

**Minutes of the Meeting of Mayfield Parish Council**  
**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 7.00pm in the Memorial Hall, Mayfield**

- 95/17 Approval of the Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017.**  
Cllr Parker pointed out that **Item 100/17** Road surface, Hermitage Lane - should read damaged pavement surface, Main Road (between Hermitage Lane and Church Lane). The Clerk amended the Minutes accordingly. The Minutes were then approved by all Cllrs, and signed off by the Chair, Cllr Turner.
- 96/17 In Attendance & Apologies**  
All Cllrs were in attendance - Cllrs Amy, Cook, Edge, Golding, Moss, Parker, Watson, Turner.
- 97/17 Declarations of Interest**  
There were no declarations of interest from Cllrs.
- 98/17 Public Participation**  
The Clerk received a request from a local student, asking if they could volunteer for the Parish Council for 12 weeks, as part of their bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. The Clerk suggested that the student could assist with administration / provide content for the parish council website. Cllrs were pleased to be able to offer the opportunity. *Action: Clerk to contact the student and the student's parents.*
- 99/17 Update - East Staffordshire Borough Council - Cllr Edward Barker**  
"I haven't heard anything about the funding yet and the only local problem apart from the mast, was an enquiry about a new barn down Church Lane which apparently doesn't need planning permission if it's not going to house animals. Please let me know if there any other problems. Apologies for not being there."  
Cllrs discussed this planning application - Cllr Golding said that there has been a change in planning permissions for barns. However, it was mentioned that the ESBC Planning Guide states that buildings should be in the vernacular style, and this barn is believed to be constructed of steel and breeze blocks.  
*Action: Clerk to look at design on Planning Portal and report back to Cllrs*
- 100/17 Highways & ROWs**  
**Complaints logged with Highways at Staffordshire County Council (SCC)**  
**4060518 - Bump on the feeder lane for turning right off Swinscoe Hill/Leek Road**  
The Clerk contacted Highways again - the bump was reported in October 2016. Highways response was: "I can confirm that work has been booked to remove the hump in the road however owing to a high volume of emergency and high priority reports, we do not have a date available as to when this work is likely to be carried out."  
**Mayfield 25 – horses**  
The Clerk made two posters to be put up at either end of the footpath.  
*Action: Cllr Edge to put up posters*  
With regard to damage being caused by horses on the pavement along Main Road (Hermitage Lane to the top of Church Lane), the Clerk confirmed that horses are not permitted to be ridden or walked along footpaths or pavements. This matter has been reported to Highways, who are sending an Inspector to check the footpath.  
(Rule 54, You **MUST NOT** take a horse onto a footpath or pavement, and you should not take a horse onto a cycle track. Use a bridleway where possible. [See] **Laws HA 1835 sect 72 & R(S)A sect 129(5)** - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/rules-about-animals-47-to-58> (accessed 11/1/2017)  
*Action: Clerk to make an additional sign for the pavement between Hermitage Lane and the top of Church Lane.*
- Bin - Slack Lane**  
*Action: Clerk to arrange installation of post and to contact ESBC to provide a bin*  
Mayfield Heritage Group have offered the Parish Council the use of the Well Dressing donation boxes for distribution of poo bags. One box will be placed near the school and another on Sycamore Drive / Mayfield Avenue TBC. *Action: Cllr Parker to collect boxes*  
*Action: Clerk & Cllrs to replenish free poo bags at the shop (these can be found in the red*

*bin alongside the kindling etc.)*

### **Jobs for reporting to Highways / Rights of Way**

Cllrs Amy and Golding reported parishioner concerns about speeding on Piccadilly Lane. Cllrs asked if it was possible to have a 20mph speed limit set on country lanes. The Clerk explained that 20mph speed limits were only imposed near schools or on busy urban streets. Cllrs gave examples of speeding on other lanes in the parish. It was agreed that the Minutes should reflect that the Parish Council have concerns regarding speeding on lanes / roads throughout the parish.

Cllr Golding asked if Derbyshire County Council had been in contact with Staffordshire County Council about the proposed Ashbourne bypass, as there is the potential for an additional increase of HGVs through Mayfield. It was also mentioned that the Chair of the Okeover Annual Parish Meeting, Sue Bridgett, has been in contact with Derbyshire County Council about a perceived increase in the number of HGVs and general traffic on Swinscoe Hill / A52.

*Action: Clerk to contact Cllr Philip Atkins, SCC and Mike Ashworth, Jim Seymour, Simon Spencer, DCC*

### **101/17 Maintenance**

No jobs.

### **102/17 Finance**

#### **Bank Balances**

The current account bank balance at 04/10/2017 was £17,035.23

This balance includes the September precept - £5,716.13.

#### **Invoices presented for payment:**

001610 £246.09 F Raistrick (Salary, Stipend, Printing)

001611 £42.94 Staffordshire Parish Council Association (Guides - Cllrs / Finance)

001612 £44.80 J Clarke (Salary)

#### **Bank Account**

The Clerk asked if Cllrs were happy for a change of bank account as the current Lloyds account does not permit internet access / electronic banking. Cllrs agreed. The Clerk explained that she had tried to change the account with Lloyds before but to no avail, she suggested trying the Unity Trust Bank which many Parish Councils use. However, Cllrs asked her to try again to amend the current bank account.

