

**MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL****MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF****MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL****HELD AT FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL****ON MONDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2008 AT 1900 HOURS****Chairman Of Mayfield And Five Ashes Parish Council****Councillor Martin Pitcher****Meeting Chairman Councillor Robert Fitzsimmons****SUMMARY OF MEETING**

- Resolution in support of Argos Hill Windmill approved.
- Full Council representation on Argos Hill Windmill approved.
- P Amans elected as Chamber of Commerce representative for Full Council
- Parish Plan 2006 to 2026 approved

**ATTENDANCE**

Martin Pitcher	(MP)	Apologies for Absence (B)
Paul Amans	(PA)	Present and Voting
Peter Deller	(PD)	Present and Voting
Jane Driscoll	(JD)	Present and Voting
Elaine Wheeler	(EW)	Present and Voting
Patricia Balfour	(PB)	Present and Voting
Jayne Bramwell	(JB)	Present and Voting
Graham Playfoot	(GP)	Present and Voting
Hubert Hills	(HH)	Present and Voting
Deveda Redman	(DR)	Apologies for Absence (H)
Catherine Swingland	(CS)	Apologies for Absence (B)
Robert Fitzsimmons	(RF)	Present and Voting
Chris Lilly	(CL)	Present and Voting
Jerry Watkiss	(JW)	Present and Voting
Tony Lay	(TL)	Apologies for Absence (C)

Present and voting 11

Present and not voting 0

Apologies for Absence 4

Not present 0

Other Council Business 0

Resigned 0

**Also Present**

ESCC Councillors Robert Tidy (RT), Wealden District Councillor Graham Wells (GW)

David Thompson Parish Clerk (DT)

**Apologies for Absence**

C Dowling (ESCC), B Redman, J Fox and R Standley (WDC)

There were 18 members of the public present.

## **MINUTES**

### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS ON AGENDA ITEMS BELOW**

- 1.1. GP declared a personal interest as Chairman of the Five Ashes Village Hall.
- 1.2. There were no other declarations of interest.

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

- 2.1. There had been two letters received by the Parish Council with reference to the Argos Hill Windmill. These had been dealt with by the Parish Clerk.
- 2.2. With regard to the absence from recent meetings by certain councillors, the Chairman reported as follows:
  - All were within the attendance rules as laid down in S85 of the 1972 LGA.
  - Martin Pitcher had unexpected heavy business commitments which meant that he could not guarantee attendance at meetings of Full Council.
  - Catherine Swingland had likewise unanticipated business commitments.
  - Tony Lay had personal issues which demanded his full commitments.
- 2.3. The details on the above were noted sympathetically by the Council.

### **3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – EXCLUDING ARGOS HILL**

- 3.1. IB asked why the street lights in South Mead Close, East Street, Fletching Street (bottom) and Coggins Mill Lane (top) were permanently on. The Clerk replied that this matter was in hand with EDF. The situation was that the timing mechanisms were old and faulty and beyond economic repair. In line with Parish Council energy policy they would be replaced by more modern equipment in the near future.
- 3.2. IB complained that full consultation had not been carried out with regard to the construction of the five new dwellings being constructed in South Mead Close and was concerned with the lack of car parking spaces. A petition from local residents was given to the Clerk for future action. PD, as Chairman of the Planning Committee replied that the case had been properly handled, full information had been made available to residents and the decisions made by the Parish Council had been made available for inspection. He also noted that of the garages which had been demolished to make way for the houses, only two were being used, and only for the purposes of storage.
- 3.3. IB was concerned about the Parish Council's attitude to the proposed Mayfield Community Centre.
  - She complained that the Clerk would often refer to it as the New Memorial Hall.
  - There was currently no Parish Council representative on the Mayfield Community Hall Development Sub-Committee.
  - She was disappointed that the Parish Council would not release money from the £10,000 on committed reserve to meet administration expenses of the Sub Committee.

The Clerk replied that:

- He apologised fully for the use of erroneous terminology.

