



Meeting of Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council

Venue Colkins Mill Church, Station Road, Mayfield, TN20 6BT

Date Monday 13 November 2023

Time 19:30

Minutes

Chairman Cllr Ian Parker

Councillors Present and Voting

Ian Parker
Chris Dines
Chris Lilly

Howard Blakebrough
Jo Eates
Joel Marlow

Tommy Buck
Paul Jarvis
Andrew Ratcliffe

Andrew Burnett
Martin Lawson
Sally Ann Tibbles

C13NOV23
2023/24 Meeting
Chairman Approved

Also in attendance:

Two representatives from South East Water, three members of the public, Cllr A Cross (ESCC), Cllr B Standley (ESCC), Cllr B Redman (WDC) and Janna Todd, Parish Clerk.

Public Questions

- There was a request to view the scheme plans and elevations of the proposed Community Centre. These are being produced to initially take to a pre-planning application meeting to determine whether there any immediate alterations required to finalise the plans.
- There was a discussion on the costs and discussions with potential contractors on a two-stage design and build project to be pursued with the contract being placed via an established Framework Agreement.
- The current estimated project costs are not set in concrete and negotiations will be entered into to reduce them where possible. Wealden District council's compliance must be adhered to and meet their approval before information can be shared with the public.
- The Chairman closed the discussion and suggested that further questions should be sent to the Council if required.
- A request was made for information on the current interest return on funds held for the MCC project. The Chairman confirmed a response would be provided.
- There was a request for information on the financial and business case for WDC to have the proposed 99-year lease for the Health Centre and it was suggested it should be discussed during agenda item 9.
- There was a presentation from Southeast Water on the different route causes for the prolonged water supply outages in the Parish over the last few years.
- Information was received on improvements to the infrastructure that have identified to increase the water supply to Cottage Hill Reservoir. The representatives then answered previously circulated questions.
- South East Water is working with Councils to improve their emergency water distribution during prolonged outages and includes the purchase of 10 tankers. It was recognised that communication to keep customers informed required improvement and have launched 'Aqua Alert' that is based on the UK Power Network system that provides regular key updates.

- The timetable for a schedule of improvement works is not yet finalised as funding is agreed in five year cycles with the last plan approved in 2020. It is anticipated more information will be available in March 2024 when a further meeting can be attended.

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Raj Sharma, Cllr Paul Amans.

2. Declarations of Interests

- 2.1. There were no declarations of interests.

3. Chairman's Announcements

- 3.1. Due to the resignation of Peter Hetreed there is a Casual Vacancy for the Ward of Five Ashes. As at least ten electors wrote to Wealden to request a by-election this has been arranged by the Returning Officer for Thursday 14 December 2023. It has been publicised in the noticeboards and on social media. Costs for the by-election for the Five Ashes electorate has been estimated by Wealden to be £2,600. This is in addition to the £9,040 for the May 2023 elections which significantly exceeds budgeted funds held for elections in reserves.
- 3.2. Residents of Swife Lane have requested the attendance of a Parish Councillor at their meeting arranged to discuss the lowering of the speed restriction. It is on Monday 20 November at 13:00 at Lakedown Tap Room. Please inform the Clerk if you are available to attend.
- 3.3. Wealden has been gradually reviewing the neighbourhood recycling points within the district. Due to the additional recycling that can now be collected from residents through the kerbside collections, it has been decided that certain sites are no longer environmentally or economically viable for mixed recycling collections. Therefore, within the next few weeks they are looking to remove the mixed recycling bins in the Memorial Hall Car Park but advise that the textile bank will remain in place.

4. Minutes of the Full Council meeting held 09 October 2023 (previously circulated)

- 4.1. There were no matters raised for discussion from the minutes.
- 4.2. It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 09 October 2023 as a true record.

5. Reports from East Sussex County Council (ESCC) (for information only)

- 5.1. The report from Cllr Anne Cross was previously circulated and included updates on:
 - The latest Reconciling Policy, Performance & Resources report revealing the council faces a deficit of at least 16m in the financial year to March 24. The council assure residents that they continue to lobby Government for increased funds.
 - Gatwick's 2nd Runway and the impact on East Sussex residents including surface access, economy, noise, air quality, carbon, climate change and health.
 - Traffic calming – the county wide strategy for determining where speed reduction measures may be successful. The criteria for reducing speed limits includes an assessment of the speed that drivers consider correct due to road conditions. Residents are sitting their right to leave their house on foot, bicycle or wheelchair to access local amenities without risk.
- 5.2. A request was made for Highways to repair certain potholes more speedily. A dangerously deep pothole on Wellbrook Hill last week caused damage to multiple vehicles and was not filled quickly enough.
- 5.3. The report from Cllr Standley was previously circulated and included updates on:
 - Adult Social Care – robotic pets bringing comfort to dementia sufferers.
 - Approval of £2,000,568 of the Household Support Fund for vulnerable households.

- The successful children's summer reading challenge to read six books during the holiday.
- A control hub to enable ESCC's highways contractor to monitor activity, track work and find ways to improve service following the decision to invest an additional £15.7 million to address increasing road damage caused by extreme weather.

