

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held

Thursday 4 September 2018 at Magelake Parish Pavilion Uffculme

Chairman: E Hagelstein

Present: M Pollard P Cornish S Stimson P Mackian J Gardner
R Kingdom S Kidd J Nash D Wells P Blackman

18.9.1 Apologies

P Best – Unwell R Chesterton – Another Meeting G Doe – Personal

18.9.2 Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk had previously circulated a brief introduction prepared by Ian Duncan in respect of his desire to become a Parish Councillor. The meeting discussed the application and Councillor J Gardner proposed Ian Duncan for co-option, this was seconded by Councillor M Pollard and all of the meeting was agreed.

Councillor Mackian asked for it to be noted that recently we have been very fortunate in that the Councillors who have joined the Council have been of a particularly high quality and have brought a new skill set to the Council which gives us more of a dynamic undertaking.

18.9.3. To Approve the Minutes of Meeting Held 5 July 2018

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

18.9.4 County Councillors Report – Councillor Radford

Councillor Radford provided an update regarding HGV's frequenting Chapel Hill in Uffculme. There is currently a weight restriction in place although it appears vehicles are still trying to pass this difficult stretch of road. It was suggested that the road signs advising drivers that the road was unsuitable for HGV's were cleaned and it was agreed the Clerk should contact the Highways Officer in respect of this. Councillor Radford explained that where a HGV breaches the road signs this in fact a police matter and they are required to enforce it.

Councillor Radford confirmed that the 30pmh speed limit at Ashill was progressing and he was pleased that this would be implemented. He did query whether the full £6,000 that had been allocated to the previous scheme would be required for Ashill and if there were surplus remaining the Council would look where else this money could be spent.

Councillor Radford advised that the widening of Clay Lane had been granted at a meeting of Devon County Council on 17 July 2018. This was a positive move.

The meeting was advised that there is an additional £1,000,000 available in the DCC budget towards the Carers within the County.

Councillor Radford has been able to secure £2,000 to a project known as Involve which covers the Tiverton & Cullompton area this is a positive step from County.

In April it was reported that there were some 7,400 potholes across Devon however due to the good weather we have experienced over the summer it is now reported there are only 700.

Councillor Radford again encouraged people to apply for Locality Budget funding and for projects in and around the area.

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Devon County Council previously owned the building at Broadpath which was used for the composting facilities within the site this has now been gifted to Viridor at an estimated value of around £500,000. It was expected that the cost of removing the building and equipment and taking them away would cost in excess of this and therefore the gift to Viridor seemed the most sensible thing to do.

Devon County Council is currently preparing its budget for the 2019/20 year and is under pressure due to further cuts from central government. Councillor Radford reassured the meeting that Devon was in a good financial position and reserves have increased from £40,000,000 to £85,000,000. There have been a number of local councils where finances have not been well managed, and they have fallen into financial difficulty. Furthermore, the debt within the County Council has reduced to £106,000,000.

Councillor Radford was asked whether the resurfacing of Pippins Field would be scheduled following our new Neighbourhood Highways Officer it was agreed the Clerk would e mail regarding this matter. Councillor Radford also suggested that the Parish Council applies through Locality budget funding for the Devon Air Ambulance night landing site.

18.9.5 District Councillor Report – Councillor Evans

Councillor Evans reaffirmed that the Local Plan is due to be heard on Thursday 20 September and Friday 21 September. Councillor Evans has secured a place at the table with the Inspector as well as Uffculme Parish Council, who will be represented by Francis Welland. The Inspector has asked 11 specific questions and it is only those 11 questions which participants at the table will be able to be involved in.

Councillor Evans was pleased to share that he had managed to pass a policy within MDDC that would see single use plastics swapped for a more sustainable option as and when they become available.

Councillor Evans advised that there had been some fly tipping up at Broadpath which had been reported and between being reported and cleared up there had been a further fly tipping incident. The widening of Clay Lane was agreed at County although to close the file properly the officer at DCC, Charlie Pope needed the representation from Uffculme Parish Council and the Clerk agreed that she would re-send this directly to Charlie as opposed to through the DCC portal.

The planning application for 125 houses at Willand was currently being sent for an implications report, the implications report is being prepared the MDDC is minded to refuse permission although it is conscious that the applicant is likely to go to appeal if they do refuse permission.

18.9.6 Finance

18.9.6.1 To Approve July Financial Statement

Approved as official Council minutes.

