

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

Chairman: E Haglestein

Present: P Best P Cornish S Kidd R Kingdom J Nash
M Pollard D Wells I Duncan

19.3.1 Apologies

P Mackian – Holiday P Blackman – Family Commitments S Stimson – Work Commitments

19.3.2 To Approve the Minutes of Meeting held 10 January 2019

The meeting approved the minutes.

19.3.3 County Councillors Report – Councillor Radford

Councillor Radford advised that the budget was agreed on 21 February 2019 with an overall increase of 1.99%, in line with the increase set by Central Government. The total budget stood at £493.85 M with the Children's budget at £135 M and Adult Social Care at £232 M.

Councillor Radford advised that there had been some demonstrations at the Full Council meeting about the County Council's role in alleviating climate change.

Councillor Radford was able to report that Devon County Council currently employs 126 apprentices.

Councillor Radford was able to advise that at a recent meeting of the Community Together Fund Uffculme Parish Council was awarded £1,000 towards the water filling station that they had applied for.

He was also able to advise that the Village Hall had been awarded £1,235 and the School had been awarded £3,349.

19.3.4 District Councillors Report – Councillors Chesterton, Doe & Evans

Councillor Doe advised that within her community there had recently been a successful grant from Calor Gas towards projects and it was agreed that she would forward details to the Clerk.

Councillor Chesterton advised that there was a Consultation Evening on the Mid Devon Design guide which was taking place on 27 March 2019.

It was also suggested that with the Parish Councils support the District Councillors would endorse the Section 106 monies going towards a bench at Culm Valley Way as raised in the public session. It was discussed that the bench should be maintenance free. The Clerk raised concerns about committing funds albeit Section 106 monies without it being a separate agenda item. Councillors agreed that they support the installation of a bench at Culm Valley Way and therefore an agenda item will be set for next month but the decision had in theory already been made.

There had been a new weed spraying set up in that if ever there are any issue areas within the Parish we can contact Stuart Noyce and request that the problem areas are sprayed. It was advised that this is not a generic to spray the whole of Uffculme but rather a small targeted area.

The Economic Development team within MDDC have been selected to attend an award ceremony in London to celebrate their achievements as a Council that promotes economic growth.

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Councillor Evans advised that the Local Plan hearings went as well as he would have hoped, and he was hopeful that we would soon hear back from the Inspector.

He was also pleased to announce that a motion he passed within MDDC to stop the use of single use plastics has now been rolled out across all of Phoenix House as well as the Leisure Centres.

There have been some meetings with the owners of Hitchcocks Business Park and the Planning Department in terms of pre-application advice and it was thought that a planning application would follow shortly.

Councillor Evans asked the Council whether they would be willing to allocate some of the Section 106 monies available to Uffculme to the School MUGA the meeting discussed this albeit briefly and agreed that any Section 106 funds should in preference be allocated to the MUGA that is owned by the Parish Council as opposed to the School MUGA.

A speed restriction will be taking place by Devon County Council to monitor traffic passing the new Luccombe Park building site.

There had been an estimated £45,000 overspend on the 18/19 budget to date although it was hoped that some claw back would be sought within the final months of the financial year.

Bob Evans advised that the District Councillors would be in a period of purdah from the 18 March 2019 and therefore their input at the next meeting may be somewhat limited if they attend at all.

19.3.5 Finance

19.3.5.1 To Approve January Financial Statement

The January financial statement was agreed as official Council minutes.

19.3.5.2 To Approve February Financial Statement

The February financial statement was agreed as official Council minutes

19.3.5.3 Ashill Village Hall

Councillor Blackman was not able to attend the meeting and therefore no updates with regards to finance matters.

9.3.5.4 Bowling Club Gates

The Clerk advised that she had been contacted by the Committee of the Bowling Club who advised that they had received 3 quotes towards the cost of new gates at the Club. The meeting discussed the Bowling Club committee stance on the quote and in the e mail to the Clerk they advised they had already selected a contractor to carry out the works. This was against the original advice given to the Bowling Club, and therefore the Council was only able to offer a grant towards the cost. It was proposed by Councillor Cornish that a grant of £500 was made towards the cost of the gates, this was seconded by Councillor Kingdom and the meeting was in agreement.

