



# Minutes of the meeting of **Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council**

Venue Mayfield Memorial Hall  
Date Monday 10 July 2017  
Time 19:30

C10JUL17  
2017/18 Meeting 03  
**Adopted**

## Minutes

Chairman Cllr Deveda Redman

### **Councillors Present and Voting**

Deveda Redman	Jerry Watkiss	Rosemary Neal	Robert Fitzsimmons
David Miles	Herb Hills	Elaine Wheeler	Julie Upton
Monica Aitken	Ian Parker		

### **Also in attendance:**

Cllr B Redman (WDC), Cllr G Wells (WDC), Cllr R Standley (ESCC/ WDC) and Cllr J Fox (WDC).  
There were 24 members of the public present and Janna Todd, Parish Clerk.

### **Public Questions**

- Members of the public were present to object to Wealden District Council's (WDC) decision that prior approval was not required for the installation of a telephone mast and base station in Little Trodgers Lane.
- Complaints were received that WDC's planning procedure for such applications appears to be undemocratic and a call was made for a change to their delegated powers so that future similar cases are considered by their planning committees.
- An argument was raised that the application was invalid as the actual height of the proposed telephone mast will be in excess of the 20 metres in an AONB and therefore a full planning application should have been submitted.
- The meeting was informed that government legislation changed in November 2016 which overrides the Wealden Design Guide on the appearance of telephone masts within the AONB.
- The Chairman informed that the Parish Council is very unhappy with the siting and the appearance of the mast and felt that the applicant, Harlequin, had disregarded its pre-application comments. Suggestions were put forward for more suitable sites as part of the consultation that WDC Planners have informed were considered before their decision was made. These included land behind the fire station and to co-locate off the existing mast on land adjacent to the A267.
- Wealden District Councillors understood that as far as they are aware their Planning Team followed the correct process. Confirmation was received that WDC will be looking at its own constitution and committee procedure.
- The Chairman informed the meeting that the Parish Council would not join the action group but would support it. Any Parish Councillor would be able to join the action group as a resident of the community.
- Harlequin's summary of sites that were considered and rejected will be placed on the Parish Council's website. Several of the sites were in valleys and should not have been considered and members of the public felt that this was just a box ticking exercise.

- The Parish Council was asked for a guarantee that Court Meadow would continue to be dedicated for recreational purposes and not considered as a possible location for new surgery premises. This would massively exacerbate the parking problems in Mayfield.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

- 1.1. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Chris Lilly, Cllr Gill Weavers, Cllr Eleanor McDonnell-Slater, Cllr Patricia Balfour and Cllr R Simmons (ESCC).

### **2. Declarations of Interests**

- 2.1. There were no declarations of interests.

### **3. Chairman's Announcements**

- 3.1. Wealden District Council has confirmed that there has been no call for an election due to the resignation of Johnny Marsh and that the Parish Council may now co-opt.
- 3.2. Finance and General Purposes will be looking at the 2018/19 budget at their September meeting. Recommendations for projects should be forwarded to the Clerk by the end of August.
- 3.3. The Rural Services Network has circulated a survey that asks whether councillors are prepared to receive their bulletins which consist of weekly newsletters and bulletins. Due to the volume Councillors declined to have them circulated by the clerk. **Action JT**
- 3.4. Members were reminded of the procedure for substituting for a member at committee meetings. The Clerk needs to be informed seven days prior to a meeting that will become inquorate due to a foreseen absence. The councillor then must secure a Substitute Member to attend in their place.
- 3.5. The office will be closed from 3rd August to 18th August except for the planning meeting on the 7 August. Committee Chairmen were requested use this period to sort through the filed paperwork in the office.
- 3.6. Enquiries were instigated to look for an alternative meeting venue in Five Ashes. The village hall has now confirmed that the Rowan Hall is again available for meetings.

### **4. Minutes of the Full Council meeting held 12 June 2017 (previously circulated)**

- 4.1. It was **resolved** unanimously to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2017 as a true record.

