

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
02nd March 2017 at The Square Corner

Chairman: E Hagelstein

Present: P Blackman P Cornish P Disley T Emms
G Evans P Golding P Mackian M Pollard

Apologies: D Wells - Work J Gardner – Illness G Doe

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19th January 2017 were approved. These included the budget that that been agreed at the meeting and also the local plan submission that was submitted to Mid Devon District Council.

Finance

January Financial Statements

APPROVED.

February Financial Statements

APPROVED

Defibrillators

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had received updated quotes for the provision of defibrillators within the parish. These were a cost of £1,182.00 if the Parish Council purchased the defibrillator from one supplier and the cabinet from another. The alternative was to spend £1,750.00 gaining both items through the same supplier. The meeting agreed that we should purchase the items separately to generate a significant saving. The Clerk advised the meeting that the defibrillator would require an annual service at a cost of around £30.00 and would require new batteries and pads every two years; this would be a cost of £100.00.

Given the initial cost of the defibrillators at £1,182.00, the Clerk asked the meeting if they would like to consider purchasing two. The Clerk advised the meeting that we had received significant donations towards the defibrillator. These included £500.00 from Uffculme Trust, £200.00 from the Church, £250.00 anonymous donation, £1,250.00 received from the TAP Fund, £355.00 raised by the residents of Markers and a donation of £25.00 from H Scriven. This came to a total of £2,580.00. The Parish Council had previously committed to sending £250.00 to the Ashill defibrillator which has now happened, leaving £2,330.00 available to purchase the defibrillator within the village.

Given the individual cost of one defibrillator being £1,182.00, the Clerk asked the Council whether we should look at purchasing two which would cost £2,364.00 therefore leaving the Council's already secured funds only £34.00 short. The meeting agreed that we should purchase two defibrillators; one for installation in the Square as previously agreed and also one at Magelake. This was proposed by Gillian and seconded by Cllr Pollard.

The Clerk would arrange for the purchase and installation of the two defibrillators and would arrange to have some training booked in. This would be at a cost of £70.00 but would be unlimited as to the number of people. It was agreed that the training would take place at Magelake.

Parish Notice Board

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Notice Board would be installed on 6th March 2017 and it would have an area that was available for the public to post their own notices.

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New Flag

The Clerk advised the meeting that Cllr Pollard had requested an agenda item for the purchase of a new Devon flag within the Square. Cllr Pollard advised the meeting that the cost of this would be in the region of £60.00. The meeting was in agreement that a new flag should be purchased. Cllr Pollard agreed he would source this.

Allotments

The Clerk had been provided with details of the uptake of allotment plots from Uffculme residents this year and out of the 60 half plots, 58 were taken by Uffculme residents. The remaining two had been taken by people from outside the Parish. The Parish Council therefore would be subsidising the cost of the 58 plots belonging to those of Uffculme residents.

The Clerk would arrange to make payment to the land owner as agreed.

Blackdown Hills – Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – Crayfish project

The Clerk advised she had received a letter requesting the Parish Council join with other Blackdown Hills Parish Councils in submitting one letter of support, for their Crayfish project funding application. The meeting agreed that the Council was happy to be combined with other Parish councils.

The Clerk also advised that they were seeking additional funds for the project and wondered whether the Parish Council would like to make a contribution. The meeting agreed that a £100.00 donation would be made to the project.

Culmstock Cricket Club – TAP Fund request

The Clerk advised that she had been contacted by Culmstock Cricket Club about gaining our support for their TAP Fund request for a roll out net which would enable greater practice of batting within the club. The Parish Council agreed to support the application.

TAP Fund

The Clerk advised that she had made two applications for the 16/17 TAP Fund application and these were for £4,000.00 towards the resurfacing of the play area at Pathfields. The Clerk identified there were unspent monies from the 15/16 pot and therefore we had requested that this application be funded through these means.

The second application was in respect of the new goals for the MUGA at Magelake, this was for £900 towards the cost.

Councillor Radford advised the meeting that the TAP Fund application was now postponed to 13/14 March but we would hear after a decision had been made.

