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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAYFIELD  
AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT CLAYTONS, NEWICK LANE, MAYFIELD  
ON MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 2006 AT 1945 HOURS**  
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**SUMMARY OF MEETING**

- Parish Council tribute to the late G Wicker
- F&GP Committee to be enlarged to seven members
- Mayfield High Street – road boundaries debated
- Mayfield roundabout debated
- Annual Return 2005/6 approved
- New financial reporting system adopted
- Youth Committee future – plans discussed
- Mayfield Court Meadow car park – marking discussed

**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)	Apologies for Absence
Lloyd McLean	(LM)	Present and Voting
Jayne Bramwell	(JB)	Present and Voting
Graham Playfoot	(GP)	Present and Voting
Hubert Hills	(HH)	Present and Voting
Andrew Stokes	(AS)	Apologies for absence
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 13      Present and not voting 0  
Apologies for Absence 2      Not present 0      Other Council Business 0

**Also Present**

Wealden District Councillors Brian Redman (BR), ESCC Councillor Robert Tidy (RT) and Chris Dowling (CD)  
David Thompson Parish Clerk (DT)

There were no members of the public present.

Apologies for Absence were received from WDC Councillors Robert Standley (RS) and Anna Monaghan (AM), Jonica Fox (JF) and Robert Standley (RS)

## MINUTES

### 1. G WICKER

- 1.1. The Chairman asked the Council to be upstanding for one minutes silence to pay tribute to Geoffrey Wicker who died whilst on active service with East Sussex Fire Service at the recent fire at the fireworks factory at Halland.
- 1.2. The Clerk to write a letter of condolence to LW.

### 2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS ON THE AGENDA ITEMS

- 2.1. DR declared an interest in the Pre School budget debate (9.8)
- 2.2. GP declared an interest in the Fire Ashes Village Hall (9.10)

### 3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 3.1. There were no Chairman's announcements.

### 4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

### 5. MINUTES OF MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2006

- 5.1. Three minor errors were reported for correction, after which the minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS VOTE and signed by the Chairman.
- 5.2. With regard to minute 6C7/13.4 JB reported that ESCC were now taking action over the dogs located at Strathborne and that a notice had been issued. The notice expires on 14 December 2006 after which The Rights of Way Committee Members and the Dog Warden will be monitoring activities. It was noted by RF that action could also be taken against the owners of unruly dogs on 'environmental usage'.
- 5.3 With regard to minute 6C7/13.3 JB reported that work had now started at North Street.
- 5.4 With regard to minute 6C7/3.2 it was reported that a further two letters of protest had been received over the Criers Lane Affordable Housing site. A resident from 'Downs View' claimed that there was a 20 year monatorium placed on building on the site and that this had been minuted in 1994.

#### **ACTION DT TO LOCATE MINUTE AND REPLY TO BOTH LETTERS**

- 5.5 With regard to minute 6C7/18.1 the Clerk reported that the owners of the High Street, Mayfield electrical shop had telephoned to confirm that they would repair the window.

### 6. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2006

- 6.1 The Clerk accepted an omission to the minutes with regard to the purchase of green electricity after which the minutes were accepted by UNANIMOUS VOTE.
- 6.2 With regard to minute 6F7/7.1 it was reported that the £5000 grant had already been received by DK for expenditure within the current fiscal year and would be lodged with Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council.

#### **ACTION DT/DK**

- 6.3 With regard to minute 6F7/6.1 it was confirmed that the RFO would not be using the 'SAGE' system within the revised accountancy disciplines.

6.4 It was noted that the Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council had applied to Wealden District Council for a grant of £30,000 of which £15,000 would be match funded by the Parish Council and the Mayfield Memorial Hall Committee in equal partnership.

6.5 With regard to minute 6F7/16.4 it was confirmed that the hatched road area by the new paving at Rosinas was part of the highway. The hatched area was too small for parking and the flower tubs were not supposed to be located there.

**ACTION CLERK TO FOLLOW UP**

6.6 The Finance and General Purposes Committee proposed that its committee be enlarged to seven members which would include the Chairman and Vice Chairman as full voting members. The Quorum to be four. The proposal was accepted by the Full Council by UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**ACTION DT TO AMEND STANDING ORDERS.**

6.7 With regard to minute 6F7/10.1 RT explained that Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council would be able to approve the design of the roundabout and that sponsorship would occupy three sides of the structure. Maintenance costs would be of the order of £1000 per year. It was anticipated that the whole project consisting of 21 roundabouts would earn ESCC profits of some £12000 per year, which would be used by ESCC to provide its services. ESCC were the owners of the roundabout, and the county needed to exploit all income sources. RT gave an assurance that the Parish Council would be consulted over the design.