#### **Matters arising from the minutes**

- 4.2. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **5. Reports from East Sussex County Council (ESCC)**

- 5.1. Cllr Standley provided the following information:
  - Following the Grenfell Tower fire multi-storey buildings are being identified for fire safety checks.
  - A performance review was undertaken and was found to be improving.
  - ESCC managed to balance its books last financial year partly due to the increase in funding for Adult Social Care.
  - ESCC are looking at outsourcing their countryside sites while maintaining the freehold. This will not apply to the Cuckoo Trail and other rights of ways.
- 5.2. The meeting was informed that the reduction in speed limit at Argos Hill was scheduled to commence on 31 July 2017 and that a request had been made from the Parish Council to cut back any vegetation obscuring the signs at the same time. Information received at the SLR meeting on the HGV length restriction to Rotherfield was that it was scheduled to commence in September 2017.

5.3. A question was raised on whether solar panels are a fire hazard particularly if aged.

5.4. The two potholes on the A267 at Argos Hill have been reported to Highways.

## **6. Reports from Wealden District Council (previously circulated)**

6.1. The report from Cllr Wells was previously circulated and included information on:

- Fire checks on multi-storey buildings
- Reporting fly tipping incidents
- The successful prosecution of a benefit fraudster
- The review of air quality guidance which is causing a delay to the Wealden Local Plan
- A plea to help house Syrian refugees.

6.2. Cllr Neal reiterated the feeling of residents that the planning process followed by WDC to reach their decision on the siting and appearance of the proposed telephone was undemocratic.

6.3. The meeting was informed that due to permitted development rights WDC do not have an opportunity to reject the mast as the decision has not been devolved down to local level government. Mayfield is not alone in its frustration as two more local villages are facing the same problem.

6.4. Cllr Fox would be happy to contact Nus Ghani MP to inform of how unhappy residents are on the proposed site of the telephone mast.

6.5. The planning application for a property on Crier's Lane has been called in to committee.

6.6. The Wealden District Councillors left the meeting at 20:30.

## **7. Finance Report (previously circulated)**

7.1. The Finance Report to 31 May 2017 was previously circulated.

7.2. There were no matters arising from the Finance Report.

7.3. The Finance Report was approved unanimously.

## **8. Minutes for adoption (previously circulated)**

8.1. The Parish Council **resolved** to adopt the following committee minutes and they were signed by the Chairman:

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| • Planning Executive                     | 26 June 2017 |
| • Community Development Advisory         | 19 June 2017 |
| • Rights of Ways and Trees Advisory      | 21 June 2017 |
| • Finance and General Purposes Executive | 26 June 2017 |
| • Community Safety and Traffic Advisory  | 03 July 2017 |

### **Matters arising from the minutes**

8.2. There were no matters arising from the minutes:

## **9. Telephone mast approval**

9.1. The Parish Council agreed with the feeling of the residents that although the mast is needed to improve mobile phone signal the siting and appearance in the proposed location is completely inappropriate at the entrance to the village.

9.2. It was agreed to write to the landowner to inform them of the magnitude of local objection to the siting of the proposed mast and to request that they consider withdrawing their area of land for development. **Action JT**

9.3. Mayfield Girl's School has informed that, during a recent survey by South East Water, great crested newts were found in the pond on the opposite side of the road to the proposed site of the telephone mast. The results of the survey will be requested then considered for possible further action against the construction of the telephone mast in that location. **Action JT**

## **10. Resolution to adopt the General Power of Competence as contained in the Localism Act 2011**

- 10.1. It was confirmed that the Parish Council was eligible to adopt the General Power of Competence: that at least two thirds of members are elected and the Clerk is CiLCA qualified.
- 10.2. **Resolution C10JUL17:** Proposed: Cllr Watkiss      Seconded: Cllr Miles
- 10.3. It was **resolved** by unanimous vote to adopt the General Power of Competence.

