

## MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING OF MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL ON MONDAY 12 JUNE 2006 AT 1930 HOURS

**6C:03**

FINAL

M. PITCHER,  
CHAIRMAN

#### SUMMARY OF MEETING

- St Dunstan's Church development plans debated
- Further recycling bins proposed
- Development plan questionnaire to be published in July
- NCN21 (Cuckoo Trail) – ESCC to be pressed to release draft report
- Youth Drop-in Centre developments reported

#### ATTENDANCE

Martin Pitcher Chairman	(MP)	Present and Voting
Paul Amans	(PA)	Present and Voting
Peter Deller	(PD)	Present and Voting
Philip Dixon	(PX)	Present and Voting
Diane Kirkness	(DK)	Present and Voting
Lloyd McLean	(LM)	Present and Voting
Jayne Bramwell	(JB)	Present and Voting
Graham Playfoot	(GP)	Present and Voting
Felicity Ryan	(FR)	Present and Voting
Hubert Hills	(HH)	Present and Voting
Andrew Stokes	(AS)	Present and Voting
Deveda Redman	(DR)	Present and Voting
Catherine Swingland	(CS)	Present and Voting
Robert Fitzsimmons	(RF)	Present and Voting
Chris Lilly	(CL)	Present and Voting

Present and voting 15      Present and not voting 0  
Apologies for Absence 0      Not present 0      Other Council Business 0

#### Also Present

Wealden District Councillors Brian Redman (BR), Robert Standley (RS), Jonica Fox (JF) and Anna Monaghan (AM)  
David Thompson Parish Clerk (DT)

There were 15 members of the public present and no members of the press.

Apologies for Absence were received from ESCC Councillor Robert Tidy (RT) and Christopher Dowling (CD)

## MINUTES

### 1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

- 1.1. CS declared an interest in NCN 21 Minutes 13.1 – 13.4
- 1.2. There were no other declarations of interest

### 2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 2.1. MP announced that he would allow all questions and announcements on St Dunstons Church as an additional agenda item 5A
- 2.2. The Chairman reported that Wealden District Council Housing department had advised that a vacancy had occurred at Hillside. The most suitable applicant who resided within the Parish boundaries was slightly below the age limit of 55. The Full Council were asked to make an exception to the age limit in this case. After some debate it was **RESOLVED** by **majority vote** to support a reduction in the age limit.

**ACTION DT**

### 3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME - GENERAL

- 3.1. John Logan asked when the proposed Mayfield and Five Ashes Walks around the village booklet would be ready for publication.  
He was advised that work was in hand and the draft was being checked, and would be taken forward by a small committee. Funding of £2000 - £3000 would probably be required. There was currently £1000 in the budget. John Logan was prepared to help sell the book, and noted that there were many requests for such a book within the village.
- 3.2. Iris Bruce asked whether the Council were aware of proposed developments affecting. The Mayfield Memorial Hall. MP replied that presentations would be given to the King Georges Field Mayfield Charity meeting on the 14 June. All members of the public were of course invited. At the present time no other information was available.

### 4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – ST DUNSTANS CHURCH

- 4.1 MP reported on the actions he had taken since the annual assembly and these were circulated in a document. Further a document produced by the Mayfield and Five Ashes Society was also circulated to the meeting.  
The process would be:
  - Councillors would comment
  - Public questions would be taken
  - Action decided
- 4.2 RF reported that the St Dunstan's Church P.C.C, had met on Thursday June 8<sup>th</sup> and had decided to hold a further exhibition on July 15<sup>th</sup> to which all members of the public were welcome. There would be a display in the church and a presentation at which better plans would be available. The presentation would be from 0900 – 1200 hrs. The reasons for the required changes were as follows:
  - Bottle neck at the West end of the Church
  - Urgent need to eradicate Death watch beetle infestation
  - Need to make more space at back of church
  - No wheelchair access
  - Large collection of books needed to be housed in secure accommodation

- No space for clergy
- The choir stalls needed to be changed anyway

He noted that the P.C.C. recognised the need for consultation

The proposed changes to the front door had been removed from the project.

