

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
Thursday 7 September 2017 at The Square Corner

Chairman: E Hagelstein

Present: P Blackman P Mackian M Pollard P Golding
P Best J Gardner S Stimson D Wells

17.9.1 Apologies

G Doe - MDDC

17.9.2 Resignation of Councillor and Vacancies

The Chairman advised the meeting that Gillian Evans had offered her resignation as Councillor of Uffculme Parish Council following her ill health. The Chairman advised the meeting that the Clerk would write to Gillian thanking her for her contribution to the Parish Council.

The Clerk would also arrange to advertise the vacancy within the Spotlight. The Clerk had already notified MDDC of the vacancy and a notice in respect of an election had been placed on the notice board.

It was hoped that at the October meeting that we would be able to co-op at least one new councillor, if not two.

17.9.3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2017 approved and signed as a correct record.

17.9.4. Finance

17.9.4.1 July Financial Statement

Approved as official council minutes.

17.9.4.2 August Financial Statement

Approved as official council minutes.

17.9.4.3 Play Equipment and Picnic Benches

The Clerk advised the meeting that the installation was complete however there are had been a number of issues during the installation with the company. The Clerk has written a formal letter of complaint in respect of the issues, to date no response has been received. The Clerk advised the meeting that no monies had been paid to Broxap in respect of the equipment and or the installation in light of the issues that had been encountered.

Councillors raised that there were issues with litter in and around the Pathfields play area and the meeting agreed the Clerk would speak to Phil Salter as to whether he could include this on his round. The Clerk would also visit the site and speak to parents who were keen to keep this site open to encourage them and the children using the area to tidy up after themselves.

17.9.4.4 MDDC Contribution to Pathfields

The Clerk advised that the £1,000.00 contribution had been received on 22 August 2017 and was included on the August Financial Statement. This money was provided by the District Council in compensation for the very poor state of the rubber matting around the site.

17.9.4.5 Council Laminator

The Clerk had requested at the July meeting to purchase a laminator so that all notices could be laminated prior to being posted on the notice boards. This would make sure that the details were able to be seen for longer,

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especially councillor details etc. The Clerk had found a set for £40 which would include 150 A3 pouches and 150 A4 pouches, the meeting unanimously agreed to purchase the laminator.

17.9.4.6 Other Finance Matters

The Clerk advised the meeting that the crockery for Magelake had been reviewed and it was thought that the cost of the crockery set would be in the region of £2,500.00. It had previously been discussed that the Parish Council would purchase the crockery for Magelake and this would be donated to the charity. The Clerk had been provided with details of the crockery requirements from Martin Halse and the total cost was £2,500.00 this was proposed by Paul Mackian and seconded by John Gardner. It was agreed the Clerk would arrange with Martin Halse to purchase the crockery.

17.9.5 Business Arising

17.9.5.1 Uffculme Central

The Clerk advised that she had received a response from Sue Warren in respect of the possibility for the provision of parking within Ayshford Green. Although the response was not conclusive Sue did indicate that it would be possible to use Ayshford for parking, providing that the square, especially near the Shambles, would be developed and reduce parking. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged with those interested in progressing this project, the Councillors who put their name forward were Councillors Haglestein, Pollard, Golding, Best, Mackian and Stimson. The meeting noted that Councillor Mackian and Councillor Stimson both had an interest in the proposals and therefore the Clerk reiterated that their involvement might be on an information only basis and they could not partake in the decision making. The Clerk would arrange a meeting with those who had put their names forward in due course.

17.9.5.2 Mid Devon Local Plan – Inspection 26 September – Phoenix House

The Clerk confirmed that the inspector would be attending preliminary hearings in respect of J27 on 26 and 27 September 2017. The Chairman confirmed that the former Clerk Francis Welland, would attend on behalf of the Parish Council, as well as the existing Clerk.

17.9.5.3 Landfill Site at Broadpath – Leachate Treatment

The Clerk advised that the Leachate Treatment plant had been given planning permission by Devon County Council. The meeting was reminded that this was a temporary permission and Councillor Evans had previously advised the Council that whilst this was a temporary permission Devon County Council and the Environment Agency would be looking to ensure that the treatment plant was running as previously planned.

There is a liaison meeting scheduled for Monday 11 September 2017 an update would follow at the October meeting.

17.9.5.4 ABN Feedmill

Following the July meeting the Clerk would re-send the odour log e-mail so that Councillors had the details should they wish to record.

