

Mayfield Parish Council

Minutes of the deferred Meeting of Mayfield Parish Council to be held on Tuesday 18th October 2022 at 7.00 pm at The Church Rooms, Church Lane, Mayfield

Present: Cllr. J. Watson – Chairman
Cllr. C. Allen
Cllr. S. Bridgett
Cllr. P. Boura
Cllr. D. Croll
Cllr. A. Golding
Cllr. J. Kennedy (unavoidably detained and arrived after Public Speaking)
Cllr. G. Moodie

Also Present: Anne Wilson Locum Parish Clerk
18 members of the public

Members stood for one minutes' silence at the beginning of the Parish Council meeting in memory of the late Queen Elisabeth II.

AGENDA

36/2022	To receive apologies for absence/note attendance RESOLVED to note that there were no apologies for absence from Members.
37/2022	Declaration of Interests RESOLVED to note that there were no 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.
38/2022	Decision and Recommendations of the ESBC Local Monitoring Officer (LMO) in relation to Complaints about MPC Councillors and breaches of the Code of Conduct. The Chairman read the following statement: <i>This item relates to complaints raised by a number of people against councillors that were referred by Monitoring Officers of ESBC for independent investigation to a Barrister, Mr Beglan from Cornerstone Chambers, London. The Final Report he published in August, after consultation with those involved on a draft, was a detailed analysis of the state of MPC over the last 18 months; and it is published on the MPC website. This exercise has cost the ESBC taxpayers £25,000. Eleven people were interviewed in depth, the majority for well over three hours; transcripts and recordings of meetings were listened to for accuracy of what had actually been said; and hundreds of past emails were examined.</i> <i>The Report and the supplementary documentation accessed is not for debate at this meeting. The Clerk has established that with the LMO and there will be no discussion about it. It was sent to the LMO, who decided to make a Summary Decision and who has made recommendations he believes the MPC should adopt. These are listed on the agenda – c) 1,2,3, which I shall now read out.</i> RESOLVED that Members noted and adopted the following: a) Note the acceptance in full by the LMO of the final report of the Investigating Officer (IO), barrister, Mr. Wayne Beglan

	<p>b) Note that the IO report (without appendices) is now posted on the MPC website and is in the public domain, similarly the Decision Notice issued by LMO</p> <p>c) Consider and adopt the recommendations of the LMO that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Cllr Golding, having been found to have breached the Code of Conduct in relation to showing proper respect, be required, for each breach of the Code, to make a full apology at this meeting for his lack of respect demonstrated to former clerks Nicky Taylor Smith and Lesley Brown 2) Cllr Golding be required to attend training in relation to the Code of Conduct and the Nolan Principles 3) Cllr Croll, was found to have breached the Code of Conduct on the issue of voting, where the IO nevertheless held that there was mitigation at play due to his representation of 14 residents. Cllr Croll be required to attend training in relation to the Nolan Principles. <p>d) Cllrs to note that this training will be provided by the Locum Parish Clerk.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that the Monitoring Officer had confirmed to her on the phone that there should be no discussion on this item. It was simply for adopting.</p> <p>Cllr. Golding disagreed and insisted that he had a letter from the Monitoring Officer stating that he could make a statement and the matter should have due consideration. Cllr Golding was unable to produce the letter which he referred to.</p> <p>Cllr. Golding said he may or may not apologise depending on whether he was allowed to make a statement and had concerns about whether the Locum Parish Clerk was impartial on this matter. The Locum Parish Clerk said that as she was not in post during the material time, the investigation was carried out independently and the outcome being very clear in the report she had a duty to ensure that the independent recommendations were followed by the Council and training was carried out.</p> <p>Cllr. Croll confirmed that he would accept the outcome and the training recommended. He had attended the Code of Conduct Training held before this Parish Council meeting which had been arranged for all councillors. Cllr Golding had not attended.</p> <p>Cllr. Golding said that he had not been informed about any training arranged. It was pointed out to him that the notice about the training was sent on the same e mail where the meeting agendas and minutes were sent out so he must have received it. A reminder had also been sent out that afternoon.</p> <p>Cllr. Golding became more argumentative about not accepting the process or the outcome of the report and encouraged members of the public present to barrack councillors and make the progress of business difficult, showing as they did complete disrespect and bias about the matter in hand.</p> <p>As the meeting became more difficult, with Cllr Golding repeatedly invoking the intervention of members of the public, Cllr Croll proposed that given his complete disrespect for both the process and the individuals to whom he was required to apologise, one of whom was present, that he should be "unheard" until he had apologised in the fulsome manner set out by LMO. It was not a matter for Cllr Golding to place conditions on this.</p> <p>RESOLVED that under Standing Order 2 b) Cllr. Golding will not be heard at the two Parish Council meetings this evening.</p>
39/2022	<p>Public Speaking</p> <p>Members of the public are welcome to attend. You may speak about any item which is on the Agenda. The total time allowed is 10 minutes, so please be brief and to the point. Members of the Council will listen and do not have to respond to any comments made, although comments relating to Agenda items will be discussed at the relevant point in the meeting. During that Agenda item, further public participation cannot be permitted. There will be no debate or discussion between councillors and the public.</p>

