

MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL ON MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2005 AT 1930 HOURS

C8
FINAL

SUMMARY OF MEETING

- Mayfield wins Calor Village of the Year Southern Region - £500 prize for the “older people” category
- Budget 2006/7 accepted at £99474
- Parish Precept 2006/7 accepted at £70344
- Youth drop-in centre discussions commenced
- Traffic calming – future plans under consideration
- Need for village Health Centre discussed

ATTENDANCE

Martin Pitcher Chairman	(MP)	Present and Voting
Paul Amans	(PA)	Present and Voting from 20.00 hrs
Peter Deller	(PD)	Present and Voting
Philip Dixon	(PX)	Present and Voting
Diane Kirkness	(DK)	Present and Voting
Lloyd McLean	(LM)	Present and Voting
Edward James	(EJ)	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

Present and voting 14 Present and not voting 0
Apologies for Absence 0 Not present 0 Other Council Business 0

Also Present

ESCC Councillor Robert Tidy (RT)

Wealden District Councillors Brian Redman (BR) and Robert Standley (RS)

David Thompson Parish Clerk (DT)

There were no members of the public present

Apologies for absence received from ESCC Councillor Christopher Dowling (CD) and WDC Anna Monaghan (AM) and WDC Councillor Jonica Fox (JF)

MINUTES

1. COUNCILLOR'S DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS

- 1.1. There were no declarations of interest on any of the agenda items.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 2.1 MP announced that Mayfield had won the Southern Region Prize in the older people category of the Calor Village of the Year competition in addition to the two awards already held. He thanked DK and DT for the work they had put in to make this possible. It was agreed that copies of the awards would be posted on the Notice Boards.

ACTION DT

- 2.2 MP placed a Traffic Report on the Agenda as item 17a.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2005

- 4.1. The Clerk accepted 10 minor changes to the minutes and change to the reading of minute 10.2. These changes to be incorporated into the final version of the minutes.
- 4.2. With these changes the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

PROPOSED PX

SECONDED PD

VOTE UNANIMOUS

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2005

- 5.1. PX reported that the meeting of the Steering Committee for Argos Hill Windmill (Minute 5:C7/19.1) had been cancelled and no new date had been set as yet.
- 5.2. PD drew attention of the need to ensure that committee minutes were approved for accuracy by those Councillors who were present at the appropriate meeting. This was agreed.

6. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 28 NOVEMBER 2005

- 6.1. DK advised that the minutes needed to be amended to allow under Chairman's Announcements an extra item.
- “2.4 The roof of Five Ashes Village Hall was now leaking badly and needed urgent repair. The cost was £5,800 of which Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council had been asked to contribute £1,800. This would come from the £11800 total funding provision”
- 6.2 Resolved that £1,800 be provided for the repair of the roof of Five Ashes Village Hall noting that the village hall committee would be seeking further match funding.

PROPOSED DK

SECONDED LM

VOTE UNANIMOUS

6.3 Resolved that £5000 be provided to the Mayfield Memorial Hall committee for the replacement of kitchen equipment noting that the committee would be seeking further matching funding, and that a condition of the grant was that Mayfield Memorial Hall committee would review the whole of their income policy with a view to providing a more buoyant income stream.

**PROPOSED DK SECONDED PX VOTE 9 AGAINST 0
ABSTAIN 3**

6.4 Resolved that a further grant of £500 be made to village organisations. The Clerk to ask for bids to be submitted.

**PROPOSED PX SECONDED AS VOTE UNANIMOUS
ACTION DT**

6.5 Resolved that the Clerk be authorised to outsource typing of minutes pending more satisfactory arrangements to provide local assistance.

PROPOSED DK SECONDED AS VOTE UNANIMOUS

6.6 Resolved that the Clerk's salary be adjusted to:

- LG1 Spinal Point 20
- Inflation increase as agreed by NALC
- Hours to be adjusted to 25.5 per week to account to King George's Field activities.