The Manager of the site, Marcus Tanner was aware that there were issues, his new home was now in “one of the worst” places for smell within the village. It was reported that Jo Hague, who had attended previous Council meetings as a public participant, had been keeping a log and had regularly contacted the Environment Agency in respect of odour issues. Mary Rees had visited the site however on the day that she visited the site wasn’t smelling.

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17.9.5.5 Willand - Proposed Boundary Change

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had received an e mail from Jackie Stoneman of MDDC advising that MDDC would be taking a full review of the Parish Boundaries within the District, not just Willand/Uffculme/Halberton. Jackie would revert back to myself and Kate Taylor of Willand Parish Council advising of likely timescales following her enquiries with the Boundary Commission.

17.9.5.6 Magelake Update Including Finance

The Clerk was pleased to confirm that all Magelake invoicing was now up to date and things seemed to be going a little more smoothly than previously.

The CAF bank account was now open and the online access was being set up for the Clerk. A meeting of the Magelake committee is scheduled for Monday 11 September and a full update will be given at this meeting.

17.9.5.7 St Marys Church Planning Application

The Clerk had received no further updates, however, following the information provided at the July meeting it was agreed that we are only likely to hear if there are any issues with the installation of the masts and we should assume that progress will be made for installation and for them to be operational by the end of the year.

17.9.5.8 Land West of Harvesters Existing Permission for 60 Houses Application Submitted

The Clerk advised the meeting that Devon and Cornwall Housing (DCH) had now submitted their reserved matters application for the 60 houses. The Clerk had received an e mail from Mark Crosby offering the Council a further meeting with the developers and designers if this would assist in preparing a response to the detailed planning application. The meeting agreed that this would be helpful and the mutually convenient date for Councillors was agreed as Monday 25 September. The Clerk would check the availability of DCH and let those involved in the planning committee, and other Councillors know of this date.

17.9.5.9 Land West of Harvesters 30 Houses

Councillor Evans reported on this application. He advised that at the Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday 6 September the Planning Committee had unanimously (10-0) refused to determine on the application. The meeting was advised that given the application had not varied at all from the previously submitted application which the District Council refused then the District Council had the ability to refuse to determine.

The decision against the first decision of refusal against the 30 Houses was being appealed by the applicant.

17.9.5.10 Green Team 4 November Use of The Square

The Clerk advised she had received a request from The Green Team to use The Square on 4 November to collate all of the rubbish collected. The meeting agreed that the use of The Square by The Green Team would be perfectly acceptable. There was also a query in respect of how to ensure The Square was not parked on for this morning and Councillor Pollard advised that for other events they generally ticket the cars a couple of days before so that everybody within the area is aware.

17.9.6 Police Report

The Clerk advised the meeting she had received details of a website from PC Adrian Legg with regards to the current stats on crime levels in and around the Parish. The website address is www.police.ukdevon-and-cornwall/DEV4077. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange to circulate this to all Councillors and also Jim Clancy so that anybody could look at this information should they wish.

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17.9.7 Highway Matters/Road and Traffic

17.9.7.1 Commercial Road/George Footpath

Following the issues discussed at the July meeting and the Clerk advising DCC that we did not wish to proceed with their design of the road/path layout then at this time the Council does not see any workable solution, that DCC will approve, without causing another bottle neck within the village.

The Clerk considered whether something at the George could be worked into any redevelopment of The Square and or Ayshford Green, especially given the possibility of an additional exit onto Commercial Road. This would be considered with The Square and it was agreed to remove this from the agenda of future meetings unless anything material arose.

17.9.7.2 Ashill 30mph

Following the issues reported at the July meeting the Clerk had been made aware of another police incident regarding speeding vehicles within Ashill. The response from DCC was to try using a speed gun to ascertain the speed that vehicles were travelling within the village and issue warning letters. This response seems somewhat ironic given the fact that the issue within Ashill is that there is a national speed limit and therefore any vehicle frequenting the roads in and around Ashill is very unlikely to be breaking any speed limits and therefore the speed check gun would be seemingly pointless.

Devon County Council had previously agreed that Ashill meets all of the requirements for a 30mph speed restriction and that they would support any application however they would require the Parish Council to meet the cost of the traffic order required or the installation of the new speed limit. The meeting asked Councillor Ray Radford if he would consider diverting the monies he had secured for the George footpath to the Ashill 30mph scheme. Councillor Radford confirmed that he would be happy to transfer monies to an alternative project that the Parish Council wanted to support and he suggested that the Clerk contacted Tony Matthews to make enquiries about the Ashill 30mph.

