

The Meeting of  
**Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council**  
**Statutory Meeting**



Venue Five Ashes Village Hall  
Date Monday 14 October 2013  
Time 19:30

Adopted

## Minutes

Chairman Cllr Jerry Watkiss

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### Attendance

#### Councillors:

Jerry Watkiss	Present and Voting
Graham Playfoot	Present and Voting
Lloyd McLean	Present and Voting
Warwick Child	Present and Voting
Robert Fitzsimmons	Present and Voting
Chris Lilly	Present and Voting
Patricia Balfour	Present and Voting
Gill Weavers	Present and Voting
Andrew Burnett	Present and Voting
Ian Parker	Present and Voting
Rosemary Neal	Present and Voting
Elaine Wheeler	Present and Voting
Jane Driscoll	Present and Voting
Monica Aitken	Present and Voting

### Also in attendance:

Cllr Bob Standley (ESCC/WDC), Cllr Chris Dowling (ESCC), Cllr Brian Redman (WDC)  
There were 19 members of the public present and Janna Todd (Parish Clerk)

### 1. Public Questions

- 1.1. The Parish Council were updated on current local opinion to the proposed planning application for a new dwelling at Hawthorns, West Street. The application has been called in to Wealden's Planning North Committee meeting on 24 October 2013 due to the volume of objection letters received opposing development. Cