
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAYFIELD
AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 9 OCTOBER 2006 AT 1930 HOURS**

SUMMARY OF MEETING

- Report received that services for the elderly will have to increase considerably because of growing elderly population in East Sussex.
- Footpath 10 work now placed by ESCC
- Memorial Hall replacement two presentations heard
- Complaints received over lack of dog control
- Delay reported to the development of the Mayfield college site
- Fireworks noise and safety issues raised

ATTENDANCE

Paul Amans Chairman	(PA)	Present and Voting
Martin Pitcher	(MP)	Apologies for Absence
Peter Deller	(PD)	Apologies for Absence
Philip Dixon	(PX)	Present and Voting
Diane Kirkness	(DK)	Present and Voting
Lloyd McLean	(LM)	Apologies for Absence
Jayne Bramwell	(JB)	Present and Voting
Graham Playfoot	(GP)	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
Geoff Gregory	(GG)	Present and Voting

Present and voting 12 Present and not voting 0
Apologies for Absence 3 Not present 0 Other Council Business 0

Also Present

Wealden District Councillors Brian Redman (BR), Anne Monaghan (AM), ESCC Councillor Robert Tidy (RT)
David Thompson Parish Clerk (DT)

There were no members of the public present.

Apologies for Absence were received from ESCC Councillor Christopher Dowling (CD) and WDC Councillors Robert Standley (RS), Jonica Fox (JF).

MINUTES

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS ON AGENDA ITEMS

- 1.1. There were no declarations of interest.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 2.1. The Chairman welcomed GG to the Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council and noted that the Declaration of Acceptance had been signed in the presence of the Clerk.
- 2.2. The Chairman announced that the meeting of St Dunstons Church relating to the planned improvements to the Church was duly held and was minuted by Councillors MP and DK acting as independent observers. Draft 3 will be reviewed by the Church after which the minutes will be amended if necessary and will then be made available to the public.
- 2.3. A public meeting had been called by the police for 9 November at which topics relating to security matters would be discussed.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2006

- 4.1. No errors were reported.
- 4.2. JB asked that minute 5 should record the need for the step at the end of the disabled ramp should be smoothed out to make it wheel chair friendly. This was agreed.
- 4.3. To cover an omission, a minute No 6C5/17.3 which covered fireworks noise was accepted from CL.
- 4.4. With these changes, the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

PROPOSED DR VOTE UNANIMOUS

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 5.1. JB had visited the Post Master, Ron Summerfield, to enquire as to whether a Rights of Way Notice Board could be located on the wall of the building. The request was declined. The Clerk noted that this issue had already been dealt with and that he was currently trying to get permission to mount the map on the wall of 'Jasons'.
- 5.2. CL referred to the Police Report produced by Hadlow Down with regard to fireworks and enquired as to whether a Mayfield and Five Ashes version had been prepared and displayed. It was reported that this had been done.
- 5.3. RT asked for information on how monies collected by voluntary bodies for the Parish Council led projects was tracked. Should they be placed in a Parish Council reserve because over time members of the original committee would change. He was concerned with regard to monies collected for the recent Five Ashes Road Safety arrangements. GP replied that the money approximately £2500 was held by the Portman Building Society in a special account controlled by signatories. The committee was still live and independent of the Council. The money had been held for use towards a proposed new seat to go near the bus shelter, but currently problems were being experienced in executing this scheme. It was agreed that the Clerk would follow up with Derek Dando.

ACTION DT

6. MINUTES OF THE FINANCIAL AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 28 AUGUST 2006

- 6.1 No errors or omissions were reported and the minutes were accepted as a true record by **UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

7. ISSUES ARISING FROM THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MINUTES

- 7.1. With regard to minute 6F1/11.1 in answer to a question from JB DT reported that a number of deeds and legal records originally held at Barclays Bank Mayfield and subsequently transferred to the Barclays Bank Business Centre at Tunbridge Wells in 1990 had subsequently been lost. So far it had not been possible to trace them. Arrangements for document handling were being reviewed by the Clerk.
- 7.2 With regard to Action No 6F4/5.1 DT reported that at reply had been received from WDC and he would report further in due course.
- 7.3 Minute 6F5/3.6. It was explained that the Parish Council Internal Auditor was due to speak to the Chairman of the F&GP in the near future. It was noted that the Council had both internal and external auditors.
- 7.4 Minute 6F5/3.5. The Clerk confirmed that Mr Bowerman had been dismissed from Council employment in 2002. GP confirmed that so far as they could foresee that Mr Bowerman had no contractual relationship with themselves.
- 7.5 Minute 6F5/5.1 CL asked for an explanation as to how the budget timetable worked out. DK answered.
- 7.6 Minute 6F5/12.2. In answer to questions the Clerk explained that invitations had been issued for the website amalgamation project. These would be reviewed at the next meeting of F&GP on 23 October 2006.

8. FINANCE REPORT

- 8.1. DK reported that as stated in minute 6F5/4.1 the Finance Reports for July and August 2006 had not been approved by the F&GP committees. The reason for this was an unexplained budget variance of 600%. The reasons for this emanated from an incorrect bulking up of budget headings and incorrect posting of entries.
- 8.2. The RFO would be instructed to revise the statements which would be circulated in due course.

ACTION DK

9. REPORT FROM ESCC COUNCILLOR ROBERT TIDY

- 9.1. RT reported that ESCC were struggling to provide services for the elderly. The percentage of people of pensionable age was now 40% and that in the future, taking into account the 1945/6 born population boom people were now approaching pensionable age and the percentage could rise to as high as 80%. Central Government were not offering ESCC extra help; and other services were being trimmed to provide the required funding.
- 9.2. Four new children's centres were being opened in order to assist mothers with young children living in deprived areas. All areas of East Sussex would be covered by 2010. The centres were designed to assist in educating the growing number of very young children who lacked basic life skills. In answer to questions RT reported that the centres were located at Eastbourne, Willingdon Trees, Hastings and Peasmarsh.

- 9.3. The Safer Wealden Partnership had been rationalised, but more resources had been concentrated in Parish areas where 'A' roads were present. There were a greater number of fatal road accidents in these areas than in the towns where speeds were slower.
- 9.4. RT gave advice for parents considering secondary education for children in the area. The pressure for places at Uplands and Heathfield is such that if parents select a school considered better than Uplands and Heathfields and failed to get a place then Uplands and Heathfield will not necessarily be available as a fall back, all places having been subsequently taken. The next alternative is Hastings.
- 9.5. In answer to JB, RT described the makeup and functions of the Safer Wealden Partnership, the next meeting of which was 9 November 2006.

10. REPORTS FROM WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLORS ANNA MONAGHAN AND BRIAN REDMAN

- 10.1. AM reported that WDC were using teams of people on Community Service Work to clear footpaths etc. They were also available at weekends. The Parishes were asked to identify tasks. In question JB noted that when she had asked for this service for litter clearing the Probation Service were not interested. AM will examine the issues.

ACTION AM

- 10.2. AM drew attention to the scheme for the allocation of social housing based on choice is being developed. Properties are being advertised and applicants can apply according to category eg elderly.
- 10.3. A deposit guarantee scheme for first time buyers is being developed by WDC. It is aimed at the low income groups and those on benefit.
- 10.4. BR reported that WDC were examining the likely effects of the Olympic Games on the district and considered that some useful information may emerge.
- 10.5. BR noted that a letter regarding litter clearance in Newick Lane had been sent to the Clerk.
- 10.6. The Voluntary Sector in Wealden no longer have their Federation and the allocated fund of £15000 has been re-allocated to Eastbourne and Lewes to develop services there. He noted that if the Voluntary Sector is not supported there could be problems.
- 10.7. RF questioned the provision of new signs for the A267 traffic calming project and that nearby foliage was obstructing the signs. It was noted that hedge cutting is a local matter and the owner of the hedge is responsible. If hedges are not cut the county will do the work and bill the owner. Traffic Committee to be informed.

ACTION DT

- 10.8. With regard to Footpath 10 the Clerk reported that the contractor had been asked to contact ESCC if he was interested in the project. The F&GP had ruled that if the work was not started by 9 November 2006 then the Parish would take the project back into its control.

ACTION DT

11. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE: MEETINGS HELD ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2006, 18 SEPTEMBER 2006 AND 2 OCTOBER 2006

- 11.1. The minutes were approved as a true record by UNANIMOUS VOTE.
- 11.2. GP reported on the latest position with regard to the Mayfield College site minute 6P14/3.2 where a variation of conditions had been requested. This was because the owners of the site Weston Homes had the following problems:
- Roof and windows of the Mayfield College building are not waterproof, and this work will need to be completed first.
 - The Crested Newts cannot be caught for removal until they return to the breeding site. The newts are protected by EU regulations. This has delayed the project.
 - There is also a similar problem with the bats who are also protected by EU regulations.
- 11.3. HH introduced the results of the South East England Regional Assembly questionnaire on the provision of gypsy and traveller caravan sites. Copies of the proposed response compiled by PD and agreed by the planning committee were circulated. HH commented that both the NHS and the teaching profession do their best to accommodate gypsy children and could not agree with some of the disparaging remarks made in the report. It was **RESOLVED** to return the questionnaire as completed. Copies of the report are on Parish Council file.

ACTION DT

- 11.4. BR reported that the owners of Old Cottage in Mayfield High Street had been ordered to start work on the property within 10 days. Progress will be monitored.

12. REPORT OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE KING GEORGES FIELD MAYFIELD CHARITY COMMITTEE AND THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 2 OCTOBER 2006

- 12.1. D Kirkness reported that two presentations on the replacement of the Memorial Hall had been heard:
- Paul Collard and Martin Reeve (private venture).
 - Mrs Iris Bruce (publicity funded).
- 12.2. Both presentations were similar in content where a range of similar facilities were proposed, albeit The Reeve/Collard presentation proposed a swimming pool and a higher quality of other services.
- 12.3. The general feeling of members present at the presentation was:
- Neither party had a business plan.
 - Public funding would take a substantial amount of time – more than the five years proposed.
 - The private venture was not viable unless substantial revenues were obtained outwith the two villages.
 - The Clerk had been instructed to gather more data.

