

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
Thursday 6 July 2017 at Ashill Village Hall

Chairman: E Hagelstein

Present: P Blackman P Mackian M Pollard P Golding
P Best R Kingdom P Cornish

17.7.1 Apologies:

D Wells – Holiday P Disley - Work S Stimson - Work
G Evans - Unwell J Gardner – Work G Doe - MDDC

The Clerk advised the meeting that along with her apologies Councillor Disley had offered her resignation to the Council. Councillor Disley will be attending university in Plymouth in September and she was unable to attend this meeting and thought that she would be unable to make any commitments to the Parish Council before she leaves for university. The Clerk will advertise the vacancy.

17.7.2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2017 approved and signed as a correct record.

17.7.3 Finance

17.7.3. June Financial Statement

Approved as official council minutes.

17.7.3.2 Notice Board – Additional Door

The Clerk confirmed that the additional door had been fitted to the notice board and that it was a significant improvement. The Clerk had moved some of the public notices into the Council section of the notice board as it was filling up. The meeting discussed somebody placing a business related advert on the board and it was agreed that we should not encourage businesses to advertise in this area, it was agreed that posting such notices within other shops in the village would incur a charge and therefore we should keep this notice board strictly for community notices and not those of a business nature.

17.7.3.3 Magelake Finances

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had now progressed matters to a point where all of the invoicing to Martin was up to date and that she now felt she was in a position to maintain this. The accounts for Magelake would be submitted to the Magelake committee at a meeting scheduled on Thursday 13 July and matters would be dealt with at this meeting.

17.7.3.4 Audit Reports and Progress

The Clerk advised the meeting she had met with former Clerk, Francis Welland. Francis had conducted the independent review of the accounts and statements prepared for the auditor by the current Clerk and he was happy with the records and information provided.

The report that Councillor Mackian had prepared following his review of the Clerks financial procedures and the accounting records was circulated prior to the meeting and discussed. The meeting was in agreement that the recommendations made by Councillor Mackian should be implemented and the Clerk advised the meeting she had brought the BACS details for May and June along to the meeting to be signed off as per his recommendation.

The Clerk expressed her gratitude to Councillor Mackian for his time and also his helpful feedback, the Clerk and Councillor Mackian will meet on a regular basis and carry out this review at least six monthly.

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17.7.3.5 Play Equipment and Picnic Benches

The Clerk advised the meeting that the new play equipment at Pathfields and the picnic benches at the Rec were due to be installed week commencing 10 July 2017. The Clerk would get in contact with those who wanted the rubber matting and then this would be dealt with.

17.7.3.6 Uffculme Twinning Association

The Clerk advised the meeting of the activities and trips that the twinning association had arranged for the French counterparts. It was agreed that the Council should make a contribution towards the cost of the twinning activities over the weekend. Councillor Cornish proposed a contribution of £500, this was seconded by Councillor Mackian and the whole meeting was in agreement. The Clerk would arrange transfer monies to the Twinning Association.

The Clerk also reminded Councillors that they have been invited to attend an evening reception at Magelake on the Friday when the French guests would be welcomed to the village.

17.7.4 Business Arising

17.7.4.1 Uffculme Central

The meeting was advised that on the 13 July a meeting had been arranged with Sue Warren, Conservation Officer of MDDC, and Ian Sorrenson, DCC Transport Engineer, to discuss the options in respect of using Ayshford Green as a parking area. Ian had previously prepared some drawings and the meeting would discuss whether Sue Warren thought that using Ayshford Green as a parking area would be a sustainable option in the future.

17.7.4.2 Mid Devon Local Plan

The meeting was advised that an Inspector has been appointed to review the Mid Devon Local Plan, Paul Griffiths. Inspector Griffiths had initially called a two-day hearing to discuss Junction 27 and associated housing with those who had made representations on these two aspects. The hearing will take place on 26 and 27 September at Mid Devon District Council Offices. The Clerk had not been made aware of this however District Councillors forwarded the information during the meeting and the Clerk would arrange with Robert Young the facilitator to ensure that her details were now on the system.

The Council has the opportunity to raise any further statements to the inspector by the 15 August, with a word limit of 3,000 words. The meeting agreed that the former Clerk Francis Welland would prepare a statement to submit to the Inspector, it was felt that there were a number of aspects that had not been identified within the list of questions scheduled for 26/27 September and these needed to be highlighted.

