

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
Thursday 5 July 2018 at Ashill Village Hall

Chairman: E Hagelstein

Present: P Best P Blackman P Cornish S Kidd D Wells J Nash
J Gardner

18.7.1 Apologies

S Stimson – Family R Kingdom – Holiday M Pollard – Illness P Mckian – Holiday

18.7.2 Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had placed the notice from MDDC on the notice board on 2 July advertising the vacancy within the Parish Council following the resignation of Pam Golding.

The Clerk advised that there had been interest from Ian Duncan to join the Parish Council and he attended the meeting this evening.

18.7.3. To Approve the Minutes of Meeting Held 7 June 2018

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

18.7.4 County Councillors Report – Councillor Radford

Councillor Radford advised that a meeting between Phil Morgan, Neighbourhood Highways Officer, and the Parish Clerk had been positive and many of the issues in and around Uffculme had been discussed and action plans agreed to deal with these.

Councillor Radford advised that he had been contacted by a local resident regarding issues over the junction at the bottom of Bridwell Avenue. The resident was concerned about the increased traffic, the speeds of traffic and the likely impact once the 90 houses within Harvesters had been built. Councillor Radford had forwarded the email onto Tom Vaughn to get additional details with regards to speed recording etc.

18.7.5 District Councillor Report – Councillors Chesterton, Doe and Evans

Councillor Doe advised that there was to be a memorial service within People's Park in Tiverton on Friday 6 July 2018 to commemorate 100 years of the Suffragettes. Female members of MDDC had been encouraged to attend and a tree was being planted to commemorate.

Councillor Evans advised that Burlescombe Parish Council had received resignations from all of its Councillors and therefore they were not by right entitled to attend the Broadpath liaison committee meeting however Councillor Evans had been happy for a representative to attend. There were no decisions to be made at the meeting however if there had they would not have a valid vote.

Western Power are in the process of trying to install an additional electricity supply to the quarrying site and this will be by way of an additional large cable up from the A38 along Clay Lane. It had been reviewed and Broadpath was not an option. The installation of the cable would be a significant project and it was being reviewed whether the works could take place overnight and or at a weekend as it would cause severe disruption to lorries in and out of both the landfill site and the quarrying sites.

The meeting was advised that Aggregate Industries have made an application to Devon County Council to widen Clay Lane. This application had not yet been verified but the application in itself was a positive step. It is not expected that there would be any objections to the works and Councillor Evans will be hoping that the decision will be made by an officer, rather than full Council which will mean that the decision would potentially be made a

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lot quicker. Councillor Evans had arranged to meet with the residents who reside on Broadpath to make them aware of this application and they were pleased to hear about it.

Councillor Chesterton advised the meeting that MDDC had recently agreed to offer free parking within Cullompton, Crediton and Tiverton on the three weekends before Christmas. This decision had been reached much earlier than in previous years which would allow businesses time to plan for this.

18.7.6 Finance

18.7.6.1 June Financial Statement

Approved as official Council minutes.

18.7.6.2 Markers Pond

The Clerk advised that she had once again been in contact with Westwood Housing to establish whether there was a basis for a formal lease to be put in place for the Markers Pond. There was a meeting of Westwood Housing the following week and it was hoped that at this meeting some further information would be available. The Clerk would continue to chase the progress on this matter.

18.7.6.3 Jess Grass Cutting

The Clerk advised that she had received a summary of the grass cutting carried out by Jess in July and that he was happy to continue with cutting the bank below the Rec.

18.7.6.4 BMX Track/Skate Park

Councillor Nash advised the meeting that she had liaised with Becky Little and the primary school head teacher who had advised that they were more than happy to have a questionnaire go out to pupils in September. It had been agreed to deal with it in the new school term as there was only a couple of weeks left with lots of activities going on in the school. This would then give Councillor Nash and Becky Little a chance to compile a questionnaire to ascertain the children's thoughts.

18.7.6.5 Uffculme Baby & Toddler Group

Councillor Cornish advised the meeting that he has an interest to declare, he is the Treasurer of The United Reform Church. Councillor Cornish did not take part in the decision making of this item.

