

**MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL**

-----  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAYFIELD  
AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL, FIVE ASHES  
ON MONDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2007 AT 1930 HOURS**  
-----

**6C:10**  
FINAL

**M PITCHER,  
CHAIRMAN**

**SUMMARY OF MEETING**

- Youth Grant cheque received
- Submissions now received for Website development
- PCSO sign-on point offered to Police Authority
- Parish Open Day feedback noted
- Skippers Hill School representatives invited to next Planning Committee Meeting

**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
Hubert Hills	(HH)	Present and Voting
Andrew Stokes	(AS)	Present and Voting
Deveda Redman	(DR)	Apologies for Absence
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 14      Present and not voting 0  
Apologies for Absence 1      Not present 0      Other Council Business 0

**Also Present**

Wealden District Councillors Robert Standley (RS), Anna Monaghan (AM)  
Caroline Peck (CP) Assistant Parish Clerk

There were two members of the public present.

Apologies for Absence were received from The Parish Clerk, David Thompson, WDC Councillors Brian Redman (BR) and ESCC Councillor **Chris Dowling** (CD) and Kate from the Courier Newspaper.

## **MINUTES**

### **1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY COUNCILLORS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

- 1.1. There were no declarations of interest.

### **2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 2.1. The Chairman announced that he had received an email from Inspector Richard Allen after the Council's email offer to the Police Authority for them to use the Parish's Office for the PCSO to book on. Unfortunately the Council's offer was not commented on in Inspector Allen's communication but instead it advised us that the current financial support for the PCSO's car was being withdrawn and the Inspector asked the Parish Council to consider making a contribution. This proposal will be placed on the next F&GP Agenda.

#### **ACTION CP**

- 2.2. Submissions have now been received for the proposed Parish Council and Chamber Of Commerce combined website. These will be submitted to the next F&GP Committee to be considered further.

#### **ACTION CP**

### **3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

- 3.1. Tony Lay (TL) who has recently moved into Newick Lane was concerned over road safety. Over the past 7 months he and his wife have observed reckless, careless and dangerous driving. He has even had a car crash through his fence. He has witnessed cars exceeding the speed limit on many occasions. He has spoken to PD and has also spoken to Graham Beatty at ESCC expressing his concerns as he believes that there is a serious accident waiting to happen. He asked the Parish Council what they could do in the short to long term. MP welcomed TL to the village saying that everyone had sympathy for his plight and then directed his question to the Traffic Committee. PD gave a brief history of the committee and applauded TL endeavours and initiatives. PD would support him and fellow residents. It was explained that 2 sites had been looked at in the past to implement speed calming measures. LM applauded TL for raising his concerns to the Parish Council and explained that the highway is governed by ESCC and suggested that TL arranges to meet ESCC on-site at the busiest time of the day.
- 3.1 Jane Driskell (JD) asked who was responsible for the collapsing bank outside St Leonards Mayfield School. PD reported that ESCC is due to start work on the bank on the 24<sup>th</sup> February. The delay was because a BT pole had to be removed first.

### **4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 JANUARY 2007 (6C09)**

- 4.1. GP queried minute 5.1; 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph; specifically the quote 'any remaining balances'. After discussion it was agreed to adopt the suggestion put forward by RF to refer it back to the next Parish Council meeting.

#### **ACTION CP**

- 4.2. Minute 8.4 GP explained that the word 'moved' should read 'removed'.

- 4.3. Minute 8.4 PD suggested that the word 'gypsy' should be replaced by the word 'travellers'. However, LM suggested that some gypsies may take offence to this. After a discussion it was decided to put 'travellers' in brackets.
- 4.4. Minute 12.2 and 12.9 GP explained that these minutes seem to contradict each other. After a discussion it was agreed to remove 12.2.
- 4.5. PX commented that in minute 4.2 'therefore' should be removed.
- 4.6. Minute 13.1 PX asked that 'PD' should be changed to 'PX'.
- 4.7. Minute 5.2 CS explained that it was not known whether switching would be more expensive and that the wording should change from 'would inevitably' to 'may'. After a discussion it was agreed to change the wording.
- 4.8. DK noted that the actions from minute 19.1 were not on the Clerk's Report.