	<p>The Locum Clerk said that no questions would be answered at the meeting and that anyone asking questions should give her their contact details after the meeting so she could reply, if appropriate.</p> <p>Alex Blackwell: Does Cllr. Croll feel he should resign as he was found guilty of wilful breach of conduct – he should not have spoken or voted on the matter?</p> <p>The cost of £25,000 could have been prevented if John Parker had been listened to when he tried to silence the discussion and tried to speak – does the Council agree?</p> <p>An unidentified parishioner: Does the Chairman agree that she appointed Bentley Treescapes without the authority of the Parish Council and spent money without permission?</p> <p>John Parker: Why are the Parish Council expecting taxpayers to pay for the repairs to Footpath 25 when the Friends of Mayfield offered to carry out the work for free?</p> <p>Robert Beresford: On what authority did the Chairwoman write that members of the public should not discuss matters which are the subject of active police investigation in the village.</p> <p>Valerie Murfin: Is the Chairman going to stand for re-election at the elections next year?</p> <p>Jane Woodhouse: Why has the Chairman not declared an interest in the appointment of Ed Bentley with whom she is good friends – he stores equipment at your property Sue Bridgett is also good friends with him.</p> <p>Alex Blackwell: Does the Clerk feel that the Chairman will directly or indirectly benefit from the contract with Ed Bentley?</p>
40/2022	<p>Chairwoman's report</p> <p>The Chairwoman gave the following report:</p> <p>The last months has been a difficult period for Councillors who have been waiting for the Final Report of the Independent Inquiry, and subsequent recommendations from the LMO. During the period when no PC meetings were held, some Councillors have been very active in trying to make progress on various facets of the 3 Year Plan as is evident from the variety of papers that are presented on the agenda. Their achievements will be very apparent in the next few months.</p> <p>At the same time, there have been several attempts to publicly undermine the activities of the PC and its relationships within the Parish. There has also been additional, time-consuming and unnecessary work, which the Clerk will cost separately, created by a plethora of critical and repetitive emails from a Councillor who has shown a complete disrespect for the Chair, Clerk and Cllrs and has had a negative and misleading impact on the work we are trying to do.</p> <p><u>The early achievements being accomplished under the 3 Year Plan.</u></p> <p>These will be on the agenda, some with accompanying reports. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The progress made on the big MPC Clear up and the necessity of urgently employing our own local contractor, due to the inaction of Staffs Highways despite numerous PC requests – this we understand due to an ongoing lack of funding. This had resulted in immediate and observable improvements to verges, paths, hedges and road sides (details in MPC paper). Another request from the consultation meeting was for skip provision. Arrangements have been made with Peak Waste to provide one free and one paid- for skip for two weeks at two venues (Mayfield Yarns car park and the MRA) commencing 26th October. • Exciting possibilities for a Youth Activities programme, aimed at secondary school age young people, had been promoted widely in Mayfield and a meeting date with a professional youth worker widely regarded in the village had been arranged but sadly no one turned up. Ideas are welcome. • Following consultations regarding the Platinum Jubilee Year, consideration will be given to the following ideas: a bench seat/s at the MRA near the former Jubilee Oak