17.7.4.3 Landfill Site at Broadpath

The liaison meeting which took place on 12 June advised that they are still intending on closing by the end of 2020, and that the composting arrangements had already closed.

In respect of the Leachate treatment plant the application had been submitted for a trial period of two years, during this period the Environment Agency would watch and monitor the activity of the treatment plant as it was an experimental design. The liaison meeting had been advised that any treated water would not be put back into the water course after passing through the Leachate treatment plant until it had been tested further in the future. This would ensure that there were no adverse effects to the local water course and also ensure that the treatment plant was working as indicated. If permission was granted, initially for two years, then the Environment Agency would periodically review activities and results from the testing to ensure that the trial was

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in line with what they had been advised in the application. It was expected that a decision would be made by the end of July.

17.7.4.4 ABN Feedmill

There was a liaison meeting on the 12 June and the main updates were that the Environment Agency had been made aware from local residents the issues regarding smells from the mill, Councillor Hagelstein advised the meeting that she had various people around the village keeping logs and these were being fed back to the Environment Agency, Councillors suggested that they might keep logs and it was agreed that the Clerk would forward a copy of the log to all Councillors so that they would keep details and pass back to Councillor Hagelstein.

The meeting also heard from a concerned resident who felt that she had been feeling particularly unwell and she thought that this was due to the feed mill, her work was as an aromatherapist and she said that she struggled to work very often due to the smell.

It was also reported that there had been dust storms from the mill and that this was causing increased levels of dust on peoples vehicles and homes. All of this had been fed back to Environment Agency through their telephone log system.

17.7.4.5 Willand Proposed Boundary Change

Following the Clerk and the Clerk of Willand Parish Council chasing MDDC we have received notification that a meeting would be set up between those involved with administering the boundary change and the Councils legal department. It was hoped that by the time the Parish Council met in September there would be some tangible progress to report. The Clerk would continue to apply pressure to MDDC to progress matters.

17.7.4.6 Magelake Update

It was very briefly reported that along with the financial aspects that were now up to date the Clerk had gained control of the work required in respect of Magelake and the work carried out by Pete Morris had made a notable change to the overall appearance of the building. Councillor Golding reported that concerned resident Chris Hill had contacted her with a pleasing report on the overall state of the building following him raising concerns previously. The works that had been carried out really did make a significant improvement to the overall appearance of the building with the railings being painted, the front being pressured washed, the window sills being painted and various internal modifications being made. The Clerk and Chairman were both aware of the ongoing works required to bring Makelake up to an acceptable standard and these would be discussed at the Magelake meeting the following week. It was agreed that the Magelake committee should look to deal with Magelake matters and only bring things back to full council when necessary.

17.7.4.7 St Marys Church Planning Application for Mobile Phone Mast (16/018459/FULL)

The Clerk had received an update that the Exeter Dioecian Advisory Committee and the Church Council had both approved the works granted under the planning permission, the decision was now with the faculty from the Chancellor of the Diocese, however the Clerk had been advised that this was more of a formality than anything else.

It was expected that the antenna would be installed during the autumn and that the supplier had anticipated having the equipment operational by the end of the year.

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17.7.4.8 Land West of Harvesters Existing Permission for 60 Houses – Design Review

The Clerk circulated a copy of the slightly revised design of the housing development that would be presented to the design review panel on the 13 July. The Council would await a decision in respect of the design review and the application that DCH wishes to put forward to MDDC.

At the meeting, it was discussed why the S.106 Monies had been allocated to the Secondary School and not the village on a wider basis. Councillor Radford suggested that the Secondary School had made an application to DCC for additional funding towards secondary education. Councillor Radford advised that the formula for determining the number of children for a housing development was that 60 houses would generally add an additional 15 primary school children. It was recommended that the Clerk should go back and question whether the Section 106 monies could be re-aligned.

17.7.4.9 Land West of Harvesters - 30 Houses

The meeting discussed that this application had been refused twice by the planning committee and that the applicant had now submitted an identical application to MDDC. The District Councillors for our ward had raised various issues in respect of the applicant submitting an identical application and whether the planning officers could in fact refuse to determine the application on the basis that it was identical, this was being looked into by the planning department and legal department of the Council. The situation was not helped by the head of planning being away from work on sick leave and the Chief Executive of the Council being responsible for planning in her absence.

