

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
Thursday 5 November 2020 on Google Meet

Chairman: E Hagelstein

Present: R Kingdom M Pollard P Cornish D Wells I Duncan T Verona
J Nash T Pointing P Mackian

20.11.01 Apologies for Absence

R Radford – MDDC meeting

20.11.02 To Approve the Minutes of the meeting held 1 October 2020

The minutes were approved as an official Council record.

20.11.03 County Councillors Report

Councillor Radford had submitted an e-mail to the Clerk prior to the meeting, which had been circulated to the Councillors, no queries were raised in respect of the report and it was agreed to attach that to the minutes.

20.11.04 District Councillors Report

Councillor Chesterton gave an update on the Public Space Protection Orders, which is the replacement of the former Dog Orders, which is now with the Environment Working Group. He acknowledged that enforcement cases were taking a long time to process due to Officers being overworked.

Councillor Evans advised that MDDC is working to stay in contact with vulnerable residents throughout the second period of lockdown.

Funding had been received from central government, and although the distribution was a complex matter, on the whole grants had been paid out to those in need in a timely manner.

The proposed Asphalt Plant at Broadpath would be going to Committee at DCC for consideration. It is expected that permission will be granted however, in the intervening time it is essential that proper mitigating measures are developed alongside the permission to limit the impact on the village. It was encouraged for a member of the Parish Council to attend when the item is discussed at DCC. It is also expected again that the widening of Clay Lane would be a pre-condition, although Aggregate Industries have indicated that this would be done within the next 2 years.

The MDDC budget for 2021/22 is currently looking at a £3m overspend although this does not take into account any central government grants to be received. In addition, it is forecast that 2020/21 will see a £250k overspend.

Councillor Evans has been working alongside housing officers to consider rent arrears and develop a better structure and method for dealing with these, including understanding individuals' positions in greater detail. This recent change has already had a positive impact upon tenants and council officers.

The development at Harvesters has had a Stop Notice applied, due to carrying out tree cutting that was not included within the Planning permission.

Councillor Warren encouraged the Parish Council to review the dog fouling maps, when received, in detail as there had been some anomalies in these found.

Councillor Warren, again highlighted the issues with enforcement action for matters that either went against Planning permission, or disregarded any Planning.

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20.11.05 Finance

20.10.05.01 To Approve the October Financial Statement

The October financial statement was approved as official Council minutes.

20.11.05.02 Coldharbour Mill

The Clerk reported that no details had been received from Coldharbour Mill in respect of funding requests. This item was carried forward.

20.11.05.03 Uffculme Village Hall

Councillor Cornish advised that the Village Hall had been able to hold some classes and a wedding prior to lockdown, however was now forced to close.

New quotes would be sought in the New Year for the toilet refurbishment. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda until such time quotes had been received.

20.11.05.04 Uffculme Mens Club

Councillor Kingdom advised that the club remained closed, with the Steward on furlough. James Alford, Chairman, was arranging to provide copies of the minutes to Ruth, via the Clerk, although to date none had been received.

In respect of the works carried out, many of those involved had become demoralised recently and little progress had been made.

20.11.05.05 Skatepark

The Clerk advised the meeting that the initial invoice from Maverick had been received for the design phase of the Skatepark, this element was not funded by the Viridor Grant, and therefore the full cost was that of the Parish Council at £8,787.50+VAT. It was agreed the Clerk would settle the invoice.

The Clerk confirmed that she had forwarded the third-party funding contribution to Viridor by cheque, totalling £7,543.50. At the October 2020 meeting the Parish Council agreed to draw down all of the available S.106 monies from MDDC however, this had not been possible due to an allocation within MDDC of funds towards a new roundabout at Culm Valley Way play park, therefore the Clerk had submitted a claim for £6500.00.

20.11.05.06 Bus Stop

No updates had been received since the previous meeting.

20.11.05.07 Magelake repairs/fence gate

The Clerk shared the quotes received from Stacey Cork for the foot gate at Magelake. The cost was just under £600.00. The cost for replacing the front fence posts was between £670-£700, depending upon final materials. Both quotes were approved, and it was anticipated works would be complete prior to Christmas.

20.11.05.08 Remembrance Wreath

Councillor Pollard proposed a donation of £50.00 to the Royal British Legion for the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. This was seconded by Councillor Duncan and the meeting was in agreement.

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20.11.05.09 Heritage Board

The Clerk shared with the meeting, designs and a proposal from the Uffculme Local History Group, for a heritage board to be placed in The Square. The meeting was reminded that a provision had been made in the 2020/21 budget of £1000.00 towards the board. The estimated cost of the board was £1950.00+VAT, and it was proposed by Councillor Pollard to support the Local History Group with the purchase of £1500.00+VAT, this was seconded by Councillor Kingdom and the meeting agreed.

20.11.06 Business Arising

20.11.06.01 Hillhead / Broadpath

Councillor Hagelstein advised that there was no report available due to Covid.

20.11.06.02 ABN Feed Mill

Councillor Hagelstein advised that there was no report available due to Covid.

20.11.06.03 Uffculme Mens Club

Councillor Kingdom did not provide any other update, other than above.

20.11.06.04 Uffculme Bowling Club

Councillor Hagelstein advised that there was no report available due to Covid.

20.11.06.05 Green Team

Councillor Kingdom advised that the Green Team had been fairly quiet, although had recently expressed an interest in being involved with the Pond redevelopment, and had also been involved in the Connecting The Culm project.

The search continues for the Green Hero of 2020.

Councillor Hagelstein advised that she would arrange to write a short piece on behalf of the Parish Council to include in a book, which is being written by Delia of the Green Team.

20.11.06.06 Allotments

Councillor Duncan advised that there was little to update in respect of the allotments, with 6/7 people remaining on the waiting list, as well as no forthcoming applicants for the positions of Chairman and Treasurer.

20.11.06.07 BMX Track/Skatepark

The Clerk shared with the meeting a first draft of a sign, designed by Maverick for the Skatepark. Councillors discussed the design and agreed that the Clerk would revert to Maverick suggesting a simplified design, which encouraged the use of safety equipment and was bright in appearance. They also discussed that the park would be known as 'Uffculme Skatepark'.

20.11.06.08 Parish Maintenance Update, Commercial Road

Councillor Pollard advised that the seat at the Cemetery had recently been condemned and therefore was proposing a new seat at a cost of around £400.00. The meeting agreed the purchase. The meeting also discussed the bench above the Bowling Club being in a very poor state of repair, and subject to vandalism. It was agreed that the bench would be removed.

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20.11.06.09 Uffculme Pond Lease

The Clerk advised that Dunn and Baker had now been instructed and funds were due to be paid across for the contributions towards Westwood's legal fees, things were progressing.

20.11.06.10 Re-opening of Public Toilet

The meeting discussed the reopening of the public toilet and it was agreed that due to Covid, the toilet should remain closed.

20.11.06.11 Future Meeting format

The meeting discussed current Covid guidance and agreed that the December meeting should take place online.

20.11.06.12 Social Media

Councillor Verona updated the meeting that some 300 residents were now following the Parish Council page, and receiving updates on related matters.

20.11.06.13 Traffic and speeding issues/Community Speedwatch

Progress had been made for a Community Speedwatch however, due to Covid this had been postponed to be reviewed in the New Year.

20.11.06.14 Planning for the future – response

The meeting acknowledged the work by the Planning Committee in preparing and submitting a response to the government white paper on planning reforms, and it was agreed the formal response would be appended to the minutes.

20.11.06.16 MDDC estate walkabout

Councillor Hagelstein advised she attended the walkabout at Highland Terrace and said it provided an interesting insight into the maintenance of Council owned properties, and the mix of privately owned properties.

20.11.07 Police Report

Councillor Pointing shared the most recent statistics with the meeting and the meeting agreed that the breakdown of reported incidents by area was interesting. It was agreed to append the data as part of the minutes.

20.11.07.01 Vandalism

Councillor Verona raised the issue of recent vandalism within the village, and the meeting discussed the actions that could be taken, these included putting right the damage caused quickly, engaging with the young people of the village and liaising with the school. The meeting agreed that the first point of action would be to liaise with the school and request their endorsement that vandalism is not acceptable in our Community.

20.11.08 Clerks Report

20.11.08.01 Water Fountain

Due to Covid-19 there has never been an unveiling of the water fountain. Unfortunately, this remains the case for the time being.

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20.11.08.02 DCC & MDDC Grass Cutting

The Green Team are keen to explore grass cutting schedules next season.

