

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
19 January 2017 at The Square Corner

Chairman: E Hagelstein

Present: P Blackman T Emms G Evans J Gardner
P Golding P Mackian M Pollard D Wells

Apologies: P Cornish P Disley

Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 01st December 2016 - Approved.

Budget and Precept setting for 2017/18

The Clerk had previously circulated the draft budget along with a commentary and the council meeting ran through this. There were various variations to the budget the Clerk had prepared in advance of the meeting and these were put through during the meeting. The main points to note were

- Phil Salter would increase to £9.50/hr from 1st April 2017. This was proposed by Mike Pollard and the meeting agreed unanimously.
- Uffculme Village Hall had made a request to the Parish Council for funds for emergency electrical works following a report suggesting that the electrics were unsafe at the time. The expected cost of this would be £42,000 and The Village Hall had prepared an application to Viridor to help fund this although they were looking for the 10% third party funding and the Parish Council were requested to provide any funds available. It was thought that the works being carried out at the Village Hall would be similar to The Square Corner and the Parish Council would contribute a sum accordingly however, there were concerns over the apparent lack of information over what works were required, the number of quotes that had been obtained and the validity of the assessments.
- Uffculme Signs - The clerk advised the meeting that the Twinning Association had been in contact about new Village signs as the Twinned Village in France is changing its name to Caumont-Sur-Aure. The residents of the French Village are due to visit in July and it was hoped that the new signs could be unveiled whilst they were here. The council discussed whether new signs were required following a report from Devon County that they were sufficient in condition and that they would easily be able to replace the wording using stickers. It was agreed that we would contribute towards the cost of the stickers.
- Coldharbour Mill - The Chairman advised that Coldharbour Mill were currently undergoing funding applications and assessments for the new fire escape that had been discussed by the Planning Committee. The new fire escape was an essential purchase for the Mill to ensure it maintained adequate safety standards for visitors. The council agreed to make a contribution towards the fire escape.
- The Meeting agreed that the precept for 2017/18 should be set at £80,000, an increase from £75,000.

Finance:

December Financial Statement

APPROVED as official Council Minutes.

Defibrillators

Verity Aldridge
Clerk to Uffculme Parish Council
22 February 2017

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The Clerk advised the meeting that she had been in contact with the Proprietor of the new Café at 11 The Square, he would be happy to have a defibrillator sited on the outside of his building provided that the Parish Council was able to give him a letter removing any personal liability he may have for the defibrillator. The Clerk advised she didn't think this would be a problem and the meeting agreed that the Clerk should go on and arrange the ordering and installation of the defibrillator and address a letter to Mr Jarman, the proprietor. The meeting noted that Terry Gilbert may be able to deal with the installation from the electrical side.

It was noted that the Ashill defibrillator is ready to be installed and training had been scheduled for Thursday 26th January 2017. Cllr. Blackman invited any Councillors who were interested in learning how to use the defibrillator to attend. The evening was free of charge.

Notice Board

The Clerk advised the meeting that a deposit for the notice board had been paid to Ken White Signs before Christmas, and the notice board was in the process of being produced. There was a query that had been raised over the new anti-fade map and it was agreed that the legend showing the footpath guide should remain on the map.

The notice board should be installed at some point in February or early March and the Clerk especially noted that this would make things much easier for Parish notices.

Business Arising

Uffculme Central

Councillor Emms advised the meeting that the progress on Uffculme Central was slow. The designs we had received from Swan Paul were a little disappointing and this was discussed at a Committee meeting on the 28th December 2016 regarding the initial designs we had received. New designs had come through in the last couple of days, although these were still disappointing and it was hoped that we could pull together and give Swan Paul a more defined brief as it seems at present we are not on the same wavelength.

Mid Devon Local Plan Review 2013 – 2033 – Update

The consultation period would be from 3rd January to 14th February 2017 and the Clerk advised the meeting that she had been contacted by the Chair of the Sampford Peverell Sustainable Villages Committee wondering if we would like to be involved in an evening with Tim Smit. It would be an opportunity for the public to ask questions however it should be noted that it is scheduled for after the consultation period and therefore would have little bearing on the submissions to any inspector.

The meeting agreed that the Clerk would prepare a response on behalf of the Parish council to the local plan and this would be circulated to all Councillors for their review and comment. This would then be amalgamated and a final submission presented before the end of consultation period.

It was also suggested that some questions should be prepared, Cllr Evans felt she would be able to do this easily, to send to Jim Clancy and then on to his mailing list regarding what people could comment on with regards to the local plan.

