

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
Thursday 1 November 2018 at Magelake Parish Pavilion Uffculme

Chairman: E Haglestein

Present: D Wells P Cornish M Pollard P Mackian S Stimson J Gardner
 J Nash P Best R Kingdom S Kidd

18.11.1 Apologies

I Duncan – Holiday P Blackman

18.11.2 To Approve the Minutes of Meeting held 4 October 2018

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

18.11.3 County Councillors Report – Councillor Radford

Councillor Radford advised that a survey would soon be circulated, if not already, from County requesting comments on highway matters including speed, gritting and snow wardens.

The meeting was advised that the Ashill 30mph was progressing and that it had been signed off by Councillor Radford, the next stage would be consultation.

Councillor Radford advised that a pavement, that he thought was in Markers, had been approved for a repair.

The current DCC Highways contractor Skanska was currently being scrutinised as there had been a number of reports of poor workmanship and quality of work. This was being looked at by County Officers.

The meeting was advised that school funding had been reduced and as a result the County had seen a reduction of some 600 staff. This was across both teaching staff, teaching assistants and administration support staff within schools. Children services were costing somewhere in the region of £8.7 million with Social Care at £5.1 million across the County.

A recent investigation into waste within the County which saw officers open some 1800 black bags found that 40.8% was in fact recyclable, there was also found to be 30% of the content of the black bags to be food waste, this represented some three quarters of the overall recyclable material. It had been estimated that this was costing County in the region of £6.7 million per year.

The revenue budget for DCC had seen a further £25 million being taken out of it and they would now begin the budgeting process for 19/20. Councillor Radford was also able to advise the meeting that the previous Tap fund scheme had met on Monday and there had been a sum of £3214 been awarded to Willand Parish Council for a play area and a further £3300 to Hemyock for notice boards.

18.11.4 District Councillor Report – Councillors Doe & Chesterton

Councillor Doe once again congratulated Councillors and Parishioners on the great success of Green Day.

Councillor Chesterton advised that he also attended Green Day and would commend all of those involved in it as being a very informative day.

The meeting was given an update on the Mid Devon Local Plan. The Inspector had released a letter earlier in the week advising that he was now looking to move onto full inspection of the plan. His letter suggested that he was in principle happy with the hearings and the content of which and therefore would move forward. He did however suggest that there may need to be a change of description for the policy concerning the land at Junction 27.

Verity Aldridge
Clerk to Uffculme Parish Council
8 November 2018

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
Thursday 1 November 2018 at Magelake Parish Pavilion Uffculme

It is expected that early in December the Inspector will release a schedule of questions for the hearings which were likely to take place in February. The hearings had been suggested that they would be held over two weeks, of eight sittings. Although it is not anticipated what timescale the Inspector will work towards, and it will very much depend on the hearings it is thought that a report would be released in May or June, although it may be June given that elections will be held in May.

MDDC would be going out to consult on the Cullompton relief road in the near future. It was suggested that the Council may wish to partake in this given the impact it will have on not only Uffculme but those who frequent Cullompton.

The massive plan of the Garden Village was also to be consulted on in the not too distant future. This would look at not only road structure, but businesses as well as dwellings.

18.11.5 Finance

18.11.5.1 To Approve October Financial Statement

The financial statement was agreed at the meeting, subject to changing the date on one of the descriptions which was the payment to Phil Salter at the end of the month.

18.11.5.2 Uffculme Village Hall

The Clerk advised that she had been presented with two invoices, which had been paid, as included in the October financial statement. The cheques had been approved at the meeting and therefore the Clerk had advised she was going to send them off although it was reported that there were concerns over the workmanship. It was agreed that the Chairman would go back to the Secretary of the Village Hall Committee to establish whether there were any concerns and whether there needed to be any remedial work to ensure that it was at an acceptable standard.

18.11.5.3 Ashill Village Hall

It had been discussed at the last meeting that a request for grant funding towards new render at the Village Hall would be requested but as Councillor Blackman was unable to attend this was carried forward.

