

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
Thursday 5 December 2019 at Magelake Parish Pavilion, Uffculme

Chairman: E Haglestein

Present: P Blackman S Kidd R Kingdom P Mackian J Nash T Pointing
D Wells

19.12.1 Apologies for Absence

M Pollard – Holiday I Duncan – Holiday J Gardner – Family Commitments
P Cornish – Family Commitments

19.12.2 Vacancies of the Council

The Clerk confirmed that she had now received the notice from MDDC to advertise the vacancy. The notice would be posted on the 5 December 2019. The Clerk suggested that the January meeting where we set the precept for the next 12 months would not be the best time for a new councillor to join. Therefore it was agreed that any new councillor being co-opted should be carried forward to the March meeting.

The Council would encourage all interested members to attend the January meeting to understand the Council.

19.12.3 To Approve the Minutes of the meeting held 7 November 2019

The minutes were approved as an official Council record.

19.12.4 County Councillors Report

Councillor Radford was not able to attend the meeting and no report was provided.

19.12.5 District Councillors Report

Councillor Chesterton advised the meeting that the consultation for the Mid Devon Local Plan would be for a period of 6 weeks and would commence after Christmas. There were some slight amendments to the plan, and this is what is being consulted upon. There is further speculation with regards to the housing development in Sampford Peverell known as SP2 and that this is at risk of a potential second review if permission is granted at appeal.

MDDC are currently awaiting the Inspectors decision and timetable for dealing with this.

Councillor Warren was able to advise that he was looking into to the complaint and enquiries process within MDDC as one of his committee roles. He is looking at how the logs received by MDDC are then followed through and dealt with by the necessary person.

19.12.6 Finance

19.12.6.1 To Approve the November Financial Statement

This was approved as official Council minutes.

19.12.6.2 Coldharbour Mill

The Clerk advised she had not received any request for funds to date in respect of the 18/19 or 19/20 funds allocated in the budget setting process. The Clerk would make contact with Coldharbour Mill once again and

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request details of this for our January meeting so that we can make a decision as to where funding is going and our likely commitments for next year.

19.12.6.3 Ashill Play Area

The Clerk advised she had paid the 25% deposit for the Ashill play area and that this is looking like it will be installed early in January.

19.12.6.4 Uffculme Village Hall

As Councillor Cornish was not at the meeting this item was not discussed however it was suggested that the committee for the Village Hall was still awaiting a third quote for consideration.

19.12.6.5 Uffculme Christmas Lights

The Clerk advised to date she had received invoices totalling just over £2,000 net of VAT although it was expected a further invoice was due. The meeting discussed the contribution towards costs that the Council would seek the Lights Committee to make and it was proposed by Councillor Nash that the Lights Committee make a contribution of £2,000. This was seconded by Councillor Pointing and the full meeting was in agreement. The Clerk would liaise with the Treasurer of the Lights Committee to arrange a contribution payment.

19.12.6.6 Grass Cutting Contract 2020-21

The Clerk advised that the tender document had been circulated to local companies and the response from them for formal tenders was 18 December 2019. The Clerk requested the Councillors be involved in the review of the tender documents received, it was expected that we would receive three formal tender documents and the following Councillors agreed who review the tender documents, Councillor Mackian, Councillor Nash and Councillor Blackman. The Clerk agreed to circulate all tender documents after the 18 December and ahead of the Budget meeting. The Clerk proposed that a decision be made in January with a recommendation being put forward from the 3 Councillors.

19.12.7 Business Arising

19.12.7.1 Mid Devon Local Plan

As updated by Councillor Chesterton the Mid Devon Local Plan will commence a consultation in the new year.

19.12.7.2 Landfill Site at Broadpath

Councillor Haglestein was able to update the meeting following the Liaison meeting earlier this week. It was noted that the Environment Agency did not attend nor did Viridor. The Landfill site is now closed and Viridor are continuing to work to cap the site and they are still drilling for gases. The meeting was held at Magelake however all future meetings will be held within the office at Hill Head. Aggregate Industries took minutes of the meeting and it is understood that they will do this going forward.

The widening of Clay Lane was likely to be commencing in the new year although exact details had not been forwarded.

The meeting discussed the lighting of the site and it was suggested whether the lights could be directed towards the floor as opposed to out generally to avoid light pollution in the area it was suggested that this would be taken to the next Liaison meeting.

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19.12.7.3 ABN Feed Mill

Councillor Haglestein again attended the Liaison meeting and was able to advise that the site are trying to improve the smells of production, however they are going into their busiest period which will see the site operating on a Sunday throughout the Christmas period to ensure deliveries are able to be made.

Once again there has been a change of staff at the site although the exact roles were not clear. It had been reported during the meetings that the number of lorry movements had reportedly reduced however the meeting discussed the issues with the lorries passing through the village at school times and the issues this creates. It was agreed that the Clerk would e mail the Feed Mill site to once again request that their lorries do not pass through the village between 8.45-9.15am and 3.15-3.45pm where possible.