Broadpath Landfill - Leachate

Cllr Emms advised the meeting that he had been in contact with Mary Rees at the Environment Agency regarding the potential leachate problem and the suggestion that there may be a treatment plant going in for the leachate. It should be noted that the equipment that is going to be used is currently untested and although they state that nothing will be going into the water course we should be concerned that as the equipment is untested. Cllr Emms has asked for reassurance to ease local concerns especially given the locality of the plant to the village. Mary Rees

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will come back with further information when they start testing and also whether any permits will be required and/or planning permission for these works.

ABN Feed Mill – December meeting

The Clerk had previously circulated the minutes of the December ABN meeting which everyone acknowledged they had received.

Willand - Proposed Boundary Change

The Clerk urged those who were involved in reviewing the boundary change to again look at the document sent through by Willand Parish Council and to arrange a meeting so that we could move forward on this as it has not progressed for some time.

Commercial Road Footpath

We have received confirmation that works are likely to be in the region of £11,000 to £15,000. Works are likely to take place in August due to the road needing to be closed whilst works are carried out. Cllr Radford had confirmed that he would make a contribution from his Locality budget towards these works of £5,000. We are still awaiting detailed drawings of the works that Devon County Council are proposing and hopefully will receive this soon.

Magelake Committee

Following the start of Martin's new contract which means he has overall day to day responsibility for the running of Magelake, the Committee has become less prominent and as such many people have removed themselves. The Clerk advised that there is a need for trustees within the Parish Council to be on the Magelake Committee. At the meeting, it was agreed that Cllr Evans, Cllr Gardner and Cllr Mackian would form this Committee. The Clerk urged that they meet as soon as possible and action is made in terms of dealing with the changing of the bank account updating the constitution, similar to the Village hall and dealing with matters as needed.

St.Mary's Church – Planning application for mobile phone mast

The Planning Committee met at the beginning of January and discussed this application. The Planning Committee's response was that there are no objections to the application, subject to a protected species report being carried out and made public and also, that reports on risk assessments and method statements on working at heights are also carried out. Ultimately the decision lies with the Church council as to whether to progress with the phone mast regardless of whether planning permission is received. The District Council is in the process of determining a decision. It should be noted that Cllr Wells has an interest as he is an employee of Vodafone (one of the companies to be involved in the mast) and is also a bell ringer at the church.

Police Report

No formal police report was made at the meeting; these are likely to be made quarterly.

The Clerk advised the meeting of a recent event that had occurred in the village with a secondary school pupil being approached by a man and seemingly trying to encourage the boy to go with the man. Luckily the boy realised that this was not a normal incident and ran home. No identification has been carried out on who the person may have been who approached the boy however Councillors should be aware.

Highway Matters/Road and Traffic

Street Lighting

The Clerk noted that within Ashill they had street lighting issues until after Christmas.

Correspondence

Other Correspondence

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The Clerk advised that she had a Health Voices hard copy if anyone wished to have that.

The Clerk had received an email from the Bowling Club regarding the closure of Compost Magic suggesting that the Council may well be able to do something to keep the Compost site open. Cllr Pollard advised the meeting that progress had been made to try to keep the site open and they were currently in talks with someone who may well want to run the site, as a private individual. There would be a charge for membership and this would run from the 1st April 2017. Details were still being finalised and Cllr Pollard hoped that things would be updated and made public in the not too distant future.

The Clerk had received a letter from Pete Walter who is the Secretary for the Ayshford Trust. The letter was to advise that Ros Hignett, the Uffculme Parish Council representative, had resigned from her position within the trust and as such the Parish council needed to nominate another representative. The representative did not need to be a Parish council member however, Cllr Pollard offered his participation in the trust and said he would contact Pete Walter accordingly.

Clerk's Report

Pathfields Play Area

The Clerk advised that she has received a draft lease from Mid Devon District Council and there were a number of queries that have been reverted back to MDDC. As and when a revised lease had been received she would circulate it for further review.

The Clerk also advised the meeting that she had received a quote for replacement play equipment and flooring at the site. This had a cost of just under £18,000.00 which was significantly higher than anticipated. The increased cost was a result of having to replace the flooring under the swings which were not being replaced due to MDDC not maintaining them throughout their life.

The Clerk had written to MDDC asking for a contribution towards this replacement floor area given their lack of maintenance over the last few years.

The Clerk would also make an application under the TAP fund to get monies towards the cost of the flooring.

Councillor Vacancies

The Clerk advised the meeting that we still had two vacancies within the Parish council and encouraged all Councillors to identify anybody who would potentially like to join the Council.

County Councillor's Report (Cllr Radford)

No report was available.

District Councillors' Report (Cllrs Chesterton, Doe and Evans)

No report was available from any District Councillors.

The next meeting will be Thursday 2nd March 2017 at 7.00pm at The Square Corner