	<p>Tree, and an attractive sign depicting the history and current buildings, at the road entrances to Mayfield.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A long-awaited meeting with Highways took place to discuss a whole range of traffic issues in Mayfield, of which traffic volumes and speeding were identified for immediate attention. (Detail in MPC paper).
41/2022	<p>Approval of the Minutes</p> <p>RESOLVED to receive and confirm the minutes of the meeting of Mayfield Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th July 2022.</p>
42/2022	<p>Finance, Administration and Maintenance</p> <p>RESOLVED that Members noted and confirmed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Current financial statement. Members are asked to note that as at 31st August 2022 the Treasurers Account stood at £27833.26. b) Approval and payment of invoices <p>Members are asked to approve the following invoices for payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Libra Business Essentials March to June £86.40 • Libra Business Essentials January & February £82.12 • SLCC Enterprises – July £660.14 plus VAT £132.03 • Ashbourne Secretarial & Printing – posters £10 • Bentley Treescapes – clear up maintenance - £1,000 <p>Made in between meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graham Woodhouse £60.00 • Jared Clarke £146.88 • Hall for July Meeting £15 • SLCC Enterprises Ltd £967.75 + £193.30 VAT
43/2022	<p>Updates on the 3 Year Plan and associated projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Youth Activities, autumn programme Phase 1 Members are asked to accept the recommendations and approve of expenditure for the youth activities <p>The Chairman explained that an event organised in the village to explore with residents what events and activities might be pursued had not been attended by anyone despite advertising and therefore the Youth Programme would be rethought.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Traffic Management – report on meeting with SCC Highways and consider any proposals as a result of the meeting <p>Cllr. Bridgett had circulated a detailed report with recommendations and costings to Members before the meeting about the positive meeting with SCC Highways and our Ward representative. She indicated that their strong recommendation was to tackle the evidential issue of speeding and bad driving in the village as a first step via the installation of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS) and village gateways – such as can be seen in the neighbouring village of Ellastone. She confirmed that the County could not fund these items and that this would be an investment for the PC.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Parish Council purchase two SIDs and gateways for Mayfield, final costs and locations to be confirmed at the November meeting.</p>

