

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
Monday 2nd October 2023 at Magelake

Chairman: P Blackman

Present: T Edwards D Paterson P Cornish T Pointing
R Kingdom P Hallchurch S Lane

23.06.01 Apologies for absence

A Willis

R Keeling

23.06.02 To approve of the Minutes of Meeting held on 4th September 2023

The minutes were agreed as an official council record.

Public Session

There were no members of the public in attendance.

23.06.03 County Councillor's Report

Councillor Radford provided his apologies and provided a written report (appended). Question to be referred to Councillor Radford as to how is the priority list put together in regards to highways. Clerk to raise.

23.06.04 District Councillor's Reports

Councillor Conner advised that leisure facilities were VAT free during Covid and that this had been extended. There is therefore a VAT rebate due c. £2.9m to MDDC to be allocated to leisure related spends.

Councillor Poynton provided a written report (appended). There were no questions in regards to this.

Councillor Bradshaw provided apologies ahead of the meeting.

23.06.05 Parish Council Vacancies

The Clerk advised precis received from Andrew Logue (appended). Proposed by Councillor Edwards, Seconded by Councillor Blackman, all in agreement.

23.06.06 Finance

23.06.06.01 To approve September Financial Statement

The September financial statement was approved as official council minutes.

23.06.06.03 AGAR 2023

Clerk advised this item was included for any matters raised from the External Auditor as part of the 2022-2023 AGAR. No matters raised by External Auditor for discussion.

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23.06.06.04 Remembrance Wreath

Clerk suggested same contribution as last year (£50 total). Medium wreath for Remembrance Sunday. Proposed by Councillor Pointing, Seconded by Councillor Blackman, all in agreement. Councillor Cornish kindly to lay wreath as in previous years.

23.06.06.08 Blackdown Hills Parish Network Membership

It was discussed whether membership to the BHPN would be of interest to the Parish after the presentation received during the September meeting. A donation to the amount of £100 to be offered in exchange of membership for Uffculme Parish Council. Proposed by Councillor Cornish, Seconded by Councillor Kingdom, all in agreement. Clerk to liaise with BHPN.

23.06.06.08 Cemetery Brushes and Watering Cans

Clerk requested the provision of brushes and additional watering cans within the cemetery to assist Parishioners with family cleaning of memorials (especially when the grass has been cut). Total of less than £100 to provide 3 x cleaning stations. Proposed by Councillor Blackman, Seconded by Councillor Lane, all in agreement.

23.06.07 Business Arising

23.06.07.01 Hillhead/Broadpath

Councillor Edwards issued a report (appended).

23.06.07.02 ABN Feed Mill

Minutes from latest meeting provided (appended).

23.06.07.03 Uffculme Men's Club

No updates were provided.

23.06.07.04 Uffculme Bowling Club

No updates were provided.

23.06.07.05 Green Team

Reports were provided x 2 (appended). No questions were raised in regards to these. Plans are being made for the 10th anniversary Green Day in May 2024.

23.06.07.06 Allotments

No updates were provided.

23.06.07.07 Parish Maintenance Update

Councillor Kingdom provided an update in regards to Uffculme United Charities. There are two nominated trustees from the Council – Councillors Kingdom and Cornish. There are 2 meetings per year and 6 charity funds. It was reported that in light of the land infringement recently at Gaddon, UUC plan to place signs on their land within the Parish to provide information about the Charity and to raise awareness of ownership of said land. It was suggested that they also advertise in Spotlight. There are also several fallen trees – the Council was requested to support UUC where possible. Update received positively.

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23.06.07.08 Traffic and Speeding Issues/Community Speed Watch

Councillor Pointing advised that Ray Radford and Chris Rook had been emailed re. the 20MPH upgrades – awaiting consultant for their input on the design. There is no update re. community speed watch. It was also advised that a PTFA Speed Watch took place on 28/09, where the highest speed recorded was 22MPH. Discussed whether an Ashill and Craddock Speed Watch group is also needed – workgroup to be considered.

23.06.07.09 Schools update

New Head Teacher now at Uffculme Secondary School and meeting due to take place on 03/10.

23.06.07.10 Uffculme Village Hall

It was advised that there is currently £14,900 in the bank. The emergency lights are in need of repair and the dishwasher is to be in situ shortly. There is an Environmental Health assessment due to take place also. The Committee is in the process of applying for grants across the board and that there is a new garden room carpet to be purchased. Overall, bookings are up.