19.3.5.5 Coldharbour Mill

Following the public session where residents had raised concerns with regards to the proposed Archimedes Screw at Coldharbour Mill the meeting discussed whether they should be allocating funds immediately to Coldharbour Mill when there was so much uncertainty about the future of the works. The Clerk shared with the meeting a letter from Susan Wasafi requesting a letter of support be written from the Parish Council towards the Viridor Funding which makes specific reference to the clearing of the Mill Pond to be directly related towards the installation of the Archimedes Screw. Whilst the meeting was keen to ensure that the Mill Pond is restored

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because there has been so much concern raised over the noise element of the proposed Archimedes Screw then the Council felt at this time they were not able to award funds. The Council was made aware that there is a Coldharbour meeting which is due to be held on 3 April 2019 and therefore this item would be carried forward.

19.3.5.6 Devon Air Ambulance Night Landing Site

The Parish Council discussed that a grant had been sought from Ray Radford towards the cost of the lighting installation to enable Magelake to be used as a night landing site. Councillor Radford had agreed that he would put forward £800 and therefore there was a shortfall of £577 from the total cost of £1,377. The meeting agreed that the Parish Council would meet this financial commitment.

19.3.5.7 Uffculme Mens Club Refurb Monies

Councillor Kingdom advised the meeting that she didn't feel able to update the Council on whether the Club was still looking to carry out the refurbishment or not. It appears there had been some concerns raised within the Club Committee as to whether the works were really necessary. This item will be carried forward and if the Mens Club wish to have a financial contribution from the Parish Council we were in principal happy to support this.

19.3.5.8 Other Finance Matters

Councillor Hagelstein advised that Mrs Fairie a former District and Parish Councillor had recently passed away. Her funeral was attended by Councillor Hagelstein and it is understood that the retiring collection was towards the Roman Catholic Church in Tiverton. Whilst the Parish Council wish to make a donation in memory of Mrs Fairie it was felt that because this was a faith related donation then the Parish Council was not able. It was left that Councillor Hagelstein would find out if there were any other charities that Mrs Fairie would have liked a donation in her memory to be made to.

19.3.6 Business Arising

19.3.6.1 Uffculme Central

The Council discussed whether it was worth exploring whether the old garage, opposite The George, would be a viable piece of land to use as a car parking area within the village. It was agreed that a letter should be written to the owner to ascertain whether he would at all interested in selling this parcel of land to the Parish Council to enable for this to be used for parking.

It was also discussed that the Viridor credits were shortly due to expire due to the landfill site closing. Councillor Pollard raised that it would be possible to employ a fund raiser who would be responsible for sourcing the funds to enable such works and this should still be explored. It was also suggested that a meeting with the Conservation Officer of MDDC should be arranged to ascertain their views on an overview level.

19.3.6.2 Mid Devon Local Plan Hearings

The former Clerk of the Parish Council, Francis Welland, attended the hearings on behalf of the Parish Council. He prepared some additional pieces in respect of the hearing and these are appended to the minutes to be approved at the April meeting.

19.3.6.3 Landfill Site at Broadpath

The meeting was advised that the ROMP was signed on 7 March 2019 which is just over 2 months later than should have been approved. The delay is all related to Aggregate Industries being very late in submitting the additional information requested by Devon County Council. There has been a clause added in respect of the retrospective work that is due to take place and this will be followed up by County Council.

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The widening of Clay Lane is now a legal document that will require Aggregate Industries to file a form to transfer the responsibility within 2 months of the ROMP being signed. It also states that within the date of the transfer there is also a clause to say that it should be completed within 2 years. An indicative date for completion is currently September 2020.

There is also a confirmed clause that the footpath around the site which will extend from the layby just above the Old Well Garden Centre will also commence shortly.

19.3.6.4 ABN Feed Mill

There was no report given as there was no liaison meeting since our last meeting.

19.3.6.5 Uffculme Mens Club

As discussed in the financial aspect of the meeting the Club at present do not want any financial contribution towards the works they were originally proposing to carry out.

19.3.6.6 Uffculme Bowling Club

The meeting discussed the request for the new gates at the Club and it was agreed that there were no further agenda items for the Bowling Club.