17.9.7.3 Ashley Road Penslade Cross

The Clerk advised the meeting she had received an e mail from a very concerned resident in respect of the poor state of the road leaving the village towards Penslade Cross. The resident was particularly disappointed given that he had received an assurance from Nick Allen, Highways contact for the area that the road would be dressed, in and around March, we are now in September and the road is deteriorating rapidly, with the poorer weather on its way it was felt that further action was needed. It was agreed the Clerk would e mail Councillor Radford on this matter.

17.9.8 Correspondence Information Available

The Clerk advised the meeting she had received a copy of Devon Senior Voice which was available if any Councillors would like.

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had received a letter of thanks from the Uffculme Twinning Association following the grant of £500 towards their 40th Anniversary celebrations.

The Clerk had received notice from the Post Office following an enquiry raised by local residents as to why the Post Office was closed on an afternoon in August. The Post Office was closed due to a broadband issue and therefore not something they could have foreseen.

The Clerk has also been contacted by e mail and telephone by concerned residents of Culm Valley Way over the state of the wooden bridge. The Clerk had reiterated to the residents that the Parish Council is not responsible

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for the maintenance of the bridge and that this in fact lies with the District Council. The Clerk had been in contact with the District Councillors and the offices of the Council to discuss what action could be taken to remedy the issues with the bridge. Initially the MDDC offices had suggested that no action was required and the bridge was safe however Councillor Evans had visited the site and has raised further concerns and this was now under review by MDDC offices.

17.9.9 Clerks Report

17.9.9.1 Pathfields Play Area

The Clerk confirmed that as reported earlier in the meeting there had been various issues with the installation of the equipment. The Clerk felt given the numerous issues with the installation that Broxap were not the best company to use in the future. However, as the equipment had been installed this item was now complete.

17.9.9.2 Picnic Benches for The Rec

As above the picnic tables have been installed however despite the quote from Broxap suggesting that we needed three concrete bases to site three picnic benches the Council took the decision to have the concrete bases installed themselves, two new bases and making good an existing area of concrete. On installation, the three picnic benches have been arranged over the two new concrete bases, leaving the third one vacant. As previously reported the Clerk had raised concerns in respect of this and was awaiting a response.

17.9.9.3 Ayshford & Markers Issues

The Clerk advised that Councillor Evans had done an awful lot of work in respect of getting MDDC and DCC to take action in respect of Ayshford and Markers Road, the Clerk thanked Councillor Evans for his efforts.

Councillor Evans advised he would report on these matters within his report.

17.9.9.4 Dog Waste Bin Signage

The Clerk advised that she was still receiving entries after the previously advertised closing date of 31 August and therefore this would remain open for another month. The Clerk encouraged all Councillors to attract as many entries as possible.

17.9.9.5 TAP Fund Support Connetts Basketball

The Clerk advised the meeting that the coach of the women's basketball team, which is based at Uffculme Secondary School, had made an application to the TAP fund for £1,000.00 towards the cost of new kit for the club, they were looking for the Parish Councils support of their application. The Council agreed to support the application.

17.9.9.6 Appletree Footpath Project

The Clerk advised that she had been contacted by a representative of East Devon District Council who was in the process of trying to set up a new footpath project which would follow an apple trail between Taunton and Sidmouth, passing through the parish of Uffculme. They are therefore looking for a letter of support for the project, the Clerk had been advised they would later return and do a presentation to the Parish Council on the project.

17.9.9.7 Website

The Clerk advised that she had spent some time dealing with the new website and that she needed some support from at least one councillor to get the new site up and running. The Clerk suggested that the Council focuses on

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the required information by the Parish Council, as opposed to the other organisations as a priority. Previously the Council was concentrating its efforts on getting details of other organisations within the village on the website, this needs to be secondary part of the website and initially it just needs to deal with Parish Council matters, Councillor Best suggested that he would assist the Clerk in getting the website up and running and thought that Jacob Lane would be good to assist with the website. The Clerk would also discuss the proposals with Jim Clancy.

17.9.9.8 Kingwood Parking

The Clerk advised the meeting she had been contacted by concerned residents of Denners Way with regards to Kingwood staff and parents using Denners Way and the area around it for parking when this is reserved for residents only. The Clerk thought that this would be due to an intake of new children and parents to the site who perhaps were not familiar with the issues. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Trevor and Clare on this matter.

