



Meeting of Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council

Venue <https://zoom.us>
Date Monday 13 July 2020
Time 18:00

C13JUL20
2020/21 Meeting 03
**Chairman
Approved**

Minutes

Chairman Cllr Gill Weavers

Councillors Present and Voting

Gill Weavers	Jerry Watkiss	Rosemary Neal	Jane Driscoll
Chris Lilly	Deveda Redman	Tommy Buck	Sally Ann Tibbles
Julie Upton	David Miles	Jim Rait	Richard Tupper
Monica Aitken	Patricia Balfour	James Lench	

Also in attendance:

23 members of the public, Cllr B Redman (WDC), Cllr R Simmons (ESCC), Cllr R Standley (ESCC & WDC) and Janna Todd, Parish Clerk.

Public Questions

- The Parish Council was asked whether there was a plan B if a health centre on Court Meadow is not approved by Fields in Trust.
- Questions and comments on the validity of the public consultation were raised. The response was that these arguments have been raised before and that the Parish Council followed advice from WDC and SSALC for the six-week consultation.
- A statement supporting the development of a community hall with integrated health centre for the best interests of the community now and in the future was shared with the meeting.
- A question was raised on whether limiting the location of a new community hall to the area behind the Memorial Hall would restrict the architect's designs for the most appropriate siting. The meeting was informed that the architect's brief would be provided with all the information required to produce the best effective designs.

1. Welcome to the remote meeting by the Chairman

- 1.1. The chairman opened the meeting and ensured all Councillors present could be heard.

2. Apologies for Absence

- 2.1. There were no apologies for absence.

3. Declarations of Interests

- 3.1. There were no declarations of interests.
- 3.2. Councillors were reminded to update their Register of Interests as soon as any changes in circumstances occur.

4. Chairman's announcements

- 4.1. An anonymous and malicious letter has been received which is believed to be an attempt to blackmail the Chairman into resigning. It was also sent to the Newsletter and Wealden District Council. It was immediately referred to the WDC Monitoring Officer who advised that

the complaint falls outside of both WDC's and the Parish Council's Code of Conduct and is also outside their remit as Monitoring Officer. It has also been reported to the police.

- 4.2. Councillors are reminded that the Minutes in draft are the Clerk's Minutes until the Council or a Committee adopts them. There should be no alteration to the draft minutes until presented to the Council when they can be challenged on matters of accuracy and, if an alteration is agreed, amended accordingly. An individual Councillor cannot contact the Parish Clerk to have draft minutes altered either in style or content to reflect their own individual wishes.
- 4.3. Councillors were requested to please look up information themselves wherever possible before asking the clerk to do so and add to her workload.
- 4.4. Councillors were reminded that all purchasing orders must go through the PC office and that councillors are not permitted to contact service providers to make an order without the prior permission of the Clerk.
- 4.5. The clerk will not be available for the first two weeks in August.

5. Minutes of the Full Council meeting held 08 June 2020 (previously circulated)

- 5.1. It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 08 June 2020 as a true record.

Matters arising from the minutes

- 5.2. There were no matters raised.

6. Reports from East Sussex County Council and Wealden District Council (previously circulated)

- 6.1. Cllr Simmons was sorry to hear about the vile letter received by the Chairman and was pleased it was reported to the police.
- 6.2. Financial planning for the next 12 months and the core services offered is being reviewed. East Sussex County Council has a deficit of £23.2M this financial year and an application has been made for additional funding from central government.
- 6.3. There has been an investment of £15M into highways and due to the pandemic and reduction in traffic, repairs are progressing faster.
- 6.4. East Sussex has a low Covid-19 rate and is listed 130 out of 149 in the country.
- 6.5. The Officers' workload for the scrutiny of private and public care homes was not anticipated. This is being done remotely therefore the physical observation element is missing.
- 6.6. The safety of school transport was raised and it was acknowledged that in rural areas pupils will have to travel in buses with no social distancing. County is working hard to get all years back to school in September but there are not enough buses to allow for either half day attendance or social distancing.
- 6.7. Cllr B Redman is working on the Parish Strategy that will be reviewed by the Planning and Community Development Committees. Once approved a meeting with WDC Planning Policy Officers will be convened.
- 6.8. £35M of grants have been allocated to local businesses during the Covid-19 crisis and business rates have been relaxed. An additional £2.6M has been received from central government that has enabled WDC to widen the scope for small business grants so more should qualify.
- 6.9. Hospitality outlets are being encouraged to use pavements and small outside areas to encourage business. Hailsham High Street will be closed to through traffic to encourage shoppers.
- 6.10. WDC has given smaller retail outlets in Hailsham High Street a rent free period that has resulted in reduced income but not a major financial impact.
- 6.11. There have so far been more than 100 responses to the Call for Sites consultation for the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) that is open until

10 August 2020. These are sites that landowners wish to be considered for development and not what WDC want to build on.

6.12. If the Parish Council comes up with smaller sites than the criteria for the SHELAA they can be identified and discussed with Planning Policy Officers.

7. Finance (information previously circulated)

7.1. It was **resolved** to approve the Finance Report and expenditure to 31 May 2020.

8. Minutes for adoption (previously circulated)

8.1. It was **resolved** to approve and sign the following committee minutes:

- Planning Executive
08 June 2020
22 June 2020
06 July 2020

8.2. The suggestion for an open public meeting for the Planning and Community Development Committees was acknowledged to not be feasible at this time.

