

Uffculme Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held
3 March 2016 at Magelake Parish Pavilion

Chairman: D Wells

Present: P Cornish P Disley T Emms G Evans
J Gardner E Hagelstein R Little J Morgan
M Pollard

Apologies: P Blackman – illness P Golding – Family
P Mackian - illness

Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January Approved and signed as a correct record.

Retiring Clerk's Gratuity – TAKEN IN COMMITTEE:

The gratuity that is due to be paid to the retiring Clerk and Secretary have now formally been calculated and confirmed by the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC). Given the period of time in post there are two ways of calculating the gratuity due, although providing the Council meets at least the minimum amount (£15,306) and doesn't exceed the maximum (£25,320) we are compliant.

Included in the 16/17 budget is a figure of £16,150, the previous, unchecked calculation. The Council discussed its obligations and it was unanimously agreed that the Council will arrange payment of the £16,150 that had previously been agreed. This will be paid prior to 31 March 2016.

Finance

January Financial Statement

APPROVED as official Council Minutes

February Financial Statement

APPROVED as official Council Minutes

TAP Fund monies for Uffculme Pre School

The Clerk confirmed that monies had been paid to Uffculme Pre School.

We have also received a request to submit an application for Uffculme Compost Magic to access TAP fund monies for 15/16 of £2,500. Willand Parish Council have supported the application.

The TAP fund monies are now being made available in the given year and if monies aren't claimed then they will be sent to DCC in a large pool to be used in the County as a whole, depending on applications. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact Zoe Lentell at MDDC to confirm the amount of monies available for 15/16 and also 16/17 so that the Council can plan how to allocate these funds to ensure that monies will be spent in the Parish.

Lloyds Bank revised mandate

The new mandate has been submitted to the bank, although the Clerk reported issues this last week of moving monies between accounts and therefore it was agreed that the Clerk should review alternative banks should we need to move.

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DCC Annual Footpath Survey & P3 Finance Forms

The annual P3 forms have now been submitted to DCC in respect of our funding for 16/17.

Clerk's training

The Clerk asked the Council if they would support her in attending 2 courses which are being run by DALC:

- Preparing for Audit – 22 March 2016 at a cost of £30.00
- Clerk's Essentials – 7 July 2016 at a cost of £40.00

The Clerk also wishes to enrol in the Institute of Local Council Management which is a 12m distance learning course over 12m at a cost of £99

This was proposed by Cllr Wells and seconded by Cllr Cornish.

Defibrillator

The Clerk reported that information had been received from Chris Richards from Total Safety Training and Consultancy. The cost of a Defibrillator, including the external storage cabinet is £1,700.

The Council was advised by Cllr Disley that Magelake is in the process of seeking British Heart Foundation Funding for one at Magelake. Cllr Disley had received this information from her mother who is involved with the Magelake Committee and an interest was recorded.

It was agreed that the Clerk will make enquiries as to TAP fund monies available for 2016/17 as this would be a good project to use the monies toward. Cllr Hagelstein would also enquire in the CO-OP would be willing to have the Defibrillator site on the outside of their building.

Precept submission

The Clerk advised that the Precept was submitted to MDDC Officers ahead of the filing deadline of the end of January at the agreed figure of £75,000.

Uffculme Table Tennis Club

The Clerk advised that the Table Tennis Club that currently operates out of Magelake have made a request for financial support from the Parish Council. The issue was discussed that the Club currently has no formal club status and therefore any donation made under the current set up would benefit an individual which the Council cannot do.

It was agreed under the current set up the Council would not be able to contribute. Cllr Evans would feed this back to Mr Hill who had initially approached the Council.

Uffculme Trust Funding Request

The Clerk had received a request for the Parish Council to be involved in the purchase of a toilet on behalf of Uffculme Trust. The Uffculme Trust were proposing making a donation back to the parish council to cover the majority of the cost. Cllr Pollard advised that the Uffculme Trust was looking to install the toilet in the outbuildings that border the Churchyard and Kents Close. Once installed Uffculme Trust would then gift the toilet to the Church.

The Church will then make the toilet available for Church users during services etc. As the toilet would not be available to all of the Parish it was agreed that the Council could not support the proposal. The Clerk would pass on this information to The Uffculme Trust accordingly.

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Business Arising

Uffculme Central

The Clerk confirmed that we had received letters of support, and reminded the District and County Councillors of how vital their support was. We have since received further letters.

The application will now be finalised and submitted.

Mid Devon Local Plan Review 2013 – 2033 – Update

Cllr Chesterton reported that the external advisors will still preparing additional information that was required by the Environment Agency. Cllr Chesterton anticipated the plan being ready by the summer.

It was also reported that the proposed developers of the site at J27 have sought pre-application advice from MDDC. This move acknowledges that any change to the plan to include J27 were now very unlikely.

Devon Minerals Plan – Update

We have received formal notification that an Inspector has been appointed to review the Minerals Plan, Mr Andrew Freeman.

