

## Mayfield Parish Council

Minutes of the adjourned Meeting of Mayfield Parish Council to be held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 6 p.m.in the Church Rooms, Mayfield.

Present: Cllrs Boura, Bridgett, Croll, Golding & Moodie and Locum Clerk Anne Wilson

### **51/2022 To receive apologies for absence/note attendance**

**RESOLVED** to note that there were no apologies for absence from Members

### **52/2022 Election of a Chair for the Meeting**

Unusually in an adjourned meeting it is essential to elect a Chairman for this meeting following the resignation of the Chairman in between meetings.

**RESOLVED** to confirm that Cllr. Susan Bridgett be elected Chairman for the meeting.

### **53/2022 Declaration of Interests**

Members are asked to receive 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.

Members are reminded that should you declare a pecuniary interest at a meeting, it is your responsibility to inform the Monitoring Officer.

### **54/2022 Exclusion of Public and Press**

**RESOLVED** That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw, due to the nature of the business about to be transacted which is considered to be prejudicial to the public interest

#### **COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION**

Councillor Golding was informed that as this was a continuation of a meeting where he had previously been unheard, he would continue to be unheard for the remainder of this meeting.

### **55/2022 Staffing Matters**

Members were asked to consider a report from Cllr. Croll in relation to a staffing matter and approve the related recommendation.

Despite being unheard Cllr Golding repeatedly interrupted to state that he had not received the paper in question. The Clerk confirmed that he had been sent it when all cllrs were circulated.

Cllr Croll summarised the difficulties which MPC had encountered in recruiting clerks, particularly in the light of the circumstances relating to at least two recent resignations and the involvement of one councillor in these, together with the clear advice given to MPC by ESBC via a local cllr representative that only a qualified and highly experienced clerk should be sought to try to overcome these evident and ongoing difficulties.

**RESOLVED** to confirm the appointment of Anne Wilson as Parish Clerk on a six-month contract until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023 on the terms agreed.

#### **56/2022 Unlawful Activity**

Members discussed a series of persistent low level but disruptive activities, over recent months, as this was the first opportunity following the adjournment of the meeting disrupted by members of the public in October. These matters have been reported to the police as appropriate.

- The unlawful removal of the Parish Council noticeboard outside the village shop was recorded. The ESBC Monitoring Officer has confirmed that the noticeboard, which is on the MPC asset register, had been removed unlawfully and that the Parish Council has a right to restore it. The Parish Clerk would write further to the shop owner about this.
- It was confirmed that neither MPC nor any individual councillor had asked the Police to retrieve the key to this noticeboard from the shop. The key was given to Cllr. Bridgett by the Police and immediately returned to the shop. Misleading information circulated around this matter has caused considerable disquiet.
- Related issues have arisen about CCTV footage associated with the noticeboard at the shop. It appears that unauthorised individuals have accessed the shop CCTV and there are reports that residents of Mayfield have been invited to view particular footage. This breaks GDPR law and the terms of registration and licence the shopkeeper should have from the Information Commissioner. The Clerk will pursue with the latter.
- One Councillor was subjected to threatening and abusive behaviour from a local resident in the street.
- There is damage to two other boards that MPC own as they have both been forced open and neither lock properly now. Inappropriate and unauthorised documentation has been inserted. Cllr. Boura offered that her husband looks to repair the broken locks for MPC.
- Work, unauthorised by MPC which is the custodian on behalf of the parish, has been undertaken to the memorial stones in the Memorial Gardens, sanctioned by the self-styled Friends of Mayfield. It is unknown if any damage has been done to these memorials and advice has been sought from the National Memorial Arboretum.
- The two, relatively new, signs to Mayfield Yarns (one at the bottom of Gallowstree Lane, and the other at the top of Conygree Lane) have both been damaged for a second time. Both have been wrenched from the pole. It would appear that this is deliberate vandalism as the other signs there are intact. SCC has advised that these signs are the responsibility of MPC who contributed to their cost. Further repair will be put in hand.
- Having had sight of a quantity of MPC related communication over the last months the ESBC Local Monitoring Officer has raised concerns in terms of content and motivation. He has suggested that a formal log of these communications be submitted to the Police as this material could be construed as Malicious Communication, which is a criminal offence. The Police will take a view on this and proceed as appropriate. Communications intended to influence residents published in the Parish Magazine, including confidential internal MPC emails, and fly posting around the village are inaccurate, misleading and have the effect of provoking discontent and mistrust.

Cllr. Golding, at this point in the meeting, called the Parish Council a bunch of idiots.

- Members noted that the Clerk was spending an inordinate amount of time answering repetitive e mails from Cllr. Golding and a few residents.

Signed ..... Date .....

**Chairman**