

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
8 September 2016 at Magelake Parish Pavilion

Chairman: E Hagelstein

Present:

P Blackman	P Cornish	P Disley	T Emms
G Evans	P Golding	J Gardner	P Mackian
M Pollard	D Wells		

Apologies:

Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2016 Approved and signed as a correct record.

Finance:

July Financial Statement

APPROVED as official Council Minutes

August Financial Statement

APPROVED as official Council Minutes

Lloyds Bank online access

The Clerk reported that she now had online access, along with Cllr Hagelstein and Cllr Gardner. This meant that end of month summaries and reconciliations were now much easier. It would take a little while to set up payments to be able to be made online as it would need two signatories.

Cllrs Wells was encouraged to register and Cllr Pollard's registration would be chased up.

Defibrillator

The Clerk reported that we had received a contribution towards the cost of the Defibrillator from the Markers Residents Association of £355, a letter of thanks would be prepared and sent.

Cllr Hagelstein reported that the Rotary Club that had organised the Bridwell Show's for a number of years had suggested that a contribution may be possible towards the defibrillator, this would be followed up and more information available at the next meeting, hopefully.

We were still waiting to hear back about the Co-op agreeing to the siting of the defibrillator on the outside of the Co-op. It has been suggested that the Co-op may want to be involved in selecting the defibrillator that is installed, to meet their own objectives and criteria. We are also hopeful that there may be a contribution towards the cost.

Cllr Blackman reported that the Ashill defibrillator had been delivered and a local resident was making a suitable casing for it to be kept in the ladies' toilet of the pub. Cllr Blackman asked the Council to consider if it would contribute towards the funding that the Village Hall Committee raised towards the cost, the Clerk agreed to add this as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Noticeboard

Again we are awaiting a response from the Co-op regarding the notice board.

No further action can be taken until this is agreed, we are ready to order once Co-op have confirmed.

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Play equipment Purchase

The Clerk reported that she had received a lot of very positive feedback about the new equipment which is fantastic.

It was noted that the provision of a couple of benches would be good for the mums who take their children to play. It was agreed that options should be looked into, the picnic benches should ideally be metal and fixed to the ground.

Cllr Wells also commented that the park at Pippins Field didn't have a picnic bench, although as this was a MDDC play park there was little we could do.

TAP Fund Monies - UPC

Unfortunately, we haven't heard back from MDDC regarding our TAP Fund application. The Clerk will chase a response.

Business Arising

Uffculme Central

Following the decision by Cllr Emms at the July meeting to step away from the management of the project as he felt there was little support, both from Councillors and local residents.

There would be a write up in the spotlight and potentially a public meeting was needed. It was agreed that we would try to encourage other residents to be involved in the necessary works. It was also considered that the involvement of the schools would be a good option.

The Clerk would make enquiries regarding the cost of Reed Holland updating the costing analysis of the project and also arrange a meeting to discuss options. Even if the Council decided not to proceed with the design prepared by Reed Holland then a certain level of remedial works would be needed as the cobbles are in a poor state of repair.

Cllr Mackian voiced his concerns about the proposed development as he has concerns over parking and access rights to his property.

Mid Devon Local Plan Review 2013 – 2033 – Update

Cllr Chesterton reported that the implications report which was agreed in April was available now, the MDDC Cabinet would discuss and vote on the inclusion of the land in the local plan on Thursday 15 September. Before going before full Council on 22 September. At the April Cabinet meeting the vote was 5:2 in favour of the report being prepared and it was expected that the Cabinet would vote to include. At both the Cabinet meeting and also the full Council meeting there would be an opportunity for members of the public to speak and ask questions.

The pre-application advice that Eden Westward have received from MDDC officers is available online and now includes a map which identifies the land that would possibly be available, excluding the land that is owned by Mr Bass. It has taken quite some time to get Eden Westward to acknowledge this land that isn't available and produce a plan as to how the development may look.

