

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

HELD AT MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
ON MONDAY 14 JULY 2008 AT 1930 HOURS

Chairman of Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council
Councillor Robert Fitzsimmons

SUMMARY OF MEETING

- 4 Section 137 grants approved.
- Sponsor appointed for Mayfield roundabout.
- Lloyd McLean co-opted to fill vacant seat in Mayfield ward.
- Possible re-instatement of South Street allotments – WDC being consulted.
- Post office – possible loss of post office card accounts discussed.
- Accounts available for inspection under electors rights legislation.
- Five Ashes play area – current position notified.

ATTENDANCE

Martin Pitcher	(MP)	Apologies for Absence (S)
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)
Robert Fitzsimmons	(RF)	Present and Voting
Chris Lilly	(CL)	Apologies for Absence (H)
Jerry Watkiss	(JW)	Present and Voting
Tony Lay	(TL)	Present and Voting
Lloyd McLean	(LM)	Present and Voting (from minute 3.3)

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

Also Present

Wealden District Councillors Jonica Fox (JF) and Robert Standley (RS) and ESCC Councillors Robert Tidy (RT) and Chris Downing (CD)
David Thompson Parish Clerk (DT)

Apologies for Absence

B Redman (BR), G Wells (GW)

There were no members of the public present.

MINUTES

1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS ON AGENDA ITEMS

- 1.1. LM declared a personal interest on Mayfield Village Centre as a member of the Committee.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 2.1. There were no Chairman's announcements.
- 2.2. PD asked whether a letter of thanks had been sent to Mrs Swingland following her resignation from the Parish Council. The Clerk replied that both he and the Chairman had sent letters on behalf of the Parish Council thanking her for her services to the Parish Council.

3. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR FOR MAYFIELD WARD

- 3.1. The Chairman reported that following the expiry of the period for public nomination for the vacant council seat for Mayfield it was necessary to fill the vacancy by co-option.
- 3.2. There was one candidate for the position, Mr Lloyd McLean. Mr McLean was co-opted by the Parish Council by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 3.3. Mr McLean then signed the Declaration of Acceptance in the presence of the Clerk, and accepted the conditions of the Code of Conduct.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL ON MONDAY 9 JUNE 2008 (8C03)

- 5.1. PD noted that the WDC report omitted an item on Waste Disposal policy. This will be included as minute 7.6.
- 5.2. With regard to minute 13.3 PD noted that in respect of the first two bullet points he was referring to the Kent constabulary not Sussex. It was agreed to amend the minute.
- 5.3. Two other minor errors were agreed for correction.
- 5.4. With these amendments, the minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 5.5. With regard to minute 8C03/4.6 JB reported that she had been in contact with ESCC over the two contractors she had nominated as potential sponsors of the Mayfield roundabout. She reported that one of the companies had already applied and had been awarded the sponsorship at a cost of £5000.
- 5.6. With regard to minute 8C3/4.5, JB asked whether it was still intended to hold a joint meeting with Heathfield and Waldron Parish Council. The Clerk replied that it was still the intention to do so, but until ESCC were able to develop a comprehensive traffic calming scheme for Newick Lane there would be nothing to discuss. The Clerk was of the view that Heathfield and Waldron Parish Council would be interested in the project.
- 5.7. With regard to minute 8C3/20.1 on the National Gardens Open Day in Mayfield the final results were 430 admissions and £2,700 raised for charity.
- 5.8. With regard to minute 8C3/20.6, JB asked for progress on the project to reinstate allotments on the South Street site.

The Clerk reported:

- He had written to the Chief Executive of Wealden District Council on the subject.
- As a result of a request he had notified a resident of the legal position regarding allotments.
- He had had a number of requests to provide allotments.
- In response to a comment from Wealden District Councillor, Jonica Fox, he noted that Wealden's District Council's definition on allotments had been challenged by a resident and he was awaiting a reply from the District Council's legal team.

6. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 23 JUNE 2008

6.1 The minutes were accepted with two minor amendments:

- Reword minute 13.1
- Delete minute 6.3

6.2 With regard to minute 18.2 RF stated that although at the F&GP meeting he had reported that the planning enforcement problem at Murgs Wood Meres Lane was due to gypsy and traveller, it was in fact a planning infringement.

6.3 With regard to minute 18.4 it was noted that the safety rail recently repaired in Mayfield High Street would indeed be painted black. It was suggested that the Parish Council acquire some tape to mark council assets when in need of repair.

6.4 RF drew attention to the submission of the Annual Return and the comments made by the Internal Auditor in his report.

6.5 The Clerk drew attention to the publication of dates for the exercise of electors' rights with regard to inspection of the annual accounts. These were:

- 21st July 2008 – 15 August 2008
- Auditor contact from 18 August 2008

The notice was posted on the two notice boards.