23.06.07.11 Magelake Committee / Repairs

Clerk advised that there was a recent roof and window repair that took place. Council have covered roof repair costs and that the window repair costs are in dispute with Countrywide as due to strimmer damage (from stones). It was requested that a report be provided to advise of bookings/hall use – Clerk to request.

23.06.07.12 Youth Working Group

No updates were provided.

23.06.07.13 Community Crisis (previously Ukrainian Crisis)

No updates were provided.

23.06.07.14 Markers Pond

It was advised that maintenance takes place every other week. The general maintenance has been handed over to The Uffculme Green Team going forward. Report also provided by Jo Dadds (appended).

23.06.07.15 Play Areas

The Clerk advised that the picnic bench had been moved in anticipation of the Hurricane Swing. Delivery and install date TBC.

23.06.08 Police Report

There was no updated report available. FOI request has received no response – Councillor Pointing to continue to chase.

23.06.09 Clerk's Report

23.06.09.01 Culm Valley and Pippins Field Play Area Leases

Clerk advised that queries had been raised with MDDC and that a response to this is awaited.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 6th November 2023, subject to confirmation by the Clerk.

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Uffculme Parish Council
September 2023 Income and Expenditure Summary

Current Account

Balance at 31 August 2023 **718.53**

Income Received

-

Expenses Incurred

04/09/2023	G Cole	September Wages	849.00
04/09/2023	Uffculme Parochial	Grant - Community Choir Hire Fees	150.00
04/09/2023	Countrywide GM	Magelake - 07/12	62.34
04/09/2023	Countrywide GM	Magelake - 29/11	55.80
04/09/2023	Countrywide GM	Magelake - 06/12 & 12/12	111.60
04/09/2023	Countrywide GM	Magelake - 28/03	62.34
04/09/2023	Countrywide GM	Magelake - 07/03 & 21/03 & 28/03	167.40
04/09/2023	Countrywide GM	Magelake - 03/01 & 10/01 & 18/01 & 25/01 & 31/01	279.00
04/09/2023	Countrywide GM	Magelake - 07/02 & 23/02 & 28/02	167.40
04/09/2023	Countrywide GM	Magelake - 21/03	62.34
04/09/2023	Countrywide GM	Magelake - 03/05 & 20/05	64.80
04/09/2023	Countrywide GM	Magelake - 27/05	104.10
04/09/2023	Countrywide GM	Magelake - 21/10	104.10
04/09/2023	R&R Services	Replacement Trees x 2	600.00
04/09/2023	R&R Services	Pond Works - 16/01 & 01/06	923.40
04/09/2023	Pickerings	Community Fridge - June	116.42
04/09/2023	Uffculme GT	Square Planters - Q1	150.00
04/09/2023	Uffculme GT	Square Planters - Q2	150.00
15/09/2023	South West Water	Magelake - 20/04 - 10/07	364.47
15/09/2023	J Lucas	August Extras	100.00
15/09/2023	Pickerings	Community Fridge - August	121.72
15/09/2023	Close Finance	Public Toilet Cleaning - August	312.00
15/09/2023	BHIB Insurance	Magelake - Insurance Addition	383.20
15/09/2023	MDDC	Election Fees	244.70
18/09/2023	Wicksteed Leisure	Playpark Inspections x 3	280.80
18/09/2023	Buddson Ltd	Pond - Lifebuoy	84.59
21/09/2023	Carl Clarke	Maintenance - Pond Lifebuoy Housing	78.50
21/09/2023	Carl Clarke	Maintenance - Graffiti Removal	57.50
21/09/2023	Carl Clarke	Maintenance - Guttering Clearing - Magelake	100.00
25/09/2023	Tamar Telecom	Clerk's Phone	13.21
27/09/2023	J Lucas	Grass Cutting Contract	1,470.00
			7,790.73

Transfers to/from Reserve Account **8,000.00**

Balance carried forward to 1 October 2023 **927.80**

Reserve Account

Balance at 31 August 2023 **116,530.87**

Income Received

11/09/2023 Interest 107.42 **107.42**

Expenses Incurred

-

Transfers to/from Reserve Account **- 8,000.00**

Balance carried forward to 1 October 2023 **108,638.29**

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Gemma Cole <clerk@uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk>

FW: Oct Report

1 message

Councillor Ray Radford <ray.radford@devon.gov.uk>
To: Verity Aldridge <clerk@uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Mon, Oct 2, 2023 at 2:50 PM

Dear Gemma.

I have a Mid Devon Show meeting tonight so will have to give my apologies.

Please see below an email from Dan Wood, explaining issues relating to road maintenance, although he has sent it to you.