PROPOSED DK SECONDED AS VOTE UNANIMOUS

6.7 PD asked for an explanation of minute 9.1 the removal of commercial signage from the Parish. This was defined as company and traders notices such as "Carpet Sales" or "XYZ Homes" which appear over the villages.

6.8 PD drew attention to item 10.1 PCSO dedicated sign-on facilities. It was explained that in order to avoid the unnecessary time taken from signing on at a Central Point in Uckfield or Crowborough, some Councils were placing dedicated sign-on points at local level. These are ideally situated in a fire station or other secure locations.

6.9 PX enquired about the Youth Meeting (Minute 8.1) which was to be held on the 14 December 2005. DK explained that the Clerk had called the meeting with Heathfield Youth Organisation and the PCSO Tamara Bennett and herself to explore opportunities to create a Youth drop-in centre.

6.10 The Finance and General Purposes Committee minutes were accepted as a true record.

**PROPOSED DK SECONDED HH VOTE 9 FOR
AGAINST NONE
ABSTENTION NONE**

7. BUDGET

7.1. DK presented the proposed budget for 2006/7, the papers for which had been circulated.

7.2 The Budget policy:

- Set the Parish Precept
- Reduce reserve funds

The wish list remains, until such a time as the Parish Council recommends or accepts the expenditure.

7.3 Changes to be made to the budget:

- Regular Grants Mayfield Pre School £520 not £620
- KGF Path Maintenance now £3,000. John Lewis is looking for possible grants.
- Professional fees + £600 to cover audit
- Play Areas – renew wood chippings ROSPA requirement 2.5” depth - £1000
- Regular inspection of Play Areas
- Wish list North Street Footpath – now £1150
- PCSO funding possibly required

Final Budget £99,474

Precept £70,344

Reserves to be used £18,130

- 7.4 Professional fees also included £500 solicitors’ fees for setting up a lease with the Mayfield Band Charity. MP noted that the choice of solicitors was under review by the clerk.
- 7.5 PX was concerned about the use of reserves to which DK replied that it was policy to bring the Financial Reserves down to a figure near the SALC recommendation of 5% of the precept on a gradual basis. There was currently £11,000 left in reserve.
- 7.6 LM suggested that money was put into trusts to be held for specific purposes in order to save money.
- 7.7 PD asked the council to consider holding over the budget until next January in order to give Councillors time to consider the implications of the budget, the suggestion was not supported.
- 7.8 The adoption of the Budget as amended was presented to the council.
- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| PROPOSED DK | SECONDED HH | VOTE FOR 12 |
| | | AGAINST |
| | | ABSTAIN 1 |

8. FINANCE REPORT – OCTOBER 2005

- 8.1. It was noted that 7 of the 13 Councillors present had not received papers. These would be circulated again. The item would be carried forward to the next meeting.

ACTION DK/DT

9. REPORTS FROM ESCC COUNCILLOR ROBERT TIDY

- 9.1. RT announced that the ESCC Rate Support Grant was 2.5% over last year, which was better than expected and gave ESCC an extra £1m.
- 9.2. At the present time it appeared that the ESCC portion of Council Tax would be contained at below 5% increase.
- 9.3 Children’s Trusts and Children’s Care costs would need to be reduced by £650,000.
- 9.4 Educational Special needs:
6.7% increase per pupil 2006/7
6.5% increase per pupil 2007/8
- 9.5 The budget modelling exercise would continue but there would be a considerable reduction in expenditure.

- 9.6 The Frame Work Plan for waste disposal had been adopted despite much opposition. Each planned facility would now go through the planning system; of which the Newhaven proposal had already been submitted.
- 9.7 The recent assessment of ESCCs Children's Services had given ESCC a good result with three stars out of four stars for services delivery. Out of 140 organisations reviewed ESCC were 14th.
- 9.8 There were no questions to RT.

