

Draft Minutes of the Halberton Traffic Committee held on the 29 September 2021 at Halberton Village Hall

Present:

Councillor Browse, Margaret Anderson, Liz Brooks, Graeme Cousins, Catherine Kellow, Jerry Mahany, Terry Payne, Neil Purves and Susan McGeever (Clerk)

1 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillors Batchelor and Graham, Trevor Clarke, Cristina Cure e Couto, Georgie Fice, Nuala Gear, Tom Gear, Mel Haslam and Lindsey Rowe

2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Public Forum

A number of issues were raised including speed, repeater signs and the missing speed signal.

4 Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (1 September 2021)

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

5 Matters arising from the minutes

Portal on the website

A portal had been set on the Parish website to report any problem within the village. It was agreed that there should be two portals, one specifically relating to traffic issues and one relating to other matters (vandalism, street lighting, broken fences, bins etc).

The traffic portal should be a proforma document to allow residents to tick boxes such as near misses, speeding, not giving way, aggression with the ability to put in the date of the incident.

Action: Councillor Furmedge/Clerk

Update on speed monitoring

Councillor Browse advised that he had picked up the hand-held radar and it was now available to use.

It was noted one of the speed monitors on the high street remained missing despite efforts to have it replaced. It was noted that the sign did not collect data.

There was a possibility of organising a speed sign that would need to be moved to different locations around the village that would flash up speed.

Action: Councillor Browse/Clerk/All

Update on the petition and collection of signatures

A number of suggestions to the text of the petition had been sent to the Clerk and discussion took place on finalising the text. It was agreed that the petition would read:

The village of Halberton has become an unhealthier and more dangerous place.

The current traffic problems reflect not only on those living on the high street itself but all residents of Halberton Parish and those living outside the Parish that use the road.

The road was not designed to take the volume of traffic present today and the situation is likely to deteriorate further with both existing and proposed new builds within and surrounding the Parish.

I am in favour of introducing measures that will reduce the speed of traffic to improve the current situation and improve road safety for all users.

It was felt that it was possible to reduce the speed of vehicles but it was unlikely that the amount of traffic could be reduced unless traffic calming measures resulted in much longer journey times.

Getting signatures for the petition would be a combination of knocking on doors and having it available on the website.

Action: Clerk/All

Update on the improvement plan

Emails had been circulated within the traffic committee which looked at flashing signs and chicanes.

It was agreed to investigate flashing signs and in particular those that recorded information on the speed and those that gave a thumbs up or smiley face if the speed limit was being adhered to.

Action: Liz Brooks

It was felt that getting the school/parents involved in any campaign and having the children draw pictures to go on signs could have a positive effect.

Speed monitoring should be introduced with a speed check at each end of the village.

Action: All

Investigation should take place as to :

- whether the speed limit on the Willand to Halberton road could be reduced to 40mph – this might also reduce the number of cars hitting Spatford Bridge.
- the number of cars using the high street and it was noted that the number of cars had been monitored at Post Hill
- the possibility of average speed cameras in the village
- chicane systems (are they legal without a physical obstruction)
- the environmental impact/pollution in the air

Action: Councillor Browse/Clerk

It was noted that the Parish Council met with Devon Highways and that Somerset Highways had also proved helpful.

Funding was a key issue in making improvements and councils did not have the budget for parish led improvements.

It was felt that the date of 15 October to have a clear improvement plan in place with supporting evidence was not achievable and it was agreed to defer providing the plan to Councillor Slade to the next HOTAC meeting.

Action: Clerk

6 Traffic calming measures

This agenda item had been covered under update on improvement plan.

7 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 3 November 2021