7. FINANCE REPORT MAY 2008 (8FA02)

7.1. The report was unanimously accepted.

8. REPORT FROM EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCILLORS R TIDY AND C DOWLING

8.1. RT reported that East Sussex were the top county in the South East so far as crime reduction was concerned, with significant improvements in the Hastings area. The County had won an award for its achievements.

8.2. Education standards in Hastings were low, and were not good enough, and there was continual low achievement. As from September governorship/leadership will be placed with a central body. The existing three schools will be closed and will be replaced by two new academies.

8.3. There was a project to carry out significant structural improvements to half the county's primary schools. Frant would have a new school, however Mayfield and Five Ashes primary schools were not included in the project. A review of Uplands School in Wadhurst was being carried out.

- 8.4. CD reported on the speed reduction case for Five Ashes.
- 8.5. In a question to RT from PA, it was confirmed that the replacement school to be built at Frant would be the Church Lane site.

9. REPORTS FROM WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS JONICAL FOX AND ROBERT STANDLEY

9.1. Jonica Fox reported:

- All WDC departments now had 'Charter Mark' status.
- With the reduction in the numbers of proposals for large housing estates, WDC were now concentrating on infill projects. They would be financially penalised if they failed to deliver the Central Government affordable housing targets.
- The Five Ashes affordable housing projects were nearly ready for building to commence.
- With regard to the Cross in Hand Garage development, this was currently held up awaiting an environmental report of the Lizard population on the site.
- With regard to the proposed wind turbine for Glynbourne, there would be a one year review of wind strengths.

9.2. Robert Standley reported:

- Agreement had been reached to concentrate the present two council offices into one new purpose built structure at Hailsham. Occupation was expected by 2012. There would be a skeleton presence in Crowborough, which would include the library and a Community Centre.

9.3. PD noted that affordable housing was a 20 year project, and that in his view penalties on an annual basis was wrong.

9.4. RF reported that the Downsview affordable housing site was prone to slippage.

10. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 23 JUNE 2008 (8P04)

10.1. The minutes of the Planning Committee were approved without amendment by UNANIMOUS vote.

10.2. In his report PD noted the limitations of Parish Council Planning Committees, and considered that people were better off to approach WDC direct. However Jonica Fox said that the Planning Committee made a valuable contribution by providing local knowledge and insight.

11. SECTION 137 GRANTS

11.1. RESOLUTION 8C03 – SECTION 137 GRANT FOR ANCHORS STAYING PUT

- **That Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council RESOLVE to make a grant of £250 to Anchors Staying Put under the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, and such a grant would provide benefits to the elderly of the Parish.**

The Council approved the resolution by UNANIMOUS vote.

11.2. RESOLUTION 8C04 – SECTION 137 GRANT FOR OPEN DOOR

- That Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council **RESOLVE** to make a grant of £400 to Open Door, under the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, and such a grant would provide benefits to the well being of the Parish.

The Council approved the Resolution by **UNANIOUS** vote.

11.3. RESOLUTION 8C05 – SECTION 137 GRANT FOR MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

- That Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council **RESOLVE** to make a grant of £50 to Mayfield Primary School, under the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, and such a grant would provide benefits to the well-being of the Parish.

The Council approved the Resolution by **UNANIMOUS** vote.

11.4. RESOLUTION 8C06 –SECTION 137 GRANT FOR FIVE ASHES PRIMARY SCHOOL

- That Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council **RESOLVE** to make a grant of £50 to Five Ashes Primary School, under the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, and such a grant would provide benefits to the well-being of the Parish.

The Council approved the Resolution by **UNANIMOUS** vote.

12. MINUTES OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 JUNE 2008 (8D03)

12.1. JW reported that:

- The Committee had considered the distribution of the Annual Report and Parish Plan and had decided to opt for the cheaper distribution package as outlined in their paper to F&GP.
- The detailed action plans had been completed and would be reviewed at the August meeting.

12.2. JB raised the issue of affordable housing. It was noted that the Parish Plan called for affordable housing to be ‘pepper-potted’ around the village, so as to help maintain social cohesion.

PD considered that the Parish Council was not able to enforce its plans and that it had little control over events. In the case of Alwyns the affordable housing target had been met albeit on a different site. He was of the view that as St Leonards was the major employer in the village, the Parish Council needed to work with them.

12.3. It was noted that:

- The Planning Committee decisions on the St Leonards Housing projects had been **UNANIMOUS**.
- D Redman would debate the issue in September, or October.

12.4. The Development Committee minutes were approved by **UNANIMOUS vote.**

13. MINUTES OF THE RIGHTS OF WAY AND TREES COMMITTEE HELD ON 18 JUNE 2008 (8R02)

- 13.1. Two amendments to the minutes were accepted, after which they were accepted by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 13.2. In answer to a question from PD with regard to minute 13.2 it was reported that KS was indeed critically ill.
- 13.3. With regard to FP13 JB reported that Mr Sharma had now made proposals for the diversion of the footpath. However the Committee had objected on a number of grounds, since the proposed route for the diverted footpath was completely impassable.
- 13.4. PA proposed a vote of thanks for the Parish Council footpath clearance team headed by JW, for the many hours of work spent in clearing paths.

14. REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ARGOS HILL

- 14.1. JD reported that progress was being made but very slowly. RS (for WDC) reported that proposals from WDC should be ready in about two weeks.
- 14.2. There was a query as to whether the Argos Hill Windmill was a Grade II listed building, whilst LM commented that if it was, restoration works would need to meet and comply with the regulations.

15. REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- 15.1. PA reported that there would be a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on Monday 21 July at the Rose and Crown.
- 15.2. It was noted that only PA, HH and Jonica Fox had attended the meeting at the Post Office in Mayfield with the postmaster and Charles Hendry MP for Wealden. The meeting had been held to raise concern over the possible withdrawal of the card Keypoint Accounts form post offices. A copy of the Parish Plan had been given to Charles Hendry.
- 15.3. It was agreed that the Parish Council would send a letter to Charles Hendry recording their support for the post office and to urge him to take the matter up at Central Government levels.

ACTION DT

16. REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES MAYFIELD VILLAGE CENTRE

- 16.1. LM declared a personal interest on this issue (see minute 1.1).
- 16.2. It was reported that full estimates for the proposed village centre would be ready by 18 July 2008.
- 16.3. There was some debate over the need to progress with the Topographical survey. It was noted that the Parish Council were awaiting the original copy of the invoice from the chosen surveyor. LM and JW considered that the estimate of £950 for the survey and £125 for other associated costs seemed in their views to be reasonable. PD suggested that the Parish Council consider paying for the survey to be completed.

Vote for 8 Against 1 Abstain 3 Total 12

It was decided to progress the issue at the F&GP meeting on 28 July 2008 (8F04).

- 16.4. It was noted that the Parish Council were unable to reclaim on behalf of the charity.

17 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES NOT MEETING DURING THE PERIOD

- 17.1 Traffic – PD reported that speed restriction policy for Five Ashes was under discussion. It was noted that there was already a 30 mph restriction for Frant. Chris Dowling noted that there were siting problems at Five Ashes.
- 17.2 Youth – EW reported that the next meeting of the Youth Committee would be on 23 July 2008. The Committee had applied for a grant towards the Drop-in Centre, but this had not been successful.

18 MINUTES OF THE RISK ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 7 JULY 2008

- 18.1 RF reported on the meeting noting that the Committee had reviewed the Financial Regulations, Financial Process and the Budget Timetable, which now included provision for the Clerk's appraisal.
- 18.2 The minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS vote.

19 DOCUMENTATION

- 19.1 With two amendments the Financial Process Document was approved by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 19.2 It was noted that the Financial Regulations did not need amending.
- 19.3 The Budget Timetable was approved without amendment by UNANIMOUS vote.

20 NEWICK LANE

- 20.1 JB noted that the Gateway project submitted in March had been delayed pending the adoption of EU regulation standards for the collapsible posts. She considered that these could be £3000 per post. Further news would be available in September.
- 20.2 With regard to the project to instruct all TESCO drivers to maintain appropriate speeds for country lanes JB reported that all drivers would need to be trained.
- 20.3 TL reported that the Black and Yellow 30 mph signs had some effect on traffic calming, but there was still a problem. There had been two near misses recently.
- 20.4 JB reported that a child had been seen on the road in the evening wearing a green jumper and black trousers. She considered that this was dangerous. HH said he would follow the matter up.

ACTION HH

21 FIVE ASHES PLAY AREA

- 21.1 The Clerk reported as the following actions had been taken regarding the Five Ashes Play Areas:
- Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents will inspect the site and report on condition. This will be done on an annual basis.
 - Play area has been closed off.
 - Communication channels have been set up between the Parish Council and the Five Ashes Field Committees, based on the principle of one point of contact. The Committee have been asked to consider what is wanted for the future.
 - In the meantime estimates have been obtained for a replacement climbing frame and we need to focus our minds on a financial commitment, should the Parish Council so decide, on £10,000 - £14,000 for the climbing frame alone.

- 21.2 PD noted that the Parish Council had been in negotiations with Five Ashes for some time before 2005, and that he thought that Asset Values and Insurance provision had been agreed. He undertook to carry out further research on the subject.

ACTION PD

22 CLERK REPORT JULY (8X04)

- 22.1 There were no comments on the Clerk's report.

23 ITEMS OF INFORMATION

- 23.1 EW noted that WDC had commented at the Annual Parish Meeting on mobile children's play vehicle which would be visiting surrounding villages. She asked for further information.

ACTION DT

- 23.2 PD noted that the website was substantially out of date and needed fully updating.

ACTION DT

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 21.47 HOURS.

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

VENUE: MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

DATE: 8 SEPTEMBER 2008

TIME: 1930 HOURS