- 12.4. PX proposed that he form a group to look into the project in more detail and write a paper. It would provide an opportunity to get things right. The team would consist of PA, PX and CL and each of which had extensive business experience. A suggestion that MP be included was turned down by PX on the grounds of "interest". The Clerk reported that MP had resigned from the Bruce group therefore any accusations of interest were unfounded. DK did not wish to get involved. The proposal was approved by the Council.
- 12.5. The subject of the hall development will be placed on the November agenda for the Full Council.

13. MINUTES OF THE SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER 2006

- 13.1. RF reported on the Security Committee meeting and noted that with regard to the minutes referring to the recent dog fight in Court Meadow, it needed just one person who was prepared to go to Court and identify the dog which is attacking people.
- 13.2. Les Wicker had drawn the committee's attention to 'Credit Card Fishing' which is being carried out and that people should not reveal credit card numbers.
- 13.3. The PCSO still did not have a sign-on point in Mayfield.
- 13.4. JB complained about the loud noise caused by the fireworks marking the 450th anniversary of the Bonfire Boyes and Belles. RF whilst pointing out that the 450th anniversary was a one-off, and undertook to ensure a less noisy option in future. It was noted that all fireworks are controlled by trading standards, and recent legislation.

14. MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE HELD ON 29 AUGUST 2006 AND 27 SEPTEMBER 2006

- 14.1. The two sets of minutes were accepted as a true record.
- 14.2. Training for the drop-in Centre had been carried out and the Centre will open on Monday 23 October.
- 14.3. MMM had contributed £1000 towards the project.

15. MINUTES OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2006

- 15.1. PX had nothing to add to the minutes noting that the Memorial Hall had been discussed.
- 15.2. PX reported that Rotherfield had successfully applied for an article 4.2 direction which permitted development rights within the ANOB area to be withdrawn. In other words makes all structures listed. He noted that Mayfield and Five Ashes were due for an Area of Natural Beauty re-appraisal in the near future.
- 15.3. BR suggested that the Parish Council should start the work now so as not to be disadvantaged and review themselves. PX thought that the appraisal would take a long time but that the Development Committee should take it as an agenda item. CS disagreed and argued strongly that the matter should be on the Planning Agenda. The debate was inconclusive.
- 15.4. It was noted that Mrs C Lilly had declined to join the Memorial Hall refurbishment team by Mrs Bruce.

16. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES NOT MEETING DURING THE PERIOD

- 16.1. Rights of Way meet soon – no further comments.
- 16.2. King Georges Field Mayfield Charity noted meeting on 16 October 2006 and AGM on 25 October 2006.
- 16.3. Traffic Committee DK reported on behalf of PD:
 - It was confirmed by Derek Dando that the money raised for the Five Ashes Traffic scheme will be only used for traffic related problems.
 - Feedback to traffic agenda required.
 - PD has letter from ESCC noting that when they receive the formal NCN21 document for consultation, then they will make the first document available under the Freedom of Information Act. It was noted that the original document had not been shown to ESCC Councillors but has been retained by Council Officers.
- 16.4. DR reported that the Old People's Welfare Committee had met on 13 October 2006. There had been an open door meeting set up to run each Wednesday at London House between 0930-11.30 hours. It will provide an information service. The Council will be invited in due course.

17. CLERKS REPORT

- 17.1 DT had circulated the Clerk's Report and drew attention to the following items:
 - WDC Parish Conference 1 November 2006
 - WDC Criers Lane Housing Development consultation
 - Walks booklet – progress meeting on 11 October 2006
 - Mayfield Trust Annual Accounts published
- 17.2 In answer to members' questions:
 - A one-to-one training day for the Clerk in connection with CILCA examination was being organised.
 - It was possible that the St Dunstons water tank has been connected with the Girls Boarding School which used to stand on site.
 - There were three public concerns issues raised since early October.

18 OTHER ITEMS FOR NOTING

- 18.1 DR reported that the Nuns would soon be leaving St Leonards, Mayfield. The Stone House at Mayfield will be retained by the Church authorities.
- 18.2 CL raised the issue of a report in Yellow Pages with regard to firework legislation.
ACTION DT
- 18.3 CL asked that the landslide on the old Tunbridge Wells Road at St Leonards be cleared.
ACTION DT

18.4 HH reminded members that the next meeting would start at 1900 hours for the School Council Question Time.

ACTION DT

18.5 GP requested advice of future Five Ashes meetings.

ACTION DT

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2142 HOURS.

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

VENUE: MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

DATE: 13 NOVEMBER 2006

TIME: 1900 HOURS