

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
Thursday 7 November 2019 at Magelake Parish Pavilion, Uffculme

Chairman: E Haglestein

Present: S Kidd R Kingdom M Pollard J Gardner P Blackman I Duncan
P Mackian P Cornish

19.11.1 Apologies for Absence

J Nash – Work Commitments D Wells – Family Commitments T Pointing – Holiday
R Radford – Another Meeting R Chesterton – Another Meeting B Evans – Another Meeting

19.11.2 Vacancies of the Council

The Clerk confirmed that there had been no interest to date with regards to the vacancy within the Council and she was awaiting the notice to be placed on the notice board from the District Council.

19.11.3 To Approve the Minutes of the meeting held 3 October 2019

The minutes were approved as an official Council record.

19.11.4 County Councillors Report

As Councillor Radford offered his apologies his report was by email, copy attached

19.11.5 District Councillors Report

We had received apologies from Councillors Chesterton and Evans as they were required to attend another meeting.

Councillor Warren was able to provide an update on The Paddock planning application appeal which had been upheld by the Inspector and therefore permission had been granted for the siting of a gypsy caravan in Bradfield.

The District Council is making good progress in planning its climate change policy and this will be presented to full Council in due course. The District Council have been provided with a number of trees and they are looking at planting more throughout the district. If anybody knew of any locations where trees could be planted, it was suggested that details were forwarded to Councillor Warren.

The planning application that had been lodged to install a largescale solar farm at Langford, nr Cullompton, was being considered at Planning Committee due to the scale of the application. The meeting was able to confirm to Councillor Warren that this application was being considered by the Planning Committee at the October meeting.

The Local Plan was being considered by the Planning Policy Advisory Group of which Councillor Chesterton was Chair. It was suggested that there were no amendments required and this report would then go to Cabinet and then Full Council, expected to be on the 4 December 2019. Again Councillor Warren was able to listen to the meetings concerns with regards to a consultation period over the Local Plan which spans the traditional Christmas break.

19.11.6 Finance

19.11.6.1 To Approve the October Financial Statement

This was approved as official Council minutes.

19.11.6.2 Coldharbour Mill

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The following Councillors declared an interest and did not take part in this matter – Councillor Pollard and Councillor Haglestein

The Clerk was not able to provide a further update with regards to funding within the Mill and this would therefore be carried forward.

19.11.6.3 Uffculme Men's Club

The Clerk was able to confirm that she had made payment for the final amount of building materials relating to the improvements carried out in the Club. The final amount, net of VAT was £860.32.

19.11.6.4 Ashill Play Area

The Clerk advised that she was awaiting revised quotes to come through to make the payment for the play equipment that was agreed at the October Council meeting.

It was also asked whether the Council could arrange for the inspection of the play equipment at Ashill and the Clerk advised again she was waiting to hear back from Mid Devon District Council on this matter.

19.11.6.5 Uffculme Village Hall

Councillor Cornish was able to share with the meeting quotes that had been passed to him from the Village Hall Committee. The quotes were for replacement toilets at the front of the building and these were as follows:

- NJT £2,400 plus the cost of flooring, yet to be quoted.
- Huxham Home Improvements £5,000 total cost.

The meeting discussed the two quotes and the dissimilarities in the quotes it was agreed that Councillor Cornish would revert back to the Village Hall Committee request a third quote and also request that the NJT quote is updated to include flooring so that we can look at three comparative quotes.

19.11.6.6 Recreation Ground Exercise Equipment

Councillor Haglestein and the Clerk were able to update that they had had a meeting with regards to finding alternatives to the exercise equipment installed at the Recreation Ground. As an initial quote had been provided the meeting considered whether they would like to source additional quotes for replacement play equipment at a cost of around £10,000 and this was agreed. The Council would therefore contact alternative companies to get another two quotes.

19.11.6.7 Donation for Wreath

In previous years the Council had made a donation to the Royal British Legion in support of Remembrance Day for a wreath to be laid at the War Memorial. The Clerk advised that the donation given in 2018 was £50.

Councillor Pollard proposed a donation of £50 this was seconded by Councillor Gardner and the meeting was in agreement.

19.11.7 Business Arising

19.11.7.1 Uffculme Central

The Clerk raised concerns with regards to the lack of progress on this agenda item and it was agreed that it would be removed from future agendas. Whilst the Council was committed to improving the Square it had to be mindful that due to funding issues and significant differences of opinion the likelihood of this being amended and improved in the short term was relatively slim.

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19.11.7.2 Mid Devon Local Plan

As updated by Councillor Warren the progress of the Mid Devon Local Plan was somewhat slow with an additional consultation period possibly spanning Christmas. A further update would be available at the December meeting, following the Full Council meeting of MDDC on 4 December 2019.

