

Minutes of the Meeting of

Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council Ordinary Meeting



Venue Mayfield Primary School

Date Monday 14 January 2013

Time 19:30

12C10

Adopted

Minutes

Chairman Councillor Lloyd McLean

Attendance

Councillors:

| | | |
|--------------------|------|--------------------|
| Robert Fitzsimmons | (RF) | Present and Voting |
| Patricia Balfour | (PB) | Present and Voting |
| Jayne Bramwell | (JB) | Present and Voting |
| Warwick Child | (WH) | Present and Voting |
| Jane Driscoll | (JD) | Present and Voting |
| Ian Parker | (IP) | Present and Voting |
| Graham Playfoot | (GP) | Present and Voting |
| Jerry Watkiss | (JW) | Present and Voting |
| Elaine Wheeler | (EW) | Present and Voting |
| Chris Lilly | (CL) | Present and Voting |
| Monica Aitken | (MA) | Present and Voting |
| Andrew Burnett | (AB) | Present and Voting |
| Deveda Redman | (DR) | Present and Voting |
| Lloyd McLean | (LM) | Present and Voting |

Also in attendance:

Graham Wells, (WDC) Chris Dowling (ESCC), Brian Redman (WDC)
Janna Todd (Parish Clerk), Michael Sutton (member of the public)

Public Questions

Michael Sutton gave a short summary of the current position of the traffic calming proposal on Fletching Street. Following a meeting in October 2012, the plan has been updated with no staggered parking, 20mph signs and roundels on the carriageway. Vehicle activated signs have also been recommended. A meeting between Cllr Robert Fitzsimmons, Stuart Beale and Cllr Bob Tidy will be arranged to discuss the cost and how to proceed.

Cllr Bramwell raised two questions on behalf of a resident which were answered:

- i. Whether the height of a hedge can be restricted by the Parish Council - only outward growth can be restricted.
- ii. If the speed limit on Rotherfield Lane could be reduced - there are no plans for this at the current time.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Rosemary Neal, Bob Tidy (ESCC), Paula Mackie and Matt Boyle (Sussex Police).

2. Declarations of interests by members on agenda items

2.1. WH is President to the Mayfield, Five Ashes and Hadlow Down Royal British Legion, see item 4.5.

3. Chairman's Announcements

3.1. The chairman gave the Mayfield Police Report on behalf of PCSO Boyle:

- Four sheds have been broken into with electric garden tools stolen.
- Two large urns were stolen from outside the front door of a property.
- A number of parking restriction signs have been stolen from Mayfield High Street.

- 3.2. The chairman gave the Five Ashes Police Report on behalf of PCSO.Mackie:
- A vehicle was broken into and a hedge trimmer and chainsaw stolen.
 - There was an attempt to break into a property on the High Street. The front door was damaged but access not gained.
- 3.3. There is a public meeting with WDC to discuss the potential closure of South Street car park toilets on Friday 18 January 2013 at 11:00am in Mayfield Memorial Hall.
- 3.4. The Parish Council office will be open Wednesday mornings from 10:00am – 12:00pm on a permanent basis.

4. Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held 10 December 2012 (12C09) previously circulated.

Matters arising from the minutes:

- 4.1. Wildsplash have advised that the bracken on Court Meadow requires a cut when the leaves are unfurling and a second cut at the time of the grass cutting to promote the growth of wildflowers. A letter of thanks will be written. **Action JT**
- 4.2. A meeting took place with the Landlord of the Carpenters Arms to inform that the Parish Council takes the view that the boundary to Court Meadow is at the top edge of the rock face. There are no Parish Council objections to the clearance of vegetation from the rock face and access from Court Meadow for this purpose is permitted. A letter to reflect this decision will be written. **Action JT**
- 4.3. The possibility for the Carpenter's Arms to have access to Court Meadow for outside space will be placed on the next Parish Council agenda.
- 4.4. The Chairman of the Mayfield, Five Ashes and Hadlow Down Royal British Legion will discuss and arrange the Armistice Day civil ceremony with Father Nigel.
- 4.5. The cost of maintaining the church clock has been investigated. Further investigation is now required to discover whether it is covered by the Parish Council's or St Dunstan's insurance to try to determine ownership. **Action JT**
- 4.6. It was agreed that actions 11C04 and 11C05 should be removed from Annex 1.
- 4.7. The minutes were passed and adopted by UNANIMOUS vote.

