

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
Monday 4th July 2022 at Ashill Village Hall

Chairman: P Blackman

Present: I Duncan T Pointing A Willis R Kingdom
M Pollard S Kidd B Evans B Warren

22.07.01 Apologies for absence

R Radford R Chesterton T Verona T Edwards
(family) (Covid) (work) (holiday)

22.07.02 To approve of the Minutes of Meeting held on 6th June 2022

The minutes were agreed as an official council record.

Public Session

Martin Halse advised that Magelake requires accounts (backdated to 2016) to be submitted to the Charity Commission, in order to allow for grant funding to be requested for schemes relating to the football pitches and MUGA. It is also necessary to appoint trustees to the Charity, in order for it to be operating correctly. Uffculme PC is the Custodian Trustee. Up until 2018, there was a Management Committee in place to handle Magelake related matters – this needs to be revised. Going forward, the website records relating to the Charity need to be updated, the Charity needs to be updated to incorporated (in order to limit trustee exposure). Trustees also need to be appointed.

22.07.03 County Councillor's Report

Councillor Radford's report is appended.

The Council discussed sending a letter of support to Ray and his family. Proposed by Councillor Kingdom, Seconded by Councillor Blackmore, all in agreement. Clerk to draft.

22.07.04 District Councillor's Reports

Councillor Chesterton did not attend the meeting or submit a report.

Councillor Evans advised as follows:

- 1) Liaison meeting on 04/07 was cancelled due to lack of attendance. Rescheduled for later in July. After use agreement is needed as only 10-15 years left on the quarry use. Low grade agricultural land and wooded area an option – Councillor Evans is pushing for public use. A meeting on site was attended by Environment Agency, Aggregates, Head of Planning, DCC and Virador. Additional experts are needed. Aggregate Industries are currently undertaking an appeal to planning refusal relating to 1.5 tonnes of aggregate for use on the central site. Appeal will be via public enquiry on 26/07 – all able to comment.
- 2) Path in Markers is overgrown and has been referred to Westwood – Councillor Evans to chase.

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- 3) There have been 2 complaints relating to flooding on Fore Street – to be referred to Councillor Radford at DCC.
- 4) Consultation relating to Cullompton due – Clerk to circulate details to Councillors.
- 5) Up and coming surgeries will be in Willand this Saturday and Uffculme the following.

Councillor Warren advised as follows:

- 1) A complaint had been received in regard to the street lighting in Bell Vue – will continue to assist.
- 2) After a car collided with a property in College Green, all is confirmed as now being well. Stuart Penny, who looks after housing, has all in hand.
- 3) There was a meeting to discuss the Boundary Review – Discussions were extensive during the meeting and agreement not yet found. There will be further consultation date set after the next meeting on Wednesday – Uffculme PC urged to reaffirm position when the time comes.
- 4) The road and construction at Selgars Mill was discussed. A request has been sent to Planning to investigate as it is not believed that the works are following the pre-approved plans. There are delays currently due to staffing issues – c.300 cases, split across 3 Case Officers.

22.07.05 Parish Council Vacancies

The Clerk advised that there are still 3 vacancies currently. A number of members of the public have expressed an interest in the role and two have applied, with precis being circulated prior to the meeting (appended). The first being Malcolm Bodger – Proposed by Councillor Pointing, Seconded by Councillor Pollard, all in agreement. The second being Roy Keeling – Proposed by Councillor Blackman, Seconded by Councillor Kingdom, all in agreement. Clerk to arrange for necessary paperwork to be completed.

22.07.06 Finance

22.07.06.01 To approve June Financial Statement

The June financial statement was approved as official council minutes.