- The Parish Council representative on the Mayfield Community Hall Sub Committee would be decided by the F&GP Committee when it next met and would be ratified by the Full Council at the appropriate time.
- Recommendations for the office made outwith the Parish Councils administrative structure had no formal significance.
- Allocations of money were made within:
  - The financial classification.
  - The detailed policies as recorded within the 2008 financial classification.

These forbade expenditure voted for bigger scale projects to be used on small 'admin' items of expenditure. Release of money from committed reserves required the submission of a detailed business case submission, and only 50% of the total would be given (under Parish Council's match funding policy).

#### **4. ARGOS HILL WINDMILL**

- 4.1. RF introduced the issue by noting that the debate at the last meeting had been fully minuted and copies made available. He was unaware of how many people had sent their names forward as interested in the proposed trust. The Council had tabled a resolution to set their policy towards the structure.
- 4.2. Brian Pike said that currently there were seven volunteers as of this date, and that an inaugural meeting with regard to a trust had been scheduled for 28 February 2008.
- 4.3. PD noted that after many years there was a history of nothing being done and no money being spent on maintenance or environmental protection. He believed that people should not be held to account for actions in the past. The best shot available was the formation of a trust, which would at least prevent dismantlement, but there was a limit to what could be spent, because of the lack of available public funds.
- 4.4. PD felt that the proposed resolution (7C13) was not watertight and should not commit the Parish Council to uncontrolled financial commitment.
- 4.5. Brian Pike was hopeful that WDC would stand by their statement that they would make some £40,000 available to the trust, pending forthcoming budget committee decisions. He noted that the trust would need the money to function, and WDC support. He noted that with only eight open days currently allowed that there was a need for permanent funding for maintenance and servicing. He considered that WDC needed to look at the Windmill as a tourist asset and needed to talk to the landowners over the access issues. It was still not clear from WDC whether the £40,000 would be released.
- 4.6. JB noted that full planning permission would be needed to achieve dismantlement.
- 4.7. Daphne Todd – considered that the formation of a trust was not the way forward. It was not a full long term solution. There was a need to achieve protection from weather, and to secure public access to the mill. She noted that there were many funding authorities, and in some cases sums of up to £2m had been made available. She counselled caution and thought that a trust could get into trouble.
- 4.8. LM asked the Clerk what progress had been made with his note of information available from the Minister of Culture. The Clerk replied that he had advised WDC of the information sources and had asked them to take it into account. His assistant would be downloading the information in full within the next few days for the enhancement of the public record. With regard potential prosecution the Clerk still awaited advice from NALC on whether or not such an action was theoretically possible. He also pointed out that such an action would be very expensive with no likely outcome.

- 4.9. PD noted that if a member of the public had concerns over the actions of WDC, they should act through the offices of the Government Ombudsman.
- 4.10. Mrs D Todd once again asked that there should be no financial commitment and that the Resolution should be specific on this matter. PA held the view that the issue had Parish Council support then financial support should be specifically excluded.
- 4.11. PD put an amendment to the resolution before the Council.

7C13 (amended)

That the Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council will fully support **without financial commitment** all efforts to keep the Argos Hill Windmill in situ and in good repair.

Voting for the amendment was:

**For 8                      Against Nil                      Recorded Abstentions 1**

- 4.12. The Amended resolution was placed before the Council 7C13.(AMENDED)

That the Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council will fully support without financial commitment all efforts to keep the Argos Hill Windmill in situ and in good repair.

Voting for the original resolution was:

**For 10                      Against Nil                      Recorded Abstentions 1**

- 4.13. The original resolution was carried, and the Chairman wished those involved good luck for the project.
- 4.14. The Council then elected Councillor J Driscoll as their representative on the proposed Argos Hill Windmill Trust.

## **5. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2008 (7C09)**

- 5.1. After accepting two amendments the minutes were UNANIMOUSLY approved by the Full Council.

