
**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MAYFIELD AND
FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
ON MONDAY 13 MARCH 2006 AT 1930 HOURS**

SUMMARY OF MEETING

- Councillor Jayne Bramwell joins Full Council
- Councillor Ted James resigns
- Amendment to financial regulations paragraph 3.6 approved
- Resolution on Argos Hill Windmill approved
- Co-operation project with Mayfield and Five Ashes Chamber of Commerce agreed
- Youth Drop-In Centre agreed

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)	Apologies for Absence

Present and voting 13	Present and not voting 0
Apologies for Absence 1	Not present 0 Other Council Business 0

Also Present

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

There was 5 members of the public present and one member of the press.

Apologies for Absence were received from ESCC Councillors Robert Tidy and Christopher
Dowling and WDC Councillor Jonica Fox

MINUTES

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- 1.1. GP declared an interest in Agenda Item 19 Argos Hill Windmill.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

- 2.1. MP reported the resignation of Councillor Ted James, who was moving to Rutland, and wished him well. He thanked Ted James for his long service with the Parish Council.
- 2.2. MP welcomed Councillor Jayne Bramwell to the Council after her co-option at the last meeting of the Full Council, drawing attention to her achievements on the Rights of Way and Trees Committee.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- 3.1. There were no questions from members of the public.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2006

- 4.1. There was one minor amendment made to the minutes.
- 4.2. The minutes were accepted as a true record by unanimous vote.

5. MINUTES ARISING FROM THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING

- 5.1. There were no matters arising.

6. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2006

- 6.1 There was one minor amendment to the minutes, which were then accepted as a true record by unanimous vote.
- 6.2 Arising from minute 5F10/4.7, it was agreed that this should be an action on the Clerk.
- ACTION DT**
- 6.3 DK moved resolution 5F10.2 on the amendment of paragraph 3.6 of the financial regulations.

“Unspent provisions in the Revenue Budget shall not be carried forward to a subsequent year, unless placed in an earmarked reserve by resolution of the Parish Council”.

- 6.4 MP noted that currently the Council's financial reserves were held in two accounts:

- National Westminster
- Standard Life Investment Bank at 4.8%

- 6.5 During the debate members had difficulty with accepting the term “earmarked reserve”. DK therefore accepted an amendment from the Council which overcame their reservations on the definition:

“Unspent provisions in the Revenue Budget shall not be carried forward to a subsequent year unless allocated to a specific heading by resolution of the Parish Council”.

PROPOSED DK SECONDED HH VOTE UNANIMOUS

ACTION – AMEND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS DT

6.6 DK moved resolution 5F10.1:

“The Council resolve to grant the sum of £10,000 to Five Ashes Village Hall, as a contribution towards the redevelopment, and on condition that the project is reviewed within two years”.

DK stated that after consideration, she would submit an amended resolution in place of the agenda item.

This was:

“The Council resolve to grant the sum of £10,000 to Five Ashes Village Hall development fund immediately, rather than hold in the Parish Council account, as noted in previous minutes. This payment on condition that the project is reviewed within two years and if Hall renewal does not go ahead, the money should be repaid. This payment will assist Five Ashes Village Hall in obtaining match funding, with a proviso that their accounts are regularly forthcoming”.

6.7 PD asked to know the amounts set aside for the Five Ashes Hall project, and whether the Five Ashes Village Hall project had raised similar amounts. It was ascertained that:

- £10,000 2006/7 (DK)
- £10,000 2007/8 (DK)
- The Five Ashes Village Hall had funds considerably in excess of £20,000, all of which was held in hand, and could be returned (GP).
- There was a view that having allocated the funds, then a letter of guarantee to the Five Ashes Village Hall Committee would suffice.
- The remainder of the debate centred around how the money would be spent, would it be on the fabric of the building or used on professional fees?

After debate the amended resolution was proposed by DK and seconded by HH. Vote For 5 and Against 5. The Chairman used his casting vote against the proposal and instructed that the issue be returned to the next meeting of F&GP for re-consideration.

ACTION DT

6.8 LM proposed that the money should be kept in a special Reserve Account, but this was not supported by the Chairman since the resolution had fallen.

7. FINANCE REPORT

7.1. DK reported that both January and February accounts had been circulated, but since February accounts had not been reviewed by F&GP only the January accounts would be tabled.

7.2 It was noted that the street furniture item referred to the costs of CCTV at the Middle House.

The January accounts were accepted by unanimous vote.

8. REPORT ON A MATCH FUNDING PROJECT WITH MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

8.1. DK reported progress on the Match Funding Project. There were four projects on which the Parish Council was co-operating on “matchfunding”:

- Provision of two large village road signs.
- Provision of enhanced road, litter and weed cleaning programmes.
- Improve the village website.
- Improved notice boards and tourist maps.

8.2. There were no objections from the Council for the development of this project.

9. REPORT FROM ESCC COUNCILLORS

9.1. There was no report from the ESCC Councillors.

10. REPORT FROM WDC COUNCILLORS

10.1. RS reported:

- WDC rate increase was 4.5% after making savings of over £300,000 and a transfer from reserves.
- The increase represented £6.47 for a Class D dwelling.
- Advice had been received on Local Government re-organisation which was likely to affect District Councils.

10.2. AM reported:

- Review of the impact of car parking.
- Review of infrastructure particularly water supplies in regard to additional housing.

10.3. PD enquired if the proposed Local Government re-organisation would mean that the forthcoming elections would be postponed. The reply was that was not so.

11. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF 20 FEBRUARY AND 6 MARCH 2006

11.1. The minutes of both meetings were accepted as a true record without amendment.

12. MINUTES OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 6 MARCH 2006

12.1. PX circulated a copy of a Vision Statement, which it was proposed would be used in the Development Plan presentation at the Annual Assembly.

Comments and suggestions were asked for well as any other inputs which members required. It was noted that Five Ashes would be highlighted. All suggestions to be made via the Clerk.

ACTION ALL

12.2. There were no questions on the Development Committee meeting and the minutes were accepted as a true record by Unanimous Vote.

13. REPORT FROM THE SECURITY COMMITTEE HELD

- 13.1. There was no report from the Security Committee, and no meeting had been held in the period.

14. REPORT FROM THE TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

- 14.1. PD reported that the next meeting of the North Weald Road Safety group had taken place where the major subject of debate was speed watch. There had been a number of issues concerning the use of laser operated equipment and at the present time the police had stopped all action because of the confrontational issues that arise.
- 14.2. He noted that the next meeting of the Traffic Committee would be on the 20 April and that the deadline for contributions to the meeting would be 31 March 2006.

15. MINUTES OF THE KING GEORGES FIELD, MAYFIELD CHARITY TRUSTEE COMMITTEE

- 15.1. PA reported that the minutes had been circulated, there were no amendments to the minutes and these were accepted by unanimous vote. There were no matters arising and no questions to the Committee Chairman.

16. REPORT FROM THE RIGHTS OF WAY AND TREES COMMITTEE

- 16.1. JB reported that since the last committee meeting Vicky Lawrence from the ESCC Rights of Way Department planned to consult with Parishes over their Rights of Way workload. It was noted however that ESCC were sometimes slow on the delivery of their planned work.
- 16.2. Tim Cornish had led a group on a tour of the Old Mayfield Iron Works, and had suggested that an information board be placed near the site so that visitors could see the various features of the Iron Works which could still be identified.

17. REPORT FROM THE YOUTH GROUP

- 17.1. DK reported that the Youth Group had met on the 8 March and was able to report some successes for the project.
- 17.2. Thanks to the Vicar, who had made London House available to the group, it had been possible to make a start to the six week pilot scheme.
- It would be manned by two youth workers.
 - It would start at the beginning of April.
 - The first six weeks would be free after which a small charge would be made.
- 17.3 There were no questions for the Youth Group.

18. ARGOS HILL WINDMILL

- 18.1. The F&GP Committee submitted the following proposal:
- “Proposed that Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council do not take responsibility for the Argos Hill Windmill. The Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council suggest that the Friends of Argos Hill Windmill form a charitable trust which may include interested and suitably qualified Parish Councillors”.

18.2. PX noted that interest in the Windmill is wide, and included Rotherfield and many other villages and organisations and wished to amend the proposal. There was a view that it was too difficult to effectively amend the proposal, and from DR the view that support could mean financial support or it could mean no financial support. The Chairman also made a point of information that a Parish Council could not take more than a 50% membership of such a trust. At the end of the debate an amended proposal was accepted.

18.3. The amended proposal was:

It is proposed that Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council do not take responsibility for the Argos Hill Windmill. The Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council suggest that a charitable trust be formed by others than the Parish Council, which may include interested and suitably qualified Parish Councillors.

This proposal was adopted by Unanimous Vote.

18.4. GP made a further proposal:

“This Council deplores the neglect of Argos Hill Windmill which had led to it being placed on the “Buildings at Risk” register at English Heritage. We urge Wealden DC to undertake, as a matter of the highest priority, works to stabilise and safeguard the mill, followed by repairs detailed in briefing option 3. These repairs to be completed before the protection is removed in 2008. This Council has no interest in assuming control of Argos Hill Windmill”.

PROPOSED GP SECONDED NONE

MP ruled that the proposal falls and that detailed in 18.3 is adopted by Full Council.

18.5. PX drew attention to the comments made by D Goodwin at the last meeting that £70,000, possibly £100,000 was available, and considered that the money should be taken up for the trust.

18.6. Brian Pike from the public gallery noted that the AGM of the Friends of Argos Hill Windmill would shortly be taking place. They would need to carry on or fold up. He noted that Councillor Jonica Fox was to organise a steering committee for the trust, but nothing had been achieved to date.

18.7. LM asked the Clerk to write to WDC and confirm that they would take action.

ACTION DT

19. CLERK’S REPORT

19.1 The Clerk’s report was circulated, on which there were no comments or questions. LM requested a copy of the ODPM paper on Local Government re-organisation.

ACTION DT

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

20.1. The Clerk was instructed to write a letter of appreciation to Ted James.

ACTION DT

20.2. JB drew attention to the issue of litter in Newick Lane and had asked that the probation service provide labour, however the probation service had not been helpful. She had however managed to get some interested support from WDC and would be meeting them in March to discuss community litter picking. It was suggested that this may be a subject for Yellow Pages.

- 20.3. PD reported that he would be attending the next meeting of the East Sussex Small Rural Towns Economic Partnership and asked for ideas. There were £500,000 grants available over seven years, but these required match funding. Whilst it was noted that Mayfield and Five Ashes meet the criteria there was some doubt if we would qualify because partnerships needed to be set up and these took time. The partnerships were focused on economic issues such as job creation. He would report back.

ACTION PD

- 20.4. DR reported that our villages missed out on many types of grant and funding because we had not developed our youth facilities.
- 20.5. DK reported that the Libra bookshop would be closing on 31 March, but would be re-opening later at "Mother Earth".

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2054 HOURS.

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

VENUE: MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

DATE: MONDAY 10 APRIL 2006

TIME: 1930 HOURS