18.11.5.4 Offer of Employment to Will Brown

The meeting discussed looking to employ Will Brown on an adhoc basis to carry out remedial works in and around the village. It was discussed that Will Brown may be suitable for de-weeding footpaths and alike. It was however agreed that before offering a position of employment to Will Brown we would establish what jobs were generally required in and around the village and ensure that the Parish Council was considering the most suitable person for these jobs.

It was agreed that Councillors would present a schedule of works to the Clerk ahead of the December meeting.

18.11.5.5 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

The meeting agreed a donation of £50 to the Royal British Legion Poppy appeal for a wreath to be laid at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. This was proposed by Councillor Pollard, seconded by Councillor Stimson and all of the meeting was in agreement.

18.11.5.6 Other Finance Matters – Citizens Advice

Councillor Kingdom advised the meeting that she used to work with the Citizens Advice Bureau, although was now retired. This was considered an interest and she did not partake in the decision making.

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
Thursday 1 November 2018 at Magelake Parish Pavilion Uffculme

The Clerk shared a request from the Citizens Advice bureau for a donation towards their ongoing costs. The letter which was read at the meeting set out how they help local people on a free of charge basis. Councillor Cornish proposed a donation of £150 to the Citizens Advice Bureau, this was seconded by Councillor Pollard and all the meeting was in agreement.

18.11.6 Business Arising

18.11.6.1 Uffculme Central

The Clerk advised that she had been in contact with the Conservation Officer at MDDC in an attempt to arrange a meeting. It had been suggested this would be at the end of November and Councillors Pollard, Mackian, Haglestein and Best offered their attendance at the meeting.

It was also agreed that once a date has been set, we should make the District Councillors aware so that one of them could attend in a support role.

18.11.6.2 Mid Devon Local Plan

This item was given a full update by Councillor Chesterton in his District Councillors report.

18.11.6.3 Landfill Site at Broadpath

There had been little updates provided in respect of the landfill operations at Broadpath other than a liaison meeting was scheduled for the 4 December 2018. Councillor Hagelstein advised that despite requests the Environment Agency would not be able to attend this meeting unless there was a specific issue that they felt required their attendance.

18.11.6.4 ABN Feed mill

No report was available, and no Councillors had any concerns to raise.

18.11.6.5 Uffculme Mens Club

As reported at the October meeting there had been a change of committee within the Mens Club and also a change in the employed role of the Steward. It was now thought that Johnnie Alford was the new Steward and the Club seemed to be doing better at attracting members into the Club. Councillor Kingdom advised that she would try and make contact with Steve Wildey to find out when the next committee meeting was so that we could send a representative.

18.11.6.6 Uffculme Bowling Club

There has been no update on the Bowling Club although the meeting shared their condolences that a very active member of the committee had very suddenly passed away recently.

18.11.6.7 Green Team/Green Day

Ruth had attended a recent Green Team meeting and advised that the Green Team committee was looking to gain plastic free status for Uffculme. Whilst this seemed an impossible task, she explained that the campaign is one that is been run by Surfers against Sewerage. Their campaign seeks to ensure that an area is operating with no single use plastics.

In the first instance the Green Team would look to establish the exact criteria of what was required although they had received a very comprehensive guide from Surfers Against Sewerage. If the Green Team were looking to progress with this scheme, they would look to ask the Parish Council to pass a resolution in support of their

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
Thursday 1 November 2018 at Magelake Parish Pavilion Uffculme

campaign. Councillor Kingdom advised that when she became aware of such a request from the Green Team she would off course make Councillors aware.

18.11.6.8 Allotments

Councillor Best advised the meeting that the allotments were currently at capacity with one person on the waiting list. He also advised that given next year is the 10 year anniversary they were in the infancy stages of planning an event, it had been suggested at last months Parish Council meeting this may involve a scarecrow competition, similar to the one held at the Garden Fete, although it had been agreed that this competition would remain with the Village Fete.

The issues surrounding water to the allotments was ongoing and the landowner was hoping to get this sorted into the new year.

18.11.6.9 Kingwood Parking at Magelake

The Magelake Committee had proposed contacting a solicitor in respect of the issues surrounding car parking at Magelake and whether Kingwood had any legal basis to be able to park onsite. The Clerk would make contact and gain some professional advice. It was also suggested that some evidence would be helpful in dealing with the matter and the Clerk would liaise with Martin Halse on this.