	<p>c) Village Clear up – Chairwoman paper – Members are asked to listen to and consider the information and obtain retrospective approval of the ongoing maintenance programme instead of volunteer clear up</p> <p>The Chairwoman reiterated the substance of her paper circulated in September, that Bentley Treescapes had been asked to carry out catch up work on the overdue spring clear up which had earmarked funds and that the proposal going forward was for him to carry out ongoing maintenance with a specific schedule of work to be agreed and posted on the website. She emphasised that both these phases of work were to compensate for activity formerly undertaken by the County, but which were now unfunded. Such activity would in no way replace the work currently carried out by Graham Woodhouse. Cllr Allen asked for confirmation that this work could be funded within the budget, and it was confirmed that the forecast included a maximum of £2,000 for it.</p> <p>Members of the public became disruptive again at this point and the Clerk was again forced to indicate that continued behaviour of this nature would result in the closure of the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Boura suggested that best practice would be to seek some comparative market pricing to benchmark costs and this was agreed. It was agreed that, subject to this, a contract would be offered to Bentley Treescapes on the basis outlined.</p>
44/2022	<p>Planning notifications</p> <p>i) <u>Planning Applications considered in between meetings</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that Members noted that the following planning applications were out of date for comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P/2022/00575 Revised Application for Land south of Gallowstree Lane Upper Mayfield Erection of an agricultural building to house, feed and lamb sheep and to store fodder and implements • SCC/21/0047/FULL-ES for the importation and temporary storage of limestone scalplings with the erection and use of an aggregate washing plant at Uttoxeter Quarry, Spath. To consider a response from the PC as a result of extended consultation by the SCC planners. It was confirmed that this item had been deferred and was now expected to go to Committee in December. <p>ii) <u>Planning Decisions</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that Members noted that the following planning decisions were received since the meeting in July 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P/2022/0325 The Old Hall, Hall Lane, Middle Mayfield Retention of the listed Building application for alterations to include the repair of roof and upgrade rainwater drainage, repair and reinstate transom windows, repair and reinstate rear elevation mullion windows, repair masonry and re-point in lime, repair rear porch, repair cart lodge by installation of windows and doors and erection of new roof to form garage and garden store, repair loft and ground floor flooring, replace oak structural beam in cellar, reinstate original fireplace opening and window reveal to sitting room,, reinstate flagstone floor to sitting room & rear hallway, repair dining room floor, pantry conversion to new kitchen, existing kitchen converted to new disabled shower room, installation of studded partition wall with new doorway to 2nd bedroom, rewiring, repair internal lime plastering, re-plaster ground floor rear hallway and boiler room, repair walls, remove alcove and re-plaster front lobby, repair and renovate first floor bathroom & landing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P/2022/0726 Corner House Piccadilly Lane, Mayfield Listed Building Consent for the erection of a 1.5 storey rear extension and basement installation of new windows and doors at basement level associated internal alterations • P/2022/0724 Corner House, Piccadilly Lane, Upper Mayfield Erection of a 1.5 storey rear extension and basement • P/2022/0324 The Old Hall, Hall Lane, Middle Mayfield Retention of the alterations to existing cart shed, including erection of a new roof to form garage and garden store • P/2022/00520 Thorntree, Piccadilly Lane, Upper Mayfield Erection of a single storey side and two storey rear extension, erection of a porch to rear elevation and veranda to side elevations • P/2022/00348 The Old Hall, Hall Lane, Middle Mayfield Listed Building Consent to install flexible liners to two existing chimney flues with two pots and cowls fitted to the existing chimney stack and repoint the chimney stack with lime mortar • P/2022/01646 Brook Farm, Hall Lane, Mayfield Installation of 2 no flues to proposed combi boilers to north elevation of existing holiday letting units and replacement of 3 no timber windows on the north and south side elevations and west elevation • P/2022/01647 Brook Farm, Hall Lane, Mayfield Listed Building Consent for the installation of 2 no flues to proposed combi boilers to north elevation of existing holiday letting units and replacement of 3 no timber windows on the north and south side elevations and west elevation
45/2022	<p>Jubilee Tree The Chairman will give an update on the proposal and put forward other suggestions received for consideration (Memorial Hall, MRA, signage).</p> <p>It has been suggested that benches are purchased and put into the MRA where the current Jubilee Tree is. Cllr Boura suggested that the matter could not be taken forward until planning consent had finally been secured for the playground. The Conservation Group would be referred back to about planting commemorative trees – Queens Canopy for the Jubilee and a second tree for the death of the Queen</p>
46/2022	<p>Church Lane/Mill Terrace footpath 25 Members received an update on progress and responses from the principal authorities.</p> <p>RESOLVED that Members noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consultation survey was circulated by MPC to all residents of the Terraces • The majority who responded wanted the footpath re-tarmacked • The majority who responded felt that the existing barriers should be replaced, since they had originally been put there for very valid reasons of Health & Safety, with barriers suitable for those with mobility issues, child buggies etc • SCC had suggested that Motorbike Inhibitors could be installed - waiting for formal recommendation • The quotes received from SCC for tarmacking vary between £900 and £1200 and it was not expected that the final quote would be more <p>Members noted that SCC have been asked to come back to MPC with formal recommendations and then it will be clearer where they need help with funding. It was suggested that it was probably likely that the project would be delayed if MPC was not in a position to make a contribution, due to SCC funding constraints. It was reiterated that nothing that MPC had done in relation to this issue had delayed the resolution of the matter.</p>
47/2022	<p>Draft Housing Choice SPD consultation Members are asked to consider the consultation entitled “Draft Housing Choice SPD” and make any comments by way of response.</p>

	RESOLVED to note that the closing date for this consultation has passed.
48/2022	ESBC Climate Change SPD RESOLVED that Members were asked to consider the ESBC Climate Change SPD and make any individual comments by way of response.
49/2022	Changes to local bus services – Ashbourne-Leek To consider what representations MPC might usefully make. RESOLVED to note that the changes to bus services consultation has passed.
50/2022	Date of next meeting Members were asked to note that the date of the next meeting of Mayfield Parish Council is Tuesday 18th October 2022 in the Church Rooms. Members noted that following the death of Queen Elizabeth II the original meeting due to be held in September was deferred so the next meeting is being agreed at the meeting following this one. This will be agreed at the second meeting held.