

HALBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of members of Parish Councillors from the parishes of Burlescombe, Halberton, Sampford Peverell, Uffculme and Willand to discuss joint traffic issues on 15 September 2026 at Willand Village Hall

Councillor Colin Slade, Halberton Parish Council, took the chair and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Present:

Present at the meeting were:

Councillor Tim Burt – Sampford Peverell Parish Council
Councillor Keith Grantham – Willand Parish Council
Councillor Stuart McDonald – Burlescombe Parish Council
Councillor Colin Slade – Chair, Halberton Parish Council
Councillor Steve Taylor – Vice-Chair, Sampford Peverell Parish Council
Councillor Ben Turner – Willand Parish Council
Susan McGeever – as Clerk for Halberton Parish Council

1. Apologies

Councillor Simon Clist – Devon District Council
Councillor Phil Cornish – Uffculme Parish Council
Councillor Terry Edwards – Uffculme Parish Council
Councillor Emma Forward – Burlescombe Parish Council
Councillor Neale Raleigh – Devon District Council

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 2 June 2026

It was RESOLVED by those who had been present at the last meeting that the minutes were a true record of the meeting and they were duly initialled and signed by Councillor Slade.

Matters arising from those minutes are covered within the agenda items.

4. Reduction in the speed limit on the Uffculme Straight

The Clerk circulated wording the petition:

Reduce the Speed Limit on Uffculme Straight from 60 mph to 40mph for Safety and Community Wellbeing

We, the undersigned, call upon Devon County Council to reduce the speed limit on the Uffculme Strait from 60 mph to 40mph.

This road is currently subject to a national speed limit that does not reflect the local conditions, including high pedestrian (it is a designated 'walk to school route' with no pavements or street lighting) and increased business and residential access since the limit was set.

In additional, due to the moving of the 30mph limit sign at the Uffculme end, the 60mph limit now applies to less than 1500m with 30mph residential areas at either end.

Lowering the speed limit will:

- Improve road safety and reduce the likelihood and severity of accidents.
- Make the road safer for vulnerable road users, including children, cyclists, and the elderly.
- Reduce noise pollution and improve quality of life for nearby residents.
- Support environmental goals by lowering fuel consumption and emissions.

We urge the relevant authorities to take immediate action to protect our community and all who travel this route.

A discussion took place on whether the reduction should be to 40mph or 50mph. It was felt that by asking for 40mph, 50mph might be achievable.

All parish representatives would take the wording to their respective Parish Council meetings for approval.

Once approved a change.org petition would be registered and the link provided for all parishes and this could go in newsletters, on social media and noticeboards.

A rough timescale would be:

Approval from Parish Councils	mid October
Petition launched	within 7 days
Petition closes	end November

Councillors Clist and Raleigh would be asked to present the petition to Devon County Council.

5. Exchange of information between parishes

The only new piece of information available was that the local MP had put forward a request for a reduction in the speed limit for one parish. The Clerk would investigate this further and approach the MP with regard to the petition for Uffculme Straight.

Sampford Peverell Parish Council remained deeply concerned about the ongoing parking problems resulting from insufficient parking at Tiverton Parkway. Whilst 'no waiting at any time' restrictions were out for consultation, this pushed the problem further into the village and produced problems for all road users.

The Clerk would contact Devon County Council.

It was noted that the role of HATOC had been questioned in the media.

6. Potential impact of Government planning targets, the new National Planning Policy Framework and resultant Increase in traffic volumes between parishes – need for upgrades to J27/J28.

The Working Group noted the meeting between Mid Devon District Council and the parishes along the A361 and adjacent to J27 to discuss planning targets, the new NPPF and the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment. Government policy was looking to place development close to major roads and railway stations and J27 was the most under-developed junction on the M5.

This could result in significant increases in traffic volumes and the infrastructure of the roads would need to be taken into account.

More would be known following the meeting.

7. Any matters that require Press/Publicity to raise awareness

Those present felt that the petition to reduce the speed of Uffculme Straight should receive press coverage.

8. Any Other Business

No update had been received on the lack of road markings from Waterloo Cross to the turning to Uffculme School.

Pedestrian safety in Burlescombe remained an issue.

The flattened cycle route bollards on the B3181 had not been repaired and consideration could be given to a reduction in the speed limit if the proposed development of 170 houses took place.

11. Date of next meeting

19 January 2027

Councillor Slade closed the meeting at 8pm.