



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

**HELD AT MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
ON MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2012 AT 1930 HOURS**

**Chairman of Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council
Councillor Deveda Redman**

**11C10
APPROVED
FULL COUNCIL**

**DEVEDA REDMAN
CHAIRMAN**

SUMMARY OF MEETING

- Finance Report for November approved.
- Standing Orders approved.
- Councillor Bob Tidy awarded MBE in New Year Honours list.
- Local resident allocation of affordable housing discussed.

ATTENDANCE

Robert Fitzsimmons	(RF)	Present and Voting
Monica Aitkin	(MA)	Present and Voting
Rosemary Neal	(RN)	Apologies for Absence (H)
Patricia Balfour	(PB)	Present and Voting
Jayne Bramwell	(JB)	Present and Voting
Andrew Burnett	(AB)	Present and Voting
Warwick Child	(WH)	Present and Voting
Jane Driscoll	(JD)	Present and Voting
Ian Parker	(IP)	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)	Present and Voting
Elaine Wheeler	(EW)	Apologies for Absence (B)

Present and voting 13 Present and not voting 0
Apologies for Absence 2 Not present 0 Other Council Business 0

Also in attendance: East Sussex County Council Councillors Robert Tidy (RT) and Chris Dowling, Wealden District Council Brian Redman (BR), Robert Standley and Graham Wells and David Thompson, Clerk.

Apologies for Absence: WDC Councillor Jonica Fox

There was one member of the public present.

MINUTES

1. COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS

- 1.1. There were no declarations of interests by members on agenda items.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 2.1. The Chairman wished all members of the Parish Council and principal authorities a happy New Year.
- 2.2. The Chairman congratulated East Sussex County Councillor Bob Tidy on receiving the MBE in the New Year Honours list. This news was greeted with spontaneous applause from all persons present to the meeting.
- 2.3. Arising from the attempted theft of wire from the stub end of the old A267 near Bridleway 92, British Telecomm representatives had visited the area to thank local residents for their vigilance. It had also been agreed that BT would address the Parish Council on security issues in the near future. It was also suggested that the Parish Council invite representatives from nearby Parish Councils to attend. The visit to be arranged for February or March.

ACTION DT

3. POLICE REPORT

- 3.1. PM the PCSO for Five Ashes reported:

Five Ashes

- 24.11.11 Vehicles broken into and chainsaw stolen.
- 25.11.11 Skippers Hill vehicle broken into and shopping bag stolen.
- 07.12.11 Vehicle broken into and chainsaw stolen.
- 07.12.11 Outbuildings broken into nothing stolen.
- 05.01.12 Vehicle stolen in Meres Lane.

Other News

Please keep your outbuildings secure and be vigilant. Secure your property such as powered garden machinery, mowers, quads, 4x4s.

Please contact me if you would be interested in horse/farm watch or if you know a club or group who would like to meet me in the community.

Heathfield Police Team have a TWITTER account Heathfield_pol this will give you the opportunity to follow the team.

Please look on crime mapper on police.uk website for crime information in area.

Dates

- 11.01.12 Street Meeting 0830-0900 hours outside Five Ashes public house.

- 3.2. It was also noted that there would be a police and residents meetings outside the Five Ashes Public House on 3 February 2012 at 8.30pm.

3.3. In the absence of PCSO Boyle, the Chairman reported that:

01/12 Serial 0498 car keyed which was parked on South Street car park.

01/12 Serial 0733 van stolen which was working on Argos Hill, possibly left insecure.

15/12 Serial 0773 van working on Newick Lane had wallet stolen from front seat, believed it was unlocked.

16/12 Serial 1321 car keyed which was parked in South Street car park, same vehicle as before.

17/12 Serial 1223 heating unit stolen from Mayfield cricket club organised by private party.

09/12 Serial 0309 burglary to shed on Little Trodgers Lane, good bike and power tools stolen.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

4.1. Mr Sutton a resident of Fletching Street reported on the results of the recent petition to ESCC to have a 20 mph speed restriction imposed on Fletching Street to deal with the growing traffic problems.

