

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
Monday 15th January 2024 at Magelake

Chairman: P Blackman

Present: A Logue M Bodger R Keeling P Cornish T Edwards
R Kingdom P Hallchurch S Lane

24.01.01 Apologies for absence

D Paterson T Pointing

24.01.02 To approve of the Minutes of Meeting held on 4th December 2023

The minutes were agreed as an official council record.

Public Session

There were no members of the public in attendance.

24.01.03 County Councillor's Report

Councillor Radford provided a report ahead of time (appended). Councillor Edwards raised a question in regards to potholes and advised it is more cost effective if repairs in the same area are rectified on the same day. Why is this not done? Councillor Radford advised that there was no logical answer available and that this is a point that is raised often. Clerk to email regarding wasted funds splitting the days to County and copy in Ray to request assistance in seeking a solution.

24.01.04 District Councillor's Reports

Councillors Conner, Glover, Clist and Bradshaw were not in attendance and did not provide a written report. Councillor Poynton did not provide report ahead of time, however, raised the following:

- 1) Budget deficit in hand – originally £2.1m, now £90k (2023-2024).
- 2) New National Planning Policy Framework released.
- 3) 6 right to rent dwellings in Cullompton by the end of March – many on the waiting list.
- 4) State of the district debate due to take place in Spring 2024.
- 5) 3% cap on budget increase imposed at District level.
- 6) Leader of MDDC to be on local news discussing potholes
- 7) Councillor Poynton to circulate a report to Councillors detailing performance in each area
- 8) Presentations ongoing regarding bypass and junction for the new town in Cullompton.

24.01.05 Parish Council Vacancies

The Clerk advised that there were 2 vacancies currently.

Uffculme Parish Council
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24.01.06 Finance

24.01.06.01 To approve December Financial Statement

The December financial statement was not available for approval. Deferred to next meeting with draft circulated to Councillors in the meantime.

24.01.06.02 Budget 2024-2025

Draft Budget 2024-2025 presented (appended). Councillors all in agreement.

24.01.06.03 Precept 2024-2025

To set the precept for 2024-2025 as £99,950 to match 2023-2024. Clerk to request from MDDC. All in agreement.

24.01.06.04 Grant Request – Forget Me Not Café

Grant request received (appended). Added to budget for 2024-2025. All in agreement.

24.01.06.05 Grant Request – Uffculme Football Club

Grant request received (appended). Grant total of £1900. Proposed by Councillor Lane, Seconded by Councillor Keeling, all in agreement.

24.01.07 Business Arising

24.01.07.01 Hillhead/Broadpath

Councillor Edwards advised that a liaison meeting is due to take place on either 22/01, 29/01 or 05/02. Parishioners' queries to be raised directly with aggregates via Councillor Edwards. Penslade 2024 planning application due to be submitted and more information on this will be available in due course.

24.01.07.02 Mole Valley Feed Mill

Councillor Pointing provided a report (appended). No questions were raised.

24.01.07.03 Uffculme Men's Club

No updates were provided.

24.01.07.04 Uffculme Bowling Club

Councillor Keeling advised that the next meeting due to take place on 24/01 at 2pm. Council asked to pass on thanks for the use of water during graffiti cleaning at the park.

24.01.07.05 Green Team

Councillor Pointing provided a report (appended). No questions were raised.

24.01.07.06 Allotments

No updates were provided.

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24.01.07.07 Parish Maintenance Update

Clerk advised that graffiti removed from playpark. Councillor Keeling advised that mud still in place around sections of the village, despite reporting to District/Highways. Councillor Keeling to request assistance from Mr Doble for the areas surrounding Coldharbour Bridge, Bridwell Road, Chapel Hill and Magelake/Corkshill to Bridge. All in agreement. Feedback had been received by Councillor Keeling about the village being messy. This is to be assessed going forward and action to be considered where necessary. Christmas lights still up – problems have been had with removal of these. No assistance requested. Lighting at Pathfields raised as an issue – to be referred to the Housing Association. Brambles at walkway between Coldharbour/Russett Close – Clerk to investigate.

It was advised that the repair carried out by SWW to Ashley Road/Clay Lane junction has sunk – Clerk to follow up with SWW.

Footpaths - Clerk advised that the planned Footpath 5 alteration had been raised with P3 team. Notice to be issued. Councillor Kingdom advised that 6 volunteers are in the process of providing their reports of all footpaths in the Parish.

