

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
Monday 9th May 2022 at Magelake

Chairman: P Blackman

Present: P Cornish T Pointing B Evans B Warren R Kingdom
M Pollard J Nash S Kidd I Duncan T Edwards

22.05.01 Apologies for absence

R Radford A Willis T Verona

22.05.02 Election of Parish Council Chair

As this was the first meeting of the new Council the Council needed to elect a new Chair. Councillor Edwards proposed Councillor Blackman take the role of Chair of Uffculme Parish Council, this was seconded by Councillor Cornish. No further proposals were made and all of the meeting was in agreement.

22.05.03 To approve of the Minutes of Meeting held on 4th April 2022

The minutes were agreed as an official council record.

Public Session

Member of the Public, John Bell of Mill Street raised the concerns with quality of road surface and number of pot holes on Kitwell Street/Mill Street. Councillor Radford to be made aware and strong letter to be addressed to MDDC to formally raise the issues on behalf of the Parish Council and to request highways replacement. Councillor Warren advised to address to Meg Booth as the most suitable addressee.

22.05.04 County Councillor's Report

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

22.05.05 District Councillor's Reports

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

Councillor Evans advised that he is now an independent Councillor and is also offering surgeries for Parishioners to attend on the 2nd (Willand) and 3rd (Uffculme) Saturday of each month – 10am-12pm. There are “walkabouts” which happen twice a year, the next is due to take place on 19th April in Willand (Councillor Chesterton) and 26th April in Uffculme (Councillor Evans). The purpose of these is to highlight any issues or problems with social houses and also to carry out a litter pick, with one of the two annually also including a larger rubbish collection (such as fridges etc.). Councillor Evans also advised that in regards to Broadpath, Clay Lane widening was imminent and that the footpath is now back in place. Aggregates and DCC are in discussions about restoration to the Aggregates land – alternative uses which are being considered include Nature Reserve, Fishing and Walking areas. MDDC have shown interest in these suggestions. It was also confirmed that the £150 payments from MDDC were also going well, with 82% of those eligible already in receipt of the grant.

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Councillor Warren advised that there were a number of Ukrainian families due to join the County and that he was happy to be referred directly any cases where there are problems with services received – such as housing, education etc. MDDC are due to hold a non-public meeting on 16th May to discuss Boundaries – Councillor Warren to be representative for Uffculme submission. The issue of dog mess in Ashley Close was raised via Facebook and flagged with District Officers. Visits are due to begin in May and there are two new officers currently undertaking training for the position.

22.05.06 Councillor Resignation and Parish Council Vacancies

The Clerk advised that Councillor Gardner had tendered their resignation due to requiring more time to enjoy retirement and travels.. This now leaves 2 vacancies which the Parish Council will continue to advertise. There are currently no applicants. As a new Councillor, Councillor Edwards requested a tour of the village in order to better understand the areas – Councillor Duncan to arrange.

22.05.07 Finance

22.05.07.01 To approve April Financial Statement

The April financial statement was approved as official council minutes.

22.05.07.02 To approve 2021/2022 Annual Accounts

The council reviewed the previously circulated 2021-2022 Accounts which V Aldridge had prepared and there was a brief run down of the items. Councillors had no queries in respect of the accounts and these were approved. It was also agreed that the information was very helpful to have received.

22.05.07.03 To Approve Audit Declaration – Section 1

The Clerk had previously circulated the audit papers, which had been prepared by V Aldridge, and the Council agreed the principals with regards to the document. There were no questions in regards to the document and it was approved.

22.05.07.04 To Approve Audit Declaration – Section 2

V Aldridge provided the Audit Declaration in advance of the meeting and talked through the different sections. There were no questions in regards to the document and the document was approved.

22.05.07.05 Magelake

The Clerk advised that an invoice had been received for the replacement of two damaged UPVC doors at Magelake. As the damage was caused by Countrywide, during their routine maintenance, it was agreed that the Parish Council would request payment by the Contractor and not pay for the damage from Council funds.

22.05.07.06 Play Area Replacement

The quotations and equipment options from Sovereign were discussed. It was decided that the adult gym equipment would be removed with replacement to be looked into further into the financial year – location dependant. The existing equipment will be replaced with a Zip Wire – Proposed by Councillor Nash, Seconded by Councillor Duncan. All in agreement. Post to be added to Facebook to advise the public of the decision and Councillor Nash to request information added to school newsletter.