20.11.08.03 Removal of tree in The Square

The Clerk advised that she had been contacted by a member of the public who was against the removal of the Silver Birch tree in The Square. The member of the public also presented her thoughts during the public session of the meeting. The meeting agreed that a period of consultation with the public would go ahead to gain a greater understanding of local opinion although the Tree Surgeon would be asked to continue with the application to MDDC to remove the tree, to run alongside the public consultation. No action would be taken until at least the New Year due to the Christmas lights.

20.11.08.04 Long Shrubbery footpath issues

The Clerk advised that she had received communication from DCC that the remedial works to the footpath had been scheduled.

20.11.08.05 Footpath Maintenance

The Clerk advised that following the discussions at the October meeting, she had been able to positively request DCC arrange cutbacks of the overgrown footpaths, which included the footpath towards the Secondary School and these had been actioned.

20.11.08.06 Covid Lockdown

The Clerk asked the meeting whether the Parish Council wished to reinstate the Community Support service as we had now entered another period of lockdown with vulnerable residents asked to shield. The meeting agreed that the Clerk would contact the handful of residents who used the service most, to ensure that they had sufficient support to help them throughout this second period of lockdown, rather than reinstate the whole scheme.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 3rd December via Google Meet.

From: Councillor Ray Radford <ray.radford@devon.gov.uk>
Sent: 05 November 2020 11:52
To: 'Verity Aldridge'
Subject: FW: November Report

Dear Verity.

Please except my apologies, should I not make your meeting because I have a MDDC Policy Development Meeting the at 6pm, I will try to come later providing it finishes in time.

I have not much to report about Uffculme. I am aware that Mr Tucker is appealing his application for a disabled bay near his house, County says the road is less than 4.8m where in actual fact it is 5.3m, will see how that one goes, not sure if the Parish Council has been involved.

This just some of what is going on at County.

Since schools returned in September, one of the greatest challenges for headteachers has been ensuring that their schools have sufficient teaching staff in place every day.

As the number of Covid cases rises, more and more teachers are having to isolate if they have possible symptoms, or if they have been in contact with someone who has tested positive.

Some teachers are also having to stay home to look after their own children who are isolating. The impact on schools is enormous

The squeeze on education budgets in recent years has led many schools to reduce the number of teaching staff to the bare minimum. That means they now have no spare capacity when teachers are absent.

We are working on next year`s budget, in fact, it is always an on going process, once one budget is done, we work on the next, because funding is always a challenging situation, particularly now with Covid.

On financial issues at DCC at month 5 the monitoring report for the Revenue Budget forecast an overspend of £4.5 million and this can be accommodated by not making a contribution to reserves if not clawed back. This does not include the forecast overspend of £26.8 million on Education Special Needs (SEND) and this will be carried forward as a negative reserve in line with Dept of Education guidance. The Capital Programme for this financial year is £177.8 million and this includes carry forwards and the year end forecast is put at £159.5 million making the slippage £18.2 million. The sale of surplus property this financial year has to-date brought in capital receipts of £5 million.

Devon was one of the first councils to put money aside to support people who unfortunately needed urgent support

We put £1million into this fund and then increased the sum with our share of the £63million Government money allocated in June.....£700kThis money was shared between the 8 District Councils based on their electorates. There is still £600,000 available in this fund and we are encouraging any family needing help to apply to their District Council.....Already North Devon has issued a press release explaining how to apply for this help I very much welcome the extension of the furlough scheme but our economy relies massively on small and medium companies and the tourism and hospitality industries and it is vital that the Government also provides support for these sectors.

It is also vital that the Government provides financial support for local government so we can continue the vital work we did during the first lockdown.

We have already received enquiries from members of the public about the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC's), please reassure residents that we will **not** be closing the centres. There may be occasions where we have staff shortages and some temporary closure may be necessary but we will put out comms about any situation that arises due to staff sickness/isolation.

If you need to access healthcare please do, but please consider the best way to do this as there are plenty of options such as a local pharmacy, your GP practice and the Urgent Treatment Centre at Newton Abbot. My advice is to make good use of the 111 phone line or website for advice when your need is urgent but not an emergency. By doing this you will help us keep our Emergency Department for emergencies as much as possible.

This is just some of what is going, I will be able to supply much more funding/financial information as we get further into the budget.

If you need me, you know where I am, always pleased to hear from you with any burning issues..

Regards,
Ray

Ray Radford
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Willand & Uffculme Division
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