24.01.07.08 Traffic and Speeding Issues/Community Speed Watch

Councillor Pointing provided a report (appended). No questions were raised.

24.01.07.09 Schools Update

No updates were provided.

24.01.07.10 Uffculme Village Hall

No updates were provided.

24.01.07.11 Magelake Committee / Repairs

Clerk advised meeting took place on 06/12. Minutes circulated (appended).

24.01.07.12 Youth Working Group

Councillor Pointing provided a report (appended). Clerk to follow up again with previous Councillor Willis. Youth Working Group to organise a meeting to discuss actions going forward.

24.01.07.13 Community Crisis (previously Ukrainian Crisis)

No updates were provided.

24.01.07.14 Play Areas

No updates were provided.

24.01.08 Police Report

Councillors Pointing and Logue provided reports (appended). Feedback from Councillor Logue's patrol visit was discussed. Clerk to circulate Councillor Logue's observations.

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24.01.09 Clerk's Report

24.01.09.01 Culm Valley and Pippins Field Play Area Leases

Clerk advised that queries had been raised with MDDC and that a response to this is still awaited. Will continue to chase. District Councillor Clist offered assistance with chasing a response.

24.01.09.02 Cemetery

Clerk provided an update regarding removal of unauthorised memorabilia. Article to be included in next Spotlight to advise Parishioners of planned actions.

24.01.09.03 Magelake

(See 21.01.07.11)

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 4th March 2024, subject to confirmation by the Clerk.

M/22



Gemma Cole <clerk@uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk>

FW: Feb/March Report

1 message

Councillor Ray Radford <ray.radford@devon.gov.uk>
To: Verity Aldridge <clerk@uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Sat, Jan 13, 2024 at 5:16 PM

Dear Gemma. Not sure I will be able to make your meeting, it will depend on the carers visit time, Ray

Dear Gemma & Members.

January Report

Yes, we are into another year, so I hope you all had a good Xmas and this year will be good.

We are now into the time when we have to prepare for the next coming Council's budget. AS always it will be difficult to arrive at a balanced budget, which we have to present to Full Council on 15th Feb. As the budget has not been agreed yet, I can't tell you what the Council Tax increase will be, DCC together with the Police and Fire Authority have to submit it to the MDDC who will then send out the Council Tax request.

The Senior Leadership Team has worked extensively with the service leads and finance officers to forecast costs and to develop plans to manage net service costs within affordable financial target

At Month 8 it is estimated that budgets will overspend by £4.5 million, comprising the £2.9m of in-year additional savings still to be identified plus net £1.6m in other variances. This is an improvement of £9.1 million compared to the Month 6 forecast.

This report provides a brief update on progress in this regard and presents the proposed service budget targets for 2024/25 totalling £743.4 million, a net increase of £43.8 million or 6.3% compared to the 2023/24 adjusted budget.

In terms of the Budget for 2024/25, inflationary pressures continue to be felt across the economy, local government and our partners and social care is particularly impacted by increases to the national living wage. Within the proposed Service Targets, it is proposed to allow for £22.8 million in total inflationary pressures. The rates of inflation used depend on the activity and any anticipated contractual obligations.

The inflation rate has continued to fall, and in November was 3.9%.

The National Living Wage increase also drives an inflationary impact on our costs.

In the Autumn Statement, announced on 22 November, the Government confirmed the National Living Wage will increase by 9.8% to £11.44 per hour. The Target Budgets set out below include £25.7 million for this additional cost. Despite the rate of inflation falling in recent months the impact of inflation on cost of living, business and service

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delivery costs places sustained financial pressures nationally, and this contributes to the ongoing impact in terms of price and demand pressures on the Authority's budget.

This is reflected in the proposed Target Budgets with investment of £48.5 million to cover inflation and national living wage plus £44.9 million to cover demand and other spending pressures and priorities. To enable the authority to set a balanced budget, savings, alternative funding and additional income of £49.6 million have been identified. Overall, there is additional funding of £43.8 million or 6.3% for services next year.

It is not currently planned to support the proposed budget targets by using general reserve balances. This reflects a strategy of 'living within our means' and as such to set service budgets that are affordable within anticipated income and funding totals for next year.