**ACTION DT**

- 4.9. The minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS VOTE.
- 4.10. JB was pleased to report that with reference to minute 4.4, litter had now been cleared from Newick Lane, in fact six bags worth.

**5. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 29 JANUARY 2007 (6F09)**

- 5.1. RF drew attention to the fact that he had telephoned his apologies prior to the meeting.
- 5.2. With regards to minute 6.1 PD enquired about the fine. MP confirmed that procedures were now in place to prevent this from happening in the future.
- 5.3. PD commented on how impressed he was to read that there was a proposal to review all lighting arrangements. DK explained that there had been a lighting committee and that the responsibility was now with the F&GP. DK further explained that all lamp posts are now numbered and that, through the parish office, all lighting issues were being reported to EDF.
- 5.4. PD commented that he didn't understand minute 14.2. This was deferred until the Clerk's return.

**ACTION DT**

- 5.5. DK wanted to clarify with reference to minute 10.1 the current status. DK wants to revisit it. MP agreed for it to be added to the next F&GP Agenda.

**ACTION CP**

- 5.6. DK explained that with reference to minute 13.1 it was just not '3 youths' but all of the 'youth of the village'.
- 5.7. RF requested further clarification on minute 6F7/16.2. DK explained that she had spoken to the vicar with regard to the land attached to the church. Nicholson Trust who owns the land is meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> February where this will be discussed. RF suggested writing a letter to the vicar saying that the Parish Council were looking forward to hearing from him on the outcome.

**ACTION CP**

- 5.8. RF queried minute 6F7/16.3 and that it should read 'Mayfield' and not 'Five Ashes' School. The Parish Council agreed. CS explained that the school children had raised questions about recycling.
- 5.9. In minute 15.3 RF suggested it should read 'we have offered the offices'.
- 5.10. With reference to minute 14.1 PD reported that there had been a couple of suggestions for new waste sites. PD explained that they were awaiting WDC to report back and then there would be a period of consultation. This will be added to the next Planning Meeting Agenda.

**ACTION CP**

- 5.11. The minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS VOTE.
- 5.12. With reference to minute 14.4 JB suggested that the other side of the ROW notice board which is situated in the Car Park could be used to sell advertising space. MP thanked JB for her suggestion and MP agreed to add it to the next F&GP Agenda.

**ACTION CP**

- 5.13. DK suggested that there should also be some paving slabs underneath the board as it was very muddy. MP agreed to add it to the next F&GP Agenda.

**ACTION CP**

**6. FINANCE REPORT**

- 6.1 In the absence of the Clerk it was decided to revisit this at the next meeting.

**ACTION DT**

**7. REPORT FROM WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

- 7.1. BS reported that WDC had published its council tax proposals for public consultation. Only 5 members of the public responded, 2 favourable. BS reported that The Town and Parish Conference had been broadly supported. Various suggestions were put forward including raising charges for this year. BS also reported that one off grants totalling £150,000 had been awarded.
- 7.2 AM reported on the new 'hotlink' which allows for easier access to planning applications on the planning computer system. AM explained of the applications received by the planning department, 59% are determined by the officers, 37% are referred to the members and 4% go to committee. She reported that the Select Committee had reviewed car parking and water in the district and noted that the hose pipe ban had now been lifted. AM reported that there had been a huge uptake in people applying for free bus passes. AM explained that various schemes were being identified with £2m spread over five years.

**8. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 JANUARY 2007(P20), 22 JANUARY 2007 (P21) & 5 FEBRUARY 2007 (P22)**

- 8.1. PD drew attention to the fact that the date for the next meeting on P20 should read Monday 22nd January 2007.
- 8.2. PD drew attention to the fact that on P21 he had left the meeting before the consultation of the Mayfield College Application.
- 8.3. PD wanted clarification on the statement 'see letter' which appears at various stages of P20, P21 and P22. PD explained that these were not informative and if there were letters these should be attached to the minutes. MP agreed. The Parish Council agreed not to approve these minutes until the next Parish Council meeting awaiting clarification from DT.