10 REPORT FROM WEALDON DISTRICT COUNCILLORS BRIAN REDMAN AND ROBERT STANDLEY

- 10.1 BR reported that a decision had now been made to concentrate all WDC facilities on the Hailsham complex. Crowborough would become a satellite, and as indicated in the Clerk's report there had been a substantial cutback in management.
- 10.2 There will be a full day meeting to formulate the new Wealden local plan BR and RS will be present.
- 10.3 The inspectors report on Little Oaks had been received and again this allowed gypsy families to place residential accommodation on agricultural land. The Inspectors had overruled WDC and the case had taken a very long time to resolve.
- 10.4 The answers to the Clerks letter on aspects of WDC's Planning process were explained. All the data requested by the Parish was available, but it meant consulting several sources.

ACTION DT TO INVITE BR TO SEE MAYFIELD'S PLANNING PROCESSES

- 10.5 BR reported that he had been reviewed by the audit commission who were examining value for money with WDC.
- 10.6 RS reported that it was WDC policy to try and locate help points within 5 miles of customers in the WDC area. These would initially be located in the main towns.
- 10.7 PD asked whether the benefits of moving the Pine Grove offices to Hailsham were value for money and was advised that the project had been fully costed.

11 MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEES MEETINGS HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2005 AND 28 NOVEMBER 2005

- 11.1 The minutes of both meetings were accepted as a true record.
PROPOSED LM SECONDED PD VOTE UNANIMOUS
- 11.2 There were no questions on the Planning Committee Minutes.

12 MINUTES OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 28 NOVEMBER 2005

- 12.1 PX reported that the key issue of the meeting had been the in depth discussion on the need for a medical centre in the village. The need for a centre was clearly established, but it would be sometime before this could be achieved and there would be some difficult consultancy.
- 12.2 PD said that he would report on affordable housing under Agenda item 17.
- 12.3 The minutes of the Development Committee were accepted as a true record.
PROPOSED PX SECONDED DA VOTE UNANIMOUS

13 MINUTES OF THE SECURITY COMMITTEE HELD ON 29 NOVEMBER 2005

- 13.1 It was agreed that RF and PX would attend the “PCSO meeting” on the 14 December 2005, called by Inspector Jane Derrick.
- 13.2 The Clerk was requested to place the Five Ashes PCSO Parrish Claxton request for help for neighbourhood watch in the January Yellow Pages.

ACTION DT

- 13.3 The new Chief Inspector for North Wealden is Dick Barton.
- 13.4 PD enquired about the availability of vehicles for the use of the PCSOs. It was generally agreed that there is a shortage. RF will enquire at the meeting on Wednesday.

ACTION RF

- 13.5 PD enquired about the review of the CCTV installation in Mayfield. There was some doubt as to what was in the agreement. The Clerk is to search again for the agreement.

ACTION DT

- 13.6 PD reported a recent case of criminal damage to cars in the village and asked when real law enforcement would take place.
- 13.7 The minutes were accepted as a true record and the “Terms of Reference” for the committee (included the minutes) were also accepted.

PROPOSED RF

SECONDED CS

VOTE UNANIMOUS

14 MINUTES OF THE KING GEORGE’S FIELD TRUSTEE COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2005

- 14.1 It was agreed that the notes annexed to the minutes, should not form part of the minutes. The Clerk agreed to remove them and amend para 2.1 of the draft minutes.

ACTION DT

- 14.2 LM however thought that they should be retained in the Council records. This was agreed.

ACTION DT

- 14.3 PD questioned whether the charges for the use of the football pitch was an economic proposition, and there was also a view that a minimal charge should be made because the team was largely composed of Mayfield residents. There was also a view that the team was not mainly composed of Mayfield residents and that it was legitimate to charge more. It was agreed that the Clerk would place the issue on the next King George’s Field Agenda for discussion.

ACTION DT

- 14.4 The minutes as amended were accepted as a true record.

PROPOSED PA

SECONDED DK

VOTE UNANIMOUS

15 MINUTES OF THE RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2005

- 15.1 EJ complained that the minutes had been produced late and that he would have to take action.

Note: the minutes despite problems were produced on time and sent out 6 days in advance of meeting and that all councillors had been given the statutory three clear days

- 15.2 EJ noted that the repairs to the footpath at North Street were now authorised by F&GP.
15.3 Strathbourne: The issue of the footpath being blocked by buildings forming part of Strathbourne was revised.