The proposed service revenue budget targets for the 2024/25 financial year are set out in the table below:

2023/24 Adjusted Base Budget Inflation and National Living Wage Other Growth and Pressures Savings, Alternative Funding and Additional Income 2024/25

Target Budget Net Change 2023/24 to 2024/25

	23/24	Inflation	24/25	Net Change	% change
Integrated Adult Services	£340,245,	£29,887	£360,746,	£20,501	6%
Children & Young People	£206,278	£9,795	£227,785	£21,507	10.4%
Public Health & Communities	£21,678	£533	£289	(£755)	-3.5%
Corporate Services	£49,255	£2,160	£48,495	(£1,310)	-2.6%
Climate, Environment & Transport	£81,619	£6,144	£85,482	£3,863	4.7%
Totals	£699,575	£48,519	£743,382	£43,807	6.3%

Please be aware, these are only provisional budget figures, yet to be agreed by Cabinet and then Full Council.

We are trying to get on top of the pothole/defect position, the weather has not helped. To give you an understanding of the current level of resources, at present there are up to 26 defect gangs across the County undertaking pothole repairs, supported by 2 additional sub-contractor gangs. With regards to serviceability repairs, we currently have around 8 internally resourced Milestone gangs carrying out larger scale repairs across the County. In addition to this they are being supported by two externally resourced gangs and further work is underway as we speak in potentially bringing in one or two further sub-contractor gangs. Lastly, all four dragon patching gangs are on programmed work this week and will continue whilst the weather remains favourable

Regards,

Ray

Ray Radford

Devon County Councillor

Willand & Uffculme Division

Email: ray.radford@devon.gov.uk

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Uffculme Parish Council

2024-2025 Financial Budget

FINAL - as agreed at Full Council Meeting on

Monday 15th January 2024

Uffculme Parish Council Financial Budget 2024-25

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6	Parish precept charge on a typical Band D property

Uffculme Parish Council Financial Budget 2024-25

Commentary

The working papers of the 2024-25 budget are attached.

The budget for 2024-25 was discussed and agreed at the Parish Council meeting on Monday 15 January 2024.

Page 3 shows the financial position of the Council at 1 January 2024, the fixed/committed Council expenditure between 1 January and 31 March 2024 and a forecast for the closing position at 31 March 2024. This is an estimated position.

Page 4 shows the annual forecast fixed Council expenditure and the income that has been projected for the period.

The Council agreed to amend employee rates of pay, with effect from 1 April 2024:

Gemma Cole - Clerk - Increase to £14.40 per hour from £13.20 per hour

Jess Lucas - Street Cleaning Operative - Increase to £12.30 per hour from £11.30 per hour (Self Employed)

The meeting agreed to extend the grass cutting contract for 2024-25. The contract will increase from £17,640 to £18,540, a 5% increase. All cutting to remain at current intervals.

Page 5 details the specific projects that the Council has committed to supporting in 2024-25

The Parish Council to consider continuing with the Community Fund in 2024-25, with this pot also being made available for subsidising local community groups. To fund local community groups, who can make representations to the Council for consideration to aid groups working in the community on a not-for-profit-basis. It is hoped that this financial resource will help community groups thrive and to provide all inclusive community support

The meeting agreed to increase the Precept to £99,950 for 2024-25 and it was resolved for the Clerk to make the submission to MDDC to this effect. It was agreed that remaining at the same figure would see a decrease in household contributions, still allowing the Council to continue supporting projects.

VAT - Input Tax estimated based on unrecovered figures from 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 being included, alongside 2023/2024. All figures are estimated based on high level information currently available

40% Increase against insurance, 9% increase on staffing related costs, 10% increase for general inflation

Gemma Cole
Uffculme Parish Clerk
15 January 2024

Uffculme Parish Council Financial Budget 2024-25

General Account 2023-2024 - 01.01.2024 - 31.03.2024

Bank Balance at 01.01.2024 - Current Account	369	
Bank Balance at 01.01.2024 - Premier Interest Account	134,548	
		134,918
Projected Receipts		
Burial Receipts - Uffculme Cemetery	750	
Grant - Festive Lighting	4,500	
Interest Receivable - Premier Interest Account	250	
		5,500
		140,418
Projected Expenditure		
Clerk's Salary	2,547	
Clerk's Expenses - Telephone, Office Sundries etc.	150	
Admin Expenses - PPS, Data Protection, Councillor Exp	500	
Admin Expenses - website	200	
Admin Expenses - Burial software	220	
Street Cleaning - J Lucas	1,115	
Grass Cutting Contract - 3/12	5,220	
Cemetery - General works, Water, etc	500	
Repairs & Renewals - General inc Public Toilet	1,900	
Footpath Maintenance	3,500	
Green Team - Fridge Hire	365	
Festive Lighting	4,120	
Allotments - 50% lease cost 2023-24	1,750	
Sundry Exp	200	
Grant - Spotlight 2023	400	
Grant - TDCTA - Ring & Ride 2023	350	
Grant - St Mary's Xmas Trees	282	
Grant - Culm Valley Voluntary Car Scheme	250	
Grant - Citizen's Advice	200	
		23,769
		116,649
Projected balance at 01.04.2024 - C/F to 2024-25 Financial Year		116,649

Uffculme Parish Council Financial Budget 2024-25

General Account 2023-24 - 01.04.2024 - 31.03.2025

Projected balance B/F at 01.04.2024	116,649	<u>116,649</u>
 Projected Receipts		
Burial Receipts - Uffculme Cemetery	3,500	
DCC - Parish Paths Partnership Grant - 2024	1,000	
VAT - Input Tax	50,000	
Interest Receivable - Premier Interest Account	1,200	
		<u>55,700</u>
		<u>172,349</u>
 Projected Expenditure		
Clerk's Salary	11,812	
Clerk's Expenses - Telephone, Office Sundries etc.	700	
Admin Expenses - PPS, Data Protection, Councillor Exp, Subs, etc	2,750	
Admin Expenses - Training, Clerk subscriptions etc.	2,290.00	
Admin Expenses - website, emails, Google drive	2,200	
Admin Expenses - burial software - annual licence	297	
Admin Expenses - Insurances	4,900	
Street Cleaning - J Lucas	6,180	
Grass Cutting Contract	18,540	
Cemetery - General works, Water, etc.	1,100	
Planters in The Square	900	
Green Team - Fridge Hire	1,460	
Emergency Planning contingency	1,100	
Maintenance budget - to include Commercial Road/Square clearing/Pond	6,000	
Repairs & Renewals - General inc Public Toilet	7,000	
Footpath Maintenance	1,000	
Magelake - Muga Maintenance/Repairs - Annual Contract	3,150	
Magelake - External Maintenance/Repairs - Annual Contract	1,720	
Magelake - General Maintenance/Repairs, Water etc.	8,700	
Magelake - General Maintenance/Repairs (B/F)	4,500	
Allotments - 50% lease cost 2024-2025	1,750	
Grant - Spotlight 2024	1,500	
Grant - Square Corner 2024	500	
Grant - St Mary's Christmas Tree Display - 2024	300	
Grant - TDCTA - Ring & Ride 2025	400	
Grant - Culm Valley Voluntary Car Scheme -2025	300	
Grant - Forget-me-not Cafe	500	
Grant - Citizen's Advice 2025	500	
Grant - Uffculme Green Day/Litter pick 2024	2,000	
Sundry Exp	1,000	
		<u>95,049</u>
Surplus to be accounted for in 2024-25 Parish Precept		<u><u>77,300</u></u>

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Uffculme Parish Council Financial Budget 2024-25

General Account 2023-24 - 01.04.2023 - 31.03.2024

Surplus from 2023-24 General Account	77,300
(Inc Projected 2023-24 Income)	
Amount Allocated to Reserves	
(At least equal to annual Fixed expenditure)	(95,049)
Amount of 2023-24 Precept committed to date	(17,749)
Amount Allocated to Reserves - Contingencies	17,749
Specific Project Allocations 2024-25 For Consideration	
Magelake - Pitch Maintenance/Repairs (B/F)	4,000
Ashill Village Hall	5,000
Uffculme Bowling Club (B/F)	5,000
Cemetery	2,950
Village benches (B/F)	1,500
Magelake - Fire System Upgrade (B/F)	3,850
Magelake - Car Park Surfacing (B/F)	1,000
Magelake - Car Park Surfacing	5,000
Youth Facility (B/F)	5,700
Youth Facility	300
Magelake - MUGA (B/F)	5,000
Magelake - MUGA Fence and Lighting Repairs (B/F)	6,400
Magelake - MUGA	10,000
Coldharbour Mill	5,000
George Footpath Improvements (B/F)	6,000
Xmas Lights Committee - Christmas Lights	1,000
War Graves Maintenance	1,700
Chain of Office engraving & repair (B/F)	1,000
Playground Maintenance/new fitness equipment	30,000
Community Safety Accreditation Scheme	2,000
Village Volunteers - Wildlife	5,000
Mens Club	5,000
Grit Bins	2,500
Community Traffic/Speed Fund (Craddock 30 / Chapel Hill) (B/F)	6,000
Community Traffic/Speed Fund - General	20,000
Community Fund (including Club Subs)	4,500
Village Hall (B/F)	4,500
	149,900
Precept 2024-25	99,950