19.12.7.4 Uffculme Men's Club

Councillor Kingdom was able to advise the meeting that the Committee were once again progressing with the Club and there was a meeting scheduled for 17 December 2019 however as far as she knew at the time everything was progressing fine.

19.12.7.5 Uffculme Bowling Club

Councillor Mackian was able to advise that following the Bowling club meeting the committee were going to be reviewing their constitution. At present there were some 18 committee members however there were only 65 members in total.

The applications for funding from Viridor and Sport England for the short mat floor replacement/repair had both been rejected. The exact terms of the rejection were not known. The Club was looking to replace/repair the flooring and the meeting was advised that there could be a funding request ahead of the precept meeting in January.

The steps from the Clubhouse down to the green are very steep and it is now apparent that they do not meet current building regulations standards and therefore the Club are concerned there could be a Health & Safety risk. Once again, the Club will look to make amendments to the access down to the green and they may require some financial support from the Parish Council.

19.12.7.6 The Green Team

Councillor Kingdom was able to again endorse the Surfers Against Sewerage scheme and support. The Green Team were involved in the lights switch on and were able to present awards to certain individuals and groups for being green.

Councillor Pointing had now taken on the responsibility of the Community Litter Pick team and held the Parish Council litter picks.

The date for the 2020 Green Day had been agreed as the 5 September 2020.

19.12.7.7 Allotments

Councillor Duncan was away, and no update was provided.

19.12.7.8 BMX Track/Skatepark

The Clerk was continuing to try and get the documents required for Viridor to re resubmit the funding application in January.

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19.12.7.9 Parish Maintenance Update

Councillor Pollard was able to advise that the new shed at the Cemetery had been installed and was now operational.

19.12.7.10 Magelake Management Contract with MRH

As previously advised the contract is continuing on the same basis as previously and the matter would be agreed in the new year.

19.12.8 Police Report

Councillor Pointing was able to advise that in October there had been 27 incidents, 12 of these were noted as criminal damage, 6 of a violent or sexual nature, 6 other theft and 3 anti-social.

There is over 50% of the incidents where no suspect has been identified. The main areas for the incidents seem to be Highland Terrace and Hemyock.

19.12.9 Clerks Report

19.12.9.1 Markers Pond

The Clerk advised that this item was now progressing with Westwood and we would like the new lease to commence from 1 April. The meeting discussed whether throughout the drafting of the lease we would like to instruct a solicitor to advise and the meeting agreed that until we had sight of the lease and could review whether within the Council we had sufficient skills to review the document we would delay the decision with regards to a solicitor.

19.12.9.2 Boundary Review

Following the submission last month, the Clerk has not heard anything further from the Boundary Commission, although this was expected in the new year.

19.12.9.3 Public Toilet

Following the report last month, the Clerk and Councillor Pollard had taken action against the public toilet and requested a further significant clean and reminded the cleaning contractors that we needed feedback if there were any issues with the toilet.

It appears that there is a fault with the light in the toilet and it was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with an electrician to look into this.

19.12.9.4 Blackdown Hills Project

The Clerk shared with the meeting an e mail she had received on behalf of the AONB with regards to a large project that would be commencing next year. The Clerk advised that she had arranged for a representative to attend the March meeting to provide more information to the Council.

19.12.9.5 Play Area Lease/Men In Sheds/Community Garden

The Clerk advised she had been in contact with Andrew Busby of MDDC to enquire whether in principle the District Council would be willing to lease the parcel of land of Pippins Field to the Parish Council to allow a project to go ahead. Although the exact use of and terms had not been discussed in principle MDDC would be happy to explore this option. It was agreed that this would be reviewed in the new year.

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19.12.9.6 Culm Garden Village

The Clerk advised the meeting she had been contacted by the Clerk of Cullompton Town Council on behalf of Gordon Guest a Town Councillor who had provided a copy of a presentation with regards to the boundary of the proposed Garden Village. It suggested that the countryside park will border Uffculme Parish near Stags Corner. It was therefore suggested that we will need to a little more involved in the progress of this development.

19.12.9.7 District Councillors for Upper Culm

The Clerk advised she had been in contact with both the District Councillors for Upper Culm, Councillor Simon Clyst and Councillor Glanmore Hughes. The meeting was advised the Clerk had heard back from Councillor Simon Clyst who advised that he was very busy and would be unlikely to attend any of Uffculme's meetings. The Clerk was naturally frustrated by this and it seems that there will be a continuation of the previous arrangement whereby Upper Culm that falls within the Uffculme (Ashill Village) ward will be somewhat neglected. We have been advised previously by the 3 District Councillors for Lower Culm that where they can provide assistance in any matters, they will however their involvement is somewhat limited. It was agreed that the Clerk would again make contact with the individuals in the hope that they would re-assess their position and become more involved in the Parish of Uffculme.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 16 January 2020 at Magelake Parish Pavilion and that will be the Parish Precept meeting therefore the Clerk would need details of any items to be included in plenty of time ahead of this date.