

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
Thursday 7 June 2018 at The Square Corner

processing. There are a number of issues at Straight Gate in terms of getting access to the sand and gravel and therefore this is causing the delay.

It was expected that the Landfill site would close by the end of the year, with all waste coming from the site now from Somerset. All of MDDC refuse waste is now sent to the incinerator at Exeter.

The composting site within Broadpath, which is owned by DCC is thought to be in the early stages of negotiations regarding potential sale.

The meeting was reminded once again that the smells from the Landfill should be reported on the Environment Agency hotline.

Councillor Doe

There had been a new appointment within MDDC as an overall manager for customer services within the District Council. It seems that the new member of staff is looking to make changes and ensure that the service customers receive when they telephone the district council is much improved. This will result in some significant changes over the next couple of years.

Councillor Doe reminded the meeting that if any parishioners weren't able to arrange for their refuse to be taken to the kerbside then they could request an assisted collection. If anybody new of somebody in need of this service they should contact Councillor Doe.

Councillor Doe also advised that there is a service within MDDC that if there is a bereavement you can contact one department who will then effectively deal with all the MDDC departments on the bereaved families behalf.

The works on the Premier Inn within Tiverton have now started.

There is currently a tender in progress to improve the appearance of the Pannier Market within Tiverton and it is hoped that the District Council will receive a number of tenders towards this exiting project. As an interim measure the District Council has decided to remove a tree from within the Pannier Market as it has been found that this tree was often used as a drugs drop/pick up point.

The District Council now has 3 new social housing developments in progress, these include Burlescombe & Palmerston Park.

The results of the walkabout in and around Uffculme were generally quite positive with the MDDC Housing Officers taking note of the few issues in and around the area. One of the main issues was at Ashely Close where the grass was some 3-4 foot high due to MDDC staff not being able to get access to the area, following the closure of access through Belle Vue. This meant that the grass hadn't been cut for some 12 months plus and therefore was becoming an issue. The Housing officers were going to take this back to the offices and see whether something could be arranged within the conditions related to Belle Vue.

On the whole the officers were very happy with Uffculme.

18.6.6 Finance

18.6.6.1 To Approve the May Financial Statement

Approved as official Council minutes.

18.6.6.2 To Approve 17-18 Financial Accounts

Approved as official Council minutes.

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18.6.6.3 Marker Pond

The Clerk, despite chasing Westwood, had no progress update on whether a lease could be granted in respect of the Markers Pond site.

The meeting discussed that the resident who attended the annual meeting in May had had a successful meeting with Westwood Housing to establish whether they would clear the area of debris that had been left after trees had been felled. It had been noted that Westwood seemed somewhat reluctant to spend any funds on the area.

The Clerk would chase and update on the discussions she had regarding a proposed lease.

18.6.6.4 Jess Grass Cutting

Following the May meeting the Clerk had instructed the bank below the Rec to be cut and it had been agreed that this would be cut at £45 a time. This was to carry on throughout the 2018 cutting season and would be reviewed along with the ongoing grass cutting contract later this year.

18.6.6.5 BMX Track Skate Park

Councillor Pollard had suggested to the meeting that we are looking to arranging for the area above the Rec which is currently designed to be used as a BMX track to be converted to a Skate park. Councillor Pollard had made contact with a company who had given an initial quote of £80 – 100,000. The meeting agreed that this was a significant amount of money and although the meeting was advised that there would be a significant amount of grant funding available there would still be a relatively large cost to the Parish Council in arranging this. It was agreed that Councillor Nash would arrange with Councillor Pollard to find out if the school would be willing to be involved in establishing whether there was a demand for a skate park within the village. If it was found that the children did want a skate park, then we would look into the options.

18.6.7 Business Arising

18.6.7.1 Uffculme Central

Following the discussions at the Annual Parish meeting and the Annual Parish Council meetings in May the Clerk had received an e mail from Sue Warren, Conservation Officer within MDDC, on the 6 June to advise that she would shortly be leaving the council. It had been agreed at the May meeting the Clerk would look to arrange a meeting with the Conservation officers and our Ward councillors in due course to discuss the proposals for The Square and this will be arranged although it should be noted the conservation officer will no longer be Sue Warren.

The Clerk had written to Sue Warren thanking her for all of her assistance over the years and wished her well.

