

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
Thursday 1 June 2017 at The Square Corner

Chairman: E Hagelstein

Present: P Blackman P Mackian M Pollard D Wells
P Best R Kingdom S Stimson

17.6.1 Apologies:

P Cornish - Family P Disley - Holiday G Evans - Unwell
J Gardner - Work P Golding - Holiday

17.6.2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2017 approved and signed as a correct record.

New Councillors

P Best, R Kingdom and S Stimson were all recorded as being councillors of the council following them signing their necessary declarations they joined the meeting at this point.

Election of Officers

The Chairman resigned and the Council received a nomination of Cllr Hagelstein to be Chairman, proposed by Cllr Pollard and seconded by Cllr Blackman. No further proposals were made.

Cllr Pollard proposed Cllr Blackman to be Vice-Chairman, seconded by Cllr Wells. No further proposals were made.

17.6.3. Finance

17.6.3.1 May Financial Statement

Approved as official council minutes.

17.6.3.2 Accounts for the Year ended 2017

The Clerk had previously circulated the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017, along with the detailed commentary. All Councillors confirmed they had received and reviewed the information. The Clerk very briefly ran through some of the headline figures and the summary account as well as the balance sheet as at 31 March 2017. No Councillors had any queries with regards to items included within the accounts. The accounts were agreed and would form part of the minutes of this meeting.

17.6.3.3 Notice Board – Additional Door

As requested at the May meeting the Clerk had gone back to Ken White Signs and discussed their quote of £374 net of VAT to install an additional door to the right-hand side of the notice board. The Clerk had gone through many different options with Ken White Signs in terms of finding a lower cost solution. It was agreed that there was no viable alternative and therefore the meeting agreed to instruct Ken White Signs to manufacture and install the additional door.

17.6.3.4 Magelake Purchases

The Clerk confirmed that within the May financial statement there had been purchases of 5 tables and a new fridge for Magelake. These were agreed at the May meeting and formed part of the request presented by Martin Halse for works at Magelake.

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17.6.3.5 External Audit Papers

The Clerk confirmed that the accounts figures would be transferred onto the audit papers and these would be presented to the external auditor in July.

17.6.3.6 Internal Audit Report

The Clerk mentioned that on the previous day Cllr Mackian had reviewed the financial records of the Parish Council and was on the whole pleased with the information. Councillor Mackian advised the meeting he had prepared a short summary of his review and that this would be circulated to all councillors ahead of the July meeting. Councillor Mackian had made a couple of recommendations in respect of council monies and these were in his report which would be presented at the July meeting.

17.6.3.7 New Councillor Training

The Clerk advised the meeting that there was the opportunity for new councillors to attend a training course in Exeter on 3 July 10am-12.30. The invitation would be shared to all councillors and anybody who wasn't necessarily a new councillor would have the opportunity to attend.

17.6.3.8 Clerks Training

The Clerk had been invited to attend a cemetery training course which was being held in Kentisbeare however the course date has moved and she is now unavailable to attend.

17.6.3.9 Play Equipment & Picnic Benches

The Clerk confirmed that she had received all of the final quotes for the picnic benches, including the installation of the concrete pads and the play equipment these were as follows:

Picnic Benches - £2,924.65

Play Equipment - £13,263

The meeting was in agreement that we should proceed and get these items ordered.

17.6.3.10 Other Finance Matters – Swan Paul Invoice

The Clerk advised she had been sent an invoice from Swan Paul for work carried out in respect of the designs for The Square. The invoice had been delayed as it had fallen into the Clerk's junk items. The meeting discussed the fees on the invoice and agreed that although they felt the charges were high given the work that had been carried out and that the Council hadn't been pleased with the designs they had received it was felt that in light of the fees and potentially ongoing work the invoice should be paid. It was agreed that the Clerk would also send a covering note to say that we felt that the fees were high.

It was agreed that if we engaged Swan Paul in the future we will ensure that we are clearer in setting out our requirements to ensure that we are not dissatisfied with design work we receive.