18.11.6.10 BMX Track/Skate Park

The meeting discussed that in total the survey had gained some eleven responses. They overall suggested that a skate park would be of benefit in the village of Uffculme. It was agreed that a meeting with the company who could look to install such a skate park would be arranged with interested parties being Councillors Pollard, Haglestein Best and Nash.

Some Councillors did raise that it was a significant amount of money to be spending with only responses from eleven parishioners. However, the eleven had all suggested a significant interest in a skate park. The Council was not yet committed to the project however it was open to the idea of exploring the cost and implications of a skate park.

18.11.7 Police Report

Councillor Best was able to advise there had been a total of thirteen reported incidents in the month of August. Five of these were anti social behaviour related, with the remainder being a mixture of other crimes. One crime included forgery within the Co-op.

Councillor Best also explained the Police aim in terms of raising the profile and awareness of potential people who would be at high risk of being a missing persons. They are striving to try and raise awareness of this through their online campaigns. There was also a discussion surrounding county lines and those most at risk of this issue.

The meeting discussed how the schools are working to educate children and young people in and around the Parish about the issue surrounding drugs etc.

18.11.8 Highway Matters/Road & Traffic

18.11.8.1 Issues Around School Traffic

The meeting discussed that although Meadow View is now a bit better in terms of parking of people frequenting the school there were still serious issues around Ashley Road, East Street and Fore Street.

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
Thursday 1 November 2018 at Magelake Parish Pavilion Uffculme

The 30pmh speed limit at Ashill was in progress and the Clerk had received updates from County Officers which was encouraging.

18.11.9 Correspondence

18.11.9.1 Blackdown Hills Crayfish Project

The Clerk shared with Councillors details of a Crayfish project evening which was being held in Hemyock on Wednesday 7 November.

18.11.10 Clerks Report

18.11.10.1 Devon Air Ambulance Night Landing Site

The Clerk advised that they had now received the final costings for the insulation of electrical equipment at Magelake to enable it to become a registered night landing site for the Devon Air Ambulance.

The Clerk would now prepare a locality budget application for submission to Councillor Radford in the hope that this could be approved.

18.11.10.2 RBL Poppy Appeal

Councillor Haglestein advised the meeting that she and fellow volunteers had been assembling the knitted poppies onto large scale netting. This was to be displayed above the Co-op, on the Bowling Green and at the war memorial.

Councillor Haglestein had been amazed at the number of poppies that they had which meant that they could create a much larger display for the village. It had been reported that the Vicar, Reverend Simon Talbot had been trying to contact Spotlight about the activities that had been arranged in and around the village, both the poppies by Councillor Haglestein and the displays within the church. Councillor Kidd advised that there would be various displays within the church which would commence from Monday 5 November.

18.11.10.3 Markers Pond

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had contacted alternative officers within Westwood Housing to try and progress that matter of a potential lease for the land on Markers Pond.

The Clerk also shared with the meeting a letter she had received from local resident Annie Saunter in respect of the debris in the area at the back of her garden. It was discussed that this land in fact belongs to the Village Hall and the Village Hall had advised her that they would not be able to financially support her in trying to clear this land. It was understood that there was an awful lot of builders rubble which could not simply be disposed of within composting facilities. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Ms Saunter advising that we were not in a position to offer any financial help and we suggested that she went back to the Village Hall committee to raise the issue once again.

18.11.10.4 Magelake

The Magelake committee had met and discussed a number of aspects although there was nothing that needed to be dealt with at full council at this moment in time.

18.11.10.5 Public Footpaths

The Clerk advised that following the request from a resident to mark the public footpaths, and the Parish Council agreeing at its October meeting to offer a grant of £50 towards the cost that Devon County Council footpath officers had approved for the numbers of the various footpaths to be stencilled onto way markers. It was agreed

Verity Aldridge
Clerk to Uffculme Parish Council
8 November 2018

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
Thursday 1 November 2018 at Magelake Parish Pavilion Uffculme

that Councillor Pollard would contact Angie Cheshire and they would arrange to purchase the stencil and paint to mark the footpaths.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 6 December 2018 at Magelake Pavilion.