19.3.6.7 Green Team/Green Day

Councillor Kingdom shared an objective that the Green Team was looking to achieve in terms of creating a plastic free community. The commitment that the Green Team is asking the Parish Council to endorse is as follows:

- (a) Committing to the process to remove single use plastics
- (b) Encourage and support initiatives to promote this campaign
- (c) Having a named representative on the Council on a plastic free community steering group

The Council fully endorsed these commitments by the Green Team and also the Parish Council and it was agreed that the Clerk would write a letter to the Green Team endorsing this agreement at the meeting. It was agreed that Ruth Kingdom would represent the Parish Council within the community steering group as she is the appointed representative to liaise with the Green Team on all matters.

19.3.6.8 Allotments

Councillor Best advised the meeting that there are only 2 quarter plots left as being vacant and there are 4 and a half plots that are occupied by residents who are outside of the Parish of Uffculme. Councillor Best would advise the Clerk on the final contribution that was required to be made.

19.3.6.9 Kingwood Parking at Magelake

The meeting discussed whether a fence and chain would be the most appropriate action to split the car park. Whilst this would stop Kingwood members of staff parking in areas that were not wanted it would create somewhat of a logistical issue and therefore it was agreed that a meeting with Martin to discuss how this would work logistically would be best.

19.3.6.10 BMX Track/Skate Park

The proposal would be drafted and circulated to those involved in the Skate Park before being sent off to gain some quotes.

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19.3.6.11 Parish Maintenance Update

The Clerk advised she had been contacted by Jess Lucas to advise the Cemetery shed needed some attention and therefore this should be transferred to the Maintenance Committee to schedule works. There was an update provided by Pete Best however there was still some uncertainty as to the works required and what items were the responsibility of the Parish Council. A further meeting of the Maintenance Committee would be arranged with Councillor Haglestein who would be able to provide an update.

19.3.6.12 Coldharbour Mill

The meeting discussed Coldharbour Mill above in respect of finance and their ongoing works. The meeting was reminded that the Coldharbour Mill Board was holding a meeting on Wednesday 3 April 2019 and Councillors were encouraged to attend.

19.3.7 Police Report

Councillor Best was able to report that in Uffculme there were four reported incidents, three were against a person and one was a theft. The exact details of each of the reported crimes was not available.

19.3.8 Highway Matters Road & Traffic

19.3.8.1 Issues Around School Traffic

It was agreed that this item would be removed as the Parish Council were somewhat limited as to what action they could take.

19.3.8.2 Ashill 30mph Limit

It has been confirmed that the 30mph was now in force within Ashill which was a great achievement by the Parish Council after so many years of trying to get this commissioned. It had been raised that there was a surplus of monies over and above those previously allocated and therefore the Parish Council needed to look as to what they wish to spend this money on it needed to be highways related and therefore the Council would consider this.

19.3.9 Clerks Report

19.3.9.1 Devon Air Ambulance Night Landing Site

As above the Council have agreed to make up the shortfall and therefore the Clerk would contact the Devon Air Ambulance representative to arrange scheduling the works.

19.3.9.2 Markers Pond

It was agreed that contacting Gina in respect of the pond may be a better way to try and establish a method of communication with Westward Housing.

19.3.9.3 Village Hall Ground Clearance

After the last meeting whereby it had been reported the ABN Feed Mill would assist in the ground clearance as far as the Parish Council was concerned no matter had progressed. As this item related directly to the Village Hall as opposed to the Parish Council it was agreed that this matter would leave with them.

19.3.9.4 Boundary Review MDDC Meeting

The Clerk and Councillor Haglestein have attended the MDDC meeting with regards to Boundary reviews. At the meeting it became apparent that the Boundary Commission were looking to review the Ward boundaries of District Councillors as opposed to Parish boundaries. Whilst this was not what the Parish Council was hoping for it

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was an informative meeting and the Boundary Commission advised that we should still put forward suggestions in respect of Ward Boundary changes if we considered any and this could be used as part of a basis for future Parish boundary review. The Clerk had been able to get confirmation from the Boundary review that they were looking to undertake their review late 2019 through to 2010 and were hoping that by summer 2020 the review would be conclusive. The Boundary Commission thought that there would still be time prior to the next election, in 2023 to carry out a Parish boundary review. It is therefore imperative that the Parish Council stays working closely with Willand on this matter to ensure that we can drive things forward.

The Parish Council should consider whether it feels the Ward boundaries should be reviewed for the Uffculme Parish as we currently fall within two wards for MDDC. The Councillors for 'Upper Culm' have very little input to the Parish Council or support.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 4 April 2019 at Magelake Parish Pavilion.