## **11. Replacement Community Account**

- 11.1. It was resolved by unanimous vote to apply to open a Santander Treasurer's Account to replace the Unity Trust account for funds from public donations
- 11.2. Cllrs were informed that they would have to attend a Santander branch to provide identification as the Parish Council as a whole would be responsible for the funds in the account.

## **12. New surgery premises (information previously circulated)**

- 12.1. A discussion took place on the suggestion that new surgery premises could be provided by the Parish Council on Court Meadow.
- 12.2. It was agreed that new premises are required as the practice's current lease expires in 2020.
- 12.3. The Parish Council conclusions in October 2012 were that Court Meadow should be protected from any encroachment/ development for the enjoyment of future generations
- 12.4. It was agreed that should Woodhill Practice approach the Parish Council for assistance with finding new premises a joint venture might be entered to consider possible sites.

## **13. Mayfield village sign (information previously circulated)**

- 13.1. The existing text on the village sign plaque is incorrect in places and proposed new wording was considered.
- 13.2. It was agreed to replace the existing plaque with the revised wording. **Action JT**

## **14. Updates from Committees (for information only)**

- 14.1. Finance and General Purposes
- Nothing to report.
- 14.2. Rights of Ways and Trees
- The volunteer maintenance team will be meeting to clear vegetation in the twittens.
- 14.3. Planning Committee
- Cllr Neal reiterated the frustration that the Committee feels when objections to planning consultations are submitted to WDC but approval is given.
  - Cllr Aitken informed that the Committee does not want the street scene changed within the Conservation Areas.
- 14.4. Community Safety and Traffic
- The SLR minutes were previously circulated. It was agreed to be a very productive meeting.
- 14.5. Community Development
- Nothing further to report.

## **15. Updates from representatives (for information only)**

- 15.1. Cllr Neal attended the Planning Panel meeting and informed that there was a discussion on how villages are being destroyed by not having what feels like a democratic planning procedure.
- 15.2. Plans for this year's Christmas lights are being discussed. Any suggestions or ideas are welcomed and should be sent to Cllr Parker.
- 15.3. The Wealdlink report was previously circulated.

## 16. Other items of information and next agenda items

16.1. The verges on Lake Street have not been cut this year.

**Action JT**

16.2. The appearance of the posters on the Primary School railings was discussed. Cllrs were requested to think of other possible locations where village posters might be erected.

**The meeting ended at 21:20**

**The next meeting of Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council will be:**

**Venue: Mayfield Memorial Hall**  
**Date: Monday 11 September 2017**  
**Time: 19:30 hours**

.....Chairman's Signature

.....Date

### **Actions in Progress:**

Actions in Progress

MINUTE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	
Actions from meeting C14APR14			
14.3	Three quotes for fencing of Jubilee Woods (after ecological report received)	JT	On hold
Actions from meeting 10 October 2016			
12.5	Investigate relocating and refurbishing telephone kiosk at Love Lane	JT	Closed
Actions from meeting 08 May 2017			
PQT	Reissue letters and notices on wheelie bins at High Street bus stop	JT	Open
7.3	Determine appropriate change of meeting time for ROW & Trees Committee	JT	In hand
Actions from meeting 12 June 2017			
3.1	Investigate alternative venue for Five Ashes meetings	JT	Closed
12.5	Talk to youths about litter problem at skate park	IP	Closed
14.4	Source the minutes to the Ashdown Conservators meetings	JT	Closed
15.2	Replacement of plaque on village sign	JT	In hand
15.3	Resolve problem of compass points on village sign and quotations	JT	In hand
Actions from meeting 10 July 2017			
PQT	Upload Harlequin's considered locations and results on website	JT	Closed
3.3	Reply to Rural Services Networks bulletin consultation	JT	Open
9.2	Write to landowner to request withdrawing site for mast	JT	Open
9.3	Request a copy of SE Water's pond survey	JT	In hand
13.2	Replacement plaque and wording on village sign	JT	Open
16.1	Report overgrown verges in Lake Street	JT	Closed