19.11.7.3 Landfill Site at Broadpath

Councillor Haglestein was able to update the Council that a meeting was booked for the 3 December 2019 and that the landfill site had now been closed. Due to this Viridor will attend this meeting however not future meetings.

19.11.7.4 ABN Feed Mill

The Clerk was able to provide information to the meeting with regards to an ABN lorry driving across High Park and that this had been reported to ABN although no information had been fed back to the Clerk with regards to this matter.

19.11.7.5 Uffculme Men's Club

Councillor Kingdom again endorsed that the Club was very grateful to the Council for the contribution made towards the materials for improvements in the Club. At this time there were no other updates from the Club to be fed into the Council.

19.11.7.6 Uffculme Bowling Club

Councillor Mackian attended the meeting and was able to advise that the Club are looking at getting a slope installed from the parking area down to the Clubhouse because the steps are too steep. Further information would be provided on this.

It was also reported that the branches of a tree within the Recreation Ground were over hanging the Bowling Club and causing issues. It was agreed that the Clerk would look to discuss this with a tree surgeon along with other matters in the Parish.

19.11.7.7 Green Team

Councillor Kingdom was able to advise that the mass unwrap on the 12 October was well attended and the Green Team were very happy with regards people's attitudes. The event was largely held to meet the requirements of Surfers Against Sewerage and this was the final stage of the criteria that needed to be met. Therefore, the application has now been submitted to Surfers Against Sewerage and it was thought that we were probably the first village in Mid Devon to have been awarded this status.

The litter pick had to be cancelled due to the poor weather conditions.

19.11.7.8 Allotments

Councillor Duncan was able to advise that the Allotment Committee was looking to install a shed/lean to at the allotments for members to congregate in and store a small selection of hand tools.

19.11.7.9 BMX Track/Skatepark

The Clerk and Councillor Pollard were able to update the meeting that the funding application was submitted to Viridor at 31 October 2019 however the application was returned due to two minor technical aspects, one that one of the quotes was broken down more than the others and the other with regards to proof of Land Registry ownership.

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The Clerk was also able to advise the meeting she had made applications to Live West, Gregorys, Richard Persey and Aggregate Industries for additional funding support towards the application.

Councillor Radford had agreed to provide a grant of £1,500 from his Investing in Devon fund.

19.11.7.10 Parish Maintenance Update

Councillor Pollard was able to advise that the shed had been ordered and would be installed on Monday.

19.11.7.11 Magelake Management Contract with MRH

The Clerk advised the meeting that this item had not been progressed as Martin had been unwell, this would be followed up in the new year.

19.11.8 Police Report

Although Councillor Pointing was not able to attend the meeting he provided an update on the current statistics held by the Policing Statistics these were in short:

- Total crime for September was 19 incidents compared to 32 in August.
- For the months of August and September just under 50% of incidents are still under investigation.
- 30% resulting in no charges and 4% resulting in charges being pressed.

A copy of the full statistics are appended to these minutes.

19.11.9 Clerks Report

19.11.9.1 Markers Pond

The Clerk advised that Westwood Housing had come back and agreed the terms of the lease to be £1 per annum peppercorn rent for the lease of the Pond. £1,000 fixed contribution towards the cost of legal fees in setting up the lease.

It was also agreed that if the legal costs exceeded £3,000 in the setting up of the legal documents and lease the Council would pay a contribution of 50% of the amount above the £3,000. This was proposed that we enter the lease on these terms by Councillor Pollard and seconded by Councillor Cornish. With regards to timescale it was suggested that the lease commences from the 1 April 2020.

19.11.9.2 Boundary Review

The Clerk had circulated the Boundary review response ahead of the meeting that she had drafted with Councillor Haglestein and this was agreed and will be appended to the minutes.

19.11.9.3 MDDC Parish Walk About and Update

The update provided by Councillor Evans was that work was planned to the overgrown area down on Markers Road on the 9 November 2019. It seems that all other matters were being dealt with appropriately.

19.11.9.4 Coffee Morning 12 October 2019

As fed back to the meeting by Councillor Kingdom the Clerk endorsed that the presence at the Green Team Coffee morning was a success and that the Council's presence was well received. The Clerk suggested that we look to attend further coffee mornings in the future to raise our profile and engage with the local community.

The Clerk closed the meeting with providing a rough outline of 2020 meeting dates these were as follows:

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- 16 January 2020 Full Council meeting including the Budget
- 23 January 2020 Planning Meeting

The Clerk advised ahead of the December meeting she would circulate a schedule of proposed meeting dates for 2020 to Councillors.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5 December 2019 at Magelake Parish Pavilion