

Halberton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Halberton Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Halberton on Tuesday 12 October 2021 at 7pm

Present

Councillors Browse, Furmedge, Graham and Saunders together with Councillor Slade (DCC) and S McGeever (Clerk).

In the absence of Councillor Batchelor, Councillor Browse took the chair.

190-1 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillor Batchelor (Chairman) who would be late in arriving and Councillor Ray Radford (MDDC).

190-2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

190-3 Public Forum

Members of the public made strong representations regarding:

- the ongoing work at Red Linhay which had not received planning permission and concerns were expressed that retrospective planning would be given. The green credentials of the AD plants in Halberton and Willand were also questioned.

The Parish Council were in contact with MDDC and the matter had come to the attention of the authorities and compliance issues were being investigated.

The amount of tractors going through the village to the AD plant was also raised.

- traffic and, in particular, large lorries through the village.

It was noted that there was now a portal on the Parish website for reporting all traffic issues.

Councillor Radford was a key contact with regard to environmental matters and the AD plant.

190-4 To approve the minutes of Council meeting on 7 September 2021

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes, and for the Chair to sign them.

190-5 Chairman's announcements

In the Chairman's absence there were no announcements.

190-6 Mid Devon District Council matters

a. To receive a report from the MDDC Council Member

Councillor Radford's report had been circulated and no questions were raised.

b. Grand Western Canal Group

Councillor Slade advised that Councillor Radford was Chairman of the group and he was Vice-Chairman. The patrol boat had been active throughout the summer. Work continued to be ongoing.

190-7 Devon County Council matters

Councillor Slade has provided a written report and briefly ran through its content outlining the key activities.

He had witnessed the new dragon patcher in action and this equipment would mainly deal with repairs to rural roads.

With regard to traffic issues, Councillor Slade reported:

- a) he had heard reports Herne Bridge would be open by the end of November
- b) the sign by the farm shop was listed for repair but was not a priority item
- c) the date for repairs to Spatford Bridge were not known. It was cheaper to keep repairing the bridge when hit rather than widen it. However, whilst speed control changes were a long process, he would support a change in the speed limit from 60mph down to 40mph on the stretch of road between Willand and Halberton. It was noted that the road between Halberton and Tiverton which had considerably less houses along its route was a 40mph zone. The possibility of a camera at Spatford Bridge would be looked into.
- d) the speed survey at Post Hill had been a censor of vehicle usage for the strategic planning development office so that the road usage was known pre and post the significant housing developments built at Tiverton. He would investigate the possibility of a 'road counter' to determine the amount of traffic passing through Halberton.
- e) in response to a question from Councillor Furmedge, he advised that he would contact the ambulance service to check that GPS updating was taking place given the incident concerning the closure of Herne Bridge

190-8 Police matters

All correspondence relating to police matters were forwarded to the Parish Councillors.

The information regarding Farm Watch would be included on the website and in the next newsletter.

Action: Councillor Furmedge/Clerk

Again, in the absence of Councillor Batchelor, the possibility of the use of CCTV cameras would be taken forward to the next meeting.

190-9 Vacancies on the Parish Council

The Clerk advised that no further applications had been received. Councillors would approach possible candidates and Councillor Graham would report back to the next meeting. Notices had been posted on the MDDC and Parish websites.

190-10 Covid 19 response update

The Daily Covid reports were circulated to councillors and it was noted that Deon was on high alert.

190-11 Consideration of Mid Devon District Council's planning applications

A number of applications have been dealt with through Standing Orders.

21/01741/FULL

Proposal: Erection of an industrial unit

Location: Western Holdings Ltd Unit 13 South View Estate

Deadline for comments: 27th September 2021 (No objection recorded following email consultation)

21/01777/CAT

Proposal: Notification of intention to remove 1 tree and reduce the height of 1 Hazelnut and 1 Magnolia tree to approximately 4.5m within the Conservation Area

Location: 57 High Street Halberton Tiverton

Deadline for comments: 30th September 2021 (No objection recorded following email consultation)

21/01697/FULL

Proposal: Erection of an agricultural livestock building

Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 298814 109376 (Oburnford Farm) Cullompton, Devon

Deadline for comments: 30th September 2021 (No objection recorded following email consultation)

21/01798/MARM

Proposal: Variation of condition 1 of planning permission 18/01930/MARM to allow substitution of plans to add 1kw PV unit to each house and minor amendments to boundary treatments north of plot 84 and south of plot 90

Location: Land at Grid Reference 305658 112080 Uffculme Devon

Deadline for comments: 4th October 2021 (No objection recorded following email consultation)

21/01886/FULL

Proposal: Erection of extension to an agricultural livestock building

Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 298831 109355 (Oburnford Farm) Cullompton, Devon

Deadline for comments: 22nd October 2021

It was RESOLVED that there would be no objection to this application.

