



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

**HELD AT MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
ON MONDAY 14th September 2009 AT 1930 HOURS**

**Chairman of Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council
Councillor R Fitzsimmons**

**9C05
FINAL**

**R FITZSIMMONS
CHAIRMAN**

ATTENDANCE

Robert Fitzsimmons	(RF)	Present and Voting
Monica Aitken	(MA)	Present and Voting
Paul Amans	(PA)	Present and Voting
Patricia Balfour	(PB)	Not present
Jayne Bramwell	(JB)	Present and Voting
Andrew Burnett	(AB)	Apologies for absence
Warwick Child	(WC)	Present and Voting after item 3.2
Jane Driscoll	(JD)	Present and Voting
Hubert Hills	(HH)	Present and Voting
Chris Lilly	(CL)	Present and Voting
Lloyd McLean	(LM)	Present and Voting
Graham Playfoot	(GP)	Present and Voting
Deveda Redman	(DR)	Present and Voting
Jerry Watkiss	(JW)	Apologies for absence
Elaine Wheeler	(EW)	Apologies for absence

Also in attendance:

ESCC Councillors Robert Tidy (RT) and Chris Dowling (CD), Wealden District Councillors Brian Redman (BR) and Robert Standley (RS), PC Etherington, Locum Clerk Philippa Hewes, administration assistant Zoë Driscoll, Warwick Child candidate for co-option, 1 member of the public and 1 member of the press.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Burnett, Watkiss and Wheeler: reasons noted and accepted. Apology received from District Cllr. Wells.

MINUTES

1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Burnett, Watkiss and Wheeler: reasons noted and accepted.

Apology received from District Cllr. Wells.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

3. CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBER

3.1 Discussion on any further action required following the complaint made by former Cllr. Peter Deller on the procedure of letters written concerning a planning issue (refer Minutes 13.07.09 item 3). Some members wished to delay a co-option to allow Mr Deller to apply.

3.2 A vacancy is filled by co-option as soon as practicable unless there is less than six months before an election. Applications for the vacancy had been received from Warwick Child and Peter Hartfield.

3.3 Following a resolution to vote by signed ballot Warwick Child was co-opted to fill the vacancy and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed.

3.4 Following a request by Cllr. McLean, the voting was recorded:
Warwick Child 4, Peter Hartfield 0, abstentions 6.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 PC Etherington reported that there had been a number of thefts of garden machinery from outbuildings and asked that members of the public consider their security arrangements.

4.2 Traffic speed checks have been conducted in the parish.

4.3 It is proposed to have a large Police presence at the carnival on Saturday.

Report from County Cllr. Dowling

4.4 A report from Cllr. Dowling was brought forward as he had to leave the meeting. Cllr. Dowling hoped that the council would agree with the traffic calming proposal to be considered under item 21.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

5.1 Member of the public advised that he was present to observe discussion on item 15 South Street allotments and car park.

6. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 13.07.09 (9C04)

6.1 Following one minor amendment to item 27.2, it was resolved to approve the Minutes of the meeting held 13.07.09.

Observations on the Minutes

6.2 It was noted that Mr Deller may have copies of the reports/correspondence of the initial discussions concerning the possible development of the South Street allotment/car park site.

6.3 It was noted that the Minutes of the Annual Assembly had not yet been circulated to members.

7. MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD 27.07.09 (9F04)

7.1 Resolved to approve the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Executive Committee meeting held 27.07.09.

7.2 The following items were reported:

- Presentation had been received from a representative of Five Ashes Village Hall on maintenance and the strategic plans for the hall.
- Cost savings of £5000 to be sought on council budget to off-set the loss of income.
- Some members had attended training on the Power of Well-being.

7.3 Report of a day-burning light in East Street.

8. FINANCE REPORT JUNE 2009 (9FA03) AND JULY 2009 (9FA04)

8.1 Financial report for July was reviewed and noted; the new style report will include a bank reconciliation and a detailed analysis for each item.

9. REPORTS BY ESCC COUNCILLORS

9.1 Cllr. Tidy reported on a proposal from Network Rail to remove the train service from Hastings to Cannon Street and to reduce the number of carriages on Charing Cross trains from 2015. Any reduction in the transport links to London will affect commuters in North Wealden which may impact the economy of the area. A meeting is scheduled 27.11.09 to discuss the future of the Hastings/Cannon Street train service; parish councils affected by the proposal will be invited together with MPs and representatives from Network Rail and the Department of Transport.

9.2 ESCC has recently opened a gypsy/traveller transit site in the Lewes area.

9.3 Report of a proposal to use the redundant railway line between Mayfield and Rotherfield as a footpath/bridleway. There may be an issue in joining the new path to the existing footpath network. One member commented that approximately 12 years ago an agreement had been considered to establish a track over this private land; a record should be available at ESCC.

9.4 One member questioned how employment vacancies were advertised within the area; the nearest job centres being located at Tunbridge Wells and Eastbourne. It was noted that the use of advertising cards at the Post Office provided a useful source of information.

10. REPORTS BY WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

10.1 Cllr Standley reported on the Local Development Framework consultation. 1150 responses had been received with 2/3rds submitted online.

10.2 There is pressure on public sector finances and the district council has commenced a transformation programme to achieve significant savings over the next few years.