17.6.3.10.2 Other Finance Matters – Twinning 40th Anniversary

The Clerk advised that earlier the same day she had received a request from the twinning association for funding towards their events planned when the French visitors arrive in July. The information that the Clerk had been provided with was somewhat limited and it was not clear whether the plans were to spend any time in the village. Councillors felt that many of the costs that were being incurred were outside the village, Bath, Somerset etc. and that if the Parish Council were contributing towards the cost, which it was not against, then it should contribute

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within the village. It was agreed that the Clerk would go back to the twinning association to get more information.

17.6.4 Business Arising

17.6.4.1 Uffculme Central

The Clerk had previously mentioned that she had received an invoice from Swan Paul and that matters were not progressing as we were waiting for a meeting with MDDC and DCC regarding Ayshford.

17.6.4.2 Mid Devon Local Plan

There were no further updates available on the local plan it was awaiting the appointment of an inspector to review it and it was not anticipated that this would happen until the autumn.

17.6.4.3 Landfill Site at Broadpath

The next liaison meeting was scheduled for Monday 12 June and would deal with the planning permission for the Leachate Plant along with an update on other matters.

17.6.4.4 ABN Feedmill

As above the meeting would take place on Monday 12 June and an update would follow at the July meeting.

17.6.4.5 Willand Proposed Boundary Change

There have been no updates on the proposed boundary change as the MDDC offices have been dealing with the local election and then the general election it was hoped that by the July meeting we would have an indication from the officer as to when works on this matter would progress.

17.6.4.6 Magelake Update

The chairman advised that this item would be taken in committee at the end of the meeting.

17.6.4.7 St Marys Church – Planning application for Mobile Phone Mast (16/01859/FULL)

Councillor Wells declared an interest as he is an employee of Vodafone and also a bell ringer for the church.

The clerk had no update on the planning application which was still with the Diocese.

17.6.4.8 Land West of Harvesters Existing Permission for 60 Houses

The Clerk confirmed that meetings were ongoing with DCH and that plans were being drawn up to present to MDDC as a formal planning application in respect of the design and layout of the 60 houses.

The S.106 monies were allocated to the Uffculme schools and not Halberton or Tiverton.

17.6.5.1 Police Report

Constable Adrian Legg attended the meeting with Dave Waller, PCSO and were able to provide an update on the crime figures for Uffculme and also for Ashill, these were recorded separately. On the whole, they did not feel that any of the offences that had happened within the parish compared to 2016 figures were drastically different and that many of the crimes were of a low risk.

The meeting then asked the police about the residence of a sex offender within the village. The police were able to advise the meeting that there was in fact more than one registered sex offender within the village, however they could not give details as to where they lived, if anybody was concerned with regards to the safety of a child

Verity Aldridge
Clerk to Uffculme Parish Council
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they could apply for details of any sex offender's crime under the Sarah's Law principle. Constable Legg advised the meeting that he did not feel that the recent publication and in fact the registered sex offender would pose a risk to the villagers on the whole and that the risk to them was actually greater within their own home.

Councillor Haglestein also asked them with regards to removal of soil from United Charities Land at Gaddon and whether this is something that the police would look in to. They confirmed that they would ensure that some of their night time routes would be around Gaddon so that they could identify any activities.

They also highlighted the issue with parking at Coldharbour, specifically opposite the cottages along the bottom and how this presents issues when people are unable to use the footpath on a busy road. Whilst the police were fairly limited as to what they could do in terms of action against the residents parking in this manner it was suggested that maybe the council might like to install some bollards so that people were not able to park on the pavement as there was no alternative pavement on the other side of the road.

17.6.6 Highway Matters / Road & Traffic

17.6.6.1 Commercial Road Footpath

The Council was disappointed that little had been progressed by Devon County Council in respect of the works for the footpath. There were issues in respect of the design that DCC officers were proposing and that this was not something the Parish Council wanted. It was agreed that a site meeting would be arranged with the officer and Ray so that principles could be agreed.

17.6.7 Correspondence

17.6.7.1 Information Available at Meeting

The Clerk confirmed that there was no hard copy information.

17.6.8 Clerks Report

17.6.8.1 Pathfields Play Area

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had been sent a lease from MDDC and that everything seemed in order, she had agreed it back to the Willand lease and there were no anomalies, the meeting therefore agreed the lease and the Clerk would arrange to return this to MDDC.

