

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
5 May 2016 at Magelake Parish Pavilion

Chairman: E Hagelstein

Present:

P Blackman	P Disley	T Emms	G Evans
P Golding	R Little	P Mackian	J Morgan
M Pollard	D Wells		

Apologies: P Cornish – family illness J Gardner – Holiday

Election of New Chair persons:

Councillor D Wells resigned from his position as Chairman of the council.

Councillor D Wells proposed Councillor E Hagelstein as Chairman to the council, this was seconded by Councillor M Pollard – no further proposals were made and it was unanimously agreed to appoint Councillor Hagelstein as Chairman of the Council.

Councillor T Emms proposed Councillor P Blackman as Vice Chairman to the council, this was seconded by Councillor G Evans – no further proposals were made and it was unanimously agreed to appoint Councillor Blackman as Vice Chairman.

Councillor Hagelstein thanked Councillor Wells for his long service as Chairman.

Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 2016 Approved and signed as a correct record.

Finance:

April Financial Statement

APPROVED as official Council Minutes

31 March 2016 Annual Accounts

Councillors unanimously agreed the Annual Accounts of the Council and these will be recorded as official Council Minutes

Lloyds Bank revised mandate

The Clerk reported that enquiries have been made for the online banking facility. All other bank signatories would need to register and the Clerk would liaise to get this set up.

Defibrillator

Councillor Hagelstein advised the meeting that she had contacted the Co-op and they were in principle happy to support the installation of a defibrillator on the external wall and that there may be some funding available from the sale of plastic bags in the shop. The decision on where to allocate these funds would however be decided by the staff of the shop.

Since the last meeting the Clerk reported that she has received an offer of funding from Uffculme Trust of £500 towards the cost. No public donations had been offered, although it was hoped that some more may be offered before the June meeting.

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It was also reported that Markers are currently fundraising for a defibrillator, it was agreed that Councillor Hagelstein will contact Gina Veale to establish where the Markers defibrillator is likely to be kept – whether it will be accessible to the public or reserved for only Markers Residents.

Contact will also be made with the fire Officer to establish if we can combine the orders to gain a more favourable cost. Progress to be reported at the June meeting.

Defibrillator for Ashill

Councillor Blackman reported that it was hoped to raise funds for the Ashill defibrillator at the Ashill Beer Festival during June. Although it was hoped that they would still be able to secure the British Heart Foundation funding.

Noticeboard

It was agreed that a working group should be established to agree a noticeboard to present back to Council for agreement. The working group was agreed as Cllr Emms, Hagelstein, Pollard and the Clerk. A meeting would be arranged to progress things.

Public Toilets

The Clerk reported that she had received the terms of the contract cleaner for the public toilets. These were 1 months' notice to amend or terminate the contract. The contract will be with AIS and they are happy to move between weekly cleans at £15 per week and fortnightly at £20 per clean, providing we give the 1 months' notice.

Councillor Blackman proposed we engage AIS to maintain the facilities and this was seconded by Cllr Emms. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Phil Salter.

Play equipment Purchase

Cllr Little reported that she had met with the play equipment provider that had installed the equipment at Ashill and he had provided options and detailed drawings that the Council were very impressed with. Cllr Doe also reported that she thought the equipment seemed very good value compared to the equipment her village had recently installed. A further meeting had been planned for late May with another supplier and the Council would look to review the comparative quotes at the June meeting.

Cllr Pollard also advised that the tree stumps/root balls that remained following the removal of the dead trees would also need removing prior to the installation of the play equipment – Cllr Pollard to make enquiries. It was agreed that the cost of removing the stumps/root balls would be treated as general repairs and not part of the cost of the new equipment.

TAP Fund Monies - UPC

The Clerk had not received any further information about the TAP fund monies available for the 2016/17 year. Although Cllr Radford advised that the application period would now be split into two parts to allow greater access to applicants.

At present there was not an identified project to make an application – to keep under review

TAP Fund monies – Coldharbour Mill

Councillors E Hagelstein and M Pollard declared interests in Coldharbour Mill

The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by Coldharbour Mill to request Uffculme be the lead Council for a TAP fund application that they wish to make.

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Coldharbour had sent through details of the scope of works that they were hoping to commission, this initially involved clearing the Mill pond area to conduct a survey for development opportunities. Then once reports had been commissioned the Trustees would be able to proceed with redevelopment which would include seeing the area being available for public use as an open space.

The meeting discussed the request and it was agreed that the TAP fund monies would effectively be placed in to a 'pot' that would be available for general maintenance and not a specific item or piece of work. It was also agreed that the time between TAP fund monies being spent and the area actually being open for public use was a considerable time and therefore may cause issues within the Parish.

It was agreed that the Clerk would offer a letter of support to Coldharbour Mill to assist in their applications for funding, although at this time the Council felt that the project was not the best use of TAP fund monies. When the project was nearing completion provision of picnic benches or alike would perhaps be a more suitable use of TAP fund monies, to be considered in the future if requested.

Financial Audit

The Clerk had previously circulated the annual audit papers to Councillors and invited any queries to be raised. There were no queries with entries in the audit papers and the meeting confirmed that the Chairman should approve the financial audit statements on behalf of the Council.

The Clerk also confirmed that Mr Rogers will conduct the Internal Audit again this year. The Clerk asked Councillors to consider asking Francis Welland to conduct the internal audit next year as he will be independent of the Council's finances, although has the experience and knowledge needed. The Clerk would confirm that the external auditors would be happy with this appointment.

Magelake Request for support of funding for salt store

Councillor Emms requested that the Council supports Magelake in an application for County Councillor Ray Radford's locality budget for funds to purchase a shipping container to be stored at Magelake for community salt supplies. The current arrangement is no longer viable as the containers used are provided by the football teams and they need additional space.