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22.05.07.07 History Group Railway Path Board

Councillor Pollard advised that there was a request from the History Group for the VAT of the new board to be covered by the Parish Council. The Clerk advised that if board purchased by the Parish Council, it would be the responsibility of the Council to insure and maintain the board. Request also received for £350 contribution towards the cost of the board. Formal design and quotation now received and presented at the meeting, with the invoice total of £4158 (appended). Proposed by Councillor Edwards, Seconded by Councillor Blackman. All in agreement. History Group to provide contribution of the remainder of funds to the Parish Council to enable invoice payment.

22.05.07.08 Culm Valley Community Choir

Councillor Duncan advised that there was a request from a newly formed group, the Culm Valley Community Choir, where they are requesting as follows:

- 1) £100.00 for advertising to increase awareness of the group and encourage recruitment
- 2) £100.00 for access to music scores, which have to be paid for
- 3) £55.00 for the Director to pay membership to the Natural Voice Network and Public Liability Insurance
- 4) If funds allow, we would like to request assistance with the cost of a Digital Recorder for training purposes. A good mid-price device such as the Olympus LS-P4 Digital Recorder costs about £380.00. However, we think we could probably make do with a budget device such as the Zoom H2n digital recorder or something similar, to facilitate recording for training purposes. A package for the Zoom H2n can be obtained for £153 plus postage.

Councillor Kidd advised that there were already a number of singing groups within the Parish and queried whether funding would be requested for the additional groups if funding provided here. It was confirmed that the other groups were not of this type of singing style and therefore different. Councillor Cornish advised that there were positive mental health benefits with this type of activity so would be in support of such group. It was queried whether there were many members already in place and also whether the neighbouring Parish Councils has been requested for funds also, as benefits residents of Culmstock and Willand in addition to Uffculme Councillor Duncan to investigate numbers and alternative funding options which have already been sought. It was agreed that Uffculme Parish Council would provide an initial grant to the value of £100 to cover the advertising costs to grow numbers and awareness. Proposed by Councillor Edwards, Seconded by Councillor Nash. All in agreement.

22.05.07.09 Council Insurance – Renewal

The Clerk advised that the Council have received a renewal invite for insurance. Total cost for 2022-2023 is £2,716.14, which is an increase from last year of £261.01. There are limited other companies who will provide Council Insurance. Proposed by Councillor Pointing, Seconded by Councillor Pollard. All in agreement.

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22.05.08 Business Arising

22.05.08.01 Hillhead/Broadpath

It was raised that bikes are still using Sandy Lane. Adrian has previously advised to report to 101.

22.05.08.02 ABN Feed Mill

The Clerk advised that meetings were due to commence again soon – Councillor Kidd to be the Council Representative. There is no meeting date agreed yet. Councillor Blackman advised that there are still issues in Ashill with lorries travelling through, in addition to using the lane past Bridwell. This has been due to road closures so thought to be temporary. Councillor Pointing advised that if there are issues with the lorries, to report them to him, along with date and time in order for it to be raised with Matthew at ABN, who will check vehicle records if a branded lorry and action accordingly.

22.05.08.03 Uffculme Men's Club

No updates to report.

22.05.08.04 Uffculme Bowling Club

Minutes have been received from the most recent meeting and circulated to the Councillors.

22.05.08.05 Green Team

Councillor Pointing advised that the Community Fridge was due to arrive on 12th May. There is an electrician available to connect for free and the Parish Council have been able to add the unit to the existing insurance for free. Plenty of tofu currently in stock!

The Repair café is due to take place on 14th May. They have a pop-up stall for bicycles etc. and it is necessary to pre-book repairs. It is being held at Square Corner and details are in spotlight. They have received good reviews so far. There is also due to be a "Give and Take" on the Friday of the Jubilee weekend.

22.05.08.06 Allotments

Councillor Duncan advised that there is an EGM due on 27th May, which will be the first of the year so will elect officers, followed by a BBQ or similar. There currently is no one on the waiting list and they are operating at full occupancy, with a majority of plot holders being Uffculme residents. Ideas for the £1k grant to be presented for discussion.

22.05.08.07 Parish Maintenance update

Councillor Pollard advised that the bins at Pathfields Playpark are the responsibility of Uffculme Parish Council so Phil has emptied them. The fencing to the outer edge of Magelake is looking tired so quotation to be sought for repair/replacement (Stacey). The issue of weeds along Commercial Road and the Square was raised and requested that weed killer be used, by R&R Services – to ensure correct usage and suitable insurance. Proposed by Councillor Pollard, Seconded by Councillor Duncan. Majority in agreement. Councillor Pollard to contact R&R to make arrangements.

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22.05.08.09 Traffic and speeding issues/Community Speed Watch

Councillor Pointing advised that a request had been made to Vision Zero for a variable speed camera. Any lorry issues to be reported to Feed Mill/ABN. Craddock has an active traffic team and are currently requesting a 30MPH zone, due to there being no limit in place currently. DCC fees will be a consideration as part of the request.