Separately we have also received a summary of the Parish Council's submission, as summarised by DCC, to which we need to review the comments made by DCC prior to responding. The Clerk will liaise with Francis to prepare and submit responses.

Landfill site at Broadpath – Update

Cllr Hagelstein advised that she had reported the recent 'smell' from the landfill, she had been advised that the smells had been brought about by a delay in the drilling they had had scheduled due to the poor weather, although they were aware of the issues and hoped the drilling would resolve the issue.

Cllr Hagelstein was thanked for arranging for the Environment Agency to attend future liaison meetings as they would now be scheduled to take place on the same day as the ABN Feed Mill meetings.

It was also reported that AI submitted a planning application in November to vary the terms of the current permissions for Houndaller. As it stands this would see greater transport movements around the site (up to 50 vehicles per day). The meeting was advised that AI are feeling the pressure of the issues surrounding the bagging plant and are conscious that they need to remain on top of what needs to be actioned. Issues have also been raised regarding the restoration at Houndaller, they have scheduled works to 'safeguard the existing population of dormice' ahead of planned further extraction of sand and gravel.

ABN Feed Mill Liaison Meeting Notes of 08.02.2016

The minutes of the meeting had only been made available a few days prior to the meeting and would be circulated by the Clerk following the meeting. Cllr Hagelstein reported that the site was now under the temporary management of Marcus Tanner as Mike Perry had been seconded to the Cullompton Mill to manage the busy pheasant season.

The Mill has scheduled replacing the cyclones which is likely to have an impact on smell within the village.

At the previous meeting the Environment Agency had raised questions regarding the drainage of the site, since then further investigations have been carried out, although no definitive conclusions drawn.

The next meeting will be scheduled for early June 2016.

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Proposed Neighbourhood Plan – Halberton & Tiverton Parishes

The Council had asked the Clerk to investigate the benefits of a neighbourhood plan following the request from Willand for a joint plan. The Clerk has met with an officer from MDDC since the last meeting and given the issues that concern the Parish Council fall outside of our Parish boundary, and that Halberton and Tiverton have had their area to be included in their plan agreed there was little benefit in preparing a neighbourhood plan.

The Council agreed that at this time there is little, or no benefit in preparing a plan.

It was noted that we will remain consultees on the Tiverton & Halberton plan.

Allotment allocations

Cllr Wells advised that the Parish Council has been approached by the allotment association to gain support for people who reside outside the Parish of Uffculme to become allotment holders. It has become apparent that recent demand has fallen and they are struggling to fill the plots. It was discussed that if the Parish Council agreed people from outside of the parish to use the allotments they should not benefit from the grant that the Parish Council currently provides to the association annually to reduce the actual cost to the allotment holders to 50% of the full cost.

It was agreed that Cllr Wells would respond saying that in principle the Council had no objections to people from outside the parish being allotment holders, although they would not benefit from the Councils grant. The amount granted to the association each year would be flexed to reflect the proportion of Uffculme parish residents. The Council would also require Uffculme Parish Residents to have priority and that a non-Uffculme Parish resident didn't have a guarantee that the allotment would be available to them the following year if an Uffculme resident was on the waiting list, with no plot currently vacant.

The Council would also request that a Councillor, Cllr Wells was suggested, should be involved in the committee of the allotment association to ensure that the interests of the Parish Council were represented.

This was proposed by Cllr Wells and seconded by Cllr Emms.

Cllr Wells also advised the meeting that his wife is an allotment holder.

Planning at Harvesters

Following the issues surrounding the Inquiry that had taken place at the MDDC offices Cllr Chesterton reiterated that MDDC had employed a barrister to defend their case against allowing permission. The issue of the Parish Council not formally being advised of the date of the Inquiry was discussed at Cllr Chesterton encouraged the Clerk to contact the Inspectorate in Bristol. The Clerk has since made contact and the Inspector is in receipt of our written representation and this has been considered. They also state that we were informed of the Inquiry.

Cllr Chesterton advised that if permission was granted MDDC feared that it would 'open the floodgates' for further planning applications. There had recently been a screening application (request as to what information would be required to support a planning application) on a piece of land in Willand for c. 300 houses. The meeting commented that this would add further pressure to the oversubscribed schools in the area. Cllr Chesterton reported that there had been a plan for a new primary school (480 places) in NW Cullompton and there was scope to extend both Cullompton, Crediton and Tiverton secondary schools. As Uffculme Secondary school is an academy the options for extension are different and they weren't aware of any plans at present.

It was agreed that if a planning application discussed by the planning committee goes to inquiry this will be reported at the full council meeting so that all Councillors were aware.

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Highway Matters/Road and Traffic

Ashill 30 MPH

Cllr Radford was asked if he would support an application for a Traffic Order for the implementation of a 30 MPH limit in Ashill, he said that he would, He also reported that he understood the cost of the order would be funded from the parish/local authority. The meeting agreed that this funding should come from County, being that highways is their responsibility. Cllr Radford confirmed he would get additional information sent to the Clerk in respect of the process of applying for the Traffic Order and also the cost implications.

