



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

HELD AT FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 9 February 2009 AT 1930 HOURS

Chairman of Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council
Councillor Martin Pitcher

8C10

FINAL

MARTIN PITCHER
CHAIRMAN

SUMMARY OF MEETING

- Argos Hill Windmill arrangements
- Further topographical survey for MVC to be prepared.
- Financial Results – Revised Year End Forecast approved.
- Progress on Five Ashes speed negotiations discussed.
- Complaints over members interests on Planning Applications discussed.
- WDC Local Strategic Partnership Initiative discussed.
- Youth Group in Centre activities reported.
- More meetings for Court Meadow Management Committee agreed.

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)	Apologies for Absence (H)
Robert Fitzsimmons	(RF)	Present and Voting
Chris Lilly	(CL)	Present and Voting
Jerry Watkiss	(JW)	Present and Voting
Lloyd McLean	(LM)	Present and Voting
Monica Aitken	(MA)	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 G Wells ESCC Councillors Robert Tidy (RT), Chris Dowling (CD)
David Thompson Parish Clerk (DT), Nicholas Hitchen (Courier Newspapers)

Apologies for Absence

Brian Redman (BR), Jonica Fox (JF), Robert Standley (RS)
There were no members of the public present.

MINUTES

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS ON AGENDA ITEMS BELOW

- 1.1. Councillor Jane Driscoll declared an interest on section 9 of the minutes.
- 1.2. There were no other declarations of interest.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

- 2.1. The Chairman welcomed Ms Monica Aitken, as the Parish Council member for Rushers Cross. She had signed the declaration of acceptance.
- 2.2. The Chairman reported that there had been two complaints regarding Planning Application WD/2008/3045/F May House, The Warren, Mayfield concerning conflicts of interests by Parish Councillor J Driscoll. These had been dealt with by the Parish Office.

3. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 12 JANUARY 2009 (8C09)

- 4.1. Two minor errors of fact were reported, after which the minutes were accepted by UNANIMOUS vote.

OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS ON THE MINUTES

- 4.2. With regard to minute 8C09/15.1 it was noted by GP that the draft lease documents had still not been received. DT to follow up.

ACTION DT

- 4.3. With regard to an observation made by B Pike in January Yellow Pages, with regard to Mayfield and Five Ashes Society proposal to independently register Court Meadow as a Village Green, it was **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to ascertain whether this was possible.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26 JANUARY 2009 (8F09)

- 5.1. There were two minor errors of fact accepted, after which the minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 5.2. CL noted that he had no further report to make on the minutes.

QUESTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE MINUTES

- 5.3. PD asked for clarification over minute 8F09/5.2 with regard to the topographical survey being prepared by ACAD mapping. The survey would be amended to show detailed boundary lines as per the Parish Council stated policy of 22 July 2008.

6. FINANCE REPORT DECEMBER 2008 (8FA09)

- 6.1 CL introduced the Finance Report for December 2008. He noted that the key features were:
- Less interest being earned due to falling rates and reduced reserve balances.
 - A revised out turn forecast of £92,000.
 - Current expenditure rates would just cover the anticipated out turn and were on target to achieve the forecast results.
- 6.2 There were no questions on the Finance report.

7. REPORT FROM ESCC COUNCILLORS R TIDY AND C DOWLING

- 7.1. East Sussex County Councillor R Tidy reported that the ESCC budget council tax would be:
- 2009/10 3.5%
- The aim for subsequent years was:
- 2010/11 3.0%
 - 2011/12 2.5%
- Subject to the County Council election results on 4 June 2009 there was proposed a substantial capital spend which would include 20 secondary schools being rebuilt, the Bexhill – Hastings link road, and 2 primary schools at Frant and Hurst Green.
- 7.2. Monies in the form of grants were being made to the ESCC Credit Union and the Hastings Credit Union. He noted that there was an increase in the activities of loan sharks in these areas.
- 7.3. A project had been started to provide expanded broadband width in the ESCC area.
- 7.4. Other issues were:
- £250,000 Age Concern benefit take up to find people who are reluctant to claim.
 - Youth activities £120,000
 - Following the ‘Baby P’ case there had been a 25% increase in the numbers of children taken into care by Social Services.
 - ROW survey £150,000 to be made available.
 - Promotion of Community Transport, with a transfer of money to develop good public transport routes.
 - The Village Maintenance gangs were preparing work programmes. The number of gangs had been increased from two to four.
 - Development of self-issue machines in libraries.
 - PCSO transport in East Sussex where taxis will be used to overcome the problem of vehicle provision.
- 7.5. JB asked why the PCSO for Mayfield and Rotherfield could not be provided with a bicycle. It was noted that it now took 2.5 days of training to be able to ride a bicycle.
- 7.6. PD noted the shift in ESCC cycling strategy from leisure to utility and noted that there was no substantial funding for dedicated cycle routes – was this the end of the NCN21! RT noted that indeed utility cycling was now the priority, that the NCN would get priority only if funded, and that rural cycle projects were not likely to be completed.