It was re-iterated that MDDC had previously provided garages for free at Ashley Close and Coldharbour, although these had been withdrawn, therefore the use of the containers provided by the football teams was a short term option.

It was agreed that the Clerk would send a letter of support.

Business Arising

Uffculme Central

Cllr Emms advised that the project was effectively on hold until the necessary information could be prepared for submission of the funding proposal in November – Viridor require all reports etc to be up to date and therefore preparing them now will deem them out of date by November!

Mid Devon Local Plan Review 2013 – 2033 – Update

Cllr Evans had sent the Clerk a report of current matters that included MDDC is still awaiting the additional technical data on J28.

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Since the last Parish Council meeting there had been a MDDC Full Council meeting at which it was voted that a feasibility report should be prepared by officers of the Council as to whether the land at J27 should be considered to be included in the local plan.

J27 Feasibility Report

Following the last Parish Council meeting Cllr G Evans had organised a meeting with local people who opposed the report as to whether J27 should be considered and it was a great turnout with many people also attending the MDDC meeting and presenting questions to Councillors on the inclusion of land at J27. District Councillors voted to prepare the report and to consider whether an amendment to the plan was needed. The report would be considered by Full Council in July.

The Council had also been requested to respond to MDDC on an environmental scoping request from the developers at J27. The request was issued after the vote to conduct the review of including land at J27 at the Clerk had raised concerns with this with the Head of Planning at MDDC - J Clifford. The scoping request had been circulated to Councillors and the Clerk encouraged input from Councillors in drafting a reply.

The meeting agreed that the reply should be circulated to Councillors prior to submission to MDDC by the 19 May.

Devon Minerals Plan – Update

Cllr Evans reported that the Inspector would be conducting his enquiry at County Hall in Exeter 24-27 May.

The Inspector has begun reviewing the plan and so far has asked for amendment to the provision for recyclable aggregate to move from 15% to 20%, although Cllr Evans was hoping to again increase this to 30%

Landfill site at Broadpath – Update

Cllr Evans reported that the planning application had been submitted to DCC for an extension to quarrying at Houndaller to extract the 100 Tonnes of dug sand.

Discussions are ongoing regarding the ROMP process to extend works for 15 years – it was hoped that agreement would be made to mitigate impact.

Planning Appeal at Harvesters - Update

Since the last meeting outline planning permission has been granted for 60 dwellings at Harvesters. The appeal was site specific and was as a direct result of MDDC not having adequate housing stock. It was to be expected that further applications would be made from developers who wish to gain permission on this point, given the lack of an agreed local plan for the district.

It was agreed that the Clerk will contact MDDC to request this parcel of land be attributed to Uffculme, especially given the Inspectors remarks in his report about the availability of services etc in Uffculme.

Willand - Proposed Boundary Change

Since the granting of permission for the houses at Harvesters the formal boundary review becomes more apparent.

The Clerk to arrange a meeting with Willand Parish Council to progress.

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Highway Matters/Road and Traffic

Ashill 30 MPH

The Clerk had not heard back from the County Council Officer responsible for highways and therefore this would be delayed until the June meeting.

It was however discussed whether the national speed limit signs could in fact be removed and would potentially help to reduce speeds in the meantime.

Cllr Blackman also reported that there were issues in Ashill on the road to the village hall-it frequently flooded and when residents had contacted Devon County Council they were advised that the road was privately owned and therefore not their responsibility. Cllr Blackman advised she had maps etc to confirm that the Highway isn't privately owned but is the responsibility of DCC. Cllr Blackman to email Cllr Radford to progress this.

Correspondence

Information available

Information was available at the meeting.

Other Correspondence

The Clerk reported that she had had requests from Magelake to write letters of support for two funding applications – locality budget for the road salt container and also to gain funding for football pitches refurbishment.

The Clerk was also able to read a letter of thanks from Sandra Phillips for her invitation to the Chairman's Reception.

Francis Welland also wrote a letter thanking the Council for the evening – included as official council minutes.

Clerk's Report

Pathfields Play Area

The Clerk has not yet been contacted by the officer at MDDC regarding options over a lease for Pathfields play area. Although it was understood the arrangements for a long term lease for Willand were taking a considerable time to implement.

Ashill – Proposed new Doggie Bin & notices – 'On Hold'

No further updates available at this time.

Website

The website had been slightly delayed, although it was hoped it would be live very soon!

County Councillor's Report (Cllr Radford)

Cllr Radford advised that many of the parishes in his area were applying to the Tap fund for funding towards defibrillators and that Uffculme may consider this.

He also reported that DCC is conducting a review into the railways in the County, including the options for the Dawlish or Okehampton routes.

DCC is also aware that it is very difficult for the Police to enforce the 20 MPH limits that are in the County

Verity Aldridge
Clerk to Uffculme Parish Council
28 April 2016

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The South West Highways contract is currently out to tender and a decision will be made in October as to which contractor the County Council will engage going forward.

District Councillors' Reports (Cllr Doe) – Apologies given by Cllrs Chesterton and Evans

Cllr Doe reported that the fire service are willing to visit the homes of people who may be at greater risk of not easily being able to vacate their property in the event of a fire due to a variety of reasons including hearing problems, hoarding etc. If anyone is aware of someone who may benefit from a visit and recommendations, they should contact her as the referral must be made through her.

A voucher was available to households that experience broadband speeds lower than 2MPS to upgrade their hardware to try to gain better speeds. Cllr Doe passed details to the Clerk to forward to all Councillors, there could be up to £500 available per household.

There are currently 429 long term empty houses in the Mid Devon District area. These are eligible to pay council tax, although Cllr Doe felt more should be done to fill these houses.

The next meeting will be Thursday 2 June 2016, 7.30pm at Magelake Parish Pavilion