Note see minute 5:c7/16.2 for action already agreed

- 15.4 EJ also reported that the Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council Footpath and walks guide was nearly finished and that the Mayfield and Five Ashes Society were also compiling a similar booklet.
15.5 EJ reported on the situation with regard to the Walks Guide grant application.
Note covering funds are included in budget 2006/7
15.6 DK raised the matter of the dogs at Strathbourne which were causing difficulty to members of the public.
15.7 PD was worried if the repair to the North Street Footpath would set a precedent for other footpaths to be brought up to the same standard. EJ replied that North Street was a special case. It was noted that the North Street Footpath work was now being progressed with the contractor.
15.8 The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.

PROPOSED EJ SECONDED HH VOTE UNANIMOUS

16 HOUSING ISSUES

- 16.1 The current position with housing schemes is:

Oakdene – Planning Application rejected by Parish Council.

Potential for Doctors Surgery discussed

Southmead Close WDC consulting with local residents

Criers Lane No further change

Queensmount No further change

South Street See below 16.2

- 16.2 PD reported on a meeting held on the 28 November which he had attended with MP and DT. The meeting was with the responsible Chief Officers in WDC.

17 TRAFFIC MATTERS

- 17.1 PD presented the agreed Terms of Reference for the Traffic Committee to the council. After a minor amendment these were accepted by the Full Council.

PROPOSED PD SECONDED GP VOTE UNANIMOUS

- 17.2 PD had attended a further meeting of the North Weald Road Safety Group. His observations were:
- Now lead by police
 - Members of the group to sign up to a support statement
 - SID to be used in future to check and record traffic speeds
 - Police were looking towards other methods of controlling traffic speeds (see 17.3 below)

- 17.3 The police were now looking at other areas in order to monitor traffic speeds. A speed measurement device costing around £700 was now available and could be supplied. They needed a team of three people to operate. The process would be to record excessive speeds and send out a letter drawing attention to excessive speeds on the second occurrence. After the third occurrence police action would be taken, and possibly insurance companies would be told. The equipment would be provided free by the police.

This was a serious issue and PD would write a report for the council covering all issues after consulting with SID team members.

ACTION PD.

- 17.4 PA was concerned about how prosecutions would be carried out. Would they be aimed at persistent offenders. LM noted that like SID the system was to be used to pass data to the police and would be confrontational. PD saw the issues as one on which the Parish Council would need to decide.

18 CLERKS REPORT

- 18.1 The Clerk reported the key issues in the report were:

- Meeting Dates for 2006 issued
- Argos Hill Windmill meeting in 2006
- Mayfield Partnership initial meeting to be organised

- 18.2 On licensing applications it was agreed that F&GP would vet licence applications and that the clerk would arrange for full details of the licence to be provided.

ACTION DT

It was also agreed that the F&GP Chairman and the Clerk would be able to make emergency decisions or applications whose timescales were outwith the Council's decision making cycle.

ACTION DT

- 18.3 CS queried the times applied for by Wyvern Cottage, and asked for a further review.

ACTION DT

- 18.4 PA asked that the date for meeting King Georges Field Charity meeting to be held on the 22nd February be changed to 20 February 2006.

ACTION DT

19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 19.1 LM suggested that the Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council Chain of Office be worn at future meetings where students were present. This was agreed.
- 19.2 HH asked that the card for the headmistress of the Mayfield Primary School be signed by all members. The card and a bouquet of flowers would be presented to her on behalf of the Council at her leaving ceremony on the afternoon of Friday 16 December 2005.

ACTION DT TO MEET EXPENSES FROM PETTY CASH

- 19.3 DR drew the Council's attention to the risks to the community of pandemic flu. It was agreed that she would address the January 2006 and that the starting time be adjusted to 1915 hours to accommodate.

ACTION DT

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2215 HOURS.

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

VENUE: MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

DATE: 9 JANUARY 2006

TIME: 19.15 HOURS