

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
Thursday 3 October 2019 at Magelake Parish Pavilion, Uffculme

Chairman: E Haglestein

Present: S Kidd R Kingdom J Nash M Pollard T Pointing
 J Gardner P Blackman I Duncan

19.10.1 Apologies for Absence

D Wells – Holiday P Cornish – Work Commitments P Mackian - Holiday
R Chesterton

19.10.2 Vacancies of the Council

The Clerk shared with the meeting a letter she had received from Councillor Best tending his resignation. The meeting agreed that Councillor Best had brought many good ideas to the Council and his support and commitment towards projects was appreciated.

19.10.3 To Approve the Minutes of the meeting held 5 September 2019

The minutes were approved as an official Council record.

19.10.4 County Councillors Report

Councillor Radford had shared his report with the Clerk and this was recapped during the meeting a full copy of the report is appended to the minutes.

19.10.5 District Councillors Report

Councillor Evans

Councillor Evans advised that as part of the boundary review that was being carried out it had been agreed that the Mid Devon District would retain 42 Councillors however the boundary review was ongoing as to the ward boundaries. In principle the 42 Councillors will have about 1600 residents per Councillor. One of the issues was in Cullompton where this margin was significantly outweighed due to development. Councillor Evans was part of a working group to suggest alternatives in this area. The meeting was advised that in their submission to the Boundary Commission the use of natural boundaries was recommended by the Boundary Commission and therefore the M5 may be a good point to suggest a review.

The MDDC 19/20 budget is currently looking at a £300,000.00 overspend however there was a review of all services ongoing and they were looking at the cost against service plan savings the most significant deficit in the 19/20 budget to date was with regards to planning fees and a much lower level of income being received from prospective planning applications than anticipated.

Councillor Warren advised that the appeal for planning permission relating to The Paddock at Willand was ongoing at Phoenix House and the meeting confirmed that Uffculme had no further comments to forward to the Inspector.

As Chair of the Environment Committee Councillor Warren was looking to develop connections with organisations and community groups who were committed to developing green ideas and ecological advances within the area. It was agreed that contact details of the Green Team would be shared with Councillor Warren.

The walkabout was scheduled for the following morning and Councillor Warren would be attending.

Verity Aldridge
Clerk to Uffculme Parish Council
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19.10.6 Finance

19.10.6.1 To Approve the September Financial Statement

The September financial statement was agreed as official Council minutes.

19.10.6.2 Coldharbour Mill

The following Councillors declared an interest and did not take part in this matter – Councillor Pollard and Councillor Haglestein

Following the request for funding that was postponed at the September meeting for 19/20 funds no information had been received from Coldharbour Mill and again this item was to be carried forward.

19.10.6.3 Uffculme Men's Club

The Clerk advised the meeting that in addition to the funds paid to RGB during September there was a further expense that would be presented for payment in October following the refurbishment of the Mens' Club. Again, the meeting agreed what a vast improvement the works made to the appearance of the building.

19.10.6.4 Ashill Play Area

The Clerk circulated the details of a new play equipment at Ashill that the Village Hall had asked for Parish Council's support of. The cost of the play equipment was £2,000 + VAT and the meeting agreed that this would be funded in full, this was proposed by Councillor Gardner, seconded by Councillor Pollard and all of the meeting was in agreement.

19.10.6.5 Uffculme Village Hall

As Councillor Cornish had not been able to attend the meeting the item was carried forward.

19.10.7 Business Arising

19.10.7.1 Uffculme Central

The meeting agreed that there were a lot of items that were ongoing at the moment and therefore this item would be carried forward.

19.10.7.2 Mid Devon Local Plan

As indicated by the District Councillors this item was ongoing. It was hoped that the new plan would be returned from the Inspector however it is anticipated that the changes the Inspector will make will be considered significant and therefore there will be another 6 week consultation period on the plan and therefore this is likely to take us into 2020.

19.10.7.3 Landfill Site at Broadpath

Following the planning application that was discussed by the Planning Committee in September the siting of a shipping container would now be installed at Broadpath and it was noted that this was primarily for the storage of tools

The Planning Committee had no concerns with regard to the application and a response was submitted to County Hall.