21/01814/FULL

Proposal: Erection of office building and associated parking following demolition of existing building

Location: Hitchcocks Headquarters Hitchcocks Business Park Uffculme

Deadline for comments: 26th October 2021

It was RESOLVED that there would be no objection to this application.

18/01814/MFUL - APPEAL

Proposal: Change of use of agricultural land for the siting of 3 holiday lodges and alterations to existing access

Location: Land at NGR 299526 113232 Crown Hill Halberton

Deadline for comments: 27th October 2021

It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would submit its objections to the application as sent in December 2018 and the more recent comments including the lack of footpath on a very busy road and the significant increase in tractor movement due to the AD at Crown Hill.

Action: Clerk

Halberton Court Farm

The Parish Council reviewed correspondence with Daniel Rance regarding the application and the conditions requested by the Parish Council. It was noted that, if the application, was approved the need for a path from the development to Lower Town would be included. Councillor Graham again expressed concern regarding the buffer on the pond.

Action: Clerk

Pleasant Streams

The Parish Council RESOLVED to write to MDDC regarding their handling of this application.

Councillor Furmedge advised that he had attended both meetings and his main concern was the chronic lack of enforcement and the key role this plays in retrospective planning permission. He felt it was important that MDDC ensured that all the conditions attached to the planning application were adhered to and that enforcement was brought to bear on any associated development that took place outside the scope of the application.

Action: Councillor Furmedge/Clerk

199-12 Consideration of Mid Devon District Council's Planning Decisions

The following decisions were noted:

21/01234/FULL – APPROVED

Proposal: Associated operational development, in conjunction with 16/00356/PNCOU for the change of use of an existing agricultural building to garage and erection of a two-storey rear extension

Location: Barn Haze Sampford Peverell Tiverton Devon

21/01454/PNCOU – NOT PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING PERMISSION REQUIRED

Proposal: Prior notification for the change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling under Class Q

Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 299370 112125 (North of Orchard Farm), Tiverton Devon

21/01225/FULL - APPROVED

Proposal: Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 20/01724/FULL - Erection of 4 dwellings, two detached garages with one to include games room above and associated access - to allow amendment to design and change of orientation to Plot 4

Location: Land at NGR 300038 112538 (Adjacent to The Pethers) Crown Hill Halberton Devon

21/00871/MARM - APPROVED

Proposal: Variation of condition 1 of planning permission 19/00364/MARM to allow substitution of plans for relocation of parking spaces adjacent to Block B to provide storage compound/service yard and reduce size of Block A to accommodate relocation of parking spaces

Location: Land at NGR 303681 111677 (North Of Mid Devon Business Park) Muxbeare Lane Willand

21/01520/FULL – APPROVED

Proposal: Provision of a concrete hardstanding, resurfacing of existing access driveway and erection of palisade fencing

Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 304130 111974 B3181 Willand Devon

21/01123/FULL – APPROVED

Proposal: Associated operational development, in conjunction with 21/00177/PNCOU for the change of use of an existing agricultural building to B8 (storage and distribution)

Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 304121 111990 B3181 Willand Devon

21/01564/PIP - REFUSED

Proposal: Permission in Principle for the erection of up to 3 dwellings

Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 300308 114122 (Timber/Sawmill Yard) Sellake Barn Uplowman Devon

20/02128/FULL - APPROVED

Proposal: Change of use of land for the provision of 6 permanent pitches for the use of gypsy and traveller family, formation of a new vehicular access, hardstanding and associated works

Location: Pleasant Streams Uffculme Cullompton Devon

190-13 Highways matters and the Road Warden Scheme

Update and any new matters to report including:

a. 02606 Herne Railway Bridge / TIV 181-20.00 – Bridge south of Halberton

The notice on Herne Bridge had been updated to reflect the most up-to-date information which was that the works had gone out to tender.

Action: Councillor Furmedge/Clerk to update website.

b. Spatford Bridge

As reported by Councillor Slade.

Action: Clerk to investigate change of speed limit alongside the work being done with the Traffic Committee

c. Potholes

Potholes were being notified to the DCC website and the Parish Council was in contact with DCC. It was noted that some preventative work could be undertaken by the Road Wardens.

d. Damage to Halberton Milestone

A notification of the public consultation as to the future of the Halberton Milestone had been placed in the Parish Newsletter. Possibilities to include

- a) moving it about 12 foot so it was relocated within the flower bed or
- b) move to behind the pavement on the opposite side of the road

Action: Clerk to chase quote for repairs

e. Speed monitor on the high street

The speed monitor had not been replaced and the Traffic Committee was now investigating a number of possible options.

f. Parking at The Orchard

A response was still awaited from MDDC in response to the letter from the Parish Council.