22.07.06.02 Magelake

A request has been received to the Council for funding for the football pitches at Magelake. The first request is for £1681, to cover Weed and Feed along with Verti draining for drainage. The second request is for £8,634, to cover sanding the pitch (to aid drainage and to stop the pitches compacting, the sand fill the holes where the verti drain removes small tubes of earth) and 60 tonnes of sand. Both options were discussed and it was agreed that the first request would be approved – Proposed by Councillor Duncan, Seconded by Councillor Pointing, all in agreement. The second would require further information – How long does the proposed treatment last (is it an annual maintenance)? When was the last investment and how much was the same pitch treatment? Have others been consulted for funding? Will others be consulted once Charity Commission issues resolved (suggested Sport England and FA funding)? More specific figures are needed, including a full breakdown of costs, in order to make a final decision. Councillor Evans will consult with Duncan at Aggregates to see if discounted sand can be provided. The total investment towards Magelake currently in the budget is £4000.

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22.07.06.03 Jubilee

A request has been received to make payment towards invoices, for members who are included as part of the Jubilee funded group, which are not issued in the name of Uffculme Parish Council. The invoices have already been paid for by Culm Sampford Youth Football Club, and invoiced as such, to the value of £293.67 (BBQ food) and £1363.20 (trophies). The total pot allocated to the Uffculme based Jubilee events is £5000. To date, Uffculme Parish Council have paid a total of £4448.50 (inc. VAT) towards the community events, leaving a remaining balance of £551.50. Uffculme Parish Council would like to pass on thanks to Coldharbour Mill for their part in the organising of the Jubilee events for the Parish and confirm remaining balance of £551.50 as available for invoices issued in the name of Uffculme Parish Council, in line with original grant award notification. Proposed by Councillor Duncan, Seconded by Councillor Pointing, all in agreement.

22.07.06.04 Credit Card

The option of a credit card was discussed for Council use. Financial Regulations to be prepared to incorporate the use of a card and application to Lloyds for a Council credit card once banking authorisation/access for current Clerk is in place.

22.07.07 Business Arising

22.07.07.01 Hillhead/Broadpath

There have been reports of Antisocial Behaviour in regards to the bridleway and surrounding land. The bridleway is owned by Devon County Council. The current gateway needs fixing as has been damaged previously when bikes have accessed the area - Clerk to raise with Ros at Devon. Councillor Pollard advised that Uffculme United Charities is the landowner of the site involved in the bike use. Letter to be prepared to pass to the police to be held on file, which states no authorisation in place for bike usage in the case of future complaints. Clerk to approach Councillor Evans to see if an area of the quarry site can be put forward for allocation for the purpose of biking.

22.07.07.02 ABN Feed Mill

No updates to report.

22.07.07.03 Uffculme Men's Club

The last meeting took place on 21st June 2022. There are no minutes to circulate as yet.

22.07.07.04 Uffculme Bowling Club

No updates to report.

22.07.07.05 Green Team

A meeting is due on 6th July 2022. The repair café was again a success. Councillor Pointing advised that the community fridge was now up and running (plenty of tofu currently), due to next be open this Tuesday (5th July) from 5.30pm-6.30pm on a drop in basis. Additional volunteers may be needed if additional opening hours are required going forward. Councillor Pointing to provide a link to the Uffculme Community Fridge Facebook page for Councillors to follow going forward for updates.

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22.07.07.06 Allotments

No updates to report.

22.07.07.07 Parish Maintenance Update

Councillor Pollard advised that Chapel Hill footpath remained overgrown – Clerk to chase up Devon County Council. There are areas of fencing around the skatepark that need repair – Councillor Pollard to request Stacey replace the roadside areas, Clerk to investigate whether fencing between BMX grass track and skatepark is necessary (will arrange for replacement if it is). The casing to the Magelake defibrillator had become damaged – this has now been repaired. The Clerk provided an update in regards to the potholes in Kitwell and Mill Streets. Residents urged to continue to raise individual pothole issues via the Highways' online portal for repair and full resurfacing will be possible once appropriate funding is available.