**ACTION DT**

- 8.4. DK asked for an update on Old Cottage and CostCutters. PD explained that WDC was concerned about the front wooden frame at Old Cottage acting as a 'sponge'. There was a meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January between Mr Mew and WDC which has not been reported. Regarding CostCutters the Conservation Officer had stopped work on the roof at the end of September. The Project Manager is yet to come back with some new ideas. JB asked whether PD had any knowledge of the actual boundaries of the shop, specifically the footpath outside the shop. JB further explained that she felt that the shops board and furniture were outside its boundary. PD explained that this was beyond his remit. LM explained that the question had been asked of the East Sussex Highway to clarify the pathway however, no reply has ever been received.
- 8.5. LM announced that at the next Planning Meeting he had invited representatives from Skippers Hill School to discuss their concerns regarding the affordable housing planning application

**9. ARGOS HILL WINDMILL**

- 9.1 GP explained that he had tried unsuccessfully to speak to Mr Greenwood, however he had left a message with his wife inviting him to the meeting this evening.
- 9.2 PX explained that Mr Greenwood had asked whether any councillors would consider becoming a trustee of the windmill. PX suggested that this was a good idea. MP was concerned as to whether it would entail any financial commitment. After a discussion the Parish Council decided that any councillor wishing to get involved would do so independently. LM warned any potential trustee to ensure that WDC have got the Windmill into a reasonable state before handing it over to the trust. MP re-iterated that there was no commitment from the Parish Council only on an individual basis. RS stated that there were no committed funds; however he was sure that some funds could be made available.
- 9.3 RF observed that there were some pages missing to the Argos Windmill report. CP said that she would try to find it.

**ACTION CP/DT**

## **10. MINUTES OF THE MAYFIELD MEMORIAL HALL STEETING SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2007 (6G02)**

- 10.1. CL pointed out in minute 6.3 that it should read 'metres' and not feet.
- 10.2. With reference to minute 12.1 CL confirmed that the draft paper would be submitted to the next Memorial Hall meeting.
- 10.3. PD pointed out Herstmonceux was spelt incorrectly.
- 10.4. In minute 10.2 PD commented on the fact that GH seemed not to be aware of the latest status of the Band Hut Lease. DK explained that she and the PA had met with the band's Treasurer where new terms and conditions had been agreed. CL would talk to GH and bring him up to speed.

### **ACTION CL**

- 10.5. DK enquired as to what kind of data HA would be supplying on the Big Lottery Fund officers. CL clarified that they had only asked for the names of the officers.
- 10.6. With reference to minute 13.1 JB asked whether the Community Hall Questionnaire was going to be circulated to a wider audience. MP believed that there had been adequate opportunity for people to note their views. PA said that there would be further periods of consultation.
- 10.7. PX requested reassurances on costs in regards to minute 8.2. CL explained that until the funds were in place to engage a professional architect these are only estimates. GG commented that the initial cost of 700k would rise with time and that inflation, VAT and professional costs needed to be considered. CL thanked and noted GG comments.
- 10.8. The minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS VOTE.
- 10.9. GP asked whether HA had been made aware of the Five Ashes Hall Big Lottery bid.

## **11. MINUTES OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2007 (6D9) AND 5 JANUARY 2007 (6D10)**

- 11.1 PX explained that the two meetings which took place prior to the Parish Open Day were concerned mostly with the Open Day plans. PX reported that the Parish Open Day had been very successful and that over 150 people attended, with an average of half an hour per person being spent at the exhibition. With hindsight he commented that it would have been better to have a few more Councillors on hand as people wanted to discuss a number of issues. He reported that a review of the Conservation Area had been proposed by WDC to start in May. The original listing was done in 1969 and had not been reviewed since that date.
- 11.2 With reference to minute 7.2 (6D10) PD commented that this statement should be less contradictory.
- 11.3 PD noted on Minute 10.8 (6D10) that 'BX' should be changed to 'PX'.
- 11.4 PX noted that with reference to minute 11.1 (6D10) the two bullet points should be omitted. After discussion the Parish Council agreed.
- 11.5 DK noted that in minute 9.1 (6D10) the addition of Five Ashes Village Hall should be included.