11. MINUTES OF PLANNING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD 13.07.09 (9P05), 3.08.09 (9P06) AND 24.08.09 (9P07)

11.1 Resolved to approve the Minutes of Planning Executive Committee meetings held 13.07, 3.08 and 24.08.

11.2 It was noted that recommendations on planning applications have been expanded to reflect the observations of the committee.

11.3 It is proposed that committee members will undertake site visits to view application sites as appropriate.

12. MINUTES OF THE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD 20.07.09 (9D02) AND 17.08.09 (9D03)

12.1 Resolved to approve the Minutes of the Development Advisory Committee meetings held 20.07 and 17.08.

12.2 Report on the review of the Local Development Framework consultation. The Committee had selected housing option 3; this focused growth on the Uckfield and Polegate areas. Employment option 7 for dispersed employment development had been selected.

12.3 Parking provision of 1 ½ cars per new dwelling was not considered sufficient for many rural areas.

13. WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – CORE STRATEGY

13.1 Dealt with under item 12.2.

14. ANNUAL RETURN AND INTERNAL AUDIT

14.1 The council was selected by the External Auditor for a more extensive audit 2008/09; questions/information are being dealt with as required.

15. MAYFIELD SOUTH STREET ALLOTMENTS AND CAR PARK SITE – HOUSING POLICIES

15.1 There was a discussion concerning the possible development of land at South Street and the car park. There may be a fault line underground which would require extensive ground works to be undertaken as part of a building project. Records do not indicate that any project has been agreed. Enquiries will continue to be made.

15.2 It was noted that parking in the centre of Mayfield is an issue; traders are encouraged to park away from the High Street.

15.3 Meeting adjourned under standing order 67. Member of the public advised that a letter had been sent to Wealden District Council advising of the issues with land stability and underground springs.

16. PANDEMIC FLU

16.1 Report received of a meeting of the Pandemic Flu Group Sub-committee and the preparations for the anticipated second phase of swine flu.

16.2 Some traders have agreed to deliver food to a central point and a number of residents have volunteered to help with food distribution and other duties as required. Volunteers will be issued with identity cards.

17. MINUTES OF THE RIGHTS OF WAY AND TREES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 19.08.09 (9R03)

17.1 Resolved to approve the Minutes of the Rights of Way and Trees Advisory Committee meeting held 19.08.09.

17.2 Outcome of Appeal for diversion of Footpath 32 is awaited.

17.3 More than 30 people have completed evidence forms regarding the claimed footpath on land at Mayfield College.

18. MINUTES OF THE COURT MEADOW ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 17.08.09 (9K04)

18.1 Resolved to approve the Minutes of the Court Meadow Advisory Committee meeting held 17.08.09.

18.2 Comment that item 4.1 of the Minutes 17.08.09 refers to budgeting for the resurfacing of footpath 55; ESCC is responsible for footpaths and there are limited funds for this type of work.

19. MINUTES OF THE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 22.07.09 (9Y02)

19.1 Following one minor amendment to item 3.1, it was resolved to approve the Minutes of the Youth Advisory Committee meeting held 22.07.09.

19.2 There was a question on the finance of a recent trip to London as reported in item 3.1; the funding arrangements were not known.

20. MINUTES OF THE SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 14.07.09 (9S02)

20.1 Resolved to approve the Minutes of the Security Committee meeting held 14.07.09.

9C05

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21. RESOLUTION 9C08 FIVE ASHES SPEED RESTRICTION

- 21.1 Review of the proposal to change the speed restriction at Five Ashes.
- 21.2 It was resolved to approve the ESCC speed restriction proposals as described on ESCC drawing number E10053/10, noting the comments of the ESCC traffic engineers.

22. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

- 22.1 Argos Hill Windmill
A meeting is scheduled in October to discuss the lease and trust arrangements for the windmill.
- 22.2 Transition Mayfield
No report.
- 22.3 Mayfield Village Centre
Revised costs awaited following a meeting with the architect to discuss the proposed change to the site.
- 22.4 Mayfield and Five Ashes Chamber of Commerce
The late night Christmas shopping event will be held 4.12.09.

23. CLERK'S REPORT

- 23.1 Clerk's report was reviewed and noted.
- 23.2 Some amendments are required to the list of councillors and lay members.
- 23.3 The Statement of Intent for Community Engagement was noted; this will be progressed under the Power of Well-being.
- 23.4 Further discussion on the action of the council concerning the complaint made by former Cllr. Peter Deller (see item 3.1). A proposal to exclude the press and public on the grounds of confidentiality was not passed.
- 23.5 A request for the following motion to be included on the agenda for this meeting had been refused:
Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council resolves to record that the critical and adverse statements concerning the conduct of and performance of former Parish Councillor Peter Deller, written in the Parish Council letter dated 7th April 2009 addressed to Mr Blundell, are unreservedly withdrawn.
- 23.6 Some members wished to take a vote on the motion; they were advised that this action was not permitted as the item was not on the agenda.
- 23.7 It was agreed that the motion proposed under 23.5 would be included on the agenda for the next full council meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.40pm.

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

VENUE: MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

DATE: 12TH OCTOBER 2009

TIME: 1930 HOURS