

**Minutes of the Meeting of Parish Councils to discuss Traffic Speeds
held in the Annex Room, Willand Village Hall on Wednesday 26 October 2022**

Ian Batchelor (Chairman, Halberton Parish Council) opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed those present. The purpose of the meeting was to see if there was the scope to form a committee to represent the views of the adjoining parishes with respect to speed limits within their geographical area and make representations to Devon County Council.

Present:

Ian Batchelor (Halberton)
Ken Browse (Halberton)
Heather Culpin (Sampford Peverell)
Tim Pointing (Uffculme)
Stephen Little (Willand)
Paul Major (Willand)
Keith Grantham (Willand)

Sue McGeever (Clerk to Halberton and Sampford Peverell Parish Councils) and Barbara Bodkin (Clerk to Willand Parish Council).

1. Apologies

Emily Castle (Sampford Peverell)

2. Traffic Speeds and DCC policy

Ian Batchelor advised that Halberton Parish Council had set up a Traffic Committee to look at the situation in Halberton parish and, in particular, traffic management for the High Street.

The actions taken had been:

1. A petition and report presented by Councillor Slade to Devon County Council resulting in contact with Meg Booth, Head of Highways and Waste and subsequent review by HATOC and meeting with Tom Vaughan, Neighbourhood Highways Manager.
2. A successful bid to Vision Zero South West for VAS equipment and new pedestrian signs.
3. Changes in the location of lorry signs.
4. An unsuccessful bid to extend the 20mph limit in Halberton to include the school. Whilst unsuccessful, this bid provided valuable knowledge of the criteria that needed to be met and a further bid would be submitted for the next round.
5. The Traffic Committee would now be putting in a bid for flashing lights either side of the school (criteria and cost provided by Tom Vaughan).

Despite all the work done, it had been difficult to move Devon County Council on the speed limits between the parishes and he felt a joint submission might be more successful. Current speed limits were 40mph, 50 mph and the National Speed Limit. There appeared to be no rationale to the limits set.

He also felt that DCC traffic calming measures were constantly being updated together with information on pedestrian walkways/pavements.

Heather Culpin advised that Sampford Peverell were concerned at the speeds and volume of traffic through the village. The 30mph limit was not adhered to and the new development at Battens Cross would increase traffic load and, despite the ruling of the appeals officer, the speed limit at its entrance would remain at 40mph.

Stephen Little of Willand expressed concern for the speed limits on the B3181 which had had a number of fatalities as well as speed limits for the Millenium Way. Councillor Radford (DCC) had been supportive of the changing of speeds but DCC policy appeared to prevent this. Different responses had been received from DCC at various times.

Paul Major of Willand advised that they were in the process of commissioning an independent audit into the traffic issues facing the village. The cost was approximately £4000. Willand had installed VAS signs and whilst they recorded information on traffic numbers, they did not appear to be slowing traffic down. Speed watch and the wearing of fluorescent jackets did.

Tim Pointing of Uffculme felt that the villages had not been designed for the volume of traffic now present and agreed that the speed limits between parishes needed to be standardised. Getting to school safely is the emphasis in Uffculme.

It was felt that all parishes wished to see:

1. increased safety for all road users and pedestrians
2. consistent speed limits across the parishes
3. responsible parking especially around school entrances
4. co-operation and the sharing of knowledge between parishes

Halberton Parish Council had requested that 'Local Traffic Only' on the first exit of the A361 to reduce the volume of traffic on the road.

3. A361 closures/diversions

It was recognised that A361 closures tended to affect Halberton and Sampford Peverell more than Uffculme and Willand and concern was expressed for the access of emergency vehicles if needed.

Halberton had requested that vehicles travelling to North Devon were taken off the M5 at Bridgwater (South bound) and Exeter (North bound) rather than being allowed to travel to J27 before being taken off on the diversion routes.

In addition, it was felt that temporary traffic lights in Halberton during closures would assist in the flow of traffic as the village became gridlocked.

It was noted the proposed new A361 junction at Tiverton was on hold.

4. M5 closures/diversions

It was recognised that M5 closures tended to affect Willand the most with some knock-on effect to Uffculme.

5. Any other business/topics of joint interest

It was noted that other matters affecting the parishes were planning, AD plants and the resultant tractor movements and solar panel farms.

The various housing developments in Tiverton and Cullompton would put added strain on the road network within the parishes.

Actions:

1. Parish councillors present to request approval for the setting up of a committee from their respective Parish Councils.
2. If approved, Parish Councils to nominate a representative and advise Halberton (clerk@halberton.org)
3. If approved, date to be set for first meeting by Clerk for Halberton Parish Council
4. If approved, representatives on the new group to share their priorities prior to the first meeting
5. Paul Major to circulate information on independent traffic audits

It was noted that Councillor Slade was the DCC Councillor for Halberton whilst Councillor Radford represented Sampford Peverell, Uffculme and Willand.

Resources:

Setting local speed limits

[Setting local speed limits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Devon County Council Safer Roads

[Safer roads - Roads and transport \(devon.gov.uk\)](http://devon.gov.uk) with links to

[Speeding, Speed Limits and SCARF - Roads and transport \(devon.gov.uk\)](http://devon.gov.uk)

[Vision Zero - A collaborative road safety community project \(visionzerosouthwest.co.uk\)](http://visionzerosouthwest.co.uk)

Councillor Advocate Scheme

[Councillor advocate scheme · Devon & Cornwall Police & Crime Commissioner \(devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk\)](http://devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk)

On Wednesday 7 December, 2022 a Road Safety seminar will be at The Barnstaple Hotel, Braunton Road, Barnstaple.

Slides from Devon Association of Local Councils seminar on Understanding Speed (attached).

Speed Watch

[Speed Watch | Devon and Cornwall Police \(devon-cornwall.police.uk\)](http://devon-cornwall.police.uk)