The Clerk advised she had been contacted by Sarah Rock-Evans who was trying to set up Uffculme Baby & Toddler Group. This was as a result of the Cullompton Childrens Centre withdrawing the outreach site that had been based at the URC Church on a Wednesday morning for a number of years. Their funding cuts meant that attending additional sites was no longer possible. The Clerk shared a summary of the work that was anticipated and some of the costs associated with setting up the group. Councillor Haglestein proposed that a grant be offered to the group of £200. This was seconded by Councillor Gardner and the meeting agreed. The Clerk would write to Sarah Rock-Evans to let her know about the grant that had been awarded. The meeting also agreed that it would be worthwhile for the Baby & Toddler Group to make an application to the TAP fund however this money would perhaps not be available until November and our grant would hopefully get them started in the meantime.

18.7.6.6 Other Finance Matters

Magelake

The Clerk had recently been provided with an estimate for repair works to the Magelake football pitch goals. There were four goal mouths that needed attention as in previous years. The Council agreed that they would

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cover the cost this year however the Clerk should write to Martin Halse advising that given the increase in charges for the football pitch hire it would be hoped that next year the Council would not need to contribute towards these costs.

The Council had received details of a quote to have some drawings prepared to change the open space in front of the archive area in Magelake into an enclosed office. This would mean that the area could be used as an office whilst the hall was currently in use. This is currently not possible. The quote was for £300 and the Council agreed that we should have at least another two quotes before being in a position to agree its expenditure

18.7.7 Business Arising

18.7.7.1 Uffculme Central

The Clerk had been in contact with MDDC regarding Ayshford House and the planning enforcement letter and during this conversation had been advised that Greg Venn had been appointed as the Conservation Officer for the area, replacement to Sue Warren. It was agreed that the Clerk would invite Greg Venn to attend a meeting onsite with the Council to ascertain his thoughts on the proposals. It was agreed that our District Councillors would also be invited to attend this meeting.

18.7.7.2 Mid Devon Local Plan

The hearings were scheduled for 20 & 21 September 2018 for the preliminary hearings regarding J27 and the associated housing. There were no further updates available at this time and once the Inspector had heard from participants in September it is anticipated that the hearings for the full plan will not be until January/February 2019.

18.7.7.3 Landfill Site at Broadpath

This was covered in the report by Councillor Evans.

18.7.7.4 ABN Feed mill

On the same date as the Broadpath liaison meeting there had been a Feed mill liaison meeting. One of the issues that had been raised was that some villagers feel that they have an increased level of catarrh whilst they are in the village which they do not experience when outside the village and it was wondered whether this could be due to the feed mill.

The Manager of the Uffculme site was now walking around the village to see where the site could be smelt from whilst it is in operation. This is part of ABN's plan to try and minimise the impact on residents. The meeting was once again reminded that if there are any poor smells from the feed mill they should report them on the Environment Agency hotline.

The next meeting would be in December.

18.7.7.5 Uffculme Mens Club

The Clerk was not made aware of any further developments within the Men's Club and as Councillor Kingdom was on holiday we had no report.

18.7.7.6 Uffculme Bowling Club

The Clerk was aware of no issues within the Bowling Club.

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18.7.7.7 Green Team

The Green Team had recently cleaned the bus shelter and this had made a notable improvement.

Following the last meeting it was thought that the Green Team had made contact with the Uffculme Trust to ascertain whether a notice board along the railway line in Uffculme was possible.

18.7.7.8 Allotments

A BBQ of allotment holders had taken place the previous weekend and it was a great success. Councillor Best advised it was a good opportunity for the allotmenters to come together.

There had been a recent dispute regarding the water supply to the allotments. It had become apparent that the pipe which carries water to the site passes over the land of Jonathan Gubb and although there had been no formal agreement regarding the pipe passing over his land he was now in a position to sell the land and therefore this was causing an issue. It had been agreed between the allotments landowner and Jonathan Gubb that the water supply would not be disrupted until at least the pigs leave the allotment site in December.

It was noted that there were a couple of empty plots within the allotments and it was hoped that these would soon be filled.

