

**Minutes of the Traffic Committee of Halberton Parish Council held at Halberton Village Hall
On Wednesday, 4 January 2023**

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

Councillor Castle from Sampford Peverell Parish Council and David Marrow from Willand Community Speed Watch were also present.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Margaret Anderson, Christina Curee e Couto, Georgie Fice and Terry Payne.

Councillor Major from Willand Parish Council had also sent his apologies.

2. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public Forum

Crazelowman

Representatives from The Crazelowman Community Group were present and wished to speak regarding their concerns on the growing number of traffic issues within Mid Devon and, in particular, the potential of an upcoming application to move Elmore Football Club to a site on agricultural land on the northern side of the A361 opposite the new Braid Park development. The proposal was for a 14 acre site to include 5 football pitches, gymnasium, clubhouse etc.

MDDC's decision not to go ahead with the junction from Braid Park over the A361 and then on to Junction 27 along the A361 would mean that any traffic coming to the proposed site would be via Putson Lane. This could increase traffic through Halberton and Sampford Peverell as traffic used local routes rather than going down the A361 and then coming back along Blundells Road.

There were no bus services to Crazelowman and no pavements thereby anyone going to the ground would have to go by car or walk along the lanes. It appeared to go against the MDDC's green agenda.

Development on the North side of the A361 was not in the Local Plan and could set a precedent for further development on this green site.

Crazelowman was represented by Tiverton Town Council. It was noted that Tiverton Town Council were against further developments to Tiverton East including the Hartnoll application.

Councillor Batchelor felt it would be beneficial to see if Upplowman and Tiverton Town Council would wish to join the joint traffic committee with the approval of the current four parishes together with the Crazelowman Community Group.

Willand Community Speed Watch Scheme

David Marrow had been invited to attend the meeting to talk about the Community Speed Watch Scheme in Willand.

The objective had been to obtain data that would assist in work to reduce the amount of speeding through the village and potentially reduce speed limits.

A Traffic Survey in 2019 had taken place along Silver Street and through Willand Old Village by using strips across the road. Using the 85% percentile, SCARF having reviewed the data, had felt that there were no issues to address. The 85% percentile meant that the slowest 5% and fastest 10% of traffic were not taken into the equation. During that time 10 vehicles were known to be travelling between 70 and 80 mph along Silver Street and overall 1000 vehicles had exceeded the speed limit.

Seddons were going to be producing 20 is plenty signs for Willand and these were acceptable provided that they were located on private land.

David Marrow felt that the 30mph speed limit particularly in Willand Old Town was too fast. The recently installed VAS sign was collecting data on the speed and volume of traffic both in the Old Town and on Silver Street. This was augmented by the data taken by the Community Speed Watch Scheme.

Data from the VAS unit showed that:

December 2021 120,000 cars – 520 travelling at 35mph or above

December 2022 130,000 cars – 414 travelling at 35mph or above

It was felt that the presence of the VAS unit could be causing vehicles to slow down. ROSPA had indicated that 8% of traffic travelling over the speed limit was low.

The data from the Community Speed Watch Scheme was used by the police to issue letters to drivers caught speeding. Re-offenders received a second letter. If people offended for a third time, it could result in a fine or points on their licence. It was noted that wearing a hi-viz jacket did tend to slow traffic down.

The scheme had originally been set up via Cullompton Police Station but with the advent of Vision Zero South West and the work of Alison Hernandez, there was no a Speed Watch Co-ordinator for Devon.

One the initial training had been carried out by a villages Speed Watch Co-ordinator they were able to continue the training of volunteers.

David Marrow had also made contact with Sergeant Jan Kinshot who was the officer responsible for Commercial and Agricultural Vehicles and there were specific regulations for agricultural vehicles.

The presence of AD plants in the area and the associated tractor and vehicle movements were of concern in Halberton, Sampford Peverell, Willand and the surrounding areas.

Actions:

David Marrow to provide details of setting up a Community Speed Watch Scheme and contact details for the relevant individuals mentioned above

Councillor Batchelor thanked David Marrow for his presentation and it was noted that Halberton had used a petition to put their concerns forward to Devon County Council.