17.6.8.2 Picnic Benches for The Rec

As previously agreed, the picnic benches were being installed on the site at the same time as the play equipment.

17.6.8.3 Ayshford Issues

The Clerk had recently taken some pictures with Councillor Haglestein in respect of issues in and around Ayshford House, including loose paving and broken paving, the tree behind the phone box and that the cars are parking within the paved area, rather than in the car park. The Clerk had arranged to send these photos and short precis to the Housing Officer responsible for Ayshford.

The Councillors were disappointed by the results and the action of the recent walkabout, particularly that the officers were not amenable to the District Councillors being involved.

17.6.8.4 Dog Waste Bins/Signage

The Clerk had previously suggested that we run a competition asking local children to design posters to pick up dog mess advising of the risks of dog mess being left both in plastic bags and just not touched. It was agreed that

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we would run a competition for children aged 3-11 split into two categories, 3-7 years and 8-11 years. The top three from each category would be selected to be made into posters/signs which would then be displayed in and around the parish. The Clerk would contact the school, Kingwood, the pre-school and ask them whether they would endorse this competition. The Clerk would also arrange to have it put in The Spotlight and ask Jim Clancy to circulate.

17.6.8.5 Request for S106 Money Projects

The Clerk advised that she was disappointed in Councillors for not presenting ideas to her following the last meeting for projects that we could apply to MDDC to get section 106 monies for. The Clerk reminded Councillors to send details through so that she could present these to MDDC .

If we did not present any ideas then the likely hood would be that we would not receive any money.

17.6.8.6 Defibrillators

The defibrillators were now installed and the Clerk would arrange to have some photos taken by the defibrillators to send to the local press.

17.6.8.7 Buses from Exeter

It had been raised that there was no late bus from Exeter that now came into the village, only on a Sunday and or Bank Holiday. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Stagecoach asking why this service had been stopped, particularly on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening when people are more likely to be out in Exeter. It had been reported that many people now walk back from Willand, where the bus still visits and this is a very dangerous road for people to be walking along.

17.6.9 County Councillors Report Councillor Radford

Councillor Radford thanked the community for the votes that had had him re-elected for another term within Devon County Council. Councillor Radford appreciated the support of the Parish. Councillor Radford also advised that he is now Chairman of DCC for the next year.

There had been little progress at DCC recently in respect of new matters as many of the new Councillors were going through an induction period, to be brought up to speed on all matters.

Following Willie Pike's retirement Nick Allen had been appointed and would now be the contact for the village.

The Clerk asked Councillor Radford about grass cutting as there had been complaints about the junction of Russett Close. Councillor Radford would arrange for this to be looked at.

It was also noted that the works carried out last year on footpaths around Russett Close and Pippins Field had been too thin and as such weeds were now appearing through the path.

17.6.10 District Councillors Report – Councillors Chesterton and Evans

The planning fees for MDDC were currently being revised the national advice had been to increase the planning application fees by in the region of 20%.

The 16 houses at Bell View were awaiting approval but it had been recommended to grant permission.

In respect of 30 houses at Harvesters, the meeting was advised that at the recent planning committee this application was refused 6-5 and it was expected to go to appeal, however it had been passed back to the legal department within MDDC as further information was needed.

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Junction 27 conditions application - The application to vary the conditions attached to the previously granted permission for the service station at Junction 27 had been passed back to the legal department as the application made reference to Eden Westwood and Councillor Evans had highlighted that this was potentially a pre-determination that by varying the conditions attached to the existing permission would allow Eden Westwood to start works, this included installing a large fence around the site and digging some trenches. It was remarked that this may be construed as being commencement of the works and therefore they wouldn't need to reapply should the time lapse once again.

Broadpath Leachate - The MDDC response had been prepared for DCC with the assistance of former Councillor Emms and John Bell who have a vast knowledge of the engineering of the proposed plant and this had been sent to Thea Billeter, planning officer at MDDC and she had incorporated their thoughts into the MDDC response.

Next meeting to be held on Thursday 6 July 2017 at The Square Corner