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Uffculme Parish Council Financial Budget 2023-24

2023-24 and 2024-25 Parish Precept Charges

Uffculme	Current Year 2023-2024	Next Year 2024-2025	
Precept Requested	99,950.00	99,950.00	A
Number of Band D at 96.5% collection 2023-24 (Collection rate in 2022-23 at 97.5%)	1,044.57	1,108.59	B
Band D parish Charge	= A divided by B	95.69	
		90.16	
		-5.78%	Rise

Note:

An increase of £1,000 would increase the cost for a Band D property by £0.96 per year, which is £0.02 per week

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Gemma Cole <clerk@uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Parish Council application for grant for Forget-Me-Not Cafe

1 message

k.barnes379 <k.barnes379@btinternet.com>
To: clerk@uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Sat, Dec 23, 2023 at 10:52 AM

Dear Gemma,

Uffculme Forget-Me-Not Cafe

I understand that Uffculme Parish Council will be considering its 2024/25 budget at the Council meeting in January.

As Treasurer of the Forget-Me-Not Cafe, I would like to ask that the Council allocates a **grant of £500** to the Cafe for the coming financial year. The Cafe meets twice a month in the Village Hall Garden Room as a venue for those with mild to moderate memory problems, and for those who might be feeling lonely and would benefit from time with others, taking part in various activities and enjoying tea/coffee, cake, and conversation together. We were formerly known as Uffculme Memory Cafe (still our formal and bank account name), but decided this year to change in order to broaden our appeal. We currently have up to about 10 members attending each session (not everyone can come along each time), with a similar number of volunteers helping out on a monthly basis.

To give yourself and councillors an idea of the range of our activities, I attach a copy of our 2024 January to June programme, mixing visits from various outside individuals and organisations (musicians, animals, Tiverton Museum), with more home-grown activities involving seated exercise, puzzles, quizzes and seasonal items. We have also hosted four visits in the last couple of years from The Dot Collective London-based theatre company, geared to performances (outdoor theatre, pantomime) suitable for those with shorter attention spans as well as children and families.

We are a member of the Devon Memory Cafe Consortium, and are in the process of renewing our Quality Assured Memory Cafe accreditation. The local GP services are aware of the Cafe, and we encourage referrals from the practice as an example of 'social prescribing'.

In addition to the Village Hall hire charge, and other expenses (insurance, refreshments, other sundries), some of the external visitors charge fees (to cover their expenses, and to make a living). We do receive donations from those attending - we would not wish to charge - but these do not cover the Village Hall hire charges let alone other expenses.

A grant of £500 would enable us to extend our external visits, which often provide the most stimulation to our members, as well as helping with some of our regular costs, and would perhaps enable us to grow the numbers who come along to sessions. I can provide bank account details in due course.

I do hope that the Council will be able to support us - we would be very grateful.

Yours sincerely,
Carol Barnes
Uffculme Forget-Me-Not Treasurer

14/12/23

Fwd: Rescue Uffculme Football club

1 message

Tim Pointing <tim.pointing@uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk>
To: Gemma Cole <clerk@uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Patricia Blackman <patricia.blackman@uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Wed, Dec 13, 2023 at 6:11 PM

Hi Pat and Gemma

Below is the email from the Uffculme Football Club re their financial situation. I have no affiliation with the Club and probably have emailed me because Jim Clancy is a neighbour.

They are looking for financial support and is this something that should be raised and discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting?

Many thanks.

Tim

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **simon burgess** <sychodefender@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Dec 10, 2023 at 4:04 PM

Subject: Rescue Uffculme Football club

To: <tim.pointing@uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Tony Collins <tonycollinsmail@gmail.com>, Jim Clancy <jim@streamlinepad.co.uk>

Hi Tim,

Here is a basic breakdown of our expenses for the running of Uffculme mens football club (formerly Culm United fc), together with a little background information about the club.