18.9.6.2 To Approve August Financial Statement

Approved as official Council minutes.

18.9.6.3 Uffculme Baby & Toddler Group

The Clerk advised that following the grant award agreed at the July Parish Council meeting she had received an e mail from Sarah Rock-Evans thanking the Parish Council for the very kind grant of £200 which would be very well received in setting up the Baby & Toddler Group.

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18.9.6.4 Uffculme Village Hall

Councillor Cornish, Kidd and Wells advised the meeting that they had an interest to declare in the Village Hall. Both Councillors Cornish and Kidd are members of the Uffculme Village Hall committee, and Councillor Wells' wife sits on the committee. The Councillors did not partake in the decision making of this item.

The Clerk had been provided with a letter from Uffculme Village Hall which stated that they were looking for funding towards redecoration and repairs to the paving slabs outside of the Village Hall. The meeting discussed the quotes and the works that were taking place and it was agreed that in principle the Parish Council would make a grant towards the paving costs up to £2,000 although we would require three quotes to be able to award this grant. This was proposed by Councillor Gardner and seconded by Councillor Pollard. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Secretary for Uffculme Village Hall and let her know.

The meeting also discussed that the Village Hall should approach the TAP fund and the Locality Budget to see if alternative funds could be sought from these sources.

18.9.6.5 Green Team – Green Day Monies

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had previously been approached by Chris Hill to request the purchase of a loud speaker ahead of Green Day however as Chris was a member of the public at the meeting he advised that they had sought this equipment and didn't require any financial contribution from the Parish Council.

18.9.6.6 New Bin for Pathfields

The meeting was advised by the Clerk that a new bin had been requested for Pathfields as the one there at present was very difficult to empty and therefore was frequently overflowing leaving litter lying around the play area. It was agreed that a new bin would be purchased and Phil Salter would arrange to empty this.

18.9.6.7 Website

The meeting was advised that the work carried out on the website by the Clerk had been in excess of her 'normal working hours' and therefore the Council would make a payment in relation to the hours spent on the website. The Clerk would circulate a list ahead of the October meeting and this would be reviewed.

18.9.7 Business Arising

18.9.7.1 Uffculme Central

It had been agreed for a meeting to be arranged between the District Council and the Parish Council to discuss whether the new Conservation Officer would look more favourably on the plans that had previously been prepared. The Council was keen to move forward in progressing matters and this would be arranged.

18.9.7.2 Mid Devon Local Plan

As Councillor Evans had previously advised the hearings were listed for 20 & 21 September and would be taking place at the Tiverton Hotel.

18.9.7.3 Landfill Site at Broadpath

The meeting was advised that a further liaison meeting for the Broadpath Landfill site was scheduled for 24 September and a report would be provided at the October meeting.

18.9.7.4 ABN Feed mill

The meeting was advised that the next Feedmill liaison meeting would be in December.

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18.9.7.5 Uffculme Mens Club

The meeting discussed the Men's Club and that there had been a recent change in employed positions within the Club. The Parish Council once again agreed that we should be aware of the Club's activities and decisions however we would not actively be involved in the running of the Club or providing any assistance.

18.8.7.6 Uffculme Bowling Club

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had been approached by the Secretary to the Bowling Club to enquire whether the Parish Council would have any objections to them moving the gates back about eight foot so that they could then pull in off of the road and park whilst opening the gates, and then closing them once they had finished without them being on the road. The meeting discussed this and agreed that it would be safer in this way and also hopefully would avoid any traffic issues therefore the Clerk would advise the Bowling Club that we had no objections.

18.9.7.7 Green Team

The meeting was reminded that Green Day would be taking place at Magelake on 22 September 2018.

Following the recent request about the notice board the Uffculme Trust had arranged for a notice board to be acquired to be placed at the end of Coldharbour. Although Councillor Pollard advised that as of yet he was unable to get the site and install it. There was also a Parish litter pick scheduled for 13 October 2018 and all Councillors were encouraged to promote this and or attend.

18.9.7.8 Allotments

The meeting was advised by Ian Duncan, in Councillor Best's absence that the water issue had been sorted. It had been agreed that a new water source would either be installed via land owned by Mr Alford or a bore hole. The water would be cut of when the pigs leave near the end of the year and it was hoped that the new source of water would be installed by the spring.