22.07.07.08 Traffic and Speeding Issues/Community Speed Watch

Councillor Pointing advised that meeting dates were still awaited to meet with the ABN Traffic Manager. Speedwatch points shared from Willand and currently a collaborative approach is being looked into between Halberton, Willand and Uffculme in order to arrange a consistent speed be requested between the villages. There are ongoing speeding issues along Ashley Road, especially during the school run. Update requested in regards to the 20MPH request that was submitted last quarter – Clerk to chase/follow-up.

22.07.07.09 Schools update

Councillor Willis advised that contact had been made with both the upper and lower schools. The upper school has twice cancelled meetings, with the next rescheduled meeting being next Tuesday (12th July). Lower school yet to set a meeting date and chased for an update on this.

22.07.07.10 Water Fountain

Councillor Pointing advised he is due to meet with the designer contact next weekend (16th July) and will circulate to the Council for comment once received.

22.07.07.11 Uffculme Village Hall

Councillor Kidd advised that the hall are currently looking for a bookkeeper to handle the accounts for the hall going forward – no other updates.

22.07.07.12 Magelake Committee / Repairs

No updates to report.

22.07.07.13 Youth Working Group

Councillor Kidd referred to the document circulated prior to the meeting – all agreed very informative. No further updates to report.

22.07.07.14 Ukrainian Crisis

No updates to report.

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22.07.07.15 Markers Pond

Councillor Cornish advised the works to the trees had been completed, with mixed response from residents. The majority of wood is due to stay on site for nature purposes. Lucy at R&R to arrange for planting and screening in the autumn. The dredging of the pond is to happen next. There is a lack of water supplying the pond to be investigated through dowsing techniques (free of charge). Proposed by Councillor Pointing, Seconded by Councillor Blackman, all in agreement.

22.07.07.16 Coldharbour Mill

The Clerk advised that thanks were received to the Council from Martin at Coldharbour Mill in regards to the additional support, by way of a Letter of Support, for their newest project.

22.07.07.17 Play Areas

The Clerk advised of vandalism at Pathfields Park. There is s106 money to the value of £25,000 allocated to this location. The current lease is for 25 years, with a 3 month notice period available. Solutions going forward which were discussed included school interaction, leaflet drops to a targeted area and engagement with residents. Combination approach to be adopted.

Skatepark event offered by Maverick, now that the annual inspection has been carried out. Free of charge event to be held during the holidays.

Quotation for swing set at Ashill to be sought for discussion at next meeting.

Above Proposed by Councillor Willis, Seconded by Councillor Blackman, all in agreement.

22.07.07.18 Contact with the Press

Councillor Kingdom advised that more knowledge and policy would be welcomed in regards to contact from the media going forward (after comment was requested in regards to the recent politically elected Uffculme resident). Statutory Guidelines state comment, as Council, should be pre-agreed and neutral. Comment as individual allows freedom to express when made clear not council views. Media Policy to be put together, in order to agree approach going forward. Proposed by Councillor Duncan, Seconded by Councillor Kingdom, all in agreement. Clerk to assist in drafting.

22.07.08 Police Report

Councillor Duncan ran through his observations when attending a Friday night shift (9pm-6am) as an observer. There were two Police Officers on duty (one female and one male) and there were 4 incidents that Councillor Duncan ran through, which displayed a wide spectrum of situations which can occur during a shift. The opportunity was also had to view multi-services when attending a case in A&E and having the opportunity to view the custody centre at Middlemoor (Devon and Cornwall Police HQ). Observation that there are a number of people where mental health issues were apparent and that the police force do a fantastic job, even though undermanned.

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22.07.09 Clerk's Report

22.07.09.01 Play Areas Service Renewal

Clerk advised that there are two further quotations awaited before being able to report back to the Council on options. Report to be presented at next full council meeting.

22.07.09.02 Financial Regulations

The Clerk advised that financial regulations would be updated and will be amended also to reflect the use of payment cards (once one is arranged and in place) and that these will be based on a combination of the existing regulations and the DALC recommended template/format.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 5th September 2022, subject to confirmation by the Clerk.