Subject: RE: Sept Report

The 20mph scheme is on going and the officers are working up plans, to which we will be consulted on and have input into.

I have got much information yet about the next year's budget, but Officers are working on it and we will see suggestions as to how the budget will look in the next month or so. County have worked really hard on reducing costs over the last few months, so the budget will be easier to put together than it was three/months ago. I will be able to give you more information for your next meeting.

AS always, if you have any questions, please let me know and I will get some answers for you.

Good Afternoon Gemma,

As I'm sure you aware Many roads have already been identified for patching or surface dressing as part of the DWM (Doing What Matters) (Now called LACP) scheme, DWM/LACP is a 3-pillar approach to choosing which roads to treat, Parish/Asset plan/and Highways officer for the area. The top 3 from each parish are put on the list, this is done on a priority basis and with a number of factors having to be considered, these are then put up against all the Parishes in an Electoral Division and sites are chosen to be done (subject to available funding).

All roads were inspected under this scheme by the NHO (at the time Phil Morgan) and a top 3 for each Parish were then put on a priority list. We have since been working through the priority list when funding is available. I can confirm the roads put forward for surfacing works for Uffculme are Kitwell Street, Commercial Road and Pippins Field. I believe Kitwell Street in scheduled for this financial year. Please note I have also put forward the road from Ashley Road up to Penslade Cross farm, for surfacing works when funding is available.

It is hard to give timescales of any planned works due to factors like funding and available resources. However when works are planned you should receive the TTRO with the road closure.

Hope the above information is helpful.

Regards,

Dan Wood

PS/12



Gemma Cole <clerk@uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Hello Gemma,

1 message

Cllr John Poynton <jpoynton@middevon.gov.uk>
To: Gemma Cole <clerk@uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Mon, Oct 2, 2023 at 11:19 AM

Not much to add.

Our bi-annual neighbourhood walkabouts are due to start soon. These will run from 25th September until 6th November and are a great opportunity for tenants to raise concerns within their communities face to face, we can check in, record information and report repairs. We will also be running a damp and mould roadshow alongside the walkabouts which is currently being organised by our repairs team. Street Scene, The Police and other organisations will also be invited to attend.

The Lower Culm day is the 11th October and I will be attending to get an understanding of any issues in Willand, Uffculme and Kentisbeare, and to provide a face to the name so people are more likely to contact me if they need support.

John

Cllr John Poynton | Lower Culm | Mid Devon District Council | Phoenix House | Phoenix Lane | Tiverton | EX16 6PP |

Email: jpoynton@MidDevon.gov.uk

Save time and do it online <https://www.middevon.gov.uk>

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plc/12

Andrew Logue
25 Stenhill, Uffculme, EX153DH
07865247620
llurch@gmail.com

Background

My family moved to the UK in February 2021 from South Africa so my wife could pursue work opportunities in the NHS and support her elderly parents. Since our arrival, I have been the primary parent, writing up a thesis and papers to complete a part-time PhD, and doing limited remote work. My academic and professional background is in earth science – most recently laboratory-based geochemistry. In a semi-professional, hobbyist capacity, I have been writing, editing, and producing video content for two technology and video game websites over the last 10 years.

Education and employment

I obtained a BSc and Bsc (Hons) in Geology through the University of the Witwatersrand; a part-time MSc in Geology through the University of Cape Town while working for the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (NECSA); and returned to the University of the Witwatersrand for a PhD that involved transitioning into a laboratory role (currently in abeyance pending submission for examination at the start of 2024).

Skills

Having shifted my focus between post-graduate degrees and having worked as a generalist geologist, I've done field work and sampling, data processing, GIS digitising and mapping, and geochemical laboratory work (sample processing, analysis, lab maintenance, and one-to-one teaching). Analytical thinking, data reporting and presentation, and scientific writing are all a significant part of my work.

In a hobbyist capacity, I'm involved in editing articles for grammar and readability, limited back-end website management, narration and audio editing, and basic video editing.

Motivations for pursuing a councillor role

With my daughter starting her reception year and a 5-day school week, I've been considering different trajectories for returning to part- or full-time work given my skill set, and the need to better integrate into the local community as our daughter and extended family will anchor us here for the long-term. I feel offering my time and skills helping the local council will give me better insight into the history of the parish, current community needs, and its future trajectory.

Given two potential avenues for me going forward are applying to join the Police or completing a postgraduate certificate in education to take up a teaching role, I would ideally like participate in the School and Police Liaison working groups. However, I am more than happy to assist elsewhere if my skills could be useful.