Action: Councillor Batchelor

g. Sign by Halberton Farm shop

As reported by Councillor Slade, the sign would be repaired.

190-14 Amenity matters

a. Lighting and electric car charging point at Cordwents:

A date for the required works to commence for the lighting was awaited.

The Parish Council to follow up on electric car charging points.

Action: Councillor Batchelor/Browse and Clerk

b. Recreation Area / Car Park at Cordwents:

Councillor Browse advised the matter was in hand and the work would be carried out at the same time as the lighting works.

Action: Councillor Browse

c. Any matters to report or urgent works to approve, including new Mead goal posts/nets:

The S106 application for funding for the goal posts was in progress. It was also noted that the posts could be moved to fresh ground.

Action: Councillor Batchelor to send up to date quotes

d. Bin at Pond Hill:

Councillor Graham would map all bins currently located in Halberton and make suggestions for additional bins. The bins and other Parish facilities could be mapped on Parish Online.

Action: Councillor Graham/Clerk

e. Bins at the cemetery

The permit for brown bin had been obtained. Collection would take place every other Wednesday (start date 13th October). The bin should be located just inside the gates.

Action: Councillor Graham/Clerk

f. Picnic Area

The picnic area had been strimmed. Councillor Graham advised that the area near the pond also required tidying and the work would be assigned to Nigel Cuthbert.

Action: Clerk

g. New picnic tables and replacement of vandalised bench:

Councillor Browse and Councillor Batchelor undertook to obtain quotes for recycled plastic benches including two benches with disabled access.

Action: Councillors Batchelor and Browse/Clerk to start S106 application

h. Lower Town proposal:

Councillor Batchelor and Browse had continued to contact individuals concerning the proposal.

Action: Councillors Batchelor and Browse

i. Footpaths: Update

Councillor Browse advised a meeting of all interested parties had been set for 14 October and would be attended by representatives from Devon County Council. A notice had gone in the Parish Newsletter and been posted on the notice boards.

Action: Councillor Browse and Graham/Clerk

j. S106 funding

The Clerk had attended a meeting to discuss possible ways to augment the facilities available to young people in the village. This included equipment for the 7-12 age group, a meeting area for teenagers, the possibility of bike ramps, replacement of the basketball net and the possibility of an outdoor table tennis. Halberton lended itself to the Couch to 5K app to improve adult fitness as there was a 5k loop running from the scout hut car park along the canal. The possibility of some adult gym equipment was also considered. Further work was needed to identify possible suppliers and cost.

Action: Clerk in the first instance

It was noted that S106 funding increased from 15% to 25% if a neighbourhood plan was in place.

k. Parish Notice Boards – meeting agenda, traffic notices etc

It was felt agendas should be re-instated on the Parish notice boards and Councillor Furmedge undertook to supply a QR code to take people to the correct page on the website.

Action: Councillor Furmedge and Graham/Clerk

l. Hedges inside the Recreation Ground require cutting. Quote from Nigel Cuthbert - £80.00

It was RESOLVED to appoint Nigel Cuthbert to carry out this work.

Action: Clerk

m. We are nearing completion of the conversion of the Church at Ash Thomas, we have reinstated the iron railings which were dismantled in the second world war and were seeking the Parish Councils permission to paint and restore the water pump.

It was RESOLVED that this work could take place and that the Parish Council would fund the cost of materials.

Action: Clerk

n. Footpath sign at Ash Thomas

It was RESOLVED that Councillors Browse and Furmedge would carry out the required work.

Action: Councillor Browse to obtain post and sign from DCC.

o. Wasp issue at the Recreation Ground

Given the time of year, it was RESOLVED that no work was required at this stage.

p. Land owned by MDDC Housing behind the bus stop at the top of Pond Hill

Councillor Graham advised that the land, owned by MDDC Estate, was about the size of a snooker table and used to be planted by the Flower Group. It did require work doing to it but a major stumbling block was the drop (9-10') on one side. A certain amount of work had been done to repair the path and remove some of the roots. A proper fence would need to be erected if parishioners were allowed to have access.

A meeting had taken place with MDDC and a further update was awaited.

With a fence a possible option would be a piece of adult gym equipment.