6.8 CS stated that she and another Councillor had contracted verbally with ESCC over a Mayfield roundabout design and that she felt let down. RT noted that there would be no cost to Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council for the roundabout project. CS then asked whether it would be possible for the Parish to buy out the advertising. RT advised that he would obtain costs if possible, and ascertain whether local people can take part. BR noted that ESCC were providing road signs in every conceivable place and that there could be savings.

6.9 With regard to minute 6C7/13.3 the Clerk reported that this project now authorised, was a partnership with the Chamber of Commerce to provide tourist type (brown) direction signs for both ends of the village. ESCC were unable to provide any funding. There would be a number of signs provided.

6.10 JB asked if WDC had responded over rubbish collections. In reply the Clerk confirmed that WDC had responded but had indicated that Mayfield and indeed Newick Lane were not considered to be priorities.

**7. FINANCIAL RESULTS**

7.1. The October results were circulated and it was noted that these would be the last in this format as a more simple analysis would be provided in future.

**8. APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL RETURN**

8.1. Approval was sought for the Annual Return, copies of which had been circulated to all members. The Annual Return was approved by MAJORITY VOTE.

11 FOR    0 AGAINST            NO RECORDED ABSTENTIONS

## 9. BUDGET

- 9.1. The second draft of the 2007/8 budget had been circulated, and the changes from the first draft are detailed in minute 6F7/7.1 of the F&GP meeting of 27 November 2006.

Suggested changes were:

- £5000 youth funding taken out of the budget.
- £15,000 Memorial Hall funding project added in.

Total £31,474 increase on 2006/7.

- 9.2. At £130,948 the main increases over 2006/7 were:

- Reserves for Village Halls £10,000
- Feasibility expenditure Mayfield Memorial Hall £15,000
- Election 2007 £5000
- Other small rises in grants.

- 9.3. The effects on reserves to be shown in the final budget report.

- 9.4. It was noted that the precept was held at £70,434, and there was some considerable views that the precept should be increased at least in line with inflation. MP remarked that currently it was Parish policy to reduce reserves to a more reasonable level, by using them to absorb expenditure increases.

- 9.5. LM proposed that the Precept be increased in line with inflation. No seconder for this motion, which was therefore lost.

- 9.6. PD and GP asked for a clear statement of reserves and anticipated movements in reserves.

### **ACTION DT/DK**

- 9.7. GG asked that the contingency of £5000 to be reviewed since it represented a margin of less than 5% on budget.

### **ACTION DT/DK**

- 9.8. GG asked that the Pre School grants be explained.

### **ACTION DT/DK**

- 9.9. PX asked to be informed of what various percentage increases in the budget would cost in terms of precept.

### **ACTION DT**

- 9.10. GP asked that the movements on the Five Ashes Village Hall Reserve Fund be explained.

### **ACTION DT/DK**

## 10. REPORT FROM ESCC COUNCILLORS R TIDY AND C DOWLING

- 10.1. RT reported that the NCN 21 report from Atkins was still not available.

- 10.2. RT reported the background to the forthcoming ESCC budget for 2007/8.

- The Central Government Grant for local authorities in 2007/8 would be 4.9%
- ESCC was a 'Floor County' with an increase of just 2.7%
- ESCC had a policy of reducing the overall precept over a series of years

- ESCC budget would be roughly 70% Council Tax + 4.3% and 25% Central Grant + 2.7%.

This therefore meant that there had to be a continued review of expenditure, and doing things in a better way in order to keep within the confines of the budget.

Each service department was allocated a sum of money on which to manage the delivery of services.

There was a continued polling of public opinion which across the whole of the demographic spectrum considered that Council Tax was much too high. Chris Dowling confirmed these views.

There were no questions from the Parish Council.