5.4. The proposed additional runway at Gatwick is concerning and it would be preferable if all night flights could be stopped.

5.5. The budget deficit is concerning but may decrease.

6. Reports from Wealden District Council (WDC) (for information only)

- 6.1. Cllr Redman informed that the alliance between the Liberal Democrats and Green Party is fully operational and their new strategy will go to Council later this month.
- 6.2. The new local plan will go to Council for approval on 08 February 2024 after which the public consultation will be opened.
- 6.3. Revised housing numbers further to the 1,050/ year previously allocated have not been received from Government. The new plan will take into consideration the development sites approved in the SHELAA. No detail in the plan is available yet for further discussion.
- 6.4. The cost of living was discussed at the Overview and Scrutiny meeting and the services available in this Parish to help vulnerable households was applauded.
- 6.5. There are more Ukrainian families in Mayfield compared to many areas in the UK. The government withdrawing financial assistance in March 2024 has been raised for discussion.
- 6.6. A new Equalities Manager has been engaged to ensure delivery of diversity and inclusion. The role of human resources and ensuring good value for residents always has been raised.

7. Finance (previously circulated)

- 7.1. The following finance reports were previously circulated:
 - Full Council GO Finance Report to 30 September 2023
 - MCC 2023/24 Quarter 2 Finance Report
 - Consolidated GO & MCC Finance Report 2023/24 Q2
- 7.2. It was **resolved** to approve the reports and expenditure to 30 September 2023.

8. Minutes for adoption (previously circulated)

- 8.1. No matters were raised for discussion in the circulated Committee minutes.
- 8.2. It was **resolved** to adopt the following committee minutes and they were signed by the Chairman:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| • Planning Executive | 16 October 2023 |
| • Planning Executive | 06 November 2023 |
| • Mayfield Community Centre Advisory | 16 October 2023 |
| • Finance and General Purposes Executive | 23 October 2023 |

9. Mayfield Community Centre (MCC) (information previously circulated)

- 9.1. The following confidential documentation circulated:
 - MCC2660 Monthly Report November 2023 v1.3
 - MCC2648 Heads of Terms re DA v1.3 PB version
 - MCC2656 Procurement Options – Project Sponsor Board 23.10.24
- 9.2. No further update was provided and there were no matters arising from the circulated documentation.
- 9.3. It was **resolved** to approve the following documents:
 - MCC2660 Monthly Report November 2023 v1.3
 - MCC2648 Heads of Terms re DA v1.3 PB version
 - MCC2656 Procurement Options – Project Sponsor Board 23.10.24

10. Consideration of the 2024/25 Budgets (information previously circulated)

- 10.1. The General Operations Budget 2024-25 v1.4 and MCC Budget 2024-25 v1.2 were previously circulated.
- 10.2. Councillors were reminded to recognise that it is their responsibility to scrutinize the budget in preparation of setting the 2024/25 precept
- 10.3. No matters were raised for discussion and Members were requested to send any amendments to the clerk for consideration at the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting in two weeks time.

11. Updates from Committees (for information only)

- 11.1. Planning– nothing to report.
- 11.2. Finance and General Purposes – nothing to report.
- 11.3. Mayfield Community Centre – nothing further to report.
- 11.4. Community Development
- 11.4.1. The notes from the meeting on community Defibrillators were previously circulated.
- 11.5. Rights of Ways and Trees – nothing to report.
- 11.6. Community Safety and Traffic
- 11.6.1. The minutes SLR meeting on 20 October 2023 were previously circulated.
- 11.7. Governance and Risk – nothing to report.

12. Updates from Representatives (information previously circulated)

- 12.1. There were no reports from representatives.

13. Other items of information and next agenda items

- 13.1. The possible reopening of the Memorial Hall will be discussed at the MCC meeting.

The meeting ended at 20:58

The next meeting of Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council is scheduled to be:

Venue: Five Ashes village Hall
Date: Monday 11 December 2023
Time: 19:30 hours

.....Chairman's Signature

.....Date

Actions in Progress:

| MINUTE | DESCRIPTION | STATUS | |
|-------------------------------|--|--------|---------|
| Actions from meeting C13FEB23 | | | |
| 10.4 | Purchase 1000 flyers if there is sufficient interest in parking solution | JT | On hold |
| Actions from meeting C10JUL23 | | | |
| 9.4 | Design procedure for a duty councillor | JT | In hand |
| 13.1 | Arrange meeting with youths on use of bike trail area | AB | In hand |
| 13.2 | Make enquiries on bike trail inspections | AB | In hand |
| 13.3 | Make enquiries on visual playground inspections | JT | Open |
| Actions from meeting C11SEP23 | | | |
| 7.3 | Resolve issues with accounting software to change figures in Boxes 6 &7 | JT | In hand |

| Actions from meeting C09OCT23 | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|----|--------|
| 13.1 | Inform MCC CIO or new Trustee for the PC | JT | Closed |

Draft minutes subject to adoption as a true record