

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
Thursday 5 April 2018 at The Square Corner

Chairman: E Hagelstein

Present: P Best P Cornish P Golding R Kingdom P Mackian S Kidd

18.4.1 Apologies

P Blackman – Holiday

D Wells - Holiday

J Gardner – Illness

M Pollard - Illness

S Stimson – Family

R Radford – Another Meeting

R Chesterton - Holiday

18.4.2 Councillor Vacancies

No vacancies had been filled however one interested parishioner was in attendance at the meeting, Jen Nash, who is interested in becoming a Councillor.

18.4.3 To Approve Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2018, approved and signed as a correct record.

18.4.4. Finance

18.4.4.1 March Financial Statement

Approved as official council minutes.

18.4.4.2 Markers Pond

The Clerk advised that she had arranged a meeting with West Country Housing and a representative called Sam had attended the meeting along with Gina Veale. Sam had advised that she thought there was scope to arrange a long lease, perhaps up to 99 years, although she did not think that at this time West Country would be interested in selling off the land. I advised that the Council was interested in a long lease for the area and pressure had been applied by residents to deal with some remedial works. I provided Sam with a copy of the quote that we had received from Blackdown Environmental for the first phase of works.

An asset meeting was being held at the end of April and Sam was confident that following this meeting that she would be able to come back to me with a decision as to whether West Country would look to lease land to us and the arrangements could move forward.

18.4.4.3 Magelake

The Clerk advised that the works at Magelake were now complete and the costings have been within budget. Although the works had utilised all of the budget that had been allocated additional works from what was originally planned had been achieved, including new carpets, new handwashing facilities in the ladies toilet and a new ice machine as this had recently broken.

18.4.4.4 Clerks Laptop

The Clerk asked the meeting to consider whether the Council would purchase a new laptop as the one she had been using was not functioning well. The Clerk explained that when she was appointed the Council did not make a purchase of a computer and printing equipment as she had a new computer. The Council meetings were now conducted using the laptop and therefore a more reliable piece of equipment was required. Councillor Mackian proposed that the Clerk arranges to buy a new laptop to the value of £1200.00 this was seconded by Councillor

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Best and the meeting was in agreement. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange to purchase a new laptop ahead of the next meeting.

18.4.4.5 Burial Fees Review

The Clerk asked the meeting to consider whether they felt that a review of the current burial charges was required. The current charges were effective from January 2014, following a review and agreement at a Council meeting in December 2013.

Following discussions with fellow Clerks many now were looking at their burial charges on an annual basis and the Clerk wanted to understand if the Council felt this was required. The meeting agreed that a review would be a good idea and also it was discussed during the meeting that the government has recently brought in new piece of statute in respect of removal of burial fees for anybody under 18. Our charges would need to be updated to reflect this. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange a review of this alongside Councillor Pollard.

18.4.4.6 Magelake Grass Cutting

The Clerk advised that the existing agreement with Countrywide terminated on 31 March 2018. Martin had arranged a meeting with the representative for Countrywide who had provided an estimate of grass cutting charges going forward. The proposed charges were an increase on the existing as charges had not increased in the last 3 years. The Clerk advised that the Council is currently responsible for the weed spraying, strimming of the car park and the grass cutting of the areas surrounding the football pitches and Muga, but not the football pitches.

When dealing with the contract for Jess Lucas the Council had briefly discussed the option of using Jess on other local areas where the Parish Council covers the cost of the grass cutting. It was agreed that the Clerk would have a discussion with Jess as to whether he would be interested in maintaining these areas on behalf of the Parish Council and in the meantime we are likely to use Countrywide, under the new charges, until the end of the football season. Martin had advised the Clerk that he was likely to continue with Countrywide until the end of the season as it was not practical to change mid-season given games are scheduled most weekends.

18.4.4.7 Precept Monies

The Clerk advised the meeting that the MDDC Precept Monies should be paid into the Councils bank account on Monday 9 April 2018. There had been a delay due to the bank holiday.

18.4.4.8 Litter Pickers

The Chairman had asked the meeting to consider purchasing some litter pickers that would be available for local residents to use to collect litter whilst they are walking around the village. This would be on a voluntary basis and it was agreed that we would liaise with Councillor Pollard as to where the litter pickers had been purchased from previously.

It was also discussed whether there are any local community groups that maybe interested in assisting with litter picking, in addition to the Green Teams efforts and this would be explored once we had got the litter pickers.

18.4.5 Business Arising

18.4.5.1 Uffculme Central

The Clerk advised that she had arranged a meeting with the Conservation Officer, Sue Warren of MDDC next Wednesday. Councillor Pollard was also hoping to attend. The Council would present the current plan for The

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Square and Ayshford Green to Sue Warren to see whether they would meet with her agreement prior to working on the plans further.

18.4.5.2 Mid Devon Local Plan

The Clerk advised she was working on a response to the Mid Devon Local Plan and this would be circulated.

Councillor Evans advised the meeting that he was not aware of many submissions from local groups in response to the current consultation.

18.4.5.3 Landfill Site at Broadpath

The Chairman advised she had recently e-mailed Mary Rees of the Environment Agency regarding the smells from the Landfill site. The meeting was reminded that although e-mails directly to Mary Rees do get recorded telephone calls to the Environment Agency get logged in terms of number of calls. If 4 issues are reported on 1 e mail they are only registered as 1 report, rather than 4. It was agreed that all Councillors should telephone the Agency if they smell the gas from the tip and the telephone number is: 0800 807 060

It was also agreed that the Clerk would arrange for a sign to be placed on the Parish Notice board advising people of the telephone number and to call.