The club has been in existence for well over a century and have played football at Magelake since the 1970s. The running of our club is carried out by unpaid volunteers who in recent years have also been adding some financial support in order to keep things going.

We have previously been able to finance the club via player subs, fund raising activities and sponsorship, but this has now become unsustainable due to significant increases in costs over the last 4/5 years, as detailed below.

Areas of increased costs

Our fees for grass pitch and changing room hire at Magelake have risen 160% since 2018. (£35--£95)

Fees for training on grass have increased from zero to £25 per hour. (this always used to be free of charge)

Fees for use of the astroturf MUGA have risen, previously £27.50 per hour for half surface, now £35, up by 25%

Magelake no longer open the bar and provide complimentary post match food for the players, the charge for this would be an extra £25 which we are unable to afford currently. Next season we plan to re-enter the Devon & Exeter league where post match hospitality is mandatory. This effectively raises our match costs by another £25, so £120 to host a game at Magelake, not including referee and other sundry expenses.

Referees fees have now increased to a minimum of £40 per game, up by 30%

The Devon FA now charge £3 per individual player registration, this was previously free of charge.

Our projected costs for next season are around £5200, this is based on using the Magelake facilities to train, play and remain for post match hospitality. Expected income from player subscriptions, fundraising and sponsorship is estimated at a maximum of £3300.

We currently hold a cash balance of around £180, with outstanding debts of £95. Income from player subs is up to date.

15/12/23

As you can see we are struggling to stay afloat and have insufficient confidence to proceed with league applications and affiliations for next season unless we can reduce or eliminate the projected £1900 shortfall. We have made and are still making efforts to obtain sponsorship but this is proving to be difficult in the current financial climate. Sadly we do not qualify for any FA grant funding.

We remain enthusiastic and particularly keen to provide the next step for those young footballers graduating from our excellent Culm Sampford sister club and also the Uffculme academy.

Any financial help that the parish council could provide towards assuring the club's future would of course be greatly appreciated, ideally an annual grant tailored to keep us afloat, this only being required in the event that we are unable to secure sufficient support from other sponsors, fundraising etc.

Alternatively perhaps the PC could provide some extra funding for Magelake thus allowing them to subsidise pitch fees.

Hopefully I have adequately described our situation, apologies again for the delay in responding.

I have copied in Tony Collins who is our treasurer, by all means speak to him if you need more detail.

I have not contacted any of the other councillors, it might be easier if you pass the details on as I'm guessing you have the up to date distribution list and I'm bound to miss some people out.

Many thanks

Best regards

Simon

16/22



Gemma Cole <clerk@uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Re: Meeting Agenda - Monday 15th January 2024 - Magelake - 7pm

1 message

Tim Pointing <tim.pointing@uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk>
To: Gemma Cole <clerk@uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Patricia Blackman <patricia.blackman@uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Mon, Jan 15, 2024 at 2:50 PM

Dear Gemma and Pat

My apologies, but I won't be able to attend the full meeting this evening.

Re my sections please see the notes below:

Mole Valley Feedmill. A positive meeting held with the new team. Mole Valley are very keen to be seen as an asset to the village and advised that the production is switching to 100% organic feed production. They are working hard on keeping the wild and semi feral ducks on the opposite side of the road and this appears to be working. There was a fire at the mill last week. Thankfully no one was hurt, there was some damage and production will be reduced for a month or so until repairs are completed.

Green Team. Next events.

Warm Space: 19th January and 2nd of February,
Repair Cafe: 20th January and 2nd of March

Volunteers' Social Friday 19th January at 6.30pm at Magelake. **Councillors very welcome.**

Green Team May Event - 11th May 2024 Village Hall.

Village Volunteers working on pond and looking at how to support larger plants along the Commercial Road wall below the Bowling Green.

Traffic. No Complaints re Speeding received. Big pot holes near Bridwell entrance repaired. No updates to 20mph scheme to report.

Youth Group. Looking for the responses to last years questionnaire. Might need to repeat exercise. Be good to have a working group meeting outside of the Full Committee to agree a plan on how to proceed.

Police Report Still no updates to Police UK because of a badly implemented reporting system, they have no confidence in the locations applied to each incident. Clerk in receipt of email explaining the situation that was forwarded to all Parish Councils.

I have asked the local team if they can send a representative to update the Council.

Our Chair spent a shift with the local police team.