18.7.7.9 Tour of Britain

The meeting discussed whether the Parish Council would want to be involved in arranging a celebration for the Tour of Britain which will pass through the village on 3 September 2018. It was suggested to run a competition to decorate a bike and the bikes would then be placed at various points along the route. Councillors Best, Cornish and Nash agreed to form a committee to try and organise an event at Magelake.

18.7.7.10 Kingwood Parking at Magelake

Following a meeting of the Magelake committee on 14 June 2018. The Clerk had written to Kingwood advising that with effect from Monday 23 July 2018 car parking would not be available within Magelake for staff and parents. Within the letter the Clerk also suggested that parking within Denners Way was not a suitable alternative.

The Clerk had had a lengthy telephone conversation with Trevor Dancer of Kingwood on Wednesday 4 July 2018 although the telephone call had been cut off. Mr Dancer advised that he would deliver a letter to the Council that evening.

The Clerk had not received any correspondence from Kingwood in respect of the matter and therefore telephoned again on the afternoon of Thursday 5 July 2018 so that there was information ahead of the meeting. Again, after another lengthy, and sometimes heated discussion, the Clerk advised Mr Dancer that she would present the letter, which was now e mailed, to the meeting.

The meeting discussed the letter, although given the length and the short period of time to which it became available Councillors had not read it in detail. The meeting agreed that the decision by the Magelake committee and as communicated to Kingwood in a letter of 18 June 2018 would remain and car parking facilities would be withdrawn. The meeting discussed the issues that the Kingwood parking at Magelake has presented and it is the Parish Council's obligation to ensure that Magelake is safeguarded for the future. The meeting agreed that the parking of vehicles at Magelake does not give suitable protection to Magelake and the Parish Council going forward. The Clerk also advised the meeting that Mr Dancer felt that this should be considered along with the prospect of parking within Denners Way not being a suitable alternative, whereas the Clerk advised that this was two separate matters. The Clerk explained to the meeting that she had reviewed the title plans and she had

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asked a legal representative to do the same. It was the understanding that the road area, up until the bricks, was in fact owned by Westwood Housing and therefore a private road. The meeting agreed that the Council should continue with its original plan to withdraw parking facilities at Magelake and then if parking issues within Denners Way re-occurred we would deal with it as separate matter, with the support of Westwood Housing.

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had felt quite uncomfortable discussing this matter with Mr Dancer on the telephone and therefore she had asked Councils support to request that this matter is only dealt with by written communication. The meeting agreed that this would be the most appropriate way forward.

The meeting also agreed that representatives of the Council would be willing to meet with Mr Dancer to discuss his letter and concerns if he so wished and the Clerk would respond in this manner.

18.7.8 Police Report

Councillor Best had attended the Cullompton Police Station on Wednesday 4 July 2018 for a Parish Council Community Engagement meeting. At the meeting he had been made aware that during the month of June there had been some 528 people missing within Devon. A large majority of these had been under 18's. He also mentioned that the Devon & Cornwall Police Force is encouraging awareness of the County Lines Project and this should be shared as much as possible.

The Police is also looking to develop its use of social media with trying to make issues within the police force and or crimes more aware to the local people in the hope that they can raise awareness of issues.

The PCSO for Uffculme is now Tracey and she would be willing to attend the meeting if needed although it is hoped that the community meetings would be held regularly and updates fed back through one representative of the Parish Council.

Councillor Best agreed that he would continue to attend these meetings on behalf of Uffculme Parish Council.

18.7.9 Highway Matters

18.7.9.1 Issues Around School Traffic

The Clerk again raised the issues regarding the school traffic and it was hoped that once the resurfacing works had taken place and new white lines in place then in the new school term things may be able to be enforced a little more with the support of the primary school.

The Clerk had received a report from Phil Morgan, Neighbourhood Highways Officer, that the gully's along Clay Lane would be cleaned on 23 July 2018. This was following some complaints from residents about flooding.

The Clerk had also recently been advised that Ashley Road would be resurfaced between 30 July and 1 August, inclusive. This was during the school holidays and it was now planned into the national database so hopefully it would happen this time.