- 20 mph requested for the whole of Fletching Street.
- Of the 61 dwellings consulted 39 in favour and 5 against. No response – 17.
- East Sussex County Council had indicated that a 20 mph scheme without traffic calming humps would cost £2,500. With traffic calming humps the cost would be between £30,000-£50,000.
- ESCC had indicated that the project did not have sufficient priority to be carried out at present, but would be possible if funding was provided by residents.
- It was noted that speeds were being monitored at present.

4.2. Councillor R Tidy noted that he had intervened in this matter and that there may well be opportunities to negotiate a more favourable outcome.

5. EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

5.1. RT reported that he had nothing to report but wished to thank all the residents of Mayfield for the help and support given to him in his 14 years as a county councillor. He announced that he would retire from public office in 2013, and that it had been a privilege to serve the people. He was satisfied that he had made a difference.

5.2. CD reported that he had inspected the A267 traffic calming route with RF, and had relayed the Parish Council's issues with regard to the 30 mph and other signs being obliterated by foliage back to the traffic engineers.

There would be further consultation with the Parish Council.

It was suggested that the Parish Council request local landowners to give permission for offending foliage to be cut back at any time as required by the Highway Authorities. The Clerk would place on the agenda for the next meeting of the Community Safety and Traffic Committee.

ACTION DT

6. WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

6.1. GW reported that:

Cabinet has proposed to freeze the Wealden element of council tax for the second year, making use of the Government's support for those councils who limit expenditure increases to 2.5 per cent. The Wealden element of residents' total council tax bill will remain at £174.06 for an average Band D property for the third year in a row. "We are doing our part in helping reduce the national debt and launched our Transformation Programme nearly three years ago. It has delivered substantial savings, and when fully implemented, will deliver savings of over £3 million a year while maintaining key services," said Council Leader Bob Standley. The 2012/13 budget does not allow for a general pay increase for Wealden staff or an increase in Councillors' allowances. There will be provision in the budget for the Council's lowest paid staff to receive a small increase in line with Government policy.

6.2. In keeping with the national policy to increase local authority rents until they are in line with Housing Association rents, the Council will be consulting on proposals to increase rents for Wealden District Council tenants by an average of 8.5 per cent. The increase is limited for individual tenants to inflation + 0.5% + £2 per week. Following last year's consultation with tenants, Cabinet agreed to reduce the size of the 2011/12 average rental increase from 6.8% to 5.8% on the understanding that the following year's increase would take account of the concession. Unfortunately inflation, a key element in the rental increase formula, has remained high throughout the year and in September was recorded at 5.6%. Some 64% of Wealden's tenants receive some housing benefit and for those who receive maximum housing benefit, the rent increase will be met in full.

6.3. The digital switchover in the Wealden area will start on 30 May 2012 when the traditional television signal will be switched off. For older and disabled viewers who may find making the switchover difficult, the BBC is running a Switchover Help Scheme.

Most people will be asked to pay £40 towards the standard option of help. This includes:

- Easy to use equipment to convert one set.
- An approved installer to supply and install the necessary equipment.
- A 12 month aftercare service including a free helpline.

The service is free to people over 75 who also receive pension credit income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance or income-related employment and support allowance, as well as others who meet the eligible criteria.

6.3.1 The consultation on the proposed changes to the Council's Housing Allocations Policy ends on 6 January 2012. There are some significant changes affecting prospective new tenants' local connection to Wealden, contributions to the community and an expansion of the area covered under the Parish Lettings Policy to include Heathfield and Waldron and Forest Row. Also included are proposals to change the short-listed procedure for rural properties and the number of refusals applicants can make before their priority is reduced.

- 6.4. With regard to the Housing Allocations Policy members of the Parish Council complained that Mayfield and Five Ashes people, despite being on the accommodation list were not being allocated properties, and allocations were being given to other parishes.

On request to have a copy of the housing allocations list GW said that this was not possible and suggested that the Parish Council encourage people to come forward by using Yellow Pages.

LM suggested that the Parish Council should start to build up their own list.

- 6.5. With regard to the Section 106 agreement to provide community use of the Cricket Ground at the Grange site, this has now become embroiled in a legal dispute over what constituted the number of games allowed for community use. There would be a public meeting in due course.

7. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2012 (11C09)

- 7.1. There were four items of accuracy accepted after which the minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 7.2. Questions were raised as follows:
- Five Ashes War Memorial Appeal progress.
 - Youth Group reports to Community Development Committee.
 - Situation with regard to the Maypole.
 - Village sign near Piccadilly Lane.

8. FINANCE REPORT 11FA09 NOVEMBER 2012

- 8.1. CL drew attention to the salient features of the Finance Report notions that:
- The high overspend in the month was largely due to catch up of previous periods budgeted expenditure.
 - The year to date results were £12,575 below budget expectation due to reasons explained in detail in the report.
 - There would be an outturn review in the December Report.
 - There was an overspend on Corporate expenses due to the office move delay.
- 8.2. It was noted that the November report had not been seen previously by the Finance and General Purposes Committee (no meeting available).
- 8.3. The Finance Report was approved by the Full Council by Unanimous Vote.

9. RESOLUTION 11C15 STANDING ORDERS

9.1. There have been no suggested amendments to Standing Orders from members or from the National Association of Local Councils. Therefore it is suggested that Standing Orders are adopted for 2012 unchanged.

9.2. RESOLUTION 11C15 STANDING ORDERS

That Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council adopt the current Standing Orders for 2012/13.

Proposed by Councillor D Redman, Seconded by Councillor R Fitzsimmons

The RESOLUTION was approved by UNANIMOUS vote.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1. Rights of Way and Trees

No report.

10.2. Community Safety and Traffic

- RF reported on the rise in low level crime.
- LM reported that in his view the 50 mph sign showing the starting point of the Five Ashes Traffic Calming Scheme should be reduced. It was noted that this had been discussed in the early days of the project but was not possible.

10.3. Community Development

No report.

10.4. Planning Executive

GP reported on the application for Rock Cottage which had been discussed at the meeting of the Planning Committee that morning at which 9 members of the public had attended.

11. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

11.1. Transition Mayfield – DR reported that Transition Mayfield were applying for a grant for their local energy assessment project and that the Parish Council had agreed to support them with the grant process. This had been arranged between DT/DR/PB.

PB noted that the next meeting of Transition Mayfield was on Monday 16 January 2012 at 18:50 hours.

11.2. Argos Hill Windmill – It was reported that the protective tarpaulin had broken loose in the recent high winds, but had been re-secured by group members.

11.3. British Legion Mayfield Branch – WH reported that this project was in abeyance due to members not being able to reach agreement on how the branch should be organised.

11.4. Chamber of Commerce were seeking funding for various projects. AB would meet with Clerk.

ACTION AB

12. CLERK'S REPORT JANUARY 2012

- 12.1 The Clerk's report was accepted by UNANIMOUS vote after one amendment had been accepted.
- 12.2 The Clerk reported the following issues since the issue of the report:
 - Land purchase contracts were being exchanged.
 - New lighting energy contract being negotiated.
 - Ecology report for BW92 received.
 - Support to Transition Mayfield for Local Energy Assessment project.

13. QUESTIONS TO THE CLERK

- 13.1. There were no questions to the Clerk.

14 ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

- 14.1 LM suggested that a survey be conducted through Yellow Pages to get details of persons who were on Mayfield and Five Ashes social housing list.
- 14.2 JB reported that she had been investigating various types of rubber surfaces as a possible substitute to bark, but needed to have an area calculation of the Five Ashes play area for the assessment.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 21.25 HOURS.