17.7.4.10 Green Team

Councillor Kingdom had been discussing the Green Team activities with Delia Kennedy and she had agreed to be a representative for the Green Team within the council and vice-versa.

17.7.5 Police Report

No police report was available at the meeting.

17.7.6 Highway Matters/Road and Traffic

17.7.6.1 Commercial Road/George Footpath

A meeting had been arranged with those involved with the George footpath scheme for Wednesday morning to discuss what options were available. The designs submitted by DCC were agreed by the Council as not being a practical solution for the village given the issues that the proposed footpath would have to general traffic flow through the village especially with the large lorries that frequent the village for the mill. The meeting discussed whether white lines, hatches, painting on the road would be a workable option and it was agreed that we would discuss these at the meeting and present them to DCC as agreed.

17.7.6.2 Ashill 30 MPH

The Clerk advised she had been contacted by a concerned resident who wanted to raise issues with Ray Radford in respect of the speed of vehicles leaving Ashill. The Council agreed that it was relatively limited in terms of what it could do and that with this year's finances allocated, and additional pressures due to Magelake, it was agreed that we would review this in January.

17.7.7 Correspondence

17.7.7.1 Information Available at the Meeting

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The Clerk confirmed that there was no hard copy information.

17.7.8 Clerks Report

17.7.8.1 Pathfields Play Area

The Clerk advised that she had received the signed lease from MDDC and that she was arranging to register this with the land registry. As previously advised earlier in the meeting the equipment would be installed week commencing 10 July.

17.7.8.2 Picnic Benches for The Rec

As previously advised the picnic benches would be installed week commencing 10 July.

17.7.8.3 Ayshford Issues

The Clerk thanked Councillor Evans for his involvement with Ayshford as he had been a catalyst in getting MDDC to get on and get things done. MDDC had admitted that they were responsible for maintaining certain areas, and that DCC were responsible for the broken footpath and DCH for the over grown tree. The Clerk had forwarded the various e mails to the appropriate persons and it was hoped that over the next few weeks works would be scheduled. Councillor Evans advised the meeting that he had expressed his dissatisfaction at MDDC in respect of them avoiding their responsibilities for adequately maintaining this area and urge that works be prioritised given the length of time MDDC have not done anything following their identification of issues some 12 months ago.

17.7.8.4 Dog Waste Bins/Signage

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had received some posters from local children in respect of raising awareness of people picking up their dog poo the designs would be reviewed at the September meeting and winning entries selected.

17.7.8.5 Coldharbour Mill Hydro Energy Project

The Clerk had been contacted with a proposal for a new hydro energy plant system for Coldharbour Mill that would see Coldharbour Mill generate its own electricity by reinstating the use of the leat and a new water wheel. The Mill had thought that this was an exciting project and would demonstrate the old and the new way of sourcing power through water. The meeting agreed that the Clerk should write a letter of support for the project.

17.7.9 County Councillors Report Councillor Radford

Councillor Radford advised that there was currently a £4,000 Hatoc fund which would be made available for line markings on the road this could be anything from disabled bays to re-painting stop markings. The meeting identified a couple of issues immediately and Councillors will contact the Clerk with areas they felt needed attention and she would make a request to Mike Jones at DCC.

The twenty new councillors had been involved in their induction to the Council therefore things have been quite busy the last few weeks.

The Tap fund for 17/18 was now open and Councillor Radford suggested that applicants make their submissions.

17.7.10 District Councillors Report – Councillors Chesterton and Evans

Councillor Evans advised the meeting that a new partnership had been created to deal with the internal audit of the MDDC accounts and finances this had been made up of two former employees of MDDC who had been transferred under the TUPE arrangements to the new company. The new company would deal with the audit across Devon authorities and would look to streamline matters.

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It was also reported that Mr Rawlings who had moved into the Fergusons previous house had passed away in May. Mr Rawlings had been working with Councillor Evans on matters at Broadpath etc given the locality of the house.

Councillor Chesterton had no further points, other than those discussed during the meeting.

Next meeting to be held on Thursday 7 September 2017 at The Square Corner