If it is decided to include J27 in the local plan we will need to enter a new consultation period for the major modifications – this is likely to be a six-week period, which if it falls over Christmas will be extended 8 weeks. Following collation of the responses it would be very late March before the plan was in a state to be submitted to Central Government. It should be noted that if the plan is not submitted by the end of March MDDC faces potential special measures being imposed.

At the same time the reports from the Agent looking at J28 seems to have found solutions to the concerns raised by the Environment Agency, although the Environment Agency are not being helpful in trying to move forward.

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J27 Feasibility Report

The report that has been prepared by officers was released publicly on Thursday 8 September and the Clerk would forward this to Councillors for consideration.

The MDDC Councillors would vote on the inclusion of the land in the local plan on Thursday 22 September and Councillors were encouraged to attend.

The Clerk also raised concerns that Francis Welland had presented in respect of him representing Uffculme Parish Council at the Inquiry for the local plan, in that he has drafted the Parish Council's response to the initial consultation on the basis that the Council opposes any development at J27. Francis has concerns that the Parish Council has changed its stance and now feels open to certain development at J27. It was agreed that until the decision by MDDC Councillors whether to include the land or not, we would delay considering whether the Parish Council has changed its opinion over the development.

Meeting with representative from Clarks Village

Cllr Trevor Emms reported to the meeting on the recent meeting with Richard Evans, a property agent, working on behalf of Clarks Village, his notes had been previously circulated.

During the meeting Richard advised that Clarks village are happy to work with Uffculme, and other local Parishes, to support their fight to oppose the development.

Devon Minerals Plan – Update

The Inspector has put the modifications for the mineral plan out for consultation on the modifications. The main one that will affect Uffculme is the recommendation to widen Clay Lane. The transport and access modification specifically suggests the widening to avoid the lorries passing residential properties. This suggests that the quarrying at Penslade will be conditional on the widening of Clay Lane. It is possible to respond directly on the DCC website and Councillors were encouraged to respond to support this modification.

Landfill site at Broadpath – Liaison Meeting 5 September 2016

Cllr Bob Evans reported that the recent meeting was attended by a senior Aggregate Industries representative. It was thought that this attendance was brought about by the recent report that states that Aggregate Industries are not being compliant with the necessary regulations for quarrying, especially given the lack of restoration. Cllr Evans was hoping to have a meeting with Laurie Quinn to further discuss AI's activities and try to establish what actions AI are likely to take to try to restore the site to within the necessary regulations. AI are also keen to try to improve relations with local residents and this must be seen as a positive step.

The meeting has asked if any local residents wish to take part in the liaison meetings now that the Fergusson's have left the area. It was agreed that Cllr Bob Evans would approach the new residents of Down Farm to establish if they have any interest in partaking. It was agreed that the representative should not be a parish councillor.

The landfill site is still expected to close in 2020, although they do not have the soil storage that was previously expected as they are having trouble getting hold of soil to use and what is available is being used immediately and therefore not being stored.

A site visit is expected to be arranged to give the Parish Council access to the site to see the extent of activities. Cllr Bob Evans will provide more information when this becomes available.

The Compost facility usage/tonnage has dropped below previous levels, this is expected to be due to the MDDC collections for garden waste becoming chargeable and therefore less popular with local residents.

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ABN Feed Mill Liaison Meeting

The minutes of the most recent meeting were not yet available, although Cllr Hagelstein reported that the feed mill's plans to install the two new closes during July had been delayed and the second would be installed in the last few days. The replacement of the cyclones would assist with reducing smells that were emitted into the village, an improvement should be notice by the end of the month at the latest.

The next meeting is scheduled for 5 December to tie in with the Broadpath meeting to ensure the Environment Agency's attendance.

Willand - Proposed Boundary Change

Following the resignation of Becky Little the meeting was asked if anyone else wanted to partake in the meeting with Willand Parish Council to discuss the proposed boundary change, nobody came forward so those attending will be Cllrs Evans, Hagelstein and Wells. A meeting would be arranged.

