

**MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING**

**HELD AT MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL  
ON MONDAY 9 JUNE 2008 AT 1930 HOURS**

**8C03**

FINAL

MARTIN PITCHER  
CHAIRMAN

**Chairman Of Mayfield And Five Ashes Parish Council  
Councillor Martin Pitcher**

**SUMMARY OF MEETING**

- Councillor C Swingland resigned due to business commitments.
- Annual Report and Parish Plan to be made available as widely as possible.
- Report on Mayfield Village Centre.
- Future charges for the use of Court Meadow agreed.
- Wadhurst – Mayfield – Crowborough bus contract to be discussed on 23 June 2008 at F&GP.
- Use of South Street Allotment site for allotments to be re-instated as allotments considered.

**ATTENDANCE**

Martin Pitcher	(MP)	Present and Voting
Paul Amans	(PA)	Present and Voting
Peter Deller	(PD)	Present and Voting
Jane Driscoll	(JD)	Present and Voting
Elaine Wheeler	(EW)	Apologies for Absence (S)
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)	Resigned
Robert Fitzsimmons	(RF)	Present and Voting
Chris Lilly	(CL)	Present and Voting
Jerry Watkiss	(JW)	Apologies for Absence (H)
Tony Lay	(TL)	Present and Voting

Present and voting 11      Present and not voting 0  
Apologies for Absence 3      Not present 0      Other Council Business 0      Resigned 1

**Also Present**

Wealden District Councillors G Wells (GW) and ESCC Councillor Chris Downling (CD)  
David Thompson Parish Clerk (DT)

**Apologies for Absence**

(WDC) Jonica Fox (JF), B Redman (BR), R Standley (RS) (ESCC) Robert Tidy (RT)

There were two members of the public present.

## **MINUTES**

### **1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

- 1.1. JB declared a personal interest on Agenda item 18 Newick Lane.
- 1.2. TL declared a personal interest on Agenda item 18 Newick Lane.
- 1.3. PB declared a personal interest on Agenda 18 Newick Lane.
- 1.4. GP declared a personal interest as Chairman of Five Ashes Village Hall Committee.
- 1.5. There were no other declarations of interest.

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

- 2.1. The Chairman reported that Councillor Swingland had resigned due to business pressures. A similar announcement had been made at the Annual Parish Meeting. The Clerk was initiating the replacement process.
- 2.2. The Chairman announced that the trial period for the Beacon Bus Service was coming to an end and the Parish Council would be making a decision on whether or not to continue the service at the next F&GP meeting on 23 June 2008.
- 2.3. The Clerk had been in contact with Mr Killick, the ESCC Contract and Hire Officer to obtain progress reports for the operation of the service. Results so far seemed encouraging, and there had been a considerable amount of public support from the village, a large number of letters of support had been received.
- 2.4. Providing the necessary funds would not be a problem, since provision had been made in the budget. A paper for the F&GP Committee was being prepared by the Clerk.

**ACTION DT**

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

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

### **4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 12 MAY 2008**

- 4.1. The following minor changes were accepted to the minutes:
  - Items 22.2, 24.1, 26.1
  - Item 8.1 wording to be clarified.
- 4.2. With these amendments the minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 4.3. With regard to minute 8C2/9.4 RF reported Five Ashes school attendance as follows:
  - Five Ashes Primary School 41
  - Five Ashes Pre-School 16
- 4.4. With regard to minute 8C2/17.3, JB reported that as a result of a personal email, Michael Oates had reported that pressure of work had prevented further progress on this matter.
- 4.5. In response to a question from JB with regard to Newick Lane traffic calming proposals, the Clerk reported that when ESCC had prepared responses to the actions placed upon them by the Traffic Committee, that a meeting would be arranged between members of Mayfield and Five Ashes and Heathfield and Wealden Parish Councils to agree a joint approach to the subject.

**ACTION DT**

- 4.6. With regard to minute 8C2/17.4 PD reported that there had been no further progress on the Mayfield roundabout. JB reported that she had sent the names of two private contractors, but had had no response. The Clerk noted that ESCC would have their own procurement process. RF reported that ESCC had recently completed work on the Boarshead roundabout and that it was the source of many complaints from Rotherfield residents.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to ESCC once more on the subject.

**ACTION DT**

- 4.7. With regard to minute 8C2/19.3 and the question of whether, in the interests of improved communications it was necessary to send out the Annual Report and the Parish Plan to all households of the Parish, and what actions had been taken. The Clerk replied that although desirable, it was not necessary to have a full mail drop, but it was necessary to make the information as widely available as possible. This could be done by Yellow Pages (600 readers) or the website (427 hits), and also through the library. The process for debate would be Development Committee 16 June 2008 and Finance and General Purposes Committee on the 23 June 2008 for decision.