## **11. REPORT FROM WEALDON DISTRICT COUNCILLOR B REDMAN**

- 11.1. BR reported that there were problems with the Local Development Framework timetable following the rejection of the submissions of two other councils, which because of a change in rules meant that further work had to be done.
- 11.2. Any Parish thinking to input to the plan was needed by July. For example Conservation Area review, Mayfield Community Hall applications etc. It was the Parish opportunity to take part in decisions up to the year 2026. BR would help if required.
- 11.3. Some interesting facts on WDC:
  - Bus passes are up 39.2% on the previous year
  - Mori Poll, rates WDC top in South East and second in whole country
  - 66% of the WDC area is classified as an area of outstanding natural beauty

## **12. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER AND 27 NOVEMBER 2006**

- 12.1. Both sets of minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS VOTE
- 12.2. PD reported that increasingly the larger properties of Mayfield were dividing up into three or more properties for future development.

## **13. MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 NOVEMBER 2006**

- 13.1. The minutes of the meeting were accepted by UNANIMOUS VOTE.
- 13.2. Comments made by DR were that there was a need to get a number of new ideas off the ground and to make a more substantial provision for youth, but this would need more volunteers.
- 13.3. Comments were:
  - PD Age profile – the older members which were the problem in Mayfield were not attending
  - RF – T Bennet considered Tuesday a better day, since it did not clash with the Monday football practice. DR reported that this was in hand.
  - JB suggested using the band hut for music, and that there was an adult volunteer available.
  - LM suggested the provision of membership cards to give a feeling of ownership.

#### **14. MINUTES OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2006**

- 14.1. These had been produced too late for the meeting and the item was adjourned to the January meeting of the Full Council.
- 14.2. In comment PX drew attention to the forthcoming Development Plan Exhibition which was to be held on Saturday 27 January 2006.

#### **15. MINUTES OF THE SECURITY COMMITTEE HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2006**

- 15.1. These minutes had been produced too late to be included and were adjourned to the January 2007 meeting of the Full Council.
- 15.2. RF commented that:
  - A twelve page list of scams was available via the Clerk.
  - There was confusion as to the meaning of the hatched lines on the road outside Rosinas.
  - It was noted by PD and MP that these parking issues would not finally be resolved until the WDC parking review was carried out.

#### **16. TRAFFIC MATTERS**

- 16.1. PD produced a hand drawn sketch of a parking scheme for Mayfield Memorial Hall car park. This would give 36 slots based on WDC guidance. Price £450.  
This was considered to be in principle to be a good idea and was approved by UNANIMOUS VOTE, having been proposed by PD and seconded by CL.
- 16.2. PD reported on his recent attendance on the getting “out and about” seminar. He also reported on the Quiet Lanes Scheme.  
JB reported that to her knowledge the Quiet Lanes classification was where there were fewer than 200 traffic movements and that the Safe Lanes Project had arisen from it.
- 16.3. PD reported on the second draft of the speed restriction report. Noting that our submission would need to be considered with an element of compromise.  
It was agreed that any comments would need to be made at the January meeting.

#### **17. MAYFIELD MEMORIAL HALL STEERING GROUP**

- 17.1 CL reported on the Meeting of the Mayfield Memorial Hall Steering Group:
  - Background
  - Membership
  - Terms of reference
  - Timescales
- 17.2 The key issues would be the display of the community hall project and the Development Exhibition of 27 January 2007.
- 17.3 The Chairman ruled that the proposed terms of reference could not be voted on at this stage since the formal minutes were not expected until the January meeting.
- 17.4 JB recommended that the steering group study the Hall at High Hurstwood as an example of a not very good community hall project.

## **18 CLERK'S REPORT**

- 18.1 The Clerk had circulated his report to which there were no questions or comments.
- 18.2 DT drew attention to a recently received Councillors Allowance Act which he would circulate.

### **ACTION DT**

- 18.3 The meeting list for 2007 had been circulated and comments were required as soon as possible.

### **ACTION COUNCILLORS**

## **19 ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

- 19.1 PD reiterated the need for response to the Criers Lane objectors.
- 19.2 PD drew attention to the high position attained by Mayfield Primary School in recent performance measurements. He was unable to comment of Five Ashes Primary School since the numbers of pupils was too low for records to be kept. RF confirmed the performance levels were high.
- 19.3 GP reported that the Five Ashes Village Hall had applied for a Stage 1 grant from the Big Lottery Fund.
- 19.4 GP reported that he had received an invitation to attend a meeting of the Argos Hill Windmill Group on 19 December 2006.
- 19.5 The Chairman thanked Mrs Bramwell for making "Claytons" available to the Parish Council for the December meeting.

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2220 HOURS.**

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

**VENUE: MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**DATE: MONDAY 8 JANUARY 2007**

**TIME: 1930 HOURS**