8.3. It was **resolved** to approve and sign the following committee minutes:

- Mayfield Community Centre Advisory
01 June 2020
29 June 2020

8.4. A request was made to wait until FIT are back in their offices before further progress is made. Councillors were informed that the Parish Council has been requesting information from FIT since January 2020 and still no response has been received. We are open to discussions, but they are not communicating with us.

8.5. The meeting was informed that it should be the Clerk, Chairman or a Committee Chairman that should approach a third party on behalf of the Parish Council.

8.6. There was a discussion on the figures for building a new hall used in the consultation information.

8.7. A comment was raised that the Committee's July newsletter report should have included the advantages of a standalone hall.

8.8. It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Governance and Risk Committee of 17 June 2020

8.9. It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 22 June 2020.

9. Special Motion as per section 7a of Standing Orders and in accordance with section 9 (information previously circulated)

9.1. It was noted that Resolution C13JUL20 Review v2.0 was previously circulated for consideration by Councillors and that a recorded vote has been requested.

9.2. The following motion proposed by Cllr Tupper and seconded by Cllr Lench was discussed.

This council should be bound to accept and respect the democratic 'will of the people' as indicated by the outcome of the public consultation in January 2020 by pursuing an integrated (ie combined community and health centre) design only and that this shall be completely binding on the council.

9.3. There was a request to remove wording in the motion and to add an additional clause. It was **resolved** by a majority vote not to alter the wording of the original motion.

9.4. Following a majority vote it was **resolved** that the motion be carried. Voting for: Cllrs Buck, Lench, Lilly, Miles, Neal, Rait, Redman, Tupper, Watkiss and Weavers. Voting against Cllrs Aitken, Balfour, Driscoll, Tibbles and Upton.

10. Public complaints

10.1. There was a discussion on issuing a public statement on why the Parish Council undermined the outcome of the public consultation following the receipt of many complaints.

10.2. It was agreed that Cllr Redman would produce a response to circulate.

Action DR

11. Memorial Hall lease (information previously circulated)

11.1. Document MMH1999 Lease codicil v1.2 was issued with the agenda however a final version 1.5 was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

11.2. It was unanimously **resolved** to approve document MMH1999 Lease Codicil v1.5 with authorised signatories to be Cllr Weavers and Councillor Lilly.

12. Approval and adoption of documents (information previously circulated)

12.1. It was unanimously **resolved** to adopt the following documents:

- Code of Conduct v2.0
- Standing Orders v2.3

13. Election of Councillors to Committees

13.1. Cllr Tibbles withdrew the request to be appointed to the Mayfield Community Centre Committee.

13.2. It was **resolved** to appoint the following Councillors to Committees:

- Cllr Miles Community Traffic and Safety Advisory
- Cllr Buck Mayfield Community Centre Committee
- Cllr Lench Mayfield Community Centre Committee
- Cllr Driscoll Mayfield Community Centre Committee

13.3. Cllr Driscoll's request to be appointed to the Finance and General Purposes Committee was not approved.

14. Updates from Committees (for information only)

14.1. Planning

- The Committee will meet on 27 July 2020 to discuss the Parish Strategy.

14.2. Finance and General Purposes

- Nothing further to report

14.3. Mayfield Community Centre

- Nothing further to report

14.4. Community Development

- The meeting to discuss the Parish Strategy on 27 July at 18:00 is for all Councillors who wish to attend.

14.5. Rights of Ways and Trees

- The volunteer maintenance team cannot resume outings at present as they would not be covered by ESCC's insurance.

14.6. Community Safety and Traffic

- Nothing further to report

14.7. Governance and Risk

- Nothing further to report

15. Any urgent items of information

15.1. There were no further items on information.

15.2. Cllr Weavers summarised then closed the meeting.

The meeting ended at 20:33

The next meeting of Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council:

Venue: <https://zoom.us>

Date: Monday 14 September

Time: 18:00 hours

.....Chairman's Signature

.....Date

Actions in Progress:

MINUTE	DESCRIPTION		STATUS
Actions from meeting C12NOV18			
12.1	Investigate implications of creating CIC/ CIO for community projects	CL	In hand
Actions from meeting C09DEC19			
4.5	Clarify status of Court Meadow Land Still awaiting registration information	JT	On hold
Actions from meeting C27JAN20			
3.10	Initiate process to apply for a PWLB loan	JT	Closed
Actions from meeting C10FEB20			
11.3	Contact St Dunstons to establish ownership of land at war memorial	JT	Open
15.2	Make enquiries into safety of removing a defibrillator for public events	JT	Open
Actions from meeting C13MAY20			
4.4	Ascertain date of next High Street survey by ESCC Awaiting information	JT	On hold
Actions from meeting C08JUN20			
10.2	Submit external audit paperwork and issue Notice of Public Rights	JT	Closed
12.3	Circulate Solicitor's Summary of FIT issue to Council	JT	Closed
13.5	Ascertain whether Volunteer Maintenance Team outings can resume	JT	Closed
13.6	Inform previous Community S & T chair that they can chair the Committee	JT	Closed
Actions from meeting C13JUL20			
10.2	Draft public statement	DR	Closed