22.05.08.10 Schools update

No updates to report. It was queried whether the YMCA or a Youth Committee had been approached. Community Care Officer has been approached – ground work has been done by Councillor Cornish and further updates when possible.

22.05.08.11 Water Fountain

No updates to report. Councillor Blackman advised that a similar provision was observed elsewhere and that it was successful. Await sign design.

22.05.08.12 Uffculme Village Hall

Councillor Cornish advised that the new committee is going well and that there is a meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. It was confirmed that all Covid related grant funds had been applied for and used. The Jumble Sale was successful, with totals raised TBC. Councillor Kidd observed that perhaps additional advertising would make for even further success in the future.

22.05.08.13 Giga-Clear

The Clerk advised that Giga Clear have received the application for the free community hub (for minimum of 12 months) and that installation is awaited.

22.05.08.14 Markers Pond - Trees

It was advised that the undergrowth was now cleared by R&R Services and that there was a site visit to confirm which trees were included under the planning consent for removal or works. There are potentially 3 trees which could remain (out of the original number), however, this will be subject to review at the time of works. Many of the trees which are due to be removed are due to self-seeding. Councillor Pollard to request that Luke at R&R to mark the trees, in order to allow residents an opportunity to view, in person, which are due to be removed from the perimeter fence. Feedback from a local resident (the Son of Mrs Lord) was that the number of trees to be removed was “not as bad as it seems” when viewing in person.

22.05.08.15 Ukrainian Crisis

Councillor Kidd advised that it was still too early to tell what is required from the Council. Councillor Blackman has seen posts on Facebook for other families where they are requesting for help. There is no update to be received directly from MDDC of new families to the area so social media appears to be the best method of communication for the time being.

22.05.08.16 Magelake Committee / Repairs

A new committee is required in order to improve communications between the Parish Council and Magelake going forward. Sub Group to be Councillor Pollard and Councillor Cornish. It was raised that the care park sub-surface needs replacement. Trustee members need to be appointed – Verity Aldridge has kindly offered to

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remain as the Treasurer for the Committee. It was suggested that the Parish Council advertise for residents or people within the football community to join as Trustees – Clerk to raise with Martin at Magelake to advise (due to his extensive experience within the charity sector). Councillor Pollard to arrange for a solid board base to be replaced on the flood gate at Magelake – it is thought that this, along with the improvements that were made by the Environment Agency should fix the flood water problems. Proposed by Councillor Pollard, Seconded by Councillor Blackman – all in agreement.

22.05.08.17 Jubilee

Councillor Pointing's reported that there were no updates. Bridwell and Coldharbour Mill are advertising their events and the parade is being advertised in Spotlight. Craddock has a BBQ planned and a beacon is being lit at Ashill on the Thursday. There is also to be Brass Band at Ashill, to replicate a photo which was taken 70 years ago.

22.05.08.18 Post Office

It was advised that the post office element of the premises was to remain open until September, due to notification delays to Royal Mail. There is talk of potential relocation from NISA to this site, however, for now is just hearsay. All in agreement that it would be a great shame to lose this facility.

22.05.09 Police Report

Councillor Pointing advised no updated report was available. It was also advised that Adrian Legg is happy for Councillors to join in patrols – interest show throughout Council. Councillor Pointing to confirm how to secure a place.

22.05.10 Clerk's Report

22.05.10.01 Footpaths

Clerk advised that a grant of £3,000 has been approved towards footpath repairs. There is also a Capital Funding pot available for improvements. Letter has been received from a resident, requesting improvements to the access from Coldharbour Mill to Footpath 7. Ros, Parish Paths Liaison Officer at DDC, is going to be investigating this possibility, as would require the use of the adjoining field, which is owned by Mr Doble – this would be funded from the Capital Funding pot. Ros also to review the gates and access to Sandy Lane.

22.05.10.02 Cemetery Terms and Forms

The Clerk presented the new set of terms and forms that had been drafted – electronic copy to be circulated post meeting for full review. Increase of £100 across all areas of the fees (interment and EROB) to be made to allow for increased cost of maintenance. Proposed by Councillor Blackman, Seconded by Councillor Pollard – all in agreement. Instance of aggression towards contractor recently, in respect of broken vase during routine maintenance – zero tolerance approach. New terms to reflect communal areas only to be maintained, unless grave clear of memorabilia. Query raised about contribution in respect of War Graves – Clerk to investigate.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 6th June 2022, subject to confirmation by the Clerk.