

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 8 SEPTEMBER 2008 AT 1930 HOURS**

**Chairman of Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council
Councillor Martin Pitcher**

8C05
FINAL

MARTIN PITCHER
CHAIRMAN

SUMMARY OF MEETING

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)	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)	Present and Voting
Catherine Swingland	(CS)	Resigned
Robert Fitzsimmons	(RF)	Present and Voting
Chris Lilly	(CL)	Apologies for Absence
Jerry Watkiss	(JW)	Present and Voting
Tony Lay	(TL)	Resigned

Present and voting 12 Present and not voting 0
Apologies for Absence 1 Not present 0 Other Council Business 0 Resigned 1

Also Present

Wealden District Councillors Jonica Fox (JF) G Wells (GW) Brian Redman (BR) and ESCC
Councillors Robert Tidy (RT) and Chris Dowling (CD)
Caroline Peck Assistant Parish Clerk (CP)

Apologies for Absence

Robert Standley (RS)

There was one member of the public present.

MINUTES

1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS ON AGENDA ITEMS

- 1.1. GP declared a personal interest in regards to Five Ashes Village Hall.
- 1.2. There were no other declarations of interest.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 2.1. There were no Chairman announcements.

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 JULY 14th 2008 (8C04)

- 4.1. Six minor amendments were accepted to the minutes, after which, they were approved by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 4.2. **MATTERS ARISING:** PD suggested that a 'Matters Arising' heading should be included for each set of minutes.

5. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON JULY 28th 2008 (8F04)

- 5.1. RF noted that the details of the light opposite the surgery had not been included in the minutes.
- 5.2. The minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 5.3. **MATTERS ARISING:** GP noted in regards to minute 3.2 that emergency repairs had been carried out to reduce the slab length by one.
- 5.4. The Parish Council requires clarification on the closed status of 7F9/3.5 and 8F3/14.3.
- 5.5. JF noted that the Clerk has been sent details on an organisation called the National Society of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners who is a national recognised body specifically set up to protect leisure gardens and allotments. RF confirmed that there have been a number of people requesting allotments.
- 5.6. JB reported, with regards to minute 11.5, that there was no need to purchase the Stile Kits as they are held in storage in Heathfield and can be accessed when required.

6. FINANCE REPORT JUNE 2008

- 6.1. In the absence of the report, the Parish Council unanimously agreed that this item should be adjourned until next months meeting.

7. REPORT FROM ESCC COUNCILLOR BOB TIDY

7.1 RT reported that ESCC have identified land surplus to their requirements in Mayfield. The land was leftover from when the bypass was built and is adjacent to Rotherfield Lane, where it goes under the A267. RT explained that a delay has been requested while all the implications of releasing this land are further investigated including the car park opposite Victoria Road which is leased to WDC. RT stated that there was no commercial use for the land as it is very steep. A Boundary Map defining the land can be found on the ESCC Website. RT asked the Parish Council whether they would be interested in the land. MP stated that the Boundary Map would be forwarded to the relevant committee who would investigate and explore the liabilities. MP thanked RT for delaying the decision.

7.2 In answer to PD's question of whether the council had made any contingency plans for people struggling in the current economic climate, it was stated that so far none had been made. BR explained that the council spend 7m a year on heating schools and officers with an expected increase of 30% this year

8. REPORT FROM WDC COUNCILLORS BRIAN REDMAN, JONICA FOX, GRAHAM WELLS

- 8.1. BR stated that with regards to Minute 6.1 WDC would not normally acquire such assets as car parks. MP noted that the car park would be important to the people within Victoria Road.
- 8.2. BR reported that a proposal has been received from the Highways Agency for a 20mph speed limit through Mayfield High Street. Consultation runs until 19th September 2008.
- 8.3. BR reported on a KPS Composting Services Open Day in Isfield on Saturday 13th September 2008 from 9am – 1pm. Bring your own bag and fill it up with compost for free.
- 8.4. JF reported that within the next five weeks the Card Account decision should be made. It is difficult to predict whether Pay Point or The Post Office will be chosen as it is very much a political decision, however, it will be based mostly on access. Multiple Post Offices in a small area are more at risk. JF stated that Mayfield Post Office was relatively safe.
- 8.5. JF reported on constructive dialogue in regards to Argos Hill. The hope is, it continues to make progress.
- 8.6. JF reported that with regards to the Cross In Hand Garage they had received an application for a revised building, but WDC had refused to grant consent.
- 8.7. JF reported that Hadlow Down's 30mph Traffic Speed Consultation is about to start.
- 8.8. JF stated that as Councillors they were happy to support any reduction in speed limits. RT explained that the best way to go about in trying to get a reduction in the speed limit was to petition the Chairman of ESCC.
- 8.9. GW reported on a new area of the WDC Website designed specifically for young people. (www.w44.co.uk).
- 8.10. GW reported on the free play scheme held during the summer. Mayfield and Five Ashes took the opportunity to use the facility. GP noted that it was very well received at Five Ashes.
- 8.11. GW noted that there have been some changes in the way that Community Grants are applied for. Between £300-£1000 has been 'ring-fenced' for smaller projects. £2.4m is available to help support and revitalise rural businesses.

8.12. PA stated that as a Representative of the Chamber Of Commerce he had raised his anxieties with WDC regarding Street Trading Licensing. PA explained that if they have to be licensed, so many people would fall foul. BR suggested that any views and comments should be sent directly to Sylvia Tidy.