An update would be given at the April Council meeting.

Bridwell Avenue

The Clerk reported that she had received numerous complaints from local residents in respect of the bus stops that have recently been installed along Bridwell Avenue. The Clerk reported that she had made enquiries and the bus stops were part of the planning application process for Hitchcocks Farm Business Park. The planning permission included a provision for workers at the business park to be able to travel to and from the site using public transport, the bus stops would serve the business park.

It was agreed that little could be done and given time the bus stops wouldn't appear quite so 'stark' and would blend into the natural setting. It was commented that we should encourage additional bus stops in the area.

Correspondence

Information available

There was no hard copy correspondence

Clerk's Report

Pathfields Play Area

The Clerk reported that she had encountered issues with getting details from MDDC officers as to the exact cost of the Pathfield's play area with the plan for closure. Cllr Chesterton offered his support in gaining this information from MDDC officers.

Cllr Chesterton also reported that Willand had set up a resident's association to monitor and become responsible for their play areas following them taking on responsibility from MDDC. This set up means that Willand PC are ultimately responsible for the equipment and maintenance, leaving only the annual inspection with MDDC, the area is leased to Willand from MDDC. This may be an option for Pathfields, although the above information is required before making any decisions.

Ashill – Proposed new Doggie Bin & notices – 'On Hold'

No further updates available

Website

The new website was previewed to Councillors at the meeting. Progress was continuing and it was hoped that the new site would be live by 1 April.

It was agreed not to include photos of Councillors on the website.

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Chairman's reception

A brief update was given, although those organising were confident that everything was in hand and that invitations would follow in the next few days.

It was reported that canpes would be served, along with drinks on arrival. The bar would be open and it was hoped that the event would be well attended.

County Councillor's Report (Cllr Radford)

Cllr Radford commented on a few brief notes of his full report, highlighting that there has been a 3.9% fall in library services nationally, although Devon had seen a 10% increase since the move to a mutual.

It was reported that the mineral plan inquiry would take place later this year.

Overall Devon ranked 5th in the Country with its recycling at 55% of total waste, however it was placed 2nd in the most wasteful counties, generating 367kg per head. The county spends c. £3.25m on collection and landfill charges.

The Ofsted report in 2015 reported that the service was inadequate and a programme was implemented to improve services. It was reported that this restriction has now been lifted and services continue to improve. 87% of Primary schools are rated Good/Outstanding and 85% Secondary schools.

Cllr Radford again reminded the meeting that TAP fund monies would again be available in 2016/17, as well as the balance of unspent monies from 2015/16. He encouraged applications if there were any projects in the pipeline.

District Councillors' Reports (Cllr Chesterton) – Apologies given by both Cllrs Doe and Evans

Cllr Chesterton reported that MDDC will apply a 2.74% increase in Council Tax for 2016/17, resulting in a real increase of c £5 for a band d property. MDDC received no financial incentive from central Government to keep increases low so the increase was essential.

The future funding of MDDC is currently unknown, following the Summer Budget (2015) the Chancellor announced Business Rates would remain in the local area, rather than go to Central Government, although no further information has been provided as to how this would work in practice. This presents issues to MDDC is that it is difficult to plan for the future without this key information.

Planning in the area is under review as to whether it would be an option to consider external planning services by businesses, rather than district Councils. This is an option to promote faster agreement for the development of new homes. However, Cllr Chesterton reported that by the end of the year MDDC will see its self having more planning agreed for the development of new homes than previously. This will ensure the faster delivery of new homes in the area.

Cllr Doe sent her apologies, she could not attend due to a family illness.

Cllr Evans sent the following report that was read to the meeting by the Clerk.

Having been informed only yesterday that AI are looking to start work at Houndaller ASAP I sent some detail of The detail of work in Houndaller as given to myself and the Broadpath liaison group, Given my immediate concerns I can confirm that Ray Radford and I had a meeting at Devon County this PM so Ray will be able to give a more detailed update, however I understand that the application to have the conditions altered has yet to be verified so

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there is still an opportunity to influence times of operation and vehicle movement, this is a variation of conditions NOT a new application so is likely to be granted.

The application for a certificate of lawful occupation at downs farm has been refused but has been called in by myself and is likely to go before the April planning committee.

The Harvesters application was heard by the inspector with very little local representation made, I understand one local resident made representation and I spoke against on the second day, the outcome is expected in early April Approx. 12th.

J27, applicants have opted to look at putting a planning application forward around April, in the mean time they will enter into pre application discussions with MDDC with a variety of meetings being afforded to them, given the scale and complexity of the site there will also be a review group looking at the detail of each meeting and giving feedback and challenge where required, this in NO WAY pre emits any outcome and is a perfectly legal way to discuss such an application.

The next meeting will be Thursday 7 April 2016, 7.30pm at Magelake Parish Pavilion