

**Minutes of the Traffic Committee of Halberton Parish Council held at Halberton Village Hall
On Wednesday 6 July 2022**

Present: Councillor Batchelor and Graham, Liz Brooks, Georgie Fice, Jerry Mahany and Terry Payne.
The Clerk was also in attendance.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillor Browse , Margaret Anderson, Cristina Cure e Couto, Neil Purves and Lindsey Rowe.

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.

IB advised that he had received a call regarding a vehicle parked in Crown Hill that was impacting traffic safety and undertook to provide the Clerk with the number plate so that the vehicle could be reported to the police and MDDC.

4. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 8 June 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Update of Vision Zero South West

The Clerk advised that the VAS equipment had been paid for and would be delivered once the signs and posts were in place.

The Clerk was awaiting for a response from James Anstee as to when he would visit Halberton to sign off the positions of the signs.

Councillor Batchelor had spoken to Councillor Radford who confirmed he was happy to have one of the posts on his land.

The pedestrian signs needed to be ordered from DCC once their locations had been signed off.

The Clerk advised that a response to the initial request for a pedestrian crossing was awaited.

It was understood that DCC would look to cut back the trees on the entrance to the High Street prior to the re-surfacing work scheduled for August.

Action points:

- Clerk to chase DCC re confirmation of post sites and signs and schedule for installing posts/signs
- Clerk to organise delivery of VAS units once post signs were signed off
- Clerk to follow up on pedestrian signs
- Press Release upon receipt of VAS units (GF/LR)
- Press Release when VAS units in place (GR/LR)

6. Update on Petition handed to DCC

The email from Councillor Slade following his meeting with the Head of Highways had been circulated to the Parish Council and the Traffic Committee.

At the suggestion of Councillor Slade, the Clerk had contacted Tom Vaughan of DCC to set up a meeting to discuss the various traffic issues within Halberton. A response was awaited.

The work of the Traffic Committee would continue to try to address all the concerns of the Parish.

Action:

- Clerk to follow up on Tom Vaughan
- Clerk to follow up on the various initiatives
- All to work on obtaining signatures on the petition

7. Update on submissions of traffic incidents

The Clerk advised that no report had been received from Councillor Furmedge on current numbers on the petition and incident reporting since the last meeting.

Given the closures of the A361 over the past few weeks and the traffic jams that ensued together with verbal reports of broken wing mirrors etc, it was important that written reports were received to pass on to DCC.

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

Discussion was ongoing with regard to moving signage to improve visibility and to ensure signs were before a lorry turned into a road – not after.

This would be one of the subjects discussed with adjoining parishes.

Action:

- Clerk to put on agenda for joint parish meeting
- Clerk to contact Stephen Short

9. Update on 20mph extension submission

The Clerk advised that no further information had been received with regard to the submission for an extension to the 20mph zone.

The submission asked to the zone to be extended to include the Hickory Inn, the turning to Lower Town and Lower Town itself as far as Pethertons to cover the school and playing field.

Action:

Clerk to monitor submission

National 20's plenty campaign

It was agreed that the Parish Council would be asked to confirm that Halberton could join the nation 20's plenty campaign and that signage should be bought and made available to parishioners.

Action:

Clerk to bring forward to the Parish Council meeting under item 16 Traffic Committee.

Seddons's 20 is plenty signs

Jerry Mahany undertook to look at the locations of the individuals who had come forward to have signs and other possible locations along the High Street.

Councillor Batchelor would speak to an individual at Crossparks to see if they were able to put up a sign.

The Clerk undertook to contact Councillor Furmedge with regard to possible locations within Ash Thomas and would be able to put a sign up in her garden at Brithem Bottom and talk to other home owners.

Other locations could be the Hickory Inn, Greenway and Lower Town.

The possibility of putting signs in the flower beds on entry to the village would be investigated as well as on the bank by the car park.

It was hoped the signs would be in place by mid-September.

Action:

- Jerry Mahany to organise signs on High Street
- Councillor Batchelor to look at Crossparks
- Clerk to speak to Councillor Furmedge and residents of BB and send map to Jerry Mahony
- Clerk to contact MDDC re location of signs into the village
- Clerk to liaise with Seddons

10. Any Other Business**Tractors to/from AD plant**

Councillor Batchelor advised that there was a significant amount of correspondence relating to the AD plant and its ability to meet the planning conditions that had been put in place prior to it going into operation.

The speed and volume of tractors travelling through the Parish and, in particular, the High Street was of increasing concern.

It was extremely difficult to obtain evidence of the lack of number plates on trailers, different number plates on the tractor and trailer, the weight of tractors etc as they travelled at speed through the High Street.

A concerted effort to record tractor movements in and out of the plant was required and this would form part of discussion at the next meeting.

The Parish Council would continue to express its concerns regarding the plant to MDDC.

Action:

Bring forward to the next meeting

Letter to companies re road surfacing

The letter and spreadsheet prepared by Liz Brooks with reference to the re-surfacing would be amended to reflect the scheduled date and the email they would have received from DCC.

Action:

Liz Brooks and Clerk to liaise

A361 closures

Concern was expressed over the recent closures of the A361 and the use of Halberton as the diversion route.

Terry Payne advised that had been an assurance from Devon County Council that the diversion route would not be used for traffic travelling in both directions given the bottle necks this causes within the High Street.

In the absence of any police presence, on Saturday he had to direct traffic to enable lorries meeting in the High Street to pass each other asking cars to back up with very limited room to manoeuvre.

The need for such action raises significant road safety issues together with the potential for liability should cars make contact with each other.

A further concern was that given the long traffic queues, emergency vehicles such as fire engines and ambulances would not have been able to reach the village should they have been required.

It was felt that serious consideration should be given as to how to manage closures of the A361 that will ensure the safety of the residents of Halberton.

Having only one direction of traffic using the Halberton/Sampford Peverell route would, of course, ameliorate the situation but certainly not solve it.

One suggestion, was the use of emergency traffic lights that would only become operational during diversions. Allowing sets of traffic to travel the High Street in one direction would mean that the good will element was taken out of the equation and drivers would know that their turn to pass through the village would be managed in an orderly and fair way.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Councillor Slade and include Meg Booth, Alison Hernandez and Steve Short in on the email .

Action:

Clerk to draft email and send to Councillor Batchelor/Browse

Meeting with neighbouring parishes re speed limits

Councillor Batchelor advised that a positive response had been received from Sampford Peverell, Willand and Uffculme with regard to a meeting to discuss traffic issues which affected all four parishes.

There was a general consensus that consistency of speed limits between parishes would be helpful.

Action:

Clerk to organise the meeting which would take place in Willand Village Hall given its central location.

Re-surfacing of the High Street

The re-surfacing was due to start on 22 August 2022 and last 7-10 days.

Diversion routes through Ash Thomas and Brithem Bottom would be put in place.

It was noted that no works should be undertaken by companies such as AirBand for a year following the re-surfacing.

The Clerk advised that this information had been passed to AirBand.

A map of the re-surfacing works had been received and this would be circulated.

Terry Payne asked that Chapel Close was part of the re-surfacing given the drops within the road.

Action:

- Dates of re-surfacing to be broadcast on the website and social media and included in the next Newsletter
- Clerk to contact Steve Short/Willy Pike regarding Chapel Close

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place in September.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, 6 September 2022