17.9.9.9 No 1 Bus

The Clerk had raised the issue in respect of the late bus not returning to Uffculme from Exeter and she had received an email from Stagecoach initially and then Devon County Council advising that if we wanted to consider the bus service to be reinstated on a Friday and Saturday evening the cost would be £19.32 per week on a Friday and £15.87 per week on a Saturday the Council did not know whether the parishioners would use the service and therefore whether to agree to commit funds to this. It was agreed that the Clerk would generate a notice for both the Spotlight, Facebook, and Jim Clancy's mailing list to ask for interest in whether this is something the parishioners would like the Parish Council to pay for.

17.9.9.10 Cycling

The Clerk had received an e mail from a concerned resident regarding cycling along the Uffculme Straight to and from Willand. The meeting discussed the issues with the Uffculme Straight and the Council is aware that this is a very fast, and dangerous road. The meeting discussed various options and one suggestion was to divert the cycle route down Bridwell Avenue through Hitchcocks Business Park and across the main road, to join the cycle path out to Parkway. Councillor Radford advised the meeting that he was in discussions with Mr Persey in respect with providing a cycle/pedestrian route from Hitchcocks to Willand as it is understood that people are walking along this busy main road these options will be explored.

17.9.10 County Councillors Report Councillor Radford

The meeting was advised that Pippins Field was scheduled to be resurfaced shortly, a lot of complaints had been raised in respect of the poor state of the road.

At the July meeting Councillor Radford had requested details of white lining that needed repainting, the Clerk had sent through details, as provided by Councillors and this would be going to the meeting in October.

Councillor Radford advised the meeting he was obviously disappointed that the George footpath project would not proceed, however he understood that without a practical solution that the Parish Council was happy with it was perhaps better to divert money to another project.

Councillor Radford advised that he had funds available within his locality budget for any projects within the area. He advised the meeting that in the past that this had been predominately assumed that monies had to be diverted through the Parish Council, although this is not the case.

The Highways Department are looking into issues relating to road closed signs and notifications of roads being closed when in fact they are not. One example Councillor Radford gave was of the road between Cullompton and

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Honiton being closed for some six weeks, as according to notices, but in practice the road was perfectly passable. If Councillors were aware of any issues where this had arisen then they should e mail Councillor Radford.

Councillor Radford endorsed the comment he made in the previous item with regards to a potential cycle way between Hitchcocks Business Park and Willand.

Councillor Radford advised that Devon County Council is currently providing funding for 690 children that are in care.

Councillor Radford advised that they were in the process of collating and reviewing TAP fund applications and if the Council was aware of any forthcoming applications then these should be submitted prior to the first hearing.

17.9.11 District Councillors Report – Councillors Chesterton & Evans

Councillor Evans reported that the Clay Lane widening application by DCC was awaiting further environmental information that was hoped to be received by 25 October. Councillor Evans was confident that he would be able to install a pre-condition within the approval that the widening of Clay Lane was essential prior to any material being moved in from Straight Gate.

Ayshford Green Issues - The light that had previously been on permanently had now been addressed and was now only on during evening hours, when required.

The wall bordering the bungalows at the bottom of Ayshford had been surveyed and it had been agreed that it was in a poor state of repair, work had been scheduled and would hopefully take place soon.

Footpaths – again these had been surveyed and agreed that urgent action was required and it was hoped that these would be resurfaced next week, week commencing 11 September 2017.

Markers – the broken red tiles had been replaced, it had been noted that within two days of the new tiles being replaced they had once again been broken although it was thought that no action would be taken by DCC on this in such a short notice. The path on Markers Road had been cut back however it was felt that this could be further cut back to increase the width of the footpath. South West Water had been out to address the hole in the pavement due to the water leak and poor filling following works they had undertaken. The tree by the phone box had been drastically cut back, although it was still there it was hoped that maintenance would now be carried out on the tree regularly.

Culm Valley Way Bridge – Councillor Evans advised that he had been in contact with officers within MDDC to make sure that this was addressed and the residents' concerns were considered appropriately. A site visit would be carried out including the trees /bushes being cut back as they were significantly overgrown. Belle Vue – 16 Houses the section 106 Monies was currently being agreed by the agent's solicitor and MDDC and it was not uncommon for this to take forever.

TPO on tree at Clay Lane – this was discussed at the Planning Committee meeting and it was agreed that the item should be deferred because the tree officer had not visited the site to review the position.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5 October 2017 at The Square Corner.