**ACTION DT**

- 4.8. With regard to minute 8C2/22.2 JB enquired as to progress on the issues of available land. It was noted that an outline sketch had been prepared and agreed by F&GP and that this would be defined in words as well. After ratification at 8F03, it would be sent to the Chairman of the Memorial Hall Committee.

**ACTION DT**

## **5. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON FRIDAY 30 MAY 2008**

- 5.1. Two minor changes were accepted to the minutes, after which they were approved by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 5.2. With regard to minute 8F2/6.3 and in response to a question from JB, the Clerk had undertaken to confirm that the Martin Family (Mr & Mrs B Martin) licence was not transferable to others after their death and that the land would revert to the Council.
- 5.3. With regard to the lighting report in Section 7 of the minutes it was confirmed that because of new lighting initiatives in the South Street area (additional light and upgrading of existing) there had been complaints from two residents over lights shining through bedroom windows. Arrangements were being made to have these lights shielded as appropriate.
- 5.4. South Street car park – it was noted that the light situated outside South Street car park was not of the conservation area approved pattern. It was agreed to obtain an estimate for conversion.

**ACTION DT**

- 5.5. CL drew attention to the agreed schedule of future charges for Court Meadow, (Annex 1 minute 8F02). It was explained that these charges would be brought in progressively, and that all users would be given notice well in advance.

**ACTION DT**

- 5.6. PD questioned whether the charging scheme would raise policing issues. It was considered that this would not be so.

- 5.7. With regard to minute 8F2/8.2 CL drew attention to the comparison of administration charges compared with other Parishes. TL asked whether there was any co-relation between population and administrative charges. The Clerk replied that this was not so, if anything it was more related to the level of services provided.

## **6. REPORTS FROM ESCC COUNCILLOR C DOWLING**

- 6.1 CD responded to the Parish Council's growing complaints with regard to the service efficiency being provided by the County Council by suggesting that they write to the Director of Transport and Environment, Rupert Glubb. TL noted that when talking to ESCC personnel, it seemed that they were more interested in job security than progressing the issues to hand.
- 6.2 JB also noted that a similar situation existed in Rights of Way, where three re-organisations had taken place in recent months.
- 6.3 PD reported a similar state of affairs amongst staff at the Sidley Street Depot.
- 6.4 CD also reported that drain covers were being stolen, and steps were being taken to provide alternatives.

## **7. REPORT FROM WDC COUNCILLOR GRAHAM WELLS**

- 7.1. GW reported that grants were to be made to allow private housing owned by low income residents to be brought up to date with regard to energy efficiency. These would also include in addition some repayable loans. The sum available was £630,000.
- 7.2. There was to be a WDC campaign to limit the amount of plastic bags being placed into circulation by shops and super markets.
- 7.3. Small businesses were to be catered for by the introduction of Business Development Forums of 3 x 1 hour sessions which would be held in Crowborough and Heathfield.
- 7.4. TL raised the question of recycling plastic bottles. It was noted that it would be 2010 before the North District had full recyclable collections in rural areas.
- 7.5. PD noted that a notice preventing fly tipping and a CCTV camera had been placed on the stub end of the old A267.
- 7.6. The litter clearance bill for WDC was £600,000 annually. It was intended to introduce strict anti-litter enforcement teams who would have the power to levy on the spot £75 fines.

## **8. FINANCE REPORT APRIL 2008 (8FA01)**

- 8.1. In introducing the report CL reported that the Parish Council had funded the Five Ashes Village Hall kitchen.
- 8.2. There were no questions on the Financial Report which was accepted by UNANIMOUS vote.

## **9. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF 12 MAY 2008 (8P02) AND 2 JUNE 2008 (8P03)**

- 9.1. Both sets of minutes were confirmed by UNANIMOUS vote without amendment.
- 9.2. PD noted that the three St Leonard's planning applications had been approved by WDC.

## **10. MAYFIELD AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEBATE**

10.1. In the absence of DR this debate was held over for one month.

**ACTION DT**

10.2. PD noted that he would be making a contribution to the debate.

## **11. MINUES OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 MAY 2008 (8D02)**

11.1. The minutes of the meeting were approved without amendment.

11.2. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## **12. MINUES OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 MAY 2008 (8Y02)**

12.1. The minutes of the meeting were approved without amendment.

12.2. In the absence of DR there was no report and no questions or issues arose from the minutes.

## **13. MINUTES OF THE SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 MAY 2008 (8S01)**

13.1. There were three amendments to the minutes which were then approved by UNANIMOUS vote.

13.2. RF reported that with regard to minute 8S1/5.2 no problems had arisen in Mayfield and Five Ashes to date and that there had been no requests for stickers.

13.3 PD drew attention to the critical report by the Kent police concerning its own PCSOs. It was reported that they were poor value for money in that they did not provide evening coverage and that their output was limited. In relating to our own experiences it was still the case that the PCSO responsible for Mayfield had no allocated transport. It was time to review the effectiveness of our PCSO,s.