Magelake MUGA Goals

The clerk advised the meeting that there had been various emails of complaint regarding the repair state of the goals at Magelake and as a result the Clerk had sent Councillors details of replacement goals, these were in summary standard goals £676 per pair or the heavy-duty goals at a cost of £993 per pair. The clerk advised the meeting that all Councillors who had responded to her email had recommended the heavy-duty goals at a total cost of £1,986. The meeting agreed this should be actioned.

Other finance matters

The Clerk Advised the meeting that monies had been received from Magelake in respect of the amounts paid out while the Treasurer was incapacitated.

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Sampford Peverell Play park had contacted the Clerk to see if the Parish Council was willing to contribute financially towards the cost of the equipment that they were planning on installing. The meeting agreed that we should focus Uffculme Precept monies in Uffculme and specifically the play areas in Uffculme.

Councillor Blackman asked the meeting to consider the actual financial contribution that the Council wanted to make towards the cost of the new audio/visual equipment for the Ashill Village Hall. In the budget £1,500 had been provisioned, although the actual cost was in excess of this amount. It was agreed that the Council would purchase all of the equipment and the Village Hall would then make a donation of £3,000 towards the cost from their own fundraising.

Business Arrising

Uffculme Central

The meeting was advised that little progress had been made with the plans for the development of the Square, however a meeting would take place on Friday 10th March in the Café. An update would be provided at the next meeting.

Mid Devon Local Plan – Consultation response & ongoing

The Clerk again confirmed that the submission for the Parish Council had been made to MDDC in February and that this was forming part of the approved minutes.

Councillor Chesterton advised the meeting that MDDC received in the region of 260 very similar looking responses by hand, these were the responses collected by the agency working on behalf of Eden Westward. Cllr Chesterton thought that although there were a significant number of responses the similarity of them would be noted by the Inspector. It was thought the total number of responses was in the region of 800.

Landfill site at Broadpath

The meeting was advised that there was no progress with the leachate treatment plant that was suggested for installation for testing at the site.

The next meeting of the liaison committee was scheduled for 13 March and an update would be given at the next meeting.

ABN Feed Mill

There was no update from the mill and nobody had any comments.

Willand Proposed Boundary Change

The meeting was advised that a meeting of the committee formed to deal with this was meeting on Monday 6 March to progress matters.

Magelake Committee and Future Structure

The meeting was advised that Councillor Mackian had stood down from being involved in the Magelake Committee as he was now the Chair of Compost Magic.

Councillors Disley and Emms agreed to join the committee and it was agreed that the committee would meet on Thursday 16 March to progress matters. An update would be given at the April meeting.

St Mary's Church – Planning Application for mobile phone mast (16/01859/FULL)

The meeting was advised that MDC had granted planning permission at the end of January.

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However, the Church Council was awaiting a decision from the Diocesan Advisory Committee, if permission was granted it would then be down to the Church Committee to make the final decision as to whether to proceed.

Exeter Strategic Plan

The Councillors had all received by email, details about the proposed strategic plan that would cover Mid Devon, East Devon, Exeter and South Devon Councils. The strategic plan would sit above any local plans and would have combined objectives and deal with large scale developments. An exhibition was open on 15 March at MDDC offices between 2 and 8pm.

The Clerk asked Councillors for assistance in drafting a response to this consultation due to her being out of action. Councillor Gillian Evans agreed to review the documents available and share notes with the Clerk to prepare a consultation response.

Planning Application 17/00300/MOUT – 30 houses attached to Harvesters site

This item was discussed in the public sessions when local residents raised concerns about this application. The meeting reviewed the indicative plan and was in agreement that the Planning Committee would review the application but in principle the Council opposed the development. The site was not included in the local plan, presented even more issues with traffic, especially at J28 and at the Waterloo Cross roundabout. Given the planned developments near both these pinch points the additional houses would further present issues.

Minerals plan adoption

The Clerk advised that DCC had, at their meeting on 16 February, fully adopted the minerals plan.

Police Report

No formal police report was made at the meeting; these are likely to be made quarterly.

Highway Matters/Road and Traffic

Street Lighting

The issues in Ashill before Christmas were now fully resolved.

