

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
Thursday 10 January 2019 at Magelake Parish Pavilion Uffculme

Chairman: E Haglestein

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

19.1.1 Apologies

G Doe – Another meeting R Chesterton – Another meeting

19.1.2 To Approve the Minutes of Meeting held 6 December 2018

The meeting approved the minutes.

19.1.3 County Councillors Report – Councillor Radford

Councillor Radford advised the meeting that it had been a relatively quiet period within County Hall due to the budget being prepared for 19/20. There was a briefing on the 18 January regarding the budget and an update would be given at the next Parish Council meeting. Councillor Radford was also due to attend a Corporate Services meeting on the 29 January along with a full Council meeting on the 21 February 2019 which would see the budget approved.

It was expected that during 18/19 there would be a £4.8 million overspend, compared to budget whilst this seems like a large amount it did equate to about 1% out of the £5 million budget. It is though that the significant overspend was due to Adult Care costs. It was also anticipated that Children's Services had cost County Hall in the region of £11 million. Councillor Radford advised that meeting that he had locality funds available and would like to receive requests for this fund.

The meeting was advised that the Local Highways officer Phil Morgan was attending a meeting with Councillor Radford the following day.

19.1.4 District Councillors Report – Councillor Evans

The budget setting process was also ongoing within the District Council and it looks like there would be an overspend in the region of £60,000.00. This would come out of the £2 million reserve that the District Council had. The reason the overspend has occurred is because the government funding has either significantly reduced or has been removed. The District Council has managed to maintain many of the services previously offered however they have reduced some of the costs and in some instances the frequency of the service.

The meeting was advised that the District Council was on the whole in a strong position and was looking at ways to reduce budgets in the long term and also look at extra income sources.

It had been discussed between Viridor and Aggregate Industries, thanks to Councillor Evans that the drains would be cleared along Broadpath. The cost of these works were in the region of £2,500 and Viridor had committed to offering half of the funding, Aggregate Industries were still to confirm of a date of the meeting.

The Inspector will be carrying out hearings over three days over two consecutive weeks with regards to the Local Plan. The policy regarding J27 had already held an initial hearing and the Inspectors response to date was that re-wording may need to happen however this could be considered a major modification which would then require a further six-week consultation period.

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19.1.5 Finance

19.1.5.1 To Approve December Financial Statement

The December financial statement was approved as official Council minutes.

19.1.5.2 Ashill Village Hall

Councillor Blackman advised that she was not aware of any funding requests from Ashill Village Hall at this time.

19.1.5.3 Bowling Club Gates

The Council was asked to consider whether they would fund the cost of new Bowling Club gates, with the gates being set back further from the road. The quotes received to date were varying and the Council suggested that they look to Councillor Radford and his locality budget. It was agreed that the Council would revert back to the Bowling Club committee and request more information, the meeting also discussed that they would require three quotes to consider which contractor they would wish to undertake the works.

19.1.6 Budget and Precept for 19/20

The meeting discussed the budget pack that the Clerk had prepared ahead of the meeting. This was discussed at length and revisions made which are set out in the attached budget pack which will also form part of the minutes of the January 2019 meeting. The Council agreed that the precept amount for 19/20 for Uffculme Parish Council would be £90,000.00 and the Clerk advised that she would let Mid Devon District Council know of this increase. Although this represents a six percent rise the increase on a Band D property was just under £5 and therefore the Council was satisfied with this increase. The meeting also discussed a revision to the ongoing Grass Cutting contract for Jess Lucas as well as an increase in the Clerks salary. Both of these items would see changes effective from 1 April 2019 to fall in line with the new budget year. Full details are provided in the attached budget pack.

19.1.7 Business Arising

19.1.7.1 Uffculme Central

The meeting agreed that a meeting with the Conservation Officer should be booked for early in 2019 so that we can establish whether moving forward with this proposal is viable or not.