On Wed, Jan 10, 2024 at 7:02 PM Gemma Cole <clerk@uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk> wrote:
Apologies all - amended agenda attached.

On Wed, 10 Jan 2024, 18:07 Gemma Cole, <clerk@uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk> wrote:
Good evening all,

Please find attached agenda for Monday. All associated documents are to follow.

Kind regards,

Gemma

17/22

Magelake Working Group
Minutes of meeting held
Wednesday 6th December at Magelake

Present: M Halse T Pointing R Kingdom G Cole (Clerk)

23.12.01 Apologies for absence

R Keeling P Cornish

23.12.02 Finance

23.12.02.01 Charity Accounts

It was discussed that in order to upload the accounts with the Charity Commission, it is required that the accounts be either signed off by the Trustees or by someone independent (as Martin would be submitting the accounts as an Agent). In the absence of full Trustees currently, it was agreed that the Councillors on this Working Group would confirm the accounts are correct prior to uploading the data. Clerk to circulate the accounts that are held, along with an overview, in order for the figures to be uploaded. Full Council to be provided with an update on this at the next meeting in January.

23.12.02.02 Budget Requirements – 2024-2025

The 2023-2024 budget items for Magelake were discussed and reviewed as to whether required going forward into 2024-2025. Martin to provide a list of items to be added for consideration in the next financial year.

23.12.03 Business Arising

23.12.03.01 Repairs

The MUGA was discussed as in desperate need of repair/replacement. The revenue from the MUGA traditionally subsidises the grass pitches throughout the year. With no revenue coming in from the MUGA due to disrepair, this has not been possible.

The carpark is also in need of work. It is estimated that 40 tonnes of stone (2-3cm) will be needed, after an initial scrape of the existing surface.

Martin to provide a list of repairs that are required with the building in order for the Council to review whether a budget can be allocated where necessary.

23.12.03.02 EV Charge Points

Cllr Pointing advised that a grant application had been submitted in order to fund the installation of 2 x EV charge points with the location of Magelake being preferred. All in agreement that this was a good move and support the bid for funding going forward.

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Magelake Working Group
Minutes of meeting held
Wednesday 6th December at Magelake

23.12.03.03 Charity Commission – Structure, Trustees and Requirements

The existing structure is out of date and there are many community groups that may not have an interest in the building going forward. It was suggested that having 2-3 unlimited Trustees, outside of the Council (if possible), would be a sensible option. There would be a requirement to meet 2 times a year. Advert to be added to Spotlight to ask for Trustees to come forward once structure is in place. If the absence of volunteers external to the Council, the members of the Working Group could be considered.

It will be necessary to amend the current memorandum and articles of association. There is a template that is available from the Charity Commission to start with – Martin to circulate a copy to all.

It was discussed whether it would be worth considering changing to a CIC. Clerk to investigate, along with discussing with Cllr Pointing due to having experience in this area.

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held on Wednesday 7th February 2024, subject to confirmation by the Clerk.

19/12/22

Feedback on observer patrol by Andrew Logue representing the Uffculme Parish Council

Contact details: andrew.logue@uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk / 07865247620

Cullompton Police Station, 13/01/2024, Late + Night shift patrol, organised through Constable Adrian LEGG 12676 (Neighbourhood Beat Manager)

As a new Uffculme Parish Council member, with an interest in community safety and youth engagement to identify causes/reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour, I requested Uffculme Parish Council Clerk Gemma Cole express my interest in joining a local patrol to get a better understand the structure, responsibilities, and challenges that face the local police force. Additionally, I have a personal interest in a career change to a more community-oriented profession or the chance for voluntary contributions where possible.

Overview of events

On the evening of 13/01/2024, I joined Constable Adrian LEGG 12676 for the start of the late shift, was briefed on safety and privacy considerations, and properly equipped to clearly identify myself as an observer. I then met Special Constable Dave LISTER 70594 and Community Support Officer Carrie MORRIS 30199, both of the neighbourhood team, highlighting the significance of community members able to provide limited shift work or voluntary support where possible.

I then joined C-Section response for the 17h00 briefing, attended by Sergeant Hannah HODGSON 11927 and Constables Frances CUSTANCE 14901, Lisa RODGERS 18975, James KINGSHOTT 19328, Laura SULLIVAN 16844 and Graham CUSTANCE 15936 (also attended also by several other constables from outlying stations remotely). I observed how resources were allocated to cover both open logs and plan upcoming events (such as welfare checks or community visits); I observed the strong camaraderie between staff that went beyond rank and experience; and everyone in attendance took the time to respond to several queries about how patrols are organised, local vs. national policing resources, common incidents, and even hypothetical situations involving violent crime or emergencies.