*Action: Clerk to contact Lloyds*

### **External Auditor Report – Annual Report 2016 - 2017**

The Annual Return has been audited and certified by Grant Thornton to their satisfaction. The Auditor did however make two points which they drew to the Parish Council's attention:

#### **Section 2, Accounting statements, Council Tax Support Grant**

Council Tax Support Grant should be included in Box 3. Council Tax Support Grant of £536 has been incorrectly included in Box 2. Box 2 should state £11,030 and Box 3 should state £2,041.

The Authority should restate the 2017 figures on next year's Annual Return and write 'Restated' beneath the £ sign on the 2017 column.

#### **Reclaiming VAT**

It has come to our attention that last year, the Authority incurred income and expenditure on behalf of two non-VAT registered village groups with the intent to cover the VAT payment on one of their projects and then reclaim it on behalf of the Authority. As such, the Authority received £4,000 from the groups in exchange for a £4,800 expenditure on their projects - with the Authority reclaiming £800 worth of VAT for themselves.

This is not an appropriate way of reclaiming VAT and in future the Authority should ensure that all income and expenditure is completed in line with regulations.

The projects referred to are the footpath at the top of Moorlands Drive / Kinver Close and the tarmac outside the MRA building. Cllrs agreed that they would not cover VAT for any non-VAT registered groups in the future - though the advice they received from HRMC at the time indicated that this was permissible.

**Noticeboard - request for funding**

See Item 99/17.

**103/17 Planning Applications and Decisions**

**Applications:**

**P/2017/00867 – Land adjacent to Covered Reservoir, Leek Road, Mayfield**

Cllrs noted that the applicants and Brough Council responses to their queries demonstrated the importance and relevance of the Parish Council's opinion. Cllrs requested that the following comments and queries were sent to ESBC Planning:

*There was still no visual assessment of the impact of the mast provided, though they were happy that the mast is to be painted green as this will reduce its impact on the environment.*

*They also noted that there had been no response to the question if other operators would can access the mast, to prevent a proliferation of masts across the landscape.*

*In addition, it wasn't clear from the revised application if the Hemmings at Croft Cottage had been consulted.*

*Action: Clerk to contact ESBC re comments / query*

**P/2017/01145 - Springfield House, Church Lane, Mayfield, DE6 2HJR**

Cllrs had no comments or objections.

**104/17 Parish Projects**

Noticeboard - the Clerk provided options for potential noticeboards. Cllrs discussed. Any purchase will wait for confirmation of funding from Cllr Barker.

**Playground Consultation**

The Clerk provided Cllrs with copies of the recent consultation. 30+ parents / carers responded to the consultation. Cllr Turner will liaise with the Mayfield Recreation Association (MRA).

*Action: Cllr Turner to forward conclusion to the MRA*

**105/17 Correspondence**

All correspondence has been emailed round to Cllrs prior to the meeting.

**106/17 Items to be included on the October Agenda:**

Mayfield Charities

Budget Planning

**107/17 Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 1st November 2017**

**The meeting finished at 8:35pm**

## Mayfield Parish Council

Dear Parishioners

There appears to be some misunderstanding among a few parishioners about the purchase of poo bags by the Parish Council, and a belief that there isn't a problem with dog fouling in the parish.

Earlier this year the Community and Civil Enforcement Team, East Staffordshire Borough Council, responded to many complaints from parishioners about dog fouling, by painting warning notices in several places in the parish, informing errant dog walkers about the fines they could face for not bagging and disposing of dog poo. Officers also visited the parish on at least two occasions in late January / early February 2017. The Clerk followed up with Community and Civil Enforcement Team (CCET) as to how the Parish Council could help. CCET explained that people could report dog fouling to them, by either ringing: 01283 508 036 or emailing: [community.civil.enforcement@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk](mailto:community.civil.enforcement@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk)

See *Minutes, February 2017*

If you see someone letting their dog foul the pavement, road etc. then please report it directly. These reports are anonymous, you are not required to give your name or any identifying details. If the problem is serious then ESBC can do targeted warning letter drops. HOWEVER they need fairly precise locations of where the poo is, times of when the poo is left and if possible who the dog owners are, though people can say that they think they know who it is, if they're not sure. This means that Officers can come out and monitor - and if they catch the owner they can prosecute on the spot. They can also visit offenders' homes.

The Parish Council decided to purchase poo bags for distribution throughout the parish – we hoped this might prove an incentive to dog owners who don't currently bag and bin it. We were able to obtain a very competitive price as one of our Cllrs works for a local vet. We initially hoped to provide bags on fingerposts and at stiles but a parishioner, who is also a local landowner, "... pointed out that hanging the bags on finger posts would mean that some bags will end up in fields and be consumed by animals, which could be detrimental to their health." See *Minutes, August 2017*. Cllrs therefore decided not to do this and are currently looking for a more efficient way to distribute bags. The free bags, which have been available at the village shop since July, will be replenished until the supply runs out.

NB: The Parish Council Minutes are available on the noticeboards at the village shop and the MRA within a fortnight of each monthly Parish Council meeting. In addition, all the Minutes are available on the Parish Council website. The Minutes are also published in the Parish Magazine.

Please remember that your Cllrs are volunteers who care about their community and endeavour to make a real difference. If parishioners have concerns about decisions that the Parish Council is making then please come along to a parish council meeting, and discuss these with your Cllrs, or contact the Clerk or Chair and raise your issues via email. If we don't know what your concerns are we can't attempt to address them.

**Fiona Raistrick**  
Clerk  
Mayfield Parish Council  
[clerk.mayfieldpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.mayfieldpc@gmail.com)

01335 300 102 (hours of work – Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9.30 – 12.00)