18.7.10 Correspondence

The Clerk was not aware of any correspondence other than discussed previously.

18.7.11 Clerks Report

18.7.11.1 Devon Air Ambulance Night Landing Site

The Clerk had received a quote from Devon Air Ambulance for the material cost of the lights to enable Magelake to be used as a Devon Air Ambulance designated night landing site. The total cost of the materials was £1377. The labour element of the works was able to be funded by Devon Air Ambulance Trust and therefore we would

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only need to cover the material cost. The Clerk suggested to the Council that they might be able to apply to the TAP fund for these monies and it was agreed that this should be done.

18.7.11.2 Website

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had during the previous week cancelled the order with the internet provider arranged previously. It had become apparent that the company was lying in terms of progress of the application for the 'uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk' domain name. The application had not been processed in the four months that they had funds, despite them advising that the delay was due to the government department. Since the application for the domain name had been withdrawn the Clerk had made enquiries of an alternative domain name supplier and it had already become apparent that the information needed to request a .gov domain name was far significant than the previous company had ever requested and therefore demonstrated their lack of willingness to complete the order.

The Clerk proposed to the meeting that the website is actually managed by her. The Clerk will have the support of her partner who has built websites. The Clerk felt that using an external party to build the website was now no longer an option due to the issues we seem to have encountered with every website provider to date.

The Clerk was confident that providing that the Council was in agreement the website could be up and running a lot quicker if it was managed ourselves. We would also be able to ensure that content was presented as desired by the Council and in a very simple format. The meeting agreed that the Clerk should proceed with arranging for the new website to be built and domain name requested.

Councillor Best advised the meeting that he would like to be involved with the website. The Clerk will liaise with Councillor Best for content in due course but the primary aim was to get the site live.

18.7.11.3 RBL Poppy Appeal

Councillor Haglestein advised the meeting that she had looked into options regarding additional memorabilia for the poppy appeal and that the Church had also applied for a grant for some Perspex cut outs. It had been agreed that there would be a knitted poppy display from the balcony above the Co-op.

18.7.11.4 War Memorial Cleaning

The Chairman had also asked the Clerk to get a quote for the cleaning of the war memorial and the Clerk had requested this from AG Reel & Sons.

18.7.11.5 Location of Future Meetings

The Clerk asked the Council whether they felt that Magelake was a more suitable location for future meetings, rather than The Square Corner. Since the renovation of the Pavilion Room Councillors had commented that actually it worked as a better layout for meetings.

Councillor Gardner proposed that with effect from September all future meetings should be held at Magelake, Councillor Cornish seconded this and the meeting was in agreement.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Clare Nicholls of The Square Corner to advise that we would not be hiring the hall for the last three meetings of the year.

Councillor Kidd asked the Council to consider whether there was a possibility of making a grant to The Square Corner equivalent to the hire charges to ensure that The Square Corner is able to continue.

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18.7.11.6 Ayshford House – Livery & MDDC Planning Issues

The Clerk advised the meeting that following the letter received by a resident from Livery regarding the unlawful installation of satellite dishes, sheds, fences, etc within Ayshford House she had been in contact with MDDC and our District Councillors to raise this issue. It seems that MDDC are now reviewing the previous correspondence in respect of this matter, it appears that it has been ongoing since November 2017, at least. The person dealing with the matter was not available when the Clerk had tried to contact them on a number of occasions and she had been advised that the newly appointed Conservation Officer, Greg Venn, would be dealing with the matter. As previously agreed the Clerk would invite Mr Venn to attend the meeting.

18.7.11.7 Pathfields/Footpath 5 Waste Issues

The Clerk had written to Westwood Housing in respect of the dumping of a large amount of soil on footpath 5 which looks like it has come from a property. The Clerk had written and provided photographs of the issue hoping that Westwood would action this point. The dumping of soil had caused an issue whereby the soil had washed down the footpath across the road and caused a blockage of drains resulting in a flooding of an elderly residents' sheds.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 6 September 2018 at Magelake Pavilion.