18.9.7.9 Tour of Britain

Councillor Nash advised the meeting that the event held at Magelake on 3 September was a great success and lots of people attended to watch the tour pass by. They had arranged coffee and bacon rolls and they had sold out of bacon rolls which was great.

The Councillors who organised the event Councillors Nash, Cornish & Best had arranged to source the bacon and coffee etc from local businesses who were happy to either gift or sell the items at cost price which therefore made the event more affordable for everybody.

The event still made an unintentional profit of £32.85 and it was agreed that this would be gifted to the Toddler Group.

The meeting recorded that special thanks should be given to Councillors Nash, Cornish & Best for their efforts in respect of the event.

18.9.7.10 Kingwood Parking at Magelake

The Clerk advised that following the June Parish Council meeting she had again written to Kingwood advising that car parking would still be withdrawn. Since the previously advised date of 23 July that car parking would not be available for Kingwood staff at Magelake they have continued to park onsite. Various options were discussed in terms of what action can be taken to deter staff from parking on site and it was agreed that following the confirmation received from various external bodies the Clerk would ensure the information on the car park at

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Magelake was correct. It was agreed that the Council would seek some legal advice on this matter as to how to manage the ongoing car parking issue and the rights over car parking on the site.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Kingwood and let them know that we were seeking legal advice on this matter.

18.9.7.11 BMX Track/Skate Park

Councillor Nash had prepared a questionnaire to circulate to the pupils at both the secondary & primary schools in Uffculme to establish what desire there was for a skate park this was discussed at the meeting and thought to be a very good over view of the situation.

The Clerk also shared with the meeting a letter she had also received from a local resident who was very keen on a skate park being installed.

18.9.8 Police Report

As Councillor Best was not in attendance at the meeting and we were not aware of any police liaison meetings there was no report to provide.

18.9.9 Highway Matters/Road & Traffic

18.9.9.1 Issues Around School Traffic

Since the road was resurfaced at the beginning of the school holidays the County Council have also installed new yellow zigzag lines outside the school. As the children only returned to school a couple of days ago it was to be established whether the new road markings would have an impact on the traffic issues.

18.9.10 Correspondence

18.9.10.1 Uffculme Village Hall

The Clerk shared with the meeting an invitation to the Uffculme Village Hall Open Evening on the 21 September 2018 for Cheese & Wine to celebrate the works that had taken place. The Clerk encouraged Councillors to attend and suggested they replied directly to Yvette.

18.9.11 Clerks Report

18.9.11.1 Devon Air Ambulance Night Landing Site

The meeting agreed that the Clerk would prepare a Locality Budget application towards the cost of the Air Ambulance site.

18.9.11.2 RBL Poppy Appeal

Councillor Haglestein updated the meeting in respect of the Remembrance celebrations that were being organised for this year. This included knitted poppies that would be displayed above the Co-op as well as various other memorials around the village including car poppies being displayed around the War Memorial.

18.9.11.3 War Memorial Cleaning

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had contacted AG Real & Son in Honiton to enquire about the cost of cleaning the War Memorial their quote had come in at £683 which on initial review the Clerk & Chairman had felt was slightly excessive. It was agreed that we would also make enquiries of Fine Memorials in Tiverton.

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18.9.11.4 Markers Pond

The Clerk advised the meeting that she has had a lot of issues contacting West Country Housing regarding this matter and it is now understood that there is a dispute as to who actually owns the land. During the public session local resident Annie Saunter had raised the issue of not knowing who owned the land and the debris that had built up on it. She was advised that the Parish Council was not able to pay for the Land Registry search as it was not a matter that concerned the Parish Council and if we were seen to be downloading Land Registry documents for one parishioner then this could potentially spiral. The Clerk advised that she would be willing on a personal level to assist Annie in downloading the documents although she would have to cover the cost.

18.9.11.5 Magelake

The Clerk advised the meeting that there had been some queries raised in respect of the charges for Magelake and that a meeting needed to be arranged with Martin and the football teams to discuss a way forward. The Clerk assured the meeting that this was an issue for MRH Management as opposed to the Parish Council but we would provide support.

18.9.11.6 Community Open Day at Square Corner 29 September 2018

The Clerk asked Councillors whether somebody would like to man a table to promote the Parish Council at the event and the Councillors were unavailable to attend the Open Day and as the Clerk is away it was agreed that some leaflets would be prepared with contact information and also to promote the new website.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 4 October 2018 at Magelake Pavilion.