

Minutes of the meeting of  
Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Venue: Old Manor House  
Date: Monday 18 September 2017  
Time: 19:30

D18SEP17  
2017/18 Meeting 02  
**Adopted**

## MINUTES

**Chairman Cllr Gill Weavers**

### ATTENDANCE

#### **Councillors Present and Voting**

Gill Weavers  
David Miles  
Eleanor McDonnell-Slater  
Patricia Balfour

#### **Lay Members Present**

Garnet Shackel  
Steve Harland

**Also Present:** S Holland (MAYFACS) and Janna Todd (Parish Clerk).

### **1. Apologies for absence**

- 1.1. Cllr McDonnell-Slater was welcomed on to the Committee.
- 1.2. Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Redman and Mr O'Connor.

### **2. Declaration of interests on agenda items**

- 2.1. There were no declarations of interests.

### **3. Public questions and comments**

- 3.1. There were no members of the public present.

### **4. Minutes of the meeting 19 June 2017 previously adopted**

- 4.1. The actions in progress were reviewed and updated.

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

- 4.2. With reference to action 7.10 from the previous meeting, the Parish Council adopted the General Power of Competence – a power available to local authorities in England to do “anything that individuals generally may do” provided for in the Localism Act 2011.
- 4.3. The Hospice has not yet received planning approval from Wealden District Council.

### **5. Mayfield Library Closure (information previously circulated)**

- 5.1. There was a discussion on the proposed closure of Mayfield Library that was announced by East Sussex County Council (ESCC) on 11 September 2017. The Committee agreed that it is a valued community asset that should remain open but accepted that it might have to be run as a community organisation to keep it open. Cllr Balfour offered to run a team of volunteers.
- 5.2. Information in the draft consultation papers from ESCC gave their annual funding for Mayfield Library to be £8,000. The Parish Council contributes an additional £3,000 annually.
- 5.3. A suggestion was made that MAYFACS could use the library as an office; however the facilities available on site are inadequate at present.

- 5.4. There was particular concern that the community would lose their access to computer facilities which are becoming increasingly necessary for accessing benefits etc. The Computer Buddy Scheme provided by MAYFAS in the library has been well used by the elderly.
- 5.5. ESCC would continue to supply books if the library is run by a community organisation.
- 5.6. The Chief Executive of Wealden's Citizen Advice Bureau will be contacted to ascertain their opinion on how the proposed closure might affect the community. **Action GS**
- 5.7. The current library footfall will be ascertained. **Action GW**
- 5.8. Why Mayfield Pre-School stopped their visits to the library will be investigated. **Action JT**
- 5.9. Whether Mayfield Primary School will allow the library to stay in the school should it remain open will be ascertained. **Action JT**
- 5.10. It was agreed to reschedule the next meeting of the Community Development Committee to Monday 06 November 2017 to discuss again before the proposed consultation closes.
- 5.11. Cllr Balfour left the meeting after this agenda item.

## **6. Future use of Court Meadow**

- 6.1. Woodhill Practice has approached the Parish Council to request their assistance in finding a location for new surgery premises as their lease is due to expire in 2020. They have been invited to attend the next Finance and General Purposes meeting to discuss the assistance the Parish Council might provide. There was concern that should they not find new premises before 2020 the doctor's practice might close. The Parish Council has previously discussed whether Court Meadow could be considered as a location for new premises.
- 6.2. A request was received from the Bonfire Society for permission to install three structures on Court Meadow with fencing and a gate in the woodland behind the fire station which would be accessed by the narrow track
- 6.3. There are already other structures on Court Meadow such as Pre-School and the Band Hut that pay a peppercorn rent to the Parish Council. There was also an Old Players Hut behind the Memorial Hall before it was burnt down.
- 6.4. MAYFACS is investigating whether a Community Shed would be a well used asset particularly for elderly isolated men.
- 6.5. It was agreed that there may be opposition to the building of any new structures on Court Meadow.
- 6.6. MAYFACS is investigating the possibility of extending the Old Library and reminded the Parish Council that the Memorial Hall lease expires in 2021.

## **7. Mayfield and Five Ashes Community Services (information previously circulated)**

- 7.1. The MAYFACS report was previously circulated.
- 7.2. MAYFACS is trying to extend their Computer Buddy Scheme which has involved eight teenagers assisting particularly the elderly to use computers, smart phones and tablets in Mayfield Library. They have applied for a grant to enable to take the scheme 'on the road' and to visit existing clubs and societies in Mayfield and Five Ashes. The Committee recognised that this is an important intergenerational facility.
- 7.3. Mrs Holland was thanked for her huge contribution to the community.

## **8. 2017 Bonfire Festival**

- 8.1. The Committee recognised the effort that the Bonfire Society puts into arranging the annual festival event that is appreciated by the community.
- 8.2. There were no incidents reported by Sussex Police.
- 8.3. The football club made a complaint to the Bonfire Society as they were unable to play a match due to the fireworks being set up on the football pitch. It has been pointed out to them that the Bonfire Festival is an annual event and match fixtures should be avoided in Mayfield on that particular weekend in September.

8.4. The Parish Council is not informed of any match fixtures and does not currently charge the Football Club a hire fee for use of the football pitch. **Action JT**

**9. Items of information and next agenda items**

9.1. The banners on the Court Meadow railings have not been permitted by the Parish Council and they are an eyesore in the Conservation Area. The relevant organisation will be asked to remove them and to request permission to erect any banners or posters on the railings in the future. **Action JT**

**The meeting closed at 20:45 hours.**

**The next meeting of the Community Development Committee:**

**Venue: Old Manor House, High Street, Mayfield**

**Date: Monday 06 November 2017**

**Time: 19:30 Hours**

.....*Chairman's Signature*

.....*Date*

**Annex 1**

Annually	Review community assets list	JT	Ongoing
<b>Actions from meeting 30 September 2013</b>			
8.1	Arrange ecological survey of Jubilee Wood ( <b>enquire why still not received</b> )	EW	Closed
<b>Actions from meeting 19 June 2017</b>			
7.10	Investigate whether the Parish Council has the power to build a surgery	JT	Closed
10.2	Determine the estimated opening date for the new Hospice	PB	On hold
<b>Actions from meeting 18 September 2017</b>			
5.6	Ascertain CAB concerns on the library closure	GS	Open
5.7	Ascertain footfall to Mayfield Library	GW	Open
5.8	Determine why Pre-School stopped their regular library visits	JT	Open
5.9	Determine the Primary School's stance on keeping the library in the school	JT	Open
8.4	Investigate who runs Mayfield football club and any previous agreements	JT	Open
9.1	Request removal of banners from railings and advise permission is required	JT	Open