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Report on Hillheads /Broadpath

Tim Pointing and myself met with Anthony Allday from Aggregate Industries on 14th September 2023

The purpose of the meeting was a touch base meeting with Aggregate Industries. There has only been one liaison meeting in the past year or so, mainly because I prompted Bob Evans to arrange it.

At the time of the 14th September meeting there was no appointment of a Mid Devon Councillor to Hillheads/Broadpath liaison group.

Anthony has been assistant manager there for 6 years so clearly knows the operation well.

After introductions and initial discussions we went on a tour of the site.

It's a massive operation, but they do seem to be managing it well and sympathetically.

With reference to Penslade, Anthony reiterated that they had not formalised plans for this development yet but are fully on board with local involvement in this as their plans progress.

He did show us where the entrance to the site will be and this is from the existing site.

I have been in touch with Anthony to reconvene the Liaison Committee and have advised the Net Gain Campaign of this as we are keen to have as much local involvement as necessary.

Regarding further site visits for the Net Gain Team I am sure Anthony would be willing to show up to 4 people around the site again so we are all familiar with the existing and proposed works.

I have now been advised that Andrea Glover will be the Councillor for this group and I have emailed her to make initial contact.

Terry Edwards

2nd October 2023

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Uffculme Mill – Community & Environmental Meeting

Date: 21 September 2023
Venue: Uffculme Feed Mill
Attendees: Sarah Wells, Milan Servansky, Chris Smith (All Mole Valley Farmers), Alison Campbell (ABN), Jeni Fulton-Price & Chris Hill (Uffculme Green Team)
Apologies: Rachel Grills (Environment Agency)

1. Update on Uffculme Feed Mill

SRW/
AC

Sarah introduced the team attending the meeting from Mole Valley and explained the changes that have happened at the mill.

Mole Valley Farmers have leased the Uffculme Feed Mill from ABN from 1 September 2023 for a period of 10 years. All staff working in the mill have transferred to work from Mole Valley Farmers.

Sarah explained that Mole Valley Farmers are looking to specialise in organic animal feed production at the feed mill. This means that feed for cattle and sheep will also be produced, not just feed for chickens. It is likely that operating hours and vehicle movements will remain broadly the same as when ABN were operating the feed mill. Local residents will start to see Mole Valley branded lorries entering and leaving the feed mill on a more regular basis through October.

Mole Valley Farmers has two arms to its business, feed production and retail stores. The 54 retail stores are spread all over the country with the nearest being at Cullompton which is well known to those attending. The feed mills it runs are spread throughout the South West area with a further operating base in Ayr in Scotland.

Key Contacts at Mole Valley:

Milan Servansky – Site Manager for Uffculme and Dorchester Feed Mills
07813 390422

Milan.servansky@molevalleyfarmers.com

Chris Smith- Agri Safety & Environmental Manager
07790 950784

chris.smith@molevalleyfarmers.com

It was raised that the Uffculme local magazine 'Spotlight' is a monthly issue and would be a good way of letting people in the local community know of the changes at the feed mill.

Action: Sarah to contact the magazine team and arrange for a small article for the November issue about Mole Valley and the change from ABN.

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2. Matters Arising from the last meeting

All

Vehicle Movements

Alison confirmed that there had been no reported 'incidents' with any lorry movements in or out of the mill since the last meeting. Jeni and Chris raised the importance to the Mole Valley team of not letting lorries move through the village at school start and finish times.

Times to avoid are 8.15am – 9.15am and 2.45pm to 3.45pm. It is very difficult for vehicles at these times and best avoided completely. Sarah confirmed that all Mole Valley drivers would be briefed before collecting from the feed mill and will be avoiding these times.

If any local residents have any concerns about vehicle behaviour then Milan is the best contact on the details above.

Lighting

There was an action from the last meeting to review the angle of the exterior lights at the rear of the site. Alison confirmed this was completed shortly after the last meeting and wasn't aware of any new issues.

As we are getting towards shorter days, Milan will be reviewing the exterior lighting to make sure all suitable for purpose and will review the lights around the rear of the mill/footpath area to make sure they are angled down as far as possible. Outside lighting is required all around the site as the mill operates until midnight and it must be a safe environment for employees moving product around.

Woodland Copse

Alison confirmed that there has been no activity in the copse area at the rear of the site to any trees since the last meeting, it has been left untouched. Any clearance work outside of the site boundary has been undertaken by local landowners or the Environment Agency.

Mole Valley confirmed that they will not be doing any work to the copse area and will be leaving it alone.

