

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MAYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 12TH JULY 2022 AT 7 P.M. IN THE CHURCH ROOMS, MAYFIELD**

Present: Cllr. J. Watson – Chairman, Mrs Anne Wilson – Locum Parish Clerk
Cllr. C. Allen, Cllr. S. Bridgett, Cllr. P. Boura, Cllr. D. Croll, Cllr. A. Golding, Cllr. J. Kennedy – (for part of the meeting) **Also present:**, 4 members of the public

16/2022 Chairwoman’s Introduction

There have been very pleasing responses to the first roll out of the Three Year Plan. Five organisations have received their grants and have already expressed gratitude to the Council for what they are now able to do. We will be having a progress report from some of them later in the agenda. Some of them - the 1st. Mayfield Scouts, Heritage Society and Conservation Group have also offered to provide help with other Council projects like the Autumn Mayfield Clear Up. We look forward to their involvement and from many other individuals too, especially those who proposed this project and originally made positive suggestions at the Consultation meeting in March.

Other Councillors have also been very busy progressing the council –led projects that were previously identified as priorities; spending on these will commence as soon as exact requirements are identified.

In order to help those organisations who want to apply for a grant in October, and have difficulty downloading this from the PC website, a few application forms will be available from today for collection at PC meetings. A workshop will be arranged in August for anyone who contacts the Clerk to say they would like help to complete the application form.

17/2022 To receive/note apologies for absence

RESOLVED to receive apologies from: Cllr. G. Moodie – unwell

18/2022 Public Speaking

Two local residents spoke against the planning applications no. P/2022/00575, erection of agricultural building on land adjacent to Slack Lane/Gallowstree Lane. They objected to the application on several grounds and had specific concerns about access and traffic on a narrow lane, that there was no agricultural or commercial need evidenced for the development. They felt it was the beginning of urban spread and that the neighbour was being bullied by the applicant, who had padlocked the gate which gave access onto her property.

A representative from the Heritage Group gave a heartfelt thank you to the Parish Council for the grant recently awarded by the PC. She said that the new ‘Discover Mayfield’ leaflets, which acknowledged the PC’s support, would be out soon. She went on to speak about some of the work and future plans of the Heritage Group.

A local resident attempted to ask questions relating to the Annual Parish Meeting and the alleged behaviour of Councillors. He was told he must either wait until the Annual Parish Meeting in 2023 to raise this issue or make evidence-based reports to the Monitoring Officer.

19/2022 Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED to note that there was one Declarations of Interest.

Members are asked to receive declarations of interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

- Cllr. A. Golding recorded a Pecuniary Interest in agenda item no. 07/22/9 P/2022/00575 land at the junction of Gallowstree Lane and Slack Lane - erection of agricultural building for housing sheep and equipment.

20/2022 Approval of the minutes

RESOLVED to receive and confirm the minutes of the following meetings:

- Mayfield Parish Council meeting Wednesday 13th April 2022
- Mayfield Parish Council meeting Wednesday 31st May 2022

Cllr. Golding objected to the April minutes. Despite the e mail correspondence on the matter, he continued to insist that the minutes were wrong as his name had not been recorded as voting against the proposal in relation to two grants awarded by the Parish Council. The Locum Parish Clerk stated that unless he had specifically asked for his vote against to be recorded in the minutes against his name then only the democratic decision required minuting. He confirmed he had not asked for his vote to be recorded in this way.

21/2022 Finance, Administration and Maintenance

a) Current financial statement

RESOLVED that Members noted that as at 24th June 2022 the Treasurers Account had £32,419.21 in it.

b) Approval and payment of invoices

RESOLVED that Members approved the following invoices for payment:

- SLCC Enterprises – Locum Clerk - £803.65 + 160.73 VAT
- Graham Woodhouse – £161.25 May 2022 maintenance
- Hire of Church Rooms for Mayfield Parish Council meeting - £10
- Graham Woodhouse - £135.00 June 2022 maintenance
- Nicky Taylor-Smith £400 management of audit and clerk handover
- ICO Renewal £40
- 123 Reg £41.99 (DD)

Cllr. Golding questioned the payments to the SLCC and Nicky Taylor-Smith for whom he requested a copy of her invoice.

c) Appointment of an Internal Auditor

Three people had been approached about the post 2022/23 and only one quote has been received. Information on the one quote received had been circulated to Members.

RESOLVED to appoint Brenda Kirkham – £250 plus mileage @ 45p per mile. Ms Kirkham lives locally and is involved with other local PCs, which was felt to be a benefit.

d) Noticeboards

Members noted that two of the newer noticeboards had been forcibly opened, probably to post non-PC information, and now they did not lock or stay shut. Graham W would be asked to look at them and assess whether they could be repaired or more likely needed replacing.

22/2022 Three-Year Development Plan

Cllr. Croll gave a comprehensive update on the actions progressed since April in the Three-Year Plan.

Copy of the updated document to be posted on the website and circulated to cllrs.