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

VENUE: FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL

DATE: MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2012

TIME: 1930 HOURS

Annex 1

Actions from Meeting 10C07		
MINUTE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
• 10C07/7.5	Clerk to develop a press policy.	OPEN
Actions form Meeting 10C09		
• 10C09/11.3	Maypole – arrangements to be made for its recovery. In hand.	OPEN
• 10C09/13.4	Court Meadow encroachment – Clerk to start arrangements to solve problem. In hand.	OPEN
• 10C09/14.5	Mayfield village sign near Piccadilly Lane damaged – In hand.	OPEN
Actions from Meeting 10C11		
• 10C11/11.2	Clerk to offer support to Rotherfield Parish Council for their Rotherfield – Jarvis Brook footpath.	OPEN
• 10C11/22.2	Village section of website to be updated. In hand.	OPEN
Actions from Meeting 11C02		
• 11C02/12.4	Quarterly Youth Reports to be obtained. In hand.	OPEN
Actions from Meeting 11C03		
• 11C03/3.1	Overgrown weeds at rear of Middlehouse to be cleared. In hand.	OPEN
• 11C03/14.7	Damaged bollard on Five Ashes Village Green to be replaced.	OPEN
• 11C03/14.8	Targets to be placed in Parish Plan. In hand.	OPEN
Actions from Meeting 11C04		
• 11C04/7.6	To work with Chamber of Commerce to produce a village leaflet.	OPEN
• 11C04/15.2	Slide on Court Meadow repairs to be carried out. In hand.	OPEN
Actions from Meeting 11C05		
• 11C05/3.2	Fletching Street – issue over 20 mph speed limit public concern. In hand.	OPEN
• 11C05/5.2	Southmead Housing estate current position needed. In hand.	OPEN
• 11C05/7.3	Millholme – planning application status required. In hand.	OPEN
• 11C05/7.5	Leppards Butchers – state of decoration to be followed up with Mr Smithers. Done.	OPEN
• 11C05/9.2	Develop initiative for licence with ESCC with regard to licence for Bridleway 92. In hand.	OPEN

• 11C05/15.3	Response to JB over email.	CLOSED
Actions from meeting 10C06		
• 11C06/6.2	GW to progress position with regard to community use of Grange Cricket Pitch. DT to follow up. In hand.	HELD
Actions from meeting 11C08		
• 11C08/2.2	Content of Police Reports to be widened. RT to follow up.	OPEN
• 11C08/9.9	Clerk to follow up status of grant made to Mayfield pre-school.	OPEN
• 11C08/14.4	Street light 32 covered in Ivy. Clerk to arrange clearance.	OPEN
• 11C08/13.1	Clerk to report state of road at corner of Bassets Lane. Done.	CLOSED
• 11C08/14.5	Clerk to contact school to discuss issues with regard to School Council Meetings. Done.	CLOSED
Action from meeting 11C09		
• 11C09/5.4	Investigate problems and issues over the Mayfield allocation of social housing. In hand.	OPEN
• 11C09/6.4	Mayfield Cricket Ground access issues. Current position needed. In hand.	OPEN
• 11C09/8.2	Drainage requirements for Menage Planning. Application to be made clear on planning applications. In hand.	OPEN
• 11C09/8.4	Grants award policy to be reviewed and formalised for later F&GP approval. DT.	OPEN
• 11C09/9.1	Best Village Competition – Funding withdrawn.	CLOSED
• 11C09/9.2	Clerk to advise applicants on budget decision on grants. In hand.	OPEN
• 11C09/9.5	Budget approval to be noted as necessary.	OPEN
• 11C09/9.6	Precept requirement to be advised to WDC. Done.	CLOSED
• 11C09/10.4	Harmony House, The Avenue, Mayfield – Clerk to raise drainage issues with WDC. In hand.	OPEN
• 11C09/11.3	Road renaming policy to be reviewed with WDC. Clerk to initiate. In hand.	OPEN
• 11C09/12.1	Clerk to ascertain position with regard to Fire Service recruiting in Mayfield. In hand.	OPEN
Actions from meeting 11C10		
• 11C10/2.3	DT to arrange visit to Parish Council by BT security in February or March.	OPEN
• 11C10/4.2	DT to arrange for permission for landowners on A267 Five Ashes Traffic Calming area to be able to cut back foliage from speed restrictions signs.	OPEN

Number of Actions at 10C09	35
Closed in the Period	5
New Actions 10C108	<u>2</u>
Total	