3. Future Meetings

All

The group discussed meeting frequency should aim to be quarterly and will be held at the feed mill.

Meeting dates for diaries are:

Thursday 7th December 2023 – 10.30am

Tuesday 5th March 2024 – 10.30am

Thursday 6th June 2024 – 10.30am

Thursday 5th September 2024 – 10.30am

pi10/112

Notes on a few current Green Team activities For UPC Meeting 2nd October 2023



(1) Uff Comm Fridge/replacement bench

- Following a donation from the Life Hub at College Surgery Cullompton, we have now raised all the money for a replacement bench outside the surgery, between their building and the fridge hub – the recycled plastic bench has been purchased from Devon Community Waste and is awaiting installation, once some volunteers have repainted the railings by which it will sit (surgery very pleased at this offer to smarten up the railings)
- Uff Comm Fridge continues to open weekdays 9.30 to 11am staffed by two volunteers on a rota basis. Whilst we have a good number of volunteers for the daytime hub duties, we are looking to recruit a few more for the 'pool' to make it easier to cover periods when people are away/have family or work commitments – if Parish Councillors could use their networks and contacts to help recruit more volunteers that would be very helpful
- Our evening collector volunteers are the less visible ones who turn out in all weathers at 9pm for surplus food collections at Willand Co-op (and Sunday afternoons at Cullompton Tesco) – without them the fridge wouldn't function, so we're immensely grateful for their commitment and continued enthusiasm
- We're receiving great donations of fresh produce from local gardeners and allotmenters from their seasonal produce gluts and we regularly get wonderful organic vegetables donated by Little Bishops organic farm near Kentisbeare

(2) Warm Space/Summer Space

- Our volunteers are taking a well-earned break following the successful Summer Space days and will review a possible programme of activities for the autumn and winter
- The Warm Space team has been asked to do a short presentation at the Community Action Groups Devon skills-share day on 11th November in Cullompton following the success of this initiative

(3) Repair Cafe

- Monthly Repair Cafes continue successfully usually with 40+ household items tackled by our volunteer repairers. It's another very sociable space where people get a chance to meet up and chat as well as have things repaired and restored, preventing them going to waste and saving people money

(4) ABN/Mole Valley Farmers Feed Mill Liaison Meeting

- Two members of the Green Team attended the recent Liaison Meeting with the Feed Mill and were able to meet some of the key staff of the new Mole Valley Farmers team; notes have been circulated by Mole Valley Farmers (copy to the Clerk)

(5) Pond and Commercial Road Wildflower Maintenance Projects/Planters

- Jo has done a separate report (by email to the Clerk) on the continuation of the pond maintenance and 'selective weeding', both of which are progressing very satisfactorily
- Work on the wooden surrounds for the plants has now resumed, in conjunction with the Gardeners' Club

pl11/12

Village Volunteers update

1 message

Jo Dadds <jodadds@hotmail.com>

Sun, Oct 1, 2023 at 2:19 PM

To: "clerk@uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk" <clerk@uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Cc: Tim Pointing <tim.pointing@uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk>, "polly.hallchurch@uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk" <polly.hallchurch@uffculmeparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Uffculme GreenTeam <uffculmegreenteam@outlook.com>

Dear Gemma,

Just a quick update ahead of your meeting tomorrow. The Village Volunteers continue to turn out every Sunday to work on the village pond and Commercial Road, and the results are looking promising.

We did a tidy-up session along Commercial Road this morning (photo attached), and hope to do another one soon to finish off the stretch to College Green. The wildflowers are doing amazingly well, and we hope to get some supportive wire along that wall for next year; we can then tie plants back so they don't get in the way of pedestrians. The diversity of plants and animals along there is quite extraordinary, given that it is just a pavement. This morning we found a toad, a moth, 3 different types of caterpillar, and evidence of a hedgehog!

Local people are appreciative in both locations, with one lovely man offering us cups of tea and coffee this morning!

There is lots of wildlife being found around and in the pond also. We have been working hard to remove ground elder, and have started planting up with donated plants of foxgloves and primroses. We hope to keep the areas closest to the village hall and footpath looking well cared for, with increasing amounts of wildness further away. The pond is skimmed most weeks to remove the duckweed.

Huge thanks to the PC for the life ring and many thanks for the opportunity to selectively weed along Commercial Road. We are very grateful. Please keep me informed of any issues, for instance if vegetation is becoming intrusive on the pavement, and we will deal with it.

Kind regards,

Jo



1 October Village Volunteers.jpg
524K

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