## **6. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSED COMMITTEE HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2008 (7F09)**

- 6.1 The minutes were UNANIMOUSLY approved by the Full Council, without amendment.
- 6.2 JB enquired about the position with regard to the Band Hut roof. The Clerk noted that no grant would be made without the submission of a full business case.
- 6.3 JB enquired as to the present position with regard to the safety rails at the war memorial. The Clerk required that the contract had been awarded to Tate fencing and installation was awaited. The need resulted from two recent Health and Safety Report on access facilities to the church.
- 6.4 With regard to minute 7F9/3.5 GP asked why it was considered inappropriate to site the Parish Council Notice Board in the Village Hall site. PA was of the view that the notice board needed to be highly visible to all passing through the village. It was decided to leave the Notice Board where it is on the current site.
- 6.5 With regard to Minute 7F9/3.2, the Clerk explained that because of the Landlords and Tenants Act, the tenants rights on Court Meadow were secure, and that they could only be removed under certain conditions. On these grounds it would not be necessary to formally renew the leases. The matter was being discussed with each tenant.

- 6.6 CL tabled the revised budget timetable. The budget timetable had been revised to take into account suggestions made at the recent Risk Assessment Review.

The Budget Timetable was UNANIMOUSLY approved by the Council.

- 6.7 CL tabled the Accountancy Classification for 2008. The document was UNANIMOUSLY approved by the Council.

## **7. REPORT FROM ESCC COUNCILLOR R TIDY**

- 7.1. RT said that he regretted the amount of time it had taken to remove the travellers from the “stub end” of the A267. It was the first time a case of this nature had happened within the county and the officers had learnt many lessons from the issue. He thanked WDC for cleaning the site after the travellers departed. The travellers were now sited on a piece of land near Crowborough.

- 7.2. The process for protecting the area of the spur road from further incursions was now being investigated, but there were a number of problems.

- Farmer needs access.
- Utility services need access and there is cabling under the road.
- A road regularly used by residents for access to footpaths and bridleway.

The construction of a bund was not feasible. Any gates would need to be locked.

- 7.3. PD reported that he had personally reported the problems associated with the travellers to the primary authorities.

- 7.4. RT reported that the ESCC budget meeting would be held on 12 February and there would be an increase in council tax of 3.9% in line with 2005 promises. The budget would need careful monitoring.

- 7.5. With regards the Capital Programme this would be £400m over four years and included grants and allowances from other authorities. Key items were:

- Bexhill – Hastings link road £89m.
- New libraries – one Hasting and one at Newhaven.
- Archive Centre at Brighton £22m.
- Children’s Centres 22 on the South Coast area over the next two years.
- New Centres for the elderly, Age Well project.

- 7.6. The Police budget would be approved at an increase of 4.9 % and would provide 20 more police officers.

- 7.7. PD asked what actions were being taken over the care and well being of animals. RT replied -

- New Hailsham Cattle Market on the west side was in the planning application stage. Planning applications costs on this project to date were £65,000.
- Blue Tongue was an unknown quantity. There had been 65 cases since last autumn since the outbreak in Suffolk and Kent. The disease is carried by midges and consequently it was hoped that it would die out through the winter. Disease is fatal for sheep, but not for cattle.

- 7.8. With regard to a question from JB, RT said that he was unsure who would be the contractor for the Mayfield roundabout.

## **8. REPORT FROM WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR GRAHAM WELLS**

- 8.1. GW reported that the single WDC headquarters had been deferred at present. The sites were Hailsham or Ashdown Business Parks.
- 8.2. In order to meet the potential budget deficit, a number of options were being considered which included car parking charging, ESCC funding etc. The increase in council tax would be 4.2%. The Corporate Plan 2008/2011 was in draft form.
- 8.3. Rural affordable housing – an additional officer had been appointed. There would be a new survey and a project to educate and persuade parishes to adopt rural affordable housing.
- 8.4. WDC website covered:
- Safer Wealden Partnership.
  - Review of constitution.
  - Local area agreements.
- 8.5. There would be a number of consultancy issues covered by telephone enquiry, covering anti-social behaviour, youth, cuts in council services, and charging for the use of car parks.

## **9. FINANCE REPORT DECEMBER 2007 (7FA09)**

- 9.1. CL reported:
- Spend on the village services, road sign project completed at £11500.
  - Outturn revised to £110,000.
  - Full commentary on the results circulated.
- 9.2. There were no questions on the financial report which was approved by the Council.

## **10. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE – 7P16 OF 7 JANUARY 2008 AND 7P17 OF 28 JANUARY 2008**

- 10.1. With regard to the minutes 7P16 PD reported that there were no contentious points. The minutes were approved by the Council.
- 10.2. With regard to minutes 7P17, PD reported that with regard to the land to the rear of 38-40 Southmead Close the Council had raised no objection. The vote on this issue had been for four against one. The minutes were approved by the Council.
- 10.3. To strengthen the Planning Committee the Parish Council agreed to the appointment of PA as a full member.

## **11. MINUTES OF THE SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2008 (7S05)**

- 11.1. There were no changes to the minutes, which were approved by the Council.
- 11.2. With regard to Minute 7S5/5 PD reported that there had been poor communication with the Police. It was noted that TB had been used for other duties in Uckfield, and that she still had no dedicated transport of her own.

## **12. MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2008 (7Y05)**

- 12.1. EW had nothing to report in addition to the minutes and that efforts were being progressed to find a suitable leader for the Youth Group.
- 12.2. JB asked on attendance figures. It was reported that these had been steadily build up over the previous year.
- 12.3. RF commented on the contribution made by TB to the work of the committee.
- 12.4. The minutes were approved without amendment by the Council.

## **13. MINUTES OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2008 (7D08)**

- 13.1. One amendment was accepted to the minutes which were then accepted by the Full Council.
- 13.2. JW presented the Parish Council Plan and Strategy 2008 – 2011 for approval. He commented as follows:
  - The plan had been consulted widely and exhibitions had been held.
  - There would be regular review.
  - The document would give the Parish Council leverage within WDC.
  - Detailed action plans would be provided for each of the plans and would be disseminated to the appropriate committees.
- 13.3. PD noted that he had a vested interest in the plan, as a notable contributor in the past. He questioned how it would be possible to take action plans forward on some of the 'policy' type plans.
- 13.4. CL commented that he considered the Plan a quality document and considered that there needed to be an owner for each plan. Further concentration should be placed on the top ten actions first and flesh out the others in due course.
- 13.5. After accepting some minor corrections to the text the plan was approved by the Parish Council by UNANIMOUS VOTE.

## **14. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPRESENTATIVE**

- 14.1. The Clerk reported that Ms Kirkness had resigned as the Chamber of Commerce representative.
- 14.2. The Council elected P Amans as the new Chamber of Commerce by UNANIMOUS VOTE.

### **ACTION DT**

## **15. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES NOT MEETING DURING THE PERIOD**

- 15.1. PD reported that there were no current issues from the Traffic Committee.
- 15.2. JB reported that the Rights of Way Committee would be meeting on 20 February 2008.

## **16. CLERK'S REPORT**

- 16.1. A minor amendment was accepted to the Clerk's report, which was then approved by the Council.
- 16.2. The cold callers scheme was noted. This scheme had been adopted by a number of Parish Council.
- 16.3. The Clerk emphasised the purpose of the WDC's questionnaire on standards which had been completed as requested by himself and the Chairman.
- 16.4. It was noted that the Annual Assembly would be held at Five Ashes on Monday 2 June.

## **17 ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND NEXT AGENDA ITEMS**

- 17.1 PD reported that D Dando was in health care and expressed his appreciation for the contribution made to the villages of Mayfield and Five Ashes. It was agreed that a letter of appreciated would be sent to Mr Dando.
- 17.2 JB reported that ESCC Councillor M Lock had been in contact with her over the traffic calming actions needed for Newick Lane.

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 22.02 HOURS.**

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

**VENUE: MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**DATE: 10 MARCH 2008**

**TIME: 1930 HOURS**