The following comments were made:

- The Chairwoman reported a positive response in relation to the clear up campaign, which was building slowly and now targeted for the autumn.
- The Chairwoman had been liaising with a qualified youth worker who had agreed to co-ordinate activities in Autumn half-term and would be calling a meeting with parents and young people over the summer to see what sort of activities would be supported
- Under the auspices of Speedwatch a meeting had been held with the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, who used to be the Cabinet Member for Transport, in relation to the key issues on traffic management in the village
- The Locum Clerk had been successful in receiving a response from Mr Rayson (SCC Highways) about the highways issues in the parish and had offered to meet with members of the Council, a date to be agreed

- Parking hotspots in the parish which everyone was aware of were being logged
- New developments should take into consideration parking issues as a whole for the parish and not piecemeal development by development
- At least two highways' signs on the A52 and in Upper Mayfield are covered by shrubbery. The Locum Clerk was writing to the MP, County Councillor, the SCC, about other highway matters. This could also be pointed out to them as Highways say it is not their responsibility despite these signs being on a highways verge. It was agreed any update be placed on the September meeting agenda
- Conservation Group – Cllr Golding queried again whether it existed. It was confirmed again that it did and had met and the Chairman said that she had been contacted by the group. The Locum Clerk would ask the Conservation Group to contact Cllr. Golding
- Cllr. Golding asked if anyone had seen the local Facebook group and, he understood that there had been criticism about the Parish Council arranging nothing locally for the Jubilee. He was reminded that nothing had been raised in respect of these in the March public meeting and that moreover the PC had been told that other arrangements were in hand for the celebrations (some of which had apparently not materialised). Cllr. Golding queried the lack of publicity for the earmarked funding for local groups. He was reminded that members of the PC and some local groups were working directly to promote various projects. The Locum Clerk stated that he was a Councillor, and he could spread the word about the funds available as could all the Parish Councillors
- The interest in allotments was still there but no working group had been set up as there was, as yet, no land identified within the parish for an allotment. However, the Chairman stated she was liaising with a landowner over possible options and was involving Cllr Boura in this.

23/2022 Councillor Vacancy

Members were informed that the long advertised vacancy had attracted interest from a local resident, with an application to be considered for co-option. For personal reasons they were not able to come to the July meeting and so this matter was to be deferred until the September Council meeting. Cllr Golding queried why the application had not been circulated and the Clerk confirmed that it would be at the appropriate time.

24/2022 Planning Notifications

RESOLVED that Members made the following comments on planning applications:

- P/2021/01627 Thorntree, Piccadilly Lane, Upper Mayfield - Conversion and alterations to existing barn to form a dwellinghouse including alteration to the land levels to form a turning area (amended drawings and descriptions)
Members made no comment on this application.
- P/2022/00680 9 Sycamore Road, Mayfield - Erection of two storey side extension and canopy
Members made no comment on this application
- P/2022/00575 Land at junction of Gallowstree Lane and Slack Lane - Erection of agricultural building for housing of sheep and equipment
The Clerk requested that Cllr Golding leave the room for the consideration of this item, since he had declared a pecuniary interest in it. Cllr Golding did not consider that he was required to do this and the Clerk was forced to repeat her request. Cllr Golding asked why the Clerk had not responded to his request for a dispensation which allowed him to speak. She indicated that this request had only been sent to her that afternoon and she had not seen it. She added that a dispensation request should be in writing to the Clerk giving evidenced reasons why a dispensation should be considered, in reasonable time for the meeting. The Chairwoman said that she had mistakenly thought that Cllr Golding could speak to represent parishioners, but as

he had a possible pecuniary interest in that his property borders on the field named on this application, he would be advised not to participate in any vote on the matter.

RESOLVED that Members made the following comments:

- The application proposed had no access except over private land which the applicant does not own and apparently does not have permission
- The parking at the top of Slack Lane does not allow for any large vehicle including fire engines and tractors to gain access to the site
- The very tight corner has been made worse by the parking of residents' vehicles already and this would make the situation worse with additional vehicle movements
- There is no economic case for the business – 1.9 acres of field with 20 sheep – the building scale is out of place in relation to the size of the business and the supposed commercial benefit it would bring
- There have never been more than a few sheep and no large equipment has been seen on the site before
- It is out of keeping with the area and the listed buildings nearby
- It would mean that animals were housed in a building less than 400 yards from residential property

Members expressed concern about the alleged intimidation of the adjacent land and field owner and felt that the Council had a duty of care towards them.

RESOLVED that the PC submit a formal objection to the application citing the points above.

- P/2022/00724 Corner House, Piccadilly, Upper Mayfield - Erection of 1.5 storey rear extension and basement - Members made no comment on this application.
- P/2022/00726 Listed Building consent for the erection of a 1.5 storey rear extension and basement, installation of new windows and doors at basement level and associated internal alterations - Members made no comment on this application.

25/2022 Jubilee Tree

The Parish Council had received no suggestions as to location of a Jubilee Tree/s and agreed that they would advertise the matter between now and the September meeting when a decision on location could be made, noting that any tree should not be planted before then anyway.

26/2022 Church Lane/Mill Terrace Footpath – Mayfield 26

Members were disappointed that no action had been taken to rectify the very poor state of this footpath which was dangerous for residents to use despite it being reported on the Staffordshire CC PROW portal and acknowledged by the same that someone had come assess it. It is the only direct access to the Terrace from central Mayfield and where the tree roots had lifted the tarmac and dangerous ruts had been created making it particularly hazardous for a less abled resident. Members felt that it was not acceptable that no action had been taken given the severity of the situation. The suggestion that the PC should attend to the repairs itself or employ contractors was not felt to be appropriate on SCC-owned land.

RESOLVED that the Locum Clerk include this in the letter she was writing to the MP, SCC, and others about the road signage.

27/2022 Date of next meeting

RESOLVED that Members noted that the dates of the next meetings were as follows:

Monday 12th September 2022, Tuesday 18th October 2022, Tuesday 15th November 2022

There would be no meeting in December and the availability of the Church Rooms for 2022/23 meetings would be confirmed at a later date.

Signed..... Date