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19.10.7.4 ABN Feed Mill

Councillor Hagelstein updated that Marcus Tanner had now been relocated to Uffculme and that she had been trying to arrange a meeting with the Feed Mill for some time.

In addition the Clerk mentioned she had received an e mail from Brian Tolley suggesting that ABN would be willing to install duck feeders by the leat rather than the ducks crossing the road which appeared to be causing some danger on the roads the meeting agreed that this was a fantastic idea and it was agreed that the Clerk would responded advising that the Council would be happy for this.

19.10.7.5 Uffculme Men's Club

The meeting discussed again the works that were continuing, and the Clerk endorsed that she had passed on the Councils kind words from September to the Committee.

19.10.7.6 Uffculme Bowling Club

Councillor Haglestein advised she had been unable to attend the meeting and Councillor Mackian had attended in her absence. There was no update to be provided.

The Clerk mentioned she had received correspondence from MDDC advising that in 2021 there would be a rates review for the Bowling Club. It was anticipated that the relief applied to the Bowling Club at present would be withdrawn and therefore the site would become liable for business rates with effect from April 2021 the Clerk advised that she had forwarded these details to the Bowling Club to ensure they were aware of this.

19.10.7.7 Green Team

Councillor Kingdom advised an update with regards to the Coffee Morning that was scheduled for 12 October. The meeting suggested that they would pay the higher fee for Square Corner and a contribution towards the teas and coffees it would be agreed at the November meeting.

The Co-op would also be partaking in a plastic free unwrap whereby customers would unwrap their shopping of single use plastics and the Co-op would take these back and dispose of them.

19.10.7.8 Allotments

As Councillor Best had tended his resignation Councillor Duncan was able to advise that the celebration of 10 years since commencement of the allotments had gone well and that there had been a photo competition within the village.

19.10.7.9 BMX Track/Skatepark

The Clerk advised that she had been working on the funding proposals for submission to Viridor to gain funding of the Skatepark and that the information required was extensive. The Clerk also discussed the use of social media to gain evidence of public support of the project and it was agreed that a page would be created ahead of the coffee morning. It was also suggested that Ray had some £3,000 Investing in Devon funds that he may be able to contribute towards the BMX/Skatepark.

19.10.7.10 Parish Maintenance Update

Councillor Pollard was able to discuss the progress made with regards to the new shed at the Cemetery the cost was in the region of £300 + VAT for a new 6'x4' shed. This would include the removal of the existing shed. It was agreed that as this cost was included within the Parish Maintenance budget it would be approved and the Clerk would liaise with the supplier.

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19.10.7.11 Magelake Management Contract with MRH

The Clerk advised that since the last meeting no further progress had been made with regards to this matter and that the existing contract would be rolling on in the interim.

19.10.8 Police Report

Following Councillor Best's resignation there were no details provided however it was agreed that Councillor Pollard would take over the reporting of this. However subsequent to the meeting Councillor Pointing has suggested he would be happy to administer this item and therefore he will take responsibility going forward.

19.10.9 Clerks Report

19.10.9.1 Markers Pond

The Clerk advised that since she returned to Westwood with the proposal for reduced costs, she has not heard back from Westwood with regards to this matter it was agreed that if no response had been received within a couple of weeks a chaser would be sent.

19.10.9.2 Boundary Review

The Clerk updated the meeting with regards the Boundary review and suggested that working with Willand would be a step forward. It was agreed that Willand would revert back to the Clerk following their meeting on the 10 October and a draft response would be presented ahead of the submission deadline in early November.

19.10.9.3 MDDC Parish Walk About 4/10/2019

The Clerk again reiterated the Parish walkabout with MDDC around their areas was to be conducted the following morning. Any Councillors that wished to attend were encouraged to do so.

19.10.9.4 Speed Review

The results of the speed review were discussed and although further information had been provided from County Councillors still did not feel satisfied with the responses. It was agreed that the response back to County would be put on hold until the Luccombe Park development was occupied and speeds would be monitored thereafter.

19.10.9.5 Coffee Morning – 12 October 2019

The Clerk once again reiterated that the Parish Council would have a presence at the coffee morning on the 12 October to raise awareness of the Council, its activities and also to raise public support of the Skatepark and to gain names of people who would be interested in maintaining local areas in and around the village.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 7 November at Magelake Parish Pavilion.