Action: Councillor Graham and Clerk

190-15 Community items

To consider any other community matters including

a. Facebook page/Website/Computer/Email/Communicating with Parishioners

It was noted that work was ongoing on the website and Facebook page including a diary of meetings. A system was being put in place to allow posts to go both to the website and Facebook page.

The possibility of extending communications through the Halberton Community Association was being explored.

The Clerk would bring a proposal regarding the computer/emails to the next meeting.

Action: Councillor Furmedge/Clerk

b. Council IT tools Working Group: Update

A notice had been put in the Newsletter for members to join the group but no-one had come forward.

A notice board on the website was under development.

Action: Councillor Furmedge/Clerk

c. Internet Connectivity Working Group

Councillor Furmedge was progressing the working group to look at internet connectivity.

Action: Councillor Furmedge

d. Training for Road Warden Scheme

Dates to be investigated for December/January.

Action: Councillors Batchelor/Furmedge

e. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Communication had been received regarding re-setting up the neighbourhood watch scheme. A portal had been created on the website for reporting incidents within the village.

Action: Councillor Furmedge, Graham/Clerk

f. Anaerobic Digester Liaison Committee

Correspondence was ongoing with MDDC regarding the re-instatement of the AD Liaison Committee.

Action: Clerk

g. Halberton History Group

In the absence of a representative, the Halberton History Group paper was deferred to the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

A response from Lucombe Park regarding the grass verges and responsibility for the maintenance of the bus shelter was awaited.

Action: Clerk

Concern was raised about the movement of soil at Yeo Farm and the situation was being monitored.

190-16 Traffic Committee

The minutes of the second meeting of the Halberton Traffic Committee were noted. The wording of the petition had been agreed. Research was ongoing onto the speed monitors and chicanes. It had been felt impractical to put together the improvement plan for mid October and the date was now mid February.

The next meeting would take place on Wednesday, 3rd November at 7pm.

Action: Councillor Batchelor/Browse/Graham and Clerk

190-17 Finance

External Audit – an interim report has been received by external auditor and the required documentation was published on the website by the due date.

Since the issuance of the agenda, the final report had been received by the external auditor and Councillor Browse thanked the Clerk for the work she had undertaken.

a. Financial report 2021/22 for September:

The income and expenditure for August was noted.

b. It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

South West Water	£ 14.53
Nicholas Page	£135.00
Nigel Cuthbert	£581.87
Joy Wooding (newsletter)	£ 23.58
Carol Graham	£ 30.00
Carol Graham (defibrulator poster)	£ 9.00
S McGeever	£543.00
S McGeever (Zoom)	£ 14.39
Brightsea (Newsletter)	£782.00
PKF Littlejohn	£240.00
BHIB Insurance	£497.90
Parish Online	£ 42.00
(awaiting confirmation not covered by insurance)	

A transfer of £3000.00 had been made from the reserve account to the current account to meet these invoices.

190-18 Members business including meetings attended, and miscellaneous matters (not for decision)

The following matters had been brought forward from the previous meeting.

Devon Council Climate Network (Clerk/Sally Chapman)
Ongoing

Connecting the Culm/Catchment Visioning Workshop (Councillor Batchelor)
Ongoing

Community Emergency Plan

Councillor Furmedge had attended a meeting on 25th September which had proved extremely useful and he had the slides to work from.

Action: Councillors Browse/Furmedge and the Clerk to review the current plan and update as required and bring the suggested course of action to the next meeting.

Parish Survey Buildings at Risk

Further guidance was awaited in regard to the review of the 65 buildings listed.

Action: Clerk

Cullompton Health and Wellbeing

Clerk to add Ash Thomas and Halberton Village to the listing of village halls on directory.

Action: Clerk

DALC Conference

Councillor Browse and the Clerk reported that the conference had been of great interest. The various webinars would be available on online.

Councillor Browse had received a medal for services given to Devon for the period 2011 to 2020.

Queen's Jubilee

It was felt that a committee should be set up to decide on the activities to take place over the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (weekend of 2nd-5th June 2022). Such activities to include the whole Parish and in discussion with the school.

Suggested events were:

- Lighting a beacon (9.15pm on 2nd June)
- Service of remembrance (3rd June)
- Holding a street party (5th June)
- Planting a tree as part of the green canopy initiative (Autumn 2021 to Autumn 2022)

190-19 Items for next meeting

Councillor Furmedge requested that greater thought should be given as to how the public could attend meetings effectively using Zoom.

The Parish Council would meet prior to the next meeting at 6.30pm to review the clerk's appointment and discuss the aims and aspirations of the Parish Council

Next public meeting: Tuesday 9 November 2021 7pm

Signed:

Date: