

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Joint Traffic Meeting representing the Parish Councils
of Halberton, Sampford Peverell, Uffculme and Willand
Thursday, 21 March 2024 at Willand Village Hall

Present: Councillor Ian Batchelor – Chair, Halberton Parish Council
Councillor Tim Burt – Chair, Sampford Peverell Parish Council
Councillor Phil Cornish – Vice-Chair, Uffculme Parish Council

Susan McGeever, Clerk for Halberton Parish Council, was present to take the minutes.

Councillor Ian Batchelor, Chair, Halberton Parish Council, opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed those present.

All four Parish Councils had confirmed that they would be represented at the Joint Traffic Working Group and support a petition to reduce the speed limit along the Uffculme Straight as the first objective of the group.

It was felt a joint approach to Devon County Council on traffic issues would hold more weight and that the sharing of knowledge would be beneficial.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from:

Councillor Patricia Blackman – Chair, Uffculme Parish Council
Councillor Rob Furmedge – Vice-Chair, Halberton Parish Council
Councillor Keith Grantham – Willand Parish Council
Councillor Sue Leach – Willand Parish Council
Councillor Jason Scott – Willand Parish Council

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Matters arising from the notes of the meeting on 15 February 2024

There were no matters arising that would not be discussed under an agenda item.

4. Terms of Reference for the Working Group

The Clerk presented the proposed Terms of Reference for the Working Group.

Those present RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference should be adopted and they are shown in the attachment to these minutes.

5. Wider participation to include members of the public, other town and parish councils and MDDC/DCC

It was felt that for the first objective, the Working Group should not look to increase its membership.

There would be initiatives where a larger membership would be beneficial and the Parish Councils of Cullompton, Tiverton and Uplowman could be invited to join.

Inviting external independent groups could bring additional expertise to the Working Group as and when required. For example, the Willand Community Speedwatch worked separately to the Parish Council.

Likewise representation from Devon County Council and Mid Devon District Council would be decided at each meeting.

6. Joint petition for reduction in the speed limit on the Uffculme Straight

It was felt that the objective needed to be achievable and, as discussed at the previous meeting, moving from 60mph to 50mph would be a more realistic goal than asking for a reduction to 40mph.

The Clerk would contact Councillors Radford and Slade (DCC) to understand the information that would need to be provided to achieve the reduction in the speed limit.

A petition would be organised and each Parish Council would promote the petition through their individual websites and social media outlets.

The proposed petition wording was:

Reduction in the speed limit on the Uffculme Straight

The Parishes of Halberton, Sampford Peverell, Uffculme and Willand are asking residents of all parishes to support a reduction in the speed limit on the Uffculme Straight from 60mph to 50mph.

The respective Parish Councils believe that a reduction in the speed limit will make the road safer for all road users.

Besides the petition, the Working Group would need to provide a report and supporting evidence.

Councillors Slade and Radford would be asked which date in April would be more suitable 18 or 25 April 2024. If a DCC officer from HATOC or SCARF could attend, it would be beneficial.

7. Exchange of information between parishes to achieve consistency in speed limits and assist each other in achieving successful 20mph bids and other speed reduction and traffic safety measures

The exchange of information and the desire for consistency in speed limits through the parishes was welcomed.

8. Press/Publicity to raise awareness

Contacting the local MP and the candidates in the Police Commissioner's election could be beneficial.

The local press could also be contacted.

9. Any other business

Councillor Burt advised that 38 residents from Sampford Peverell had attended a meeting on the proposed landfill site at Greenway and a march was being organised. A joint march from Braid Park, Halberton and Sampford Peverell would highlight the need for DCC to consider the number of HGVs being routed down rural roads.

10. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting would be confirmed as 18 or 25 April 2024.

Councillor Ian Batchelor closed the meeting at 8pm.

JOINT TRAFFIC WORKING GROUP

Terms of Reference

Halberton, Sampford Peverell, Uffculme and Willand Parish Council have formed the Joint Traffic Working Group to assess the speed limits, traffic problems and highways issues in the parishes and to formulate proposals as to how improve safety for pedestrians and other road users.

Membership of the Working Group

Councillor Ian Batchelor – Chair, Halberton Parish Council
Councillor Patricia Blackman – Chair, Uffculme Parish Council
Councillor Tim Burt – Chair, Sampford Peverell Parish Council
Councillor Rob Furmedge – Vice-Chair, Halberton Parish Council
Councillor Keith Grantham – Willand Parish Council
Councillor Sue Leach – Willand Parish Council
Councillor Phil Cornish – Vice-Chair, Uffculme Parish Council
Councillor Jason Scott – Willand Parish Council

Susan McGeever – Clerk for Halberton Parish Council

Objective of the Working Group

To improve speed limits, traffic conditions and road safety for all users.

Note:

The Traffic Working Group cannot make non-delegated decisions or spend any money on behalf of the Parish Councils involved. Any recommendations put forward will be subject to approval by Full Councils.

Reporting to Council

Representatives will formally report to their Full Councils at the regular monthly meetings. The aim being to inform of progress and raise points that need Full Council approval. Informal updates by any members of the Working Group to Councillors can take place at any time.

Delegated Decision making

The Full Councils have delegated the administration of the Working Group to its members together with the power to carry out surveys, organise petitions and gather information that will assist in meeting the objectives of the Working Group.