Commercial Road Footpath

The meeting was updated that Councillor Emms had been requested by Councillor Radford to have a photo outside the pub to show a 'before' shot and then a further photo would be taken to show what DCC have done. It was still thought that the work would be carried out in July/August due to the road closure.

There had been a delay in getting the final details of the project and although Councillor Radford confirmed that the scheme had been audited the actual details of what work was being carried out was not available Councillor Radford was to get these details for the April meeting.

Correspondence

Other Correspondence

The Clerk advised that she had received letters of complaint about the excessive spraying by MDDC in the area which had killed the grass and resulted in large mud area on the edges of verges etc. Councillor Chesterton advised the meeting of the information he had that it was a MDDC error and that grass seed was being used to reseed these areas in the hope that grass would soon return.

Clerk's Report

Pathfields Play Area

Verity Aldridge
Clerk to Uffculme Parish Council
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The Clerk advised that the draft lease is with MDDC and she was waiting to hear back about the queries raised.

MDDC had confirmed that they would not be making a financial contribution towards the cost of the poor repair state of the floor coverings and as a result the Clerk had made the TAP application as above.

The quotes received for play equipment were reviewed and it was agreed that Broxap seemed the more reasonable quote, although Councillors were concerned about the equipment being too basic. It was agreed the Clerk would speak with the children in the area to see what they wanted.

Bridwell/URC Church Footpath

The works to cut back the overgrown trees and shrubbery along this footpath was scheduled for 6 March. It was agreed that the Council should promote the fact they were funding these works to anyone who asked – the Council was disappointed that Bridwell had not properly maintained their vegetation.

Ayshford Parking issues

MDDC had recently agreed to supply and install a collapsible bollard on the site. This should allow the grass cutting team the access they need, although will make it impassable to other vehicles.

Councillor Vacancies

The Clerk advised that we still have two vacancies on the Council, she would contact the school to see if they would put forward any suggestions as to who may be able to attend and represent the Schools interests.

All Councillors would continue to promote the vacancies.

Clerk's availability

The Clerk advised the meeting that she would be put of action from 18 March due to her having an operation on her back, she would be unavailable for at least 1 week, and probably the week after.

In addition, she was no longer available on Thursday 18 May when we had provisionally planned the Annual Parish Meeting. It was thought that the meeting could move to 11 May.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Council was going to consider if it wanted to organise a showcase evening to co-inside with the Annual Parish Meeting. This would be agreed at the April meeting.

Uffculme Village Hall

The meeting was advised that the application was made to Viridor for the funding towards the essential electrical works, although since another person has been involved the committee thought that the costs were much lower than previously expected.

County Councillor's Report (Cllr Radford)

The meeting was advised that DCC had been looking at a £7m overspend and as a result had an embargo imposed on all staff. This was now looking like it would turn around before the year end and initial indications were looking to show a £900k surplus. This was largely due to the use of the waste to energy plants in Exeter and Plymouth performing better than expected. This was particularly beneficial given the high cost of landfill at £120 per tonne.

The DCC increase in Council Tax for 2017/18 was going to be 4.99%. This represented the usual 1.99% increase, as well as a 3% increase to allow for more funds to be set aside for care.

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District Councillors' Report (Cllrs Chesterton and Evans)

Councillor Chesterton advised that MDDC was looking to increase their share of the Council Tax by 2%, the equivalent of £5 for a band D property.

The planning application for the houses at Belle Vue, Ashley Road had been called in and the decision would be made by the planning committee.

Councillor Evans advised the meeting that the ROMP process regarding the quarrying activities at Houndaller were ongoing. A meeting had been arranged with DCC Officers to deal with the aftercare and restoration.

The planning application for the removal of matter from Straightgate to Broadpath/Houndaller for processing was still waiting to be validated. In advance of this Councillor Evans reported that he had arranged for MDDC to install air quality monitoring stations to be positioned at the bottom of Clay Lane so that there will be data captured to factor into any response to DCC on the application.

The next meeting will be Thursday 6th April 2017 at 7.00pm at The Square Corner