The meeting also discussed the issues with the Ashley Close fencing and people having access to the private road down to the Blockworks and then using this for both dog walking and motor bike and quad riding up and down Sandy Lane. This was causing issues and was thought to be making the area unsafe in respect of the footpath.

18.4.5.4 ABN Feed Mill

The Chairman advised that she was trying to set up a meeting with the Environment Agency for 11 June 2018. There had also been a lot of reports of the feedmill smelling recently. These have also been reported to the Environment Agency and once again people were encouraged to telephone to report smells.

18.4.5.5 Uffculme Men's Club

The Parish Council had not received any communications in respect of The Men's Club. Councillor Kingdom was aware that the next meeting of the Men's Club was on 10 April 2018 and that she would be attending.

18.4.5.6 Uffculme Bowling Club

The meeting was advised that the canopy that was agreed at the March meeting was now in the process of now being erected at the Bowling Club.

18.4.5.7 Green Team

Councillor Kingdom advised the meeting that the Spring Community Litter Pick would take place on 19 May 2018 in The Square.

The Green Team Open Day was also scheduled for 22 September 2018 at Magelake. The Clerk had also had it agreed that no charge would be made for the use of Magelake to The Green Team.

18.4.6 Police Report

The meeting discussed that the Police should be aware of the motor bikes and quad bikes that are using Sandy Lane for riding their bikes around.

The Clerk reminded the meeting that she would be attending a Clerks Meeting at the Police Station in 2 weeks time and would report back at the May meeting the conclusions and information found out.

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18.4.7 Highway Matters Road and Traffic

18.4.7.1 Issues Around School Traffic

The meeting discussed the issues regarding school traffic and the irresponsible driving of certain parents in and around the school. Whilst this continues to be a concern the Parish Council is very much limited in what action can be taken against parents. It was agreed that we would try to arrange to attend a meeting of the governors of the primary school and or a PTFA meeting to once again highlight the issue.

18.4.7.2 Highways Neighbourhood Officer Dave Ashford

Following the Clerk advising the March meeting that a new neighbourhood officer had been appointed and that during a meeting she felt that he would serve our community well, earlier today she had received an e mail from Dave Ashford advising that with effect from 16 April 2018 he would no longer be our Highways Neighbourhood Officer and this would be Phil Morgan who was currently a Highway Enforcement Officer.

It was agreed that the Clerk would raise the concern over the resurfacing of Ashley Road as it had been previously indicated that it would take place during the Easter holidays, but no notification had been received.

18.4.8 Correspondence

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had received 2 letters of thanks from the Culm Valley Community Car Scheme and the Tiverton Ring & Ride Service to thank us for our donations towards their running costs.

18.4.9 Clerks Report

18.4.9.1 Devon Air Ambulance Night Landing Site

The Clerk advised that she was still waiting to hear an update on the electrical situation and what works were required to enable the Air Ambulance to land at Magelake at night. An e mail had been sent to DAA although the person responsible for arranging this was currently away on holiday, returning 9 April 2018.

18.4.9.2 Website

The Clerk advised that the new website was not yet up running and that she and Councillor Best were progressing matters as much as possible.

18.4.9.3 Proposed New Planning Response Policy

As Councillor Wells was unable to attend the meeting of full council it had been agreed to postpone the discussion and introduction of the new policy until the May meeting where Councillor Wells would be in attendance.

18.4.9.4 Grass Cutting Contract

As the contract between the Parish Council and Jess Lucas had been agreed at the March meeting the Clerk had arranged for Jess Lucas to receive copies of the contract and these have been signed.

18.4.9.5 Harvesters 30 Houses Update

The Clerk had received an e mail from DCH advising that their contractor, Kier, would begin works on the access into the site on June 2018.

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18.4.9.6 GDPR Data Protection

The Clerk advised the meeting of the new data protection laws that were coming into place on 25 May 2018. Although nothing had been finalised the Council was aware it would need to change some of its policies and also likely need to buy in some external support as on a recent course the Clerk had learnt that she and or a Councillor cannot be the data controller as the Clerk and the Council would be considered to be data processors. In the private sector it is possible for the data control and processor to be the same person. The Clerk advised that DALC the Devon Association of Local Councils was hoping to put together a package to assist parish councils in meeting their responsibilities.

18.4.9.7 Annual Meetings in May

The Clerk asked the meeting whether they would like to combine the Annual Parish Council meeting and the Annual Parish meeting onto the same evening in May. This was agreed, and it was also agreed that the meeting should take place at Magelake. The Clerk would ensure that a notice was placed on the Parish Council notice board and also within the Spotlight.

18.4.9.8 Post Office Closure

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had written to the Post Office Complaints Department following the closure of the post office in Uffculme for 6 days due to a technical fault. The response received back from the Post Office was not very reassuring.

18.4.10 County Councillors Report

Councillor Radford offered his apologies to the meeting as he had another meeting to attend.

18.4.11 District Councillors Report

Councillor Chesterton had offered his apologies.

Councillor Doe advised the meeting she had attended a recent meeting regarding Gypsy and Travellers Site within Mid Devon and that there were 27 official sites.

The District Council had suffered the loss of one of its Councillors, Clarissa Slade, recently which had been reported in the media.

Councillor Evans reminded the Parish Council that the Community Payback Scheme was available for any Community based projects including footpath clearing etc.

Councillor Evans also encouraged the Parish Council to make an application under the TAP fund either itself or for an organisation within the village and he also advised the meeting that TAP fund monies can also be used towards traffic orders eg: the proposed 30mph speed limit at Ashill.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 3 May 2018 and this will be the Annual Parish meeting as well as the Annual Parish Council meeting at Magelake.