had been 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.

Action: Clerk in contact with DCC

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

Rose Cottage Bridge (formerly referred to as Spatford Bridge)

The Parish Council had been informed that the bridge would be undergoing works in April 2023. Works will involve the narrowing of the carriageway on both approaches with the installation of bollards to delineate the new approach. On the bridge itself kerb lines will reduce the road width to 3.5m. This is all to be done as the bridge parapets are often being struck by vehicles as the current road width over the bridge is deceiving and drivers unfamiliar with it think it wide enough for two cars to pass when it is not. Subsequently to avoid the oncoming car vehicles are striking the bridge, particularly on the western approach. The upstream bridge parapet is currently in need of repair due to one such incident and will be done alongside the works.

There will be sign posting that the road narrows on the approaches to the bridge.

The bridge doesn't have any weight restrictions on it so is suitable to take all loads. However, there is a 7.5ton restriction on the road. Such restrictions do not apply to agricultural vehicles.

Councillor Browse felt that this was a major step forward given the number of times the bridge had been hit over the years and once a positive result from the meeting.

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.

7. Update on ways to submit traffic incidents/submissions

Report from Councillor Furmedge.

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

There have been no submissions via the mobile number. There were two options:

1. drop the experiment
2. carry out the promotion over the next two/three months and see if there is a response

It was felt important to record as many minor traffic incidents as possible. Any major traffic incident would involve the police and a police report which would then appear on appropriate website. However, it was important that action was taken before another serious incident occurred.

The use of Facebook could be a possible way to increase the number of incidents submitted.

It was noted that potholes resulting in damage to cars had been reported. The latest pothole was due to a burst water pipe which was outside DCC's control.

It was felt that weight of vehicles travelling on roads designated at 7.5 ton and the width of vehicles taking the along the middle of the road together with old water pipes could be a potential reason. The Clerk was asked to contact South West Water.

Action: Clerk

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 is working to set up a meeting with the Devon and Cornwall Police's Commercial & Agricultural Vehicle Lead and Road Casualty Reduction Officer to discuss the movement of lorries and tractors in the parish.

The Parish Council continues to pursue the possibility of setting up the AD Liaison Group to understand the number of tractor and HGV movements through the village.

The Parish Council has also used recent planning applications to highlight the amount of HGVs and tractors moving through the High Street and Lower Town.

Other Actions to be completed:

1. Clerk to photograph lorry signs at Willand leading to Halberton and provide them to DCC with a copy to Councillor Slade
2. Clerk to investigate costs and Parish Council be requested to agree the funds to purchase the two units to monitor the impact of traffic on buildings and air quality.

[Vibration Measurement Equipment & Accessories \(thesafetysupplycompany.co.uk\)](https://thesafetysupplycompany.co.uk)

The Clerk was in contact with a company based in Devon that carries out surveys – long term this might prove more effective as it would result in a document that could be submitted to Highways. It was hoped an approximate cost would be known by the next meeting.

[Air Quality Monitors | Air Quality Meter | RS \(rs-online.com\)](#)

The price varies considerably but the link above gives an indication of cost.

3. Councillor Furmedge has provided the Clerk with information on Telraam – click link to see more [Telraam](#)

While doing more research the parish of Lymm in the Borough of Warrington, Cheshire has these counting devices deployed and is actively counting traffic on a few of their roads. They have couple of web pages that show they are taking a keen interest in traffic safety :

<https://www.lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk/speeding>

<https://www.lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk/traffic-survey>

This page also has links to a document that describes the counting device and its usage and finally a link to the [live map](#) (click on the highlighted roads) that shows the traffic counts and by drilling down on the day can see the history.

Note: It appears they have configured the device to not post pictures, likely for GDPR reasons.

Teraam are soon to have a much slicker S2 version.

Action: Councillor Furmedge/Clerk to investigate further – the more information on traffic movements the more informed responses to the traffic problems could be produced.

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

Discussion then took place on the potential damage to property and health as a result of the number of HGV and tractor movements.

It was felt the purchase of a vibration monitor and air quality monitor could be beneficial.

Action: Clerk to investigate costs and Parish Council be requested to agree the funds to purchase the two units. These units could then be lent to individuals around the village to monitor the impact of traffic on buildings and air quality.

9. Update on 20mph extension submission

Expression of Interest for 20mph speed limit

The Clerk had submitted a revised bid to cover Lower Town from the turning off the main road to Pethertons. This covered access to the school, car park and playing field and represented an area where there was little or no pavement.

Bids were being assessed but it was unlikely a decision would be known before June.

In the meantime, work was ongoing to try and improve road safety in the area.

This includes a short pavement at the end of Church Lane.

Action: Clerk to remain in contact with DCC

20's plenty campaign

Halberton Parish Council is signed up to the campaign.

A Zoom meeting on 22 February brought together all parishes signed up for the scheme in Devon following the announcement from Cornwall that they are seeking to adopt 20mph limits.

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

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.

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

Action:

- Councillor Batchelor to look at Crossparks
- Clerk to speak to Councillor Furmedge and residents of Brithem Bottom
- Clerk to liaise with Seddons

10. Joint speed limit committee

Emails were being circulated to establish the date of the next meeting with Halberton, Sampford Peverell, Uffculme and Willand as the members of the group.

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

11. Other traffic related items

Overgrown hedges

Letters were delivered to properties whose hedges come into road and affect the safety of pedestrians and drivers.

One hedge had been cut and Councillor Browse would advise the Clerk of the contractor.

Action: Councillor Browse/Clerk

The situation will now be monitored.

Pavement at The Hickory Inn

The Parish Council continues to liaise with MDDC Enforcement to identify whether or not the parking spaces can be sold off given the original intention was to provide parking for residents.

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

It was felt that the decision should be taken to put a pavement in at the Hickory Inn to improve the road safety for pedestrians.

Action: Clerk to contact DCC

It was noted that barrier next to The Hickory Inn had been flattened and there was the potential for a vehicle to go down the drop.

Action: Clerk to contact DCC

Concern was raised about cars parking in the cycle lane before the Hickory Inn.

Action: Clerk to contact police.

12. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on 5 April 2023 with a start time of 7.30pm.

Action: Councillor Graham to book the Jubilee Room

Signed _____ Date _____