Other matters

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 2 November 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Update of Vision Zero South West

The Clerk advised that a response to the request for the specifications for the posts to be installed on private land was still awaited. A further follow up email had been sent but James Anstee was currently out of office. The sites of the posts had been approved. It was understood that the additional signs had been ordered but a delivery date was still awaited.

Councillor Browse noted the slow response times and advised that Vision Zero themselves had indicated at the Road Safety seminar in Barnstaple in December would seek to assist parishes in completing projects.

Action: Clerk to chase specifications of the post used so that this work could be commissioned and/or work with an approved Devon County Council contractor to get the work done. The VAS equipment would be delivered once the posts were in place.

At present, the amount of unused funds that could be to put flashing lights and the signage required either side of the entrance to the school exit onto Lower Town was unknown but in principle the Parish Council was prepared to make up any shortfall.

Action: Clerk to follow up on the actions necessary to install the lights.

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

Councillor Furmedge had not supplied an update on signatures and incidents reported for this meeting.

It was felt that more publicity should be given to the ongoing request for signatures and incident reporting.

Action: Clerk to contact Councillor Furmedge before the next Parish Council meeting (10/1/23) and together with Councillor Batchelor put an article together for the next Newsletter.

Evidence was best tool the Parish Council had to try to improve road safety.

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

The Clerk was awaiting a response as to why a pedestrian crossing at the Village Hall was unlikely.

Action: Clerk to chase Tom Vaughan to establish the reasons why.

7. Update on submissions of traffic incidents

See Item 6. above.

Action:

- 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

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.

The National Grid had also investigated the damage to the telegraph pole.

It had been agreed to focus efforts on trying to have better lorry signage at the Willand roundabout and the roundabout past the motorway bridge and the Clerk advised that this action was outstanding.

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

The Clerk advised that the next round of 20mph applications was now open and would close on 31 January 2023. Whilst existing bids would be considered, it was agreed that a new submission would be made with the focus on a 20mph limit in Lower Town. This course of action was supported by Councillor Slade.

Action: Clerk to make the submission.

National 20's plenty campaign

It had been agreed that their signage would be more effective on the High Street itself rather than the Seddon signs. The Parish Council had approved the purchase of the signage and the Clerk had completed the order. It had been hoped that the signs would have been able to be handed out at the meeting.

Action: Clerk to advise when signs received.

Seddons's 20 is plenty signs

The 20 is plenty signs were not yet in place in areas where a 30mph was in existence. The Clerk had liaised with both Margaret Anderson and Jerry Mahany in this regard.

Action:

- 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 – must be on private land.
- Clerk to liaise with Seddons

10. Any Other Business

Joint speed limit committee

Following on from the initial meeting Halberton, Sampford Peverell and Willand Parish Council's had all agreed to having a representative on the committee to discuss traffic issues affecting the parishes. A response was awaited from Uffculme Parish Council.

As detailed earlier, the group could be expanded with the approval of all involved.

Action: Clerk to organise the next meeting once approval received from Uffculme.

Hi-Viz jackets

HCA had put in a bid, approved by Councillor Slade, to the locality budget for the purchase of hi-viz jackets. Once purchased, jackets would be loaned to the school and other parishioners who walked along the High Street.

Action: Clerk to liaise with HCA.

Hedgerows

At the request of Terry Payne, Councillor Graham raised the question of hedgerows that had not been cut back on either side of the road to the Farm Shop. Following the agreement of the Parish Council, the Clerk had prepared letters for distribution to the residents involved.

Action: Clerk

Average Speed Cameras

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

AD Plant Liaison Committee

Work was ongoing to re-establish the AD Plant Liaison Committee.

Signposts

It was noted that the Parish Council was looking to put in improved signage to direct walkers both on the canal and in the village to the permissive path at Greenway.

It was also noted that one footpath down from the canal to the village was accessed by a stile.

Action: Clerk to investigate

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, 1 March 2023

Signed _____ Date _____