- 11.6 DK asked whether the Post Office was a concern as stated in minute 14.1 (6D10). The Parish Council discussed and concluded that the item should be omitted.
- 11.7 GP asked for clarification regarding the parish's relationship with Five Ashes. PX would liaise with DT for further clarification on minute 5.4 (6D9).

**ACTION PX/DT**

- 11.8 GP noted that in the Five Ashes Lottery Application the Village Hall was referred to as the Community Hall.
- 11.9 The minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS VOTE.
- 11.10 With reference to minute 5.4 (6D9) CS asked as to what extent the various steering committees were liaising with each other. GP stated that no liaising was currently being carried out. CL confirmed that the Memorial Hall Steering Committee knows nothing about the Five Ashes Community Hall project. GP stated that when significant events occur he reports them to the Parish Council. PA explained that both halls were taking into account each village's specific needs. GP stated to the council that a telephone interview had already been conducted with the Big Lottery Fund.

**12. MINUTES OF THE SECURITY MEETING HELD ON 6 FEBRUARY 2007 (6S06)**

- 12.1. RF noted that under item 6 'speeding up' should be added and 'going north on' omitted.
- 12.2. The minutes of the meeting were approved by UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**13. MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 DECEMBER 2006(6Y6) & 17 JANUARY 2007(6Y7)**

- 13.1. DK reported that the formal minutes were not yet available. DK confirmed that the Parish Council had now received the Youth Grant cheque of £4,994.81. She confirmed that they had until the 31<sup>st</sup> March to spend the money. Equipment purchased so far included a video camera and a Playstation. She reported that the trip to the Cinema was enjoyed very much by the children and there is also another trip to Knockhatch planned.
- 13.2. DK confirmed that ESCC has a manual on Child Protection which she will liaise with DT to obtain.

**ACTION DT/DK**

**14. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES NOT HOLDING MEETINGS DURING THE PERIOD**

- 14.1. PD reported that he had written to ESCC requesting a 'fresh thinking' on traffic and suggesting giving people the opportunity of expressing their thoughts.
- 14.2. PD explained details of the closure at the top of the High Street to Trodgers Lane from 26<sup>th</sup> February to the 23<sup>rd</sup> March to build a retaining wall.
- 14.3. JB reported on the meeting that Vicky Head had attended. JB explained that VH had said that the job wasn't what she had been expecting. VH does intend to set up a database regarding land ownership together with a program of works.
- 14.4. JB stated that the County Council has now prepared papers for the lawyers and a decision will be made as to how to proceed.
- 14.5. JB reported that Joan Redford had received her Citizen Award at the same time as five other awardees. She explained that for the last fourteen uninterrupted years Joan has led the organised footpath walks around the village.

## **15 CLERK'S REPORT**

- 15.1 GG reported that as a resident of Criers Lane he had been sent by Skippers Hill School a letter regarding the proposed affordable housing in which he noted an alleged moratorium on building at Criers Lane. MP stated that DT was in the process of trying to find the past minute that stated the moratorium. DK suggested contacting a past member of the Parish Council, Roy Eastwood. RF offered to do this. LM asked RF to report back if possible before the next planning meeting on Monday.

### **ACTION RF/LM/DT**

## **16 OTHER ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- 16.1 LM reported about another serious accident on Fir Grove and Argos Hill. LM is concerned that ESCC is not concerned with slowing traffic down.
- 16.2 PD reported that he had received an e-mail from Ian Ledger inviting the Parish Council to join with him in trying to get better broadband for the area.
- 16.3 CL asked whether the Parish had an emergency plan. HH stated that local councils should have a Disaster Plan; however there seems to be very little local interest. HH invited anyone who was interested to a meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup> at Pine Grove.
- 16.4 JB would like the Parish Council to consider that users of the field be prohibited from the use of 'loud bangs' specifically referring to the Bonfire Boyes and Belles. MP stated that it would be very difficult to police. JB offered to take it on. MP agreed to discuss this at the next F&GP meeting.

### **ACTION CP**

- 16.5 CS wanted more information on the Chiddingly PC request.

### **ACTION DT**

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 22:20 HOURS.**

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

**VENUE: FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL  
DATE: MONDAY 12TH MARCH  
TIME: 1930HRS**