8.13. PD stated that a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) was being undertaken by WDC. JF confirmed that there is a viability search taking place to look at any site that a land owner wants to put forward with the emphasis on sustainability.

8.14. JF noted that the Criers Lane development would be starting in the next six months.

9. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF JULY 14th (8P05), 4th AUGUST (8P06) and 26th AUGUST (8P07)

9.1. With one minor amendment, all sets of minutes were confirmed by UNANIMOUS vote.

9.2. **MATTERS ARISING:** PD explained that on 8P:05 minute 4.3, the Parish Council's decision of No Objection had been overturned by WDC. The reason given by WDC Planning team was that the Parish Council had not given sufficient positive reasons why it shouldn't be allowed. PD stated that WDC had not been following the rules issued in the middle of June. In response, BR apologised and stated that a No Objection should mean that it is in line with the overall policies in Wealden. The Constitution is to be re-written.

10. MINUES OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18th AUGUST 2008 (8D05)

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

10.2. **MATTERS ARISING:** PD noted that he was not aware of the delayed debate on affordable housing. DR explained that the Clerk deferred to next month. PD stated that this agenda item had been waiting since May.

11. MINUES OF THE COURT MEADOW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4th AUGUST 2008 (8K02)

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

11.2. **MATTERS ARISING:** DR asked where the PCSO is. To be clarified by the Security Committee.

11.3. In regards to minute 11.2 JB enquired on the status. MP explained that John Lewis was a professional fund raiser and that the Clerk was in touch with him.

11.4. JD required clarification on the status of the area of land occupied by the Tennis Court

11.5. JD further commented that in future when a subject was under discussion that it should go to the appropriate committee before going to the F&GP Committee for decision and policy making process.

ACTION DT

12. MINUES OF THE RIGHTS OF WAY AND TREES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20th AUGUST 2008 (8R03)

12.1. The minutes of the meeting were approved with one minor amendment.

12.2. **MATTERS ARISING:** RF noted his concern in regards to minute 7.1 and the information contained on the Land Owners Database. JB confirmed the database would not be going on the website and would only be used to contact Land Owners specifically in connection with ROW issues.

13. MINUES OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23rd JULY 2008 (8Y04)

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

13.2. **MATTERS ARISING:** With regards to minute 5.1 DR explained that the village of Fairlight had received the Best Village Award.

13.3. JB noted that the Drop in Centre was really lucky to have Janet Stead. However, there were concerns that not everyone knew what or where it was and maybe some more advertising needed to be undertaken.

14. MINUES OF THE SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23rd JULY 2008 (8S02)

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

14.2. **MATTERS ARISING:** RF reported that Tamara Bennett's attendance in the village has been poor owing to a lot more crime in other villages. MP stated that Mayfield does need a Police presence. RF explained that the PCSO still had no transport to get around in. MP stated that the Parish Council has tried to help in the past.

14.3. RF reported that oil theft is a continuing problem.

15. REPRESENTATIVE REPORT ARGOS HILL WINDMILL

15.1. JD reported that currently, discussions were on going on the lease of the trust.

16. REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

16.1. PA reported that at the next meeting of the COC on Monday 22nd September, James Gallifant will be attending to promote the Business Directory on the website.

16.2. Christmas Late Night Shopping is on the 5th December.

16.3. COC Secretary has resigned.

16.4. Many Traders will be at the Mayfield Carnival 20th September 12-4pm

16.5. PA asked for the Parish Councils permission to contact Sylvia Tidy in regards to street licensing. The Parish Council agreed unanimously.

17. REPRESENTATIVES REPORT – MAYFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

17.1. JB reported on the consultations with David Price.

17.2. A grant Application is currently being prepared for £1m

17.3. Iris Bruce has been organising fund raising events.

17.4. Architects plans will be on display behind the library on Saturday after which they will be available in Taylor Tofts Estate Agents together with a notebook to make comments.

18. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES NOT MEETING DURING THE PERIOD

- 17.1 Traffic: PD noted the recent announcement in the Mayfield & Five Ashes Newsletter stating that the Five Ashes Campaign Against Traffic Speeding (FACTS) was winding up. PD explained that he had concerns over the monies left in the FACTS account having been previously raised from local people for a specific cause. Clerk to send letter.
- 17.2 DR reported on her attendance at the Old People's Welfare Committee which is a general discussion group.
- 17.3 HH and DR attended a NHS meeting

19. MINUES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 2 JUNE 2008 (8A01)

- 19.1 The minutes of the meeting will be approved at the next Annual Assembly.

20. CLERK'S REPORT

- 19.1 In the absence of the Clerk the report was noted.

21. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

- 20.1 DR requested that amended minutes are put on the website.
- 20.2 RF noted that a lot of work still needs to be undertaken on the Five Ashes Playing field where the tractor can't get to.
- 20.3 RF noted that the clerk has still not made contact with Mr Jeff Gregory
- 20.4 JB noted that over the butchers shop the window frames are decaying
- 20.5 JB noted that there were some loose bricks on the path that goes up the side of the Post Office to the church.
- 20.6 JB noted that the Tourist Notice Board in the car park is a disgrace

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9:46pm

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

VENUE: FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL

DATE: 13TH OCTOBER 2008

TIME: 1900 HOURS