Commercial Road Footpath

The Clerk has received a letter from the local resident who fell and broke their arm, the Clerk has also spoken with the owners of The George and they are happy to write a letter to support some action being taken over the current path being replaced with something safer and more suitable, given the large number of elderly residents who frequent this pathway.

Once the Clerk has received the letter of support from The George she will contact Cllr Ray Radford to see what can be done.

Future management of Magelake

The meeting confirmed that they had all read and considered the proposal for MRH Management Ltd to take over the day to day running of Magelake on behalf of the Committee. Cllr Mackian proposed we proceed with this suggestion, this was seconded by Cllr Blackman and the whole meeting was in agreement.

Highway Matters/Road and Traffic

Ashill 30 MPH

The 60 MPH national speed limit signs remain in place. It was also considered if we can request to have the strips across the road to monitor the speed of traffic passing through the village.

Cllr Blackman passed on that there was a milk tanker that passed through the village at night at great speeds, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the farm that it was visiting and contact the depot where the driver was based. There had also been recent issues with the postman driving excessively fast and also an incident between a car and a cyclist that resulted in a ruckus!

Correspondence

Information available

No hard copy information had been received.

Clerk's Report

Pathfields Play Area

The meeting discussed the option of entering into a 25 year lease with MDDC to take over the responsibility of the play area and it was agreed that the Clerk and Chairman would meet with MDDC officers to find out what would need to happen to make this effective. Cllr Chesterton thought that a timescales of Spring for the lease to

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be effective was realistic and therefore the Council would look at options of sourcing new equipment associated costings.

The action by the Clerk and Chairman was proposed by Cllr Evans, and seconded by Cllr Gardner.

Ashill – Proposed new Doggie Bin & notices – ‘On Hold’

The bin for Ashill was now in situ and was being emptied twice weekly, Cllr Blackman said that there was a notable difference in the litter on the floor etc.

Mid Devon Street Cleansing Review

The Council discussed the recently circulated paper on street cleansing for Mid Devon and the possibility of combining dog waste and general waste bins. The Council agreed that if bins were to remain as they are then this was not a suitable solution, a sealed bin was thought to be more appropriate for dog waste. If Mid Devon introduced a ‘swing top’ bin for all waste it was felt that this would be suitable. It was agreed the Clerk would generate a response to MDDC with these thoughts.

Location for future meetings

The Clerk advised the meeting that The Square Corner was now available for meetings at a rate of £7.50 per hour and we would envisage our meetings taking 2 hours. The Clerk advised the meeting that we would be able to use the projector for the meeting which would mean that everyone could see the documents on the screen and that this would cut down the amount of paper printed, and wasted!

It was felt that more members of the Public attended meetings at The Square Corner due to its central location and Cllr Gardner proposed we return, this was seconded by Cllr Cornish, everyone else agreed.

Flowers in The Square

It had recently become apparent that Alistair of Gore House was frequently watering the flowers and ‘dead-heading’ them too. It was felt that a letter of thanks should be sent to acknowledge his efforts in keeping the Square looking good.

The hosepipe was also thought to be in a relatively poor state of repair and it was thought that a new one would be needed for 2017.

Snow Wardens

At the July meeting when the provision of the container for salt storage was confirmed it was questioned over whether there were any snow wardens in the village. It was felt that if people could store 2-3 bags of salt in their shed/garage and spread this in the event of bad weather would be a much better idea than having a few people who relied upon the bins provided on the side of the road that have depleted in recent bad weather spells.

It was agreed the Clerk would send an advert to the Spotlight.

Uffculme Bowling Club

The lease that was arranged at the start of the year has been returned to the Clerk and has been lodged at the Land Registry. The lease is for a period of 10 years.

County Councillor’s Report (Cllr Radford)

Cllr Radford sent his apologies to the meeting.

District Councillors’ Reports (Cllr Chesterton and Evans) – Apologies given by Cllr Doe

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Both Cllrs Chesterton and Evans felt that they had provided updates on all key items during the meeting and that there was nothing further to add.

The next meeting will be Thursday 6 October 2016, 7.00pm at The Square Corner