After the briefing, I accompanied Constable Adrian LEGG 12676 on a late patrol, during which I experienced routine patrols of hotspots, vehicles checks for MOT and insurance compliance, and a knife incident that saw all available police staff and other emergency services converge. During this incident, I witnessed constables Graham CUSTANCE 15936, Frances CUSTANCE 14901, and Lisa RODGERS 18975 display both empathy and professionalism during a negotiation to defuse the situation.

After this event, we returned to Cullompton Police Station to meet Alcohol Licensing Officer Karen DAVENPORT 57423 and Mr Alan CRAKE of the MDDC licensing team, both of whom briefly discussed their work and enforcement in collaboration with the police. Throughout the briefing, patrol, and discussions with the licensing officers, Constable Adrian LEGG 12676 and his colleagues were always on hand to explain the laws that granted their powers during any interaction, the protocols they follow during emergencies, but also the onus on an individual to consider and justify a proportional response.

I then accompanied Constables Emily STRAWBRIDGE 18739 and Cameron LONG 18199 from B-Section on a night shift patrol – in their second and third year of a policing degree respectively, juggling both academic and practical work. Having expressed my interest in a possible career change or volunteering with the police, Constable Emily STRAWBRIDGE 18739 made the time to discuss the structure of police training, the time investment required, and evaluation expectations.

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While on patrol, I observed Constables Emily STRAWBRIDGE 18739 and Cameron LONG 18199 assessing and seizing an uninsured vehicle. Despite the punitive outcome for the driver, Constable Emily STRAWBRIDGE 18739 was polite and thorough in explaining the nature of the offence and why the vehicle was being seized; she explained that she would take a statement and require details to document the offence; she went through the paperwork methodically with the driver and confirmed they had understood the process; and then explained the requirements to recover the vehicle.

The last incident I attended with the night shift was a suspected missing person, deemed vulnerable, which again demonstrated the coordination of available police forces and other emergency personnel as they converged on the last known location, sharing updates and preparing to establish a search using dogs and helicopter support if necessary. Thankfully, the person was reported and picked up by an ambulance crew and returned home, where the constables were empathetic and did what they could to ensure the person was stable before leaving.

Conclusions

Spending several hours on both a late and night shift patrol was incredibly valuable in understanding the dynamic and often stressful nature of police work, even if it represented just a fraction of their responsibilities and challenges.

Regardless of whether they were responding to a logged event or an emergency, mundane or unpredictable, all members of the police force I observed demonstrated a professional approach and an attitude consistent with shared values – irrespective of their individual personalities. I was also impressed by the effective use of modern technology to ensure officers could respond to incidents quickly and log their route; check details, report offences, and issue fines/warnings digitally; use body cameras to record encounters, protecting both themselves and the public; and the constant communication to share intel, updates, and allow for collective decision making in the field.

As both a member of the public and a councillor, it was immensely reassuring to observe the local police force in action – but it was also obvious the human resources allocated to the massive Culm Policing Area large area are insufficient to strike balance between public or political expectations (e.g. high visibility policing and a quicker response to disturbances/antisocial behaviour) and policing priorities as Crown servants.

Both the knife incident and suspected missing persons required all available resources converge – a task that could take over 45 minutes if patrols were on opposite sides – leaving little capacity should multiple emergencies be reported. Other potential issues include ethical or privacy considerations for some crimes can make it difficult to convey the full extent of police actions within a community; and the recent lack of accessible crime data for communities to consider themselves.

The experience highlighted the need to support the police force with more community-driven projects, such as the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme, and the impact of Police Community Support Officers and Special Constables. That said, more funded posts for trained and experienced police staff would have the greatest impact – both for active policing and allowing for better shift patterns – so discussions around funding new posts should be a priority.

With increased living costs, public contributions through increased council taxes is undesirable, but perhaps there is scope for other sustainable funding mechanisms. Perhaps arguing for more national government funding based on the challenges of meeting policing objectives in larger rural areas; or maybe asking established local businesses to contribute to a fund that supports additional posts

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(obviously with no expectations of “favour”), then allowing them to bolster their brand image by advertising their contributions to community safety?