18.6.7.2 Mid Devon Local Plan

The Clerk advised she had received an update from MDDC in respect of the scheduled dates for the preliminary hearings regarding J27. These were scheduled for 20/21 September at the Tiverton hotel. The Clerk was unable to attend on both of these dates and had therefore already contacted the former Clerk, Francis Welland, who had previously agreed to attend the hearings on the Parish Councils behalf, and he is aware of the dates. The Clerk had also arranged for all future correspondence to be sent to her and Mr Welland.

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18.6.7.3 Landfill Site at Broadpath

A meeting was scheduled for Monday 12 June.

The meeting discussed that there had been a lot of silt on the road recently and it was suggested that at the liaison meeting a wheel wash or an improved use of the wheel wash might be beneficial.

Councillor Haglestein had discussed the footpath which goes up Sandy Lane with the DCC Footpath co-ordinator Stewart Howells and it had been agreed that the horse gate at the far end of Sandy Lane would be moved to below the farmers field which would hopefully mean that the gate would be able to remain locked. The gate that had been moved from the top of the lower side of Sandy Lane to the bottom, off Ashely Road had been agreed by DCC as being a much better position, although it had been agreed that the height of the gate needed to be adjusted slightly.

18.6.7.4 ABN Feed mill

As with the Broadpath liaison, a meeting had been arranged for Monday 12 June. The meeting was not made aware of any known or impending issues regarding the feed mill.

18.6.7.5 Uffculme Mens Club

After the May meeting the Clerk had written to the Men's Club to advise that the Council had received complaints about the mess outside the club. Due to no known contact within the Men's Club the Clerk had sent this via Steve Wildey who had agreed to pass on our concerns. Steve Wildey was also able to advise that he thought following an AGM the new officers were as follows:

Chairman - Daniel Hullatt

Secretary - Jim Alford

Assistant Secretary - Ricky Berner

18.6.7.6 Uffculme Bowling Club

The meeting was advised that the Bowling Club would be holding its Open Day on Saturday 9 June and the Parish Council had been invited to attend. The event was to raise the profile of the Bowling Club and to raise funds for the presidents chosen charity, Brace.

18.6.7.7 Green Team

The meeting was advised that the Green Team had concerns over people using drawing pins in the trees along the railway line to post notices. It was suggested that the Green Team contact the Uffculme Trust who own the Railway Line and suggests that perhaps a notice board is placed at the Coldharbour end of the line for notices.

18.6.8 Police Report

There had been no further communication from the local policing team in respect of events they were organising for community engagement with Parish Councils.

18.6.9 Highway Matters – Road & Traffic

18.6.9.1 Issues Around School Traffic

It continues to be an issue at school drop off and collection time with the large number of vehicles in and around Ashley Road, and Meadow View. It is hoped that the Parish Council will be able to work with the primary school

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to improve the traffic issues although this may be something that needs to be explored in the new school term, commencing September 2018.

18.6.9.2 Harvesters Housing Development

As mentioned above by Councillor Evans there had been reports of a lot of site debris being brought out onto the road as construction begins on The Harvesters site.

18.6.9.3 George Footpath

It was agreed that we would look to contact DCC Highways in respect of the George Footpath and try to ascertain whether this project will move forward or be cancelled.

18.6.10 Correspondence

18.6.10.1 Tour of Britain – 3 September 2018

The Clerk had received notification that the Tour of Britain will pass through Uffculme on 3 September 2018. We had been sent a pack which included ideas on events to organise to celebrate the tour passing through the village. It was agreed that a notice would be posted in The Spotlight and the Council would circulate the pack to establish whether something for the community would be able to be organised.

18.6.11 Clerks Report

18.6.11.1 Devon Air Ambulance Night Landing Site

The Clerk advised that the quotes were being prepared by DAA and we would be contacted once the quotes had been finalised.

18.6.11.2 Website

As previously advised the ongoing issue is with establishing a licence to operate the uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk website continued to be an issue. The Clerk will continue to liaise with Councillor Best and Jacob in getting this progressed.

18.6.11.3 Allotments

The Clerk had been made aware that there was an allotment meeting on Friday 8 June and requested whether a councillor would like to participate in the walk around. The meeting agreed that due to the short notice a report from Councillor Best at the July meeting would suffice.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5 July 2018 at Ashill.