5. Report from ESCC

- 5.1. Cllr Chris Dowling advised that the police are investigating the cause of two recent serious collisions at Argos Hill on the A267.
- 5.2. The County Council Tax has been frozen for the forthcoming year.
- 5.3. The Road Safety and Traffic Management Team will be requested to finish the carriageway improvements in Five Ashes as not all the road markings have been completed and the Police Speed Van has not been in operation in the village. It was recommended that a letter be written to ESCC Highways concerning this matter. **Action JT**
- 5.4. RF has informed the residents of this situation in the Five Ashes Newsletter.
- 5.5. ESCC were informed that the drains on the A267 at Welbrook Hill were still blocked despite being reported.
- 5.6. A request was made that ESCC update their map of which drains on Newick Lane are emptied by machine and which are emptied manually. There have been three recent visits and on each occasion only one drain was cleared which is inefficient and requires investigation.
- 5.7. It had been noted that there were some new deer warning signs erected around the county. The Parish Council was informed that these were temporary signs used during the winter months. They can be made available for problem areas on request from ESCC.

6. Report from Wealden District Council.

6.1. Cllr Graham Wells gave a brief summary of WDC's achievements during the last year:

- The single site move to Hailsham is complete.
- The new more environmentally friendly Civic Community Hall is being utilized.
- The car-sharing scheme is proving successful.
- The WDC Core Strategy has been approved identifying areas that can be developed.
- There have been cost saving changes to the structure of WDC and there is a new Joint Waste Contract with Rother, Hastings and Eastbourne, a shared Environmental Services Department with Rother and a shared Audit and Legal Department with Rother.

6.2. The Parish Council was informed that WDC would be freezing their Council Tax despite receiving £600,000.00 less grant.

6.3. WDC are promoting their "Get Fitter By Walking" campaign with their Leisure Department organising guided walks across the district. There are twenty walks accessible on the WDC website.

6.4. There followed a discussion of the problem with residents parking in the South Street car park and being ticketed. This will be discussed at the next Finance and General Purposes meeting and the Parish Council's desired outcome will be requested from WDC.

6.5. Complaints from residents of Vale Road had been received concerning a sand school's floodlights on Piccadilly Lane glaring into their properties. WDC advised those affected to write to their Environmental Health department

6.6. The ESCC and WDC Councillors left the meeting at 20:55.

7. Finance Report.

7.1. The Finance Report was previously circulated.

7.2. The VAT from January 2012 to November 2012 inclusive has been successfully claimed.

7.3. Given the revised plans for the Memorial Hall it was noted that one possibility for the use of the Parish Council reserves originally allocated to the new Memorial Hall might be put towards the cost of expanding the Memorial Hall car park.

7.4. From April 2013 Jubilee Wood maintenance will not be under Rights of Way expenses but have a separate cost centre.

8. Resolution 12C10: That the precept for 2013-14 should be £90,822.00.

Proposed by Councillor C Lilly

Seconded by Councillor J Watkiss

8.1. The resolution was passed with 13 votes for and one abstaining.

9. Minutes for adoption.

9.1. The following minutes were reviewed:

- 12D05 - Community Development Advisory
- 12P13 and 12P14 - Planning Executive

9.2. Matters arising from the minutes.

- Reference 12D05/4.4: A letter will be written to ESCC concerning the resurfacing of the footpath from the Memorial Hall car park to Coggins Mill Lane emphasising that the path is in lieu of a pavement in Fletching Street. Attention will be drawn to the number of parents, children and elderly using the path on a daily basis to access the school and High Street. **Action JT**

9.3. After a few minor alterations the minutes were adopted by UNANIMOUS VOTE.

10. Committee Reports

- 10.1. **Finance and General Purposes:** Nothing to report.
- 10.2. **Rights of Way and Trees:** Nothing to report.
- 10.3. **Planning Committee:** Nothing to report.
- 10.4. **Community Safety and Traffic:** All the Five Ashes War Memorial appeal letters have been delivered and to date £945 has been kindly donated.
- 10.5. **Community Development:** The committee will be compiling a formal list of village assets to be registered with WDC. This will provide the Parish Council with a right to bid should the asset be put on the market and preventing a sale for six months.

11. Reports from other representatives.

11.1. Chamber of Commerce

- A resident has actioned a petition to boycott the High Street shops as shoppers parking on double yellow lines block access to his property. More parking tickets need to be issued for this offence by the PCSO who will be informed.
- There is a recurring problem of dog excrement on Star Lane.

11.2. Argos Hill Windmill

- The plastic sheeting surrounding the windmill has been reinforced. Vincent Pargeter, a windmill expert, has disagreed with some of the latest decisions agreed between English Heritage, SPAB, WDC and the trust. The trustees will try to reach a compromise with him but this will inevitably cause some delay.

12. Clerk's Report.

- 12.1. The Clerk's Report was previously circulated.
- 12.2. There were no questions for the clerk.

13. Other items of information and next agenda items

13.1. Five Ashes Village Hall and Playing Field Trust.

- Stage three of the Big Lottery application to extend and renovate the hall has been successful with £9K awarded for surveys, plans and permissions. If given, full approval will be in August 2013 with an anticipated start date of February 2014 and costs of £300K.
- An application for funding to improve the Five Ashes play area has been accepted and its success is now awaited.

13.2. Transition Mayfield.

- A speaker is being organised to give a talk on fracking.
- Community initiatives being worked on include planting a tree with primary school children, 'Churches Together' and surveying old houses to improve insulation.

- 13.3. Some girls from St Leonard's have been parking in the Memorial Hall car park and on Tunbridge Wells Road to avoid walking up the hill from their own car park adding to the parking problem. The school secretary has been contacted but the Bursar will now be informed. **Action JD**

- 13.4. It was suggested that a Parish Council wish list should be placed in the newsletter to inform residents of things we would like to do but cannot currently afford to. Suggestions for the list should be passed to Cllr Bramwell. **Action JB**

- 13.5. The next list of works by the County Council in the Parish is required. Suggestions should be passed to the clerk. **Action JT**

- 13.6. The County Council is planning a meeting in Spring to determine their policy on repairing/replacing fingerposts. Cllr Bramwell and Cllr Child will attend.

13.7. The management and care of Jubilee Wood will be placed on the next Parish Council agenda.

Action JT

13.8. At the end of the meeting Councillor Lloyd Mclean tendered his resignation as Chairman. This was accepted by the Council who were generous with their thanks.

The meeting closed at 21:55

The next meeting of the Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council will be:

Venue: Five Ashes Village Hall
Date: Monday 11 February 2013
Time: 19:30 hours

Annex 1

| MINUTE | DESCRIPTION | STATUS |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Actions from meeting 12C07 | | |
| 12.1.3 | Monthly job list to be prepared e.g. Court Meadow drainage clearance | In hand |
| Actions from meeting 12C08 | | |
| 13.3 | Request help for Youth facility via Mayfield Newsletter | Open |
| Actions from meeting 12C09 | | |
| PQT | Investigate cost of cutting verges in Southmead | JT Open |
| 5.2 | Inform residents of 'Go East Sussex' in the Yellow Pages | JT Closed |
| 7.3 | Investigate maintenance of church clock | JT Closed |
| 9.2 | Obtain quotes for cutting environmental areas twice a year and compare costs | JT Closed |
| 9.3 | Obtain advice from Wildsplash on maintenance of environmental area. | JB Closed |
| 9.4 | Advise Mrs Henderson of decision not to clear 2 nd ditch. | JT Closed |
| 10.2 | Reminder to remove posters in Yellow Pages. | JT Closed |
| 13.2 | Check Parish Council Training course fees & book. | JT Closed |
| 14.1.1 | Organise meeting with Landlord of Carpenter's Arms. | JB/JW/JT Closed |
| 14.3.1 | Invite speaker on Fracking to next PC meeting. Transition Mayfield now dealing | PB Closed |
| 14.4.1 | Forward quotes to GH & request they raise the money | JT Closed |
| 14.4.2 | Request Love Lane tree workers trim overhanging branches | JT Closed |
| Actions from meeting 12C10 | | |
| 4.1 | Letter of thanks for Wildsplash advice | JT Open |
| 4.3 | Letter to confirm ownership of rock face behind Carpenter's Arms | JT Open |
| 4.6 | Investigate church clock insurance to try to determine ownership. | JT Open |
| 5.3 | Write to ESCC re: unfinished markings in Five Ashes RF & C Dowling dealing | Open |
| 9.2 | Request resurfacing of footpath from Memorial Hall car park – Coggins Mill Lane | JT Open |
| 13.3 | Inform Bursar of St Leonards girls not using their own car park | JD Done |
| 13.4 | Draw up wish list for newsletter | JB Open |
| 13.5 | Draw up list of works for ESCC | JT Open |