19.1.7.2 Mid Devon Local Plan Hearings

As Councillor Evans advised the meeting the Local Plan was scheduled to be heard over two weeks in February. The previous Clerk Francis Welland was attending the hearing on behalf of Uffculme Parish Council as he had prepared the submissions.

19.1.7.3 Landfill Site at Broadpath

As Councillor Evans had advised the meeting the drain clearing at Broadpath had been arranged and was awaiting final confirmation of payment towards the cost of the works, there was a liaison meeting prior to the next Parish Council meeting and an update would be given at that.

19.1.7.4 ABN Feed Mill

The meeting discussed ABN lorries travelling up Bridwell Avenue, which was not within their prescribed route. This presented a number of issues especially when the large feed lorries met the buses. It was agreed that this would be fed back to ABN and followed up internally.

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It was also discussed that local residents had felt reporting smells of the Feed Mill to the Environment Agency was a wasted exercise, with very little being done by the Environment Agency to follow up on this and or improvements insisted within the Feed Mill.

19.1.7.5 Uffculme Mens Club

Councillor Kingdom advised the meeting that the Mens Club were looking to improve the building and the facilities available including improvement works to the toilets, painting the premises and were also looking at generally improving the building. A question was raised as to whether the building was listed and Councillors did not think that it was but suggested that the Mens Club contact the Mid Devon District Council Planning team who would be able to confirm this.

19.1.7.6 Uffculme Bowling Club

The only item that had been raised with regards to the Bowling Club was that of the gates which had been discussed as an agenda item 19.1.5.3.

19.1.7.7 Green Team

The Green Team did not have any items to report back to the Council other than their support of the drinking fountain/water bottle filling station.

19.1.7.8 Allotments

Councillor Best advised the meeting that during 2019 the allotments would see their ten year anniversary and they were planning a large event to celebrate this. The allotments were currently at capacity with two leavers in the current year and there was a total of four non parishioners on the site. It was agreed that Councillor Best would advise the Clerk of exact details for plot holders so that the payment could be arranged in due course.

19.1.7.9 Kingwood Parking at Magelake

The Clerk advised that we were awaiting legal advice in respect of the ongoing situation at Magelake and whether we would need to formally appoint a solicitor to deal with this matter on our behalf.

19.1.7.10 BMX Track/Skate Park

The meeting was given an update by Councillor Pollard of recent meetings in respect of the skate park at the bottom of Highland Terrace. The meeting was shown some initial designs that have been prepared and advised that a budget of about £120,000.00 was in the region of what it would cost to develop a skate park that would allow both scooters and skate boards as well as some BMX facilities. A further meeting had been scheduled and it was agreed that the Council would prepare a tender document for circulation to companies for the project.

19.1.7.11 Parish Jobs & Recruitment

The maintenance committee reported back to the Council, along with the schedule of expected works. It was still considered that there were further jobs that needed to be considered and also the individuals who we would look to undertake the work. A meeting was to be arranged and a further update would be provided at the March Parish Council meeting.

19.1.7.12 Coldharbour Mill

During the public session the Chief Executive of Coldharbour Mill, Martin Halse, attended the meeting to advise Councillors of the plans in respect of developments at the Mill. At the December meeting there had been a

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report by Councillors that The Mill was looking to ask current tenants and charity groups to leave and this was not to be the case.

Martin advised that from the 15 February The Mill would be open all year, with the exception of being closed on Mondays. There were eight Steam Ups planned throughout 2019 and they had made the decision not to have Steam Ups during the summer as this was an important time for carrying out maintenance on the other boilers. The Trust also thought that this gave an opportunity for other events to take place.

The issue that was raised in respect of the model railway being asked to leave was as a result of two and a half years onsite in a workshop where no rent had been paid. The agreement was that the model railway would restore some of the line and this would then be provided in an exhibition space within The Mill. It has become apparent that the model railway team are not able to fulfil the original ambition to prepare an exhibit and therefore as The Mill is looking to expand its offering it needed to take back the workshop space. Martin advised the meeting that the model railway team have in fact been given six months notice.

One other aspect which seems to have been generating quite a lot of attention is the removal of some two hundred and twenty trees in and around the Mill Pond. The meeting was advised that the Mill Pond is a listed heritage monument and the trees have grown within the pond which is causing damage to the pond walls. As a result of this the trees within the pool were being removed and a further two hundred tree whips had been planted in and around the pond, these were trees that would soak up residual water in the event of flooding and there had also been a number of bulbs planted to create a woodland walk. Martin continued to advise the meeting that this space is an open space for the community and free to all. The Mills plan is to open the ponds following restoration including providing nature trails, bat boxes and wooden trail that will lead onto islands within the pond.

Coldharbour is in the process of preparing an application to Viridor to raise funds to dredge the pond of residue silt.

Martin also informed the meeting that they are looking at installing an Archimedes Screw. This project had raised a lot of interest with local residents and those immediately in The Mill vicinity were invited to a meeting to learn more about the Archimedes Screw, how it would work and also the impact it may have on local residents. The Council was invited to attend this meeting but Martin also offered to attend the Planning meeting if necessary to give an update on the Archimedes Screw.

19.1.8 Police Report

In Uffculme there has been thirteen reports recently three of which are burglaries and also vehicle crime. These reports are available online and although they do show that crime is being reported in and around the village it does not consider whether any prosecutions have been made simply just reported crimes.

19.1.9 Highway Matters

19.1.9.1 Issues Around School Traffic

The meeting was advised that the Clerk has prepared an e mail to the primary school however was waiting until after the return to school from Christmas holidays had passed so that we could hopefully generate a positive response.

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19.1.9.2 Ashill 30mph Limit

The Devon County Council have held a consultation with regards to the Ashill 30mph limit and there were no adverse responses to this application and therefore it was proceeding through the necessary channels within County.

19.1.10 Clerks Report

19.1.10.1 Devon Air Ambulance Night Landing Site

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had prepared a request for funds from Councillor Radford's Locality Budget. Within the request provided the Council had asked for £1377.00 towards the total project cost. However Councillor Radford had responded by e mail to the Clerk advising that he would contribute £690.00 being half of the requested funds. The meeting agreed that as Councillor Radford had sat at the start of the meeting and advised the meeting that he had Locality funds available then we should press him to make a larger contribution.

19.1.10.2 Markers Pond

The Clerk advised that she was waiting to arrange a meeting with Yvette Cottrill and a Westward Housing representative to see if we could progress matters.

19.1.10.3 Village Hall Ground Clearance

The meeting was advised that ABN would offer to clear some of the area around the Village Hall to assist Annie Saunter following the issue she had had with the Village Hall.

19.1.10.4 Boundary Review MDDC Meeting

The Clerk advised that the Boundary Commission was to carry out a review of the Ward Boundaries of District Councillors within the Mid Devon District Council area. Whilst this was primarily a District Councillor matter the Parish Council had liaised with Willand and agreed that this would be a good opportunity to forward representations regarding the change of boundary for the village. MDDC was hosting a meeting on 30 January at Tiverton and it was agreed that the Council would attend. A meeting ahead of this was scheduled for 24 January at Willand to ensure that we were both up to speed on the matters.

19.1.10.5 Communities Together Fund

The Clerk reminded the meeting that the old TAP fund now Communities Together Fund was receiving applications up until the 21 February and the Clerk advised she would be submitting the Drinking Fountain/Water Bottle Filling Station for this fund.

19.1.10.6 P3 Parish Footpath Return

The Clerk advised that the footpath forms were waiting to be completed by former Councillor Pam Golding and we would then arrange to return these to Devon County Council.

The meeting was advised that the schedule of meetings for 2019 would need to be revised to reflect that the 2 May 2019 was the date for the election and therefore the Parish Council would not hold a meeting. A revised schedule of dates would be circulated in due course.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 7 March 2019 at Magelake Parish Pavilion.

Verity Aldridge
Clerk to Uffculme Parish Council
15 January 2019