- 7.7. PD raised the issue of the Dungeness Government Strategic siting assessment and asked how this fitted with the ESCC non nuclear policy. RT noted that this policy was inherited from 8 years previous and that it might be amended to accommodate Dungeness 'C' which was important to East Sussex for employment and a source of power.
- 7.8. CD reported that he had been proactive with regard to the Five Ashes Speed Restriction petition and that it was on the ESCC agenda.

8. REPORT FROM WDC COUNCILLOR G WELLS

- 8.1. GW reported that there had been environmental damage from fly tipping in the Ashdown Forest area, and that overall there had been 326 incidents reported; 33 of the cases had sufficient evidence to warrant prosecution.
- 8.2. There was to be an environmental guide on how to tackle climate change. This would be paid for from advertising.
- 8.3. Fight against waste – WDC had increased their coverage to 26% from 22.1%.
- 8.4. Resulting from the 'Credit Crunch' more people were moving out of houses and seeking council accommodation. A website had been set up to help businesses and residents by providing advice.
- 8.5. A new online calendar had been set up by WDC.
- 8.6. The recent cold weather had resulted in a burst water main at the Hailsham Offices. The problem was still being attended to.
- 8.7. There had been a considerable reduction in the number of planning applications.
- 8.8. WDC council tax increase would be 3.5%. The Council decision would be made on 25 February 2009.
- 8.9. There was to be a consultation on housing revenues. WDC were a net loser in the national scheme and paid £2.8m to Central Government for major repair subsidies.
- 8.10. PD asked whether staff salary increases would be held. It was noted that these issues were in consultation and many part-time staff and consultants had gone.

9. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 26 JANUARY 2009 (8P14)

- 9.1. The minutes of the meeting were approved by UNANIMOUS vote without amendment.
- 9.2. PD reported that an application for retrospective work at the Middle House, Mayfield had been withdrawn.
- 9.3. With regard to the problems over the application for May House (see minute 8C10/2.2), PD noted that the application had been declared invalid and had been returned to the owners because they needed to serve a notice on all residents involved, and that a fresh application was necessary.
- 9.4. PD noted that the Chairman's comments did not say what action the Parish Council proposed to take over the remarks made by certain residents that the applicants had been given preferential treatment because of the position as a Councillor. It was noted that all rules had been followed.
- 9.5. In the debate which followed it was clear that the majority of members felt aggrieved by the remarks made by residents over the Council's conduct in this case. It was therefore

agreed that the Clerk would write to the resident concerned and demand an apology for the remarks made.

ACTION DT

- 9.6. It was also noted that the March Yellow Pages included information of the safeguards in place which prevent preferential treatment being given to individual Councillors.

10. MINUTES OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2009 (8D07)

- 10.1. Three errors were accepted to the minutes, after which they were approved by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 10.2. It was noted that Councillor William King had addressed the Committee on the Local Strategic Partnership initiative and that little progress was being made on the review of planning boundaries by WDC.
- 10.3. JB noted that with regard to the repair work on Newick Lane. Work was being done to the edge of the carriage way and a number of posts had been pushed over by lorries.

11. MINUTES OF THE SECURITY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 13 JANUARY 2009 (8S05)

- 11.1. There were no amendments to the minutes which were accepted by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 11.2. With regard to minute 8S05/5.2 PA asked why, that in the case of the two reports over the incident of the armed man, no confirmation was found in police records. RF explained that this was a police exercise.

12. MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2009 (8Y07)

- 12.1. One error was accepted to the minutes, which were then approved by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 12.2. EW reported that:
- Janet Stead will be asking the Drop-in members tomorrow if they want to go to Laser Quest in Eastbourne. We have suggested to Janet asking the youths to make a contribution of, say, £3 each towards it as this would mean a commitment from them and gives us a better idea of numbers for the trip.
 - EW had been contacting companies to enquire about the cost of hiring a 16 seater minibus and prices range from £160-£210. One firm have quoted £150 if we use them for 6 trips a year. This to be discussed at the next Youth meeting. We are advertising in the Yellow Paper for volunteers with larger vehicles to help with transport to outings and D Kirkness is awaiting further news regarding our possibly using the Heathfield Youth Express minibus, although it is believed that we may have to provide our own suitably licensed and insured driver.
 - With a view to providing the Drop-in members with some exercise in the confines of London House during the winter months, DK has suggested purchasing a Nintendo Wii with Wii Fit. When I checked yesterday Argos was out of stock but were offering a very good deal on the console with Wii sport (the package with extra controllers, accessories and game was £214). We are hoping to purchase this now and get the Wii Fit when it comes back to stock. The Wii Fit and board is £68.46 plus a half price bag at £7.50).

13. FIVE ASHES SPEED RESTRICTIONS MEETING HELD ON 2 FEBRUARY 2009.

13.1. PD reported two schemes had been presented to the meeting.

- The first project proposed:
 - 50 mph from Mayfield to Toll Cottage.
 - 40 mph Toll Cottage to Five Ashes just north of Criers Lane.
 - 30 mph just north of Criers Lane – end of recreation ground (including Criers Lane)
 - 40 mph end of recreation ground – south of Froghole Lane
 - 50 mph South of Froghole Lane – site near Chequers including the junction with A272.

- The second project proposed:

The second option, which had been produced in response to the Five Ashes public opinion and the petition to ESCC. At this stage it was a draft, needed police approval and also some detail checks. The proposal was:

- 50 mph from Mayfield to just south of Fir Point Collage.
- 30 mph from just south of Fir Point Cottage – Summerhill Farmhouse including Criers Lane and Leeds Lane.
- 50 mph form Summerhill Farmhouse – a site near ‘Chequers’.

- It was noted that:

ESCC would produce a draft of the final version of project 2, in time for the meeting of the Full Council on 9 March at Mayfield.

- They would answer public questions.
- Ask the Parish Council to approve the scheme.

14. REPORT FROM ARGOS HILL WINDMILL REPRESENTATIVE COUNCILLOR J DRISCOLL

14.1. There had been no further changes to the report on the position of the draft lease.

14.2. The Clerk was asked to investigate as to whether the Parish Council insurers covered the involvement in the Trust.

ACTION DT

15. REPORT FROM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCILLOR P AMANS

15.1. PA reported that:

- The recent meeting of the Chamber had been well attended and resulted in many prospective new members.

15.2. There were no questions on the Chamber of Commerce report.

**16. REPORT FROM TRANSITION MAYFIELD REPRESENTATIVE
COUNCILLOR P BALFOUR**

16.1. PB reported that the group were going to hold a county skills event at the Memorial Hall on 25 April 2009.

17 REPORT FROM COURT MEADOW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

17.1 PB reported that the group lacked cohesion because of insufficient meetings. It was agreed that the Clerk would undertake to provide 6 meetings per year on a Monday morning.

ACTION DT

18 REPORT FROM TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

18.1 There was no report from the Traffic Committee.

18.2 With regard to horse riders using Lake Street, JB noted that a racehorse trainer used the area, and that they had statutory rights to do so. It was agreed that MA/JB would discuss the issue.

ACTION JB/MA

19 REPORT FROM RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

19.1 JB reported that efforts were being made to get a footpath adopted which passed over land being placed for sale by Mayfield Grange. Thirty-one petition questionnaires had been issued so far.

20 CLERK'S REPORT FEBRUARY 2009 (8X10)

20.1 The Clerk's report was taken as read.

20.2 RF asked if the Police report could be made available to the Security Committee.

ACTION DT

20.3 The Council wished to take places at the next WDC Planning Conference.

ACTION DT

21 ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

21.1 Speed restrictions scheme for Five Ashes presentation by ESCC at March 9 meeting (8C11).

21.2 Finger posts at Butchers Cross damaged – details to be given to the Clerk who will arrange repair.

ACTION LM/DT

21.3 Finger post on Lake Street damaged. Clerk to arrange repair.

ACTION MA/DT

21.4 JD reported iron bar and step broken on footpath in Court Meadow.

ACTION DT

21.5 Gateway Project discussion – postponed.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2124 HOURS.

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

VENUE: MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

DATE: 9 MARCH 2009

TIME: 1930 HOURS