13.4 With regard to transport it was noted that the PCSOs serving parishes had transport and that it would seem that only Crowborough did not provide transport.

**ACTION DT**

## **14. REPRESENTATIVE REPORT ARGOS HILL WINDMILL**

14.1. JD reported that:

Geoffrey Daughtry (on behalf of The Friends of A.H.W) asked Nigel Hannam at WDC on the 2 May 2008 for the following two items which had been agreed at a meeting with Nigel Hannam and John West (WDC legal department) on 25 April 2008:

(1) A draft lease.

(2) A written estimate from Mr V Pargeter of the following costs:

- Tailpole and fan tail to be securely propped.
- Steps repaired/replaced to allow safe access to mill.
- Removal and replacement of cladding.
- Internal structural repairs including cross trees, corner posts (and any other items that may be revealed when the cladding is removed).
- Internal studding to be replaced as necessary.

- 14.2. Kate Treherne of Transition Mayfield is investigating as to whether the mill could create wind energy for the local community.

## **15. REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

15.1. PA reported that the Chamber of Commerce had met on the 19 May.

- They had discussed the paper on Street Traders.
- Were pleased with the business support and initiatives in the Parish Plan.

15.2. DT noted that the Street Traders debate was scheduled for the July meeting.

## **16. REPRESENTATIVES REPORT – MAYFIELD VILLAGE CENTRE**

16.1. JB reported that it was now agreed that minutes of meetings would now be provided to the Parish Clerk and the two Parish Council representatives.

16.2. There would be a full report from the MVC treasurer within two weeks.

16.3. Eight architects had made presentations to the Committee, from these two or three would be selected to present detailed plans and models or computer images. Each architect has required land surveys to be made which would need to be measured and include site levels. The Parish Council are requested to provide funding towards this task.

16.4. After debate it was agreed to place on the F&GP agenda (8F03).

### **ACTION DT**

16.5. MP wished to know whether it was normal practice to devolve such work to architects, and that a cost of £1000 was reasonable. This was confirmed by Lloyd McLean representing MVC.

16.6. JB asked that when the architects preparations are complete would these be consulted on? This was confirmed.

16.7. The MVC Treasurer reported (from the floor) that although fund raising had started by the creation of a 100 club and other initiatives, they were ensuring that donations to the project were brought directly under the control of the sub-committee. The cash flow profile indicated a requirement of £15,000 - £20,000 of costs before any building work could start.

16.8. On behalf of the Parish Council MP said that he was pleased that progress was being made and looked forward to seeing the figures and undertook to consider them thoroughly.

16.9. There was a request to cut the grass surrounds of the Memorial Hall.

### **ACTION DT**

## **17 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES NOT MEETING DURING THE PERIOD**

17.1 There were no issues to report from the Traffic Committee and no questions to the Chairman.

17.2 JB reported that ROW would be meeting on Wednesday 16 June 2008.

## **18 NEWICK LANE**

- 18.1 TL reported that in a recent part closure of Newick Lane due to a water main leak, the workforce suffered a lot of abuse from passing motorists.
- 18.2 JB reported that:
- BT were closing Newick Lane for two days for maintenance work.
  - No news on the subject from ESCC.
- 18.3 JB reported that Tesco's had agreed to safety initiatives for their delivery van drivers which would include not to exceed 40 mph on rural lanes and to drive with care. The scheme would be launched in this area, East Sussex and Kent and would possibly be adopted nationwide. It was hoped that other companies would follow suit.

## **19 CLERK'S REPORT**

- 19.1 There was one error in the Clerk's report which was accepted. The report was approved by the Council.
- 19.2 The Clerk in response to a question on Youth issues explained the role of Janet Stend.
- 19.3 It was noted that Mayfield was in the finals for the Village of the Year competition which would be held at Skeynes Hill on 4 July 2008.

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

- 20.1 PA reported that a number of residents (6) were involved in the National Gardens Open Day. Attendance had been between 400-600.
- 20.2 JB asked to know the position with regard the proposed meetings with Mayfield and Heathfield Parish Council with regard Newick Lane. The Clerk reaffirmed that arrangements would be as reported in minute 8C3/4.5.
- 20.3 JB asked the position with regard the Band Hut roof project. The Clerk replied that the submission would be made at meetings 8F03 on 23 June 2008.
- 20.4 The Parish Council were asked if they would include an MVC leaflet if a full resident mail drop was carried out. The Clerk noted that if this project went ahead they would include their leaflet.
- 20.5 It was reported that the sign by the toilets in South Street car park needed attention.
- 20.6 JB asked whether the allotment site could be used once again for allotments as the demand for such facilities was rising.

**ACTION DT**

**ACTION DT**

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 21.07 HOURS.**

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

**VENUE: MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**DATE: 14 JULY 2008**

**TIME: 1930 HOURS**