#### 4.3 Council members views were:

- PD considered that as there were contentious items we should wait until after the 15<sup>th</sup> July exhibition at the Church
- MP considered that this would allow a fairer view to be formed
- JB wished to ensure that all councillors were also invited to the exhibition. This assurance was given.
- PA pointed out the important differences between a presentation and a meeting
- DR noted that the presentation would be similar to the previous one and updated.
- LM reported that he had taken up Mrs Neal's representation with the Bishop, and asked for help to have a public meeting and also agreed that the presentation of July 15<sup>th</sup>, would not have the status of a public meeting .
- DK - WDC should have courtesy plans, and should be open to give views.
- CL agreed that the presentation should be held first and that this should be followed by a meeting. However MP noted that the Church were not as yet offering a public meeting. The Church were not a democratic organisation.
- PD noted that the Council were not officially involved in any church matter. Not here or anywhere.
- CS had no criticism except for no consultation or meeting. What are the objections?
- AS and DK Considered that a public meeting should be held, and that the Vicar should be asked to convene a meeting.

#### 4.4 The views of members of the public were:

- Nick Sabine read the key issues from his statement copies of which had been circulated and asked the Parish Council for help in organising a public meeting.
- Iris Bruce considered that clear explanation of the issues had been given. However there were several rumours.
- Brian Pilling considered that the Church had deliberately not discussed details, and thought that the Church was not doing enough, and should publicise, and asked the Parish Council to assist.
- Brian Pike considered that as London House had recently been upgraded for public use this would form an ideal site for the library and the use of the Church was not needed
- MP Noted that they had approached the church for a public meeting but the Church were lukewarm towards the idea. It was also necessary to consider carefully what such a public meeting would achieve.
- Another member of the public said that his family had been in Mayfield for generations and many of his ancestors were buried in the Church. He considered that the Church belonged to all of the residents and that any proposed changes should be fully discussed

- MP noted that Church Communications were not as good as they could be.
- LM considered that talking to the Vicar may have limitations and that the Council should write to the Bishop and ask him to call the meeting

4.5 In summary PA recommended that the Council go forward to ask the Vicar to hold a public meeting. This view was considered and it was **resolved** that the Mayfield and Fives Ashes Parish Council ask the Vicar to hold a public meeting at some time after the exhibition on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July. The vote was 11 in Favour and 2 against.

#### **ACTION MP/DT**

4.6 CS also asked that comment forms be made available to collect residents opinions.

### **5 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10 APRIL 2006**

- 5.1 Six changes of fact and typographical error were accepted, after which the minutes were accepted as a true record.
- 5.2 There were no other issues arising from the meeting which were not already on the agenda.

### **6 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 22 JUNE 2006**

- 6.1 The minutes were unanimously approved, with one minor change
- 6.2 The following discussions took place on the minutes.
  - A concern was raised over the safety of the gates. This was considered unfounded
  - Minute 5.2 Clarification was sought over monies which had not been spent currently would be included in next year's budget totals.
  - Minute 8.2 It was noted that problems which had occurred at the Rose and Crown had since its closure now left the village.
  - Minute 11.2 West Street - Street repairs. Two holes had been filled in
  - Minute 11.8 Leases for the King Georges Field Mayfield charity would in future be prepared in a standard format.
  - Minute 11.12 At the present time certain claims from Mr Bowerman in relation to Five Ashes were being investigated.
  - Minutes 5.3 – 5.5 DK was asked to comment on the problems raised in these minutes. DK replied that they were in hand with the internal auditor, and a meeting would be held with the RFO. The budget error was reported to be due to the SAGE programme.
- 6.3 The Financial Results for April were accepted and there were no matters arising.

## **7 REPORT FROM WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

7.1 Brian Redman reported :

- WDC had sent out a questionnaire to all residents on planning for the future
- WDC Community Grants – A new form had been devised and the next grants award would be in November 2006
- A review of communications within Wealden District Council was being carried out, covering types of service, and changes to the planning system process amongst other things.

7.2 Jonica Fox reported:

- Five Ashes – a planning application for the redevelopment of the Petrol Station at Cross in Hand had been received, which would mean its closure while development was taking place. WDC was looking at making sure that adequate alternative fuel supplies were available
- Applications for large planning developments would get wider public participation.
- WDC had achieved a higher level of success with planning appeals
- Old Cottage a report from the Sussex Archaeological society was awaited

7.3 Robert Standley reported that a number of public surveys were being held

7.4 Anna Monaghan reported that WDC were participating in “Lifelines” a Public not for Profit organisation

7.5 PD drew attention to the fact that certain WDC planning Officers had prejudged a planning application relating to a Mobile phone Mast. BR replied that this matter had been taken up with the Officers concerned.

7.6 DK asked if there was a plan for a roundabout at Cross –in- Hand in connection with the redevelopment of the filling station. JF replied that current traffic level did not warrant a roundabout.

## **8 MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2006 AND 30<sup>th</sup> MAY 2006**

8.1 The meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> June 2006 had been cancelled because of lack of applications.

8.2 The minutes of the meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> May were proposed by LM and seconded by PD and were approved unanimously

8.3 A letter asking WDC to take enforcement action over Old Cottage , High Street Mayfield had been sent.

8.4 In answer to a question from RF it was noted that the Planning Application for a wattle fence to cover the extractor fan at the rear of St Dunstan’s Church had been approved.

## **9 MINUTES OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 5 JUNE 2006**

9.1 The minutes were accepted as a true record. Proposed PX, seconded, and approved by a majority vote.

9.2 P Dixon reported that GP had declined to join the Development Committee. The main activities of the development committee were:

- It was reported that the proposed development plan questionnaire had been agreed and that it would be published in Yellow Pages and the website.
- It was noted that there would be a need to provide some sort of identification for the various replies, both electronic and hard copy.
- It was noted that the vision statement would be included, and some amendments were accepted for later inclusion.
- DK asked if young people would be invited to respond. It was considered that this could be done through the schools.

**ACTION DT**

- There were no comments on the Annual Assembly presentation.

**10 MINUTES OF THE RIGHTS OF WAY AND TREES COMMITTEE HELD ON 22 MAY 2006**

10.1 There were no questions or changes to the minutes which were unanimously approved.

10.2 The repair and maintenance proposals for FP10 were noted.

**11 MINUTES OF THE SECURITY COMMITTEE HELD ON 30 JUNE 2006**

11.1 The minutes were unanimously approved without amendment, and there were no issues arising.

**12 MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE HELD ON 31 JUNE 2006**

12.1 DK reported that there had been a complaint about the Youth Drop-in Centre's television. DR noted that there had been complaints about the use of the settee at London House.

12.2 PD noted that the club had been reasonably successful and wondered whether there was any population trend data which would help in forecasting future needs. DK said that there would be further experiments and lowering the age limit was one of them. The Committee were going to write to COGS on the matter.

12.3 The minutes of the meeting were unanimously approved.

**13 REPORT FROM COMMITTEES NOT HOLDING MEETINGS DURING THE PERIOD - TRAFFIC**

13.1 PD reported on current progress with regard to NCN21:

- The draft is said to not fully meet the remit
- PD was of the view that the report should be available draft or no draft
- The final version approved by ESCC may be different
- The draft report had been issued to ESCC in April and by mid June ESCC were still thinking about it

It was PD's view that this situation was disgraceful and the Council needed to know what to do next.

- 13.2 MP wished to know what would be achieved by obtaining the draft report. It was the view of many present that there was a hidden agenda at ESCC.
- 13.3 JB thought that we could not compel ESCC to release the draft report but having previously worked with the Heathfield Partnership had heard that compulsory purchase options had been considered by ESCC in order to obtain necessary land.
- 13.4 After the debate PD asked for the Council's authority to go forward and challenge the refusal to release the draft report under the provisions of the Data Protection Act. This was agreed by unanimous vote.

**ACTION PD**

**14 REPORT FROM COMMITTEES NO HOLDING MEETINGS DURING THE PERIOD – KING GEORGES FIELD, MAYFIELD, CHARITY**

- 14.1 There was nothing further to report. Next meeting is on 14 June at 1900 hours.

**15 PARISH ASSEMBLY**

- 15.1 The draft minutes were circulated to Councillors.

**16 CLERK'S REPORT**

- 16.1 There were no comments on the Clerk's report.

**17 OTHER ITEMS FOR NOTING**

- 17.1 GP asked for a copy of the Parish Council response on the Argos Hill Windmill and also the WDC reply.

**ACTION DT**

- 17.2 DK suggested consideration to be given to providing a picnic area on the site of the South Fields Allotments.

**ACTION DT**

- 17.3 HH would be attending a meeting held by NHS on future policy.
- 17.4 AS reported Queensmount lights are still burning.
- 17.5 RF asked for consideration be given to holding the AGM in Five Ashes.

**ACTION DT**

- 17.6 JB Volunteers were needed to examine quality of stiles in Mayfield.
- 17.7 JB The toilets at South Street were not equipped with a ramp for the disabled

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2209 HOURS.**

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE HELD AT:**

**VENUE: FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL**

**DATE: 10 JULY 2006**

**TIME: 1930 HOURS**