

**Uffculme Parish Council**  
**Minutes of meeting held**  
**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at Magelake**

**Chairman:** P Blackman

**Present:** R Kingdom M Pollard T Pointing J Gardner S Kidd P Cornish

T Verona J Nash I Duncan

**22.01.01 Apologies for absence**

No apologies were received.

**22.01.02 To approve of the Minutes of Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

The minutes were agreed as an official council record.

**22.01.03 County Councillor's Report**

No report was received although Councillor Radford offered his apologies.

**22.01.04 District Councillor's Reports**

Councillor Chesterton advised the Parish Council that they should make comments on the local plan consultation which will run from the end of January for a period of 8 weeks. This is an initial consultation and will detail on the issues and options for the district as a whole rather than specific sites.

Councillor Evans advised that the weekly bin trial had been completed and there is a recommendation to move to a 3 weekly waste collection however no final decision has been made yet. The policy development group will review ongoing reports and then finalise a report to cabinet the change will see each household within the district being issued with a 180l bin, with the option of getting further bins for larger families.

The Tiverton Hotel is being used as a refugee temporary housing site, the decision has been made by the Home Office not at local government level and the arrangement is providing housing for the refugees rather than a site that they are confined to. This therefore means that refugees are allowed out in and around the area, as they wish.

The budget for 22-23 is still being prepared and its initial draft seemed to report a £900,000 shortfall. The requirements are being sent back to each department for review to consider where savings can be used.

There is an option that Mid Devon District Council will draw down some of its reserves which were set aside for a 'rainy day' which covid has seen many of.

Mid Devon District Council has only 34 out of 3000 council properties that are currently empty and this represents 1%. Whilst the District Council would like to see all properties occupied they have faced difficulties with staffing due to covid.

Councillor Warren advised that he has taken part in the scrutiny committee discussions at Mid Devon District Council regarding the connecting Devon and Somerset fibre broadband roll out. It is suggested that Airband will be picking up 'missed' properties in and around the area that are traditionally hard to reach.

Councillor Warren encouraged Uffculme Parish council to make a submission to the boundary review that is ongoing at the moment.

Uffculme Parish Council was encouraged to submit a response to the local plan and the potential implications of Junction 27.

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**22.01.05 Parish Council Vacancies**

Terry Edwards had circulated details about himself and how he would like to join the Parish Council prior to the meeting. Councillor Gardner proposed that Terry was co-opted to the council, Councillor Pollard seconded, and the meeting was in agreement.

Following Terry's co-option there is still 1 vacancy which the Parish Council will continue to advertise.

**22.01.06 Finance**

**22.01.06.01 To approve December Financial Statement**

The December financial statement was approved as official council minutes.

**22.01.06.02 Uffculme Men's Club**

The works were due to commence and the Parish Council would receive a request for payment within the next couple of weeks it was agreed that the clerk would make the payment.

**22.01.06.03 Pond Regeneration**

The Clerk advised that she received an update from the solicitor in respect of fees towards the pond lease. Due to the length of time and the ongoing discussions regarding the lease the initial estimate of legal fees had been exceeded. The clerk agreed that she would try to recover as much cost as possible from Westward given their delayed response throughout the process.

**22.01.06.04 Magelake**

There was no financial update.

**22.01.06.05 Square Planters**

Further to the discussion at the December meeting Yale had come back with some additional details in respect of the maintenance of the flowerpots within the square. She has agreed a contract price of £600 per year which she would review in time and report back to council in respect of ongoing finance support. Councillor Gardner proposed that we award the contract for the square planters to Yale, this was seconded by councillor Cornish and the meeting was agreed.

**22.01.06.06 2022-23 Budget**

The meeting discussed the budget, projects to support and financial commitments to commit to over the next 12 months. The final budget is attached to the minutes.

**22.01.07 Business Arising**

**22.01.07.01 Hillhead/Broadpath**

There were no further updates in respect of the site.

**22.01.07.02 ABN Feed Mill**

There were no further updates in respect of Feed Mill.

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**22.01.07.03 Uffculme Men's Club**

Councillor Kingdom advised the meeting that the Mens Club AGM had been initially delayed due to covid however this was expected to take place in the next few weeks.

The works in respect of the roof repairs was expected to commence in the next few weeks.

**22.01.07.04 Uffculme Bowling Club**

There were no reports available.

**22.01.07.05 Green Team**

Councillor Kingdom advised that the Green Team were looking for financial support from the Parish Council. There has been a lot of frozen veg made available to the green team from Dragon Flys Food at Hitchcock's Business Park and therefore it was agreed that they would be looking to run a soup kitchen going forward.

The Green Team have continued with their monthly wildlife reports and these are included in the spotlight magazine.

The Green Team is keen to look at any jubilee celebrations for later in the year and is keen to ensure that the village celebrates this occasion.

The meeting agreed that if the Green Team wanted financial support then they would need to make a financial presentation as a finance item within a future meeting agenda.

**22.01.07.06 Allotments**

Councillor Duncan advised that there had been an online meeting and there was no free plot available at the allotments currently. There are currently 5 people on the waiting list with 5 plots occupied by non-parishioners.

**22.01.07.07 Parish Maintenance update**

Councillor Pollard advised that they are looking to deal with the weeds along Commercial Road/The Square on the corner of Bridge Street and across the bridge towards Magelelake. It is anticipated that they will try a new chemical free spray which is suggested to kill off weeds without being harmful to the environment, animals or small children.

**22.01.07.08 Uffculme Pond Lease**

There had been little progress in finalising the last few details for the lease however the clerk was continuing to work alongside Westward and the solicitors.

**22.01.07.09 Traffic and speeding issues/Community Speed Watch**

Councillor Pointing advised there had been an online meeting on 16th December 2021 and although there had only been a few people attending there was again good momentum from attendees. It was agreed they would set up a Facebook group and meet again in February to progress matters.

**22.01.07.10 Schools update**

No report was available.

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**22.01.07.11 Clerk's Position**

The meeting resolved that the council would commit up to £500 towards the advertising costs on indeed for a new clerk. It was hoped that with a wider net we would catch some candidates. It was agreed the clerk would raise interest.

**22.01.07.12 Uffculme Village Hall**

Councillor Cornish advised that the village hall committee continued to review the quotes for arranging a toilet refurb, this is not needing financial support from the Parish Council as they have received grants from Mid Devon District Council due to covid.

**22.01.07.13 Giga-Clear Wayleave agreement**

The Clerk advised that she had returned the Giga-Clear contract and has been awarded a wayleave payment of £600, compared to the initial £390 offered up by Giga-Clear. Funds have not yet been received.

**22.01.07.14 Boundary Review**

The meeting discussed the ongoing parish boundary review being undertaken by Mid Devon District Council. It was agreed that a meeting would take place on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm and Councillors Gardner, Cornish and Kingdom would attend with the Clerk.

**22.01.08 Police Report**

Councillor Pointing walked through the crime statistics and it was noted there had been an increase in the number of reported incidents in and around junction 27.

**22.01.09 Clerk's Report**

**22.01.09.01 Water Fountain**

An initial design had been received in respect of the sign required for the water fountain however the meeting agreed that it was not suitable. Councillor Pollard would revert back to the sign designer and ask for an improved design which would include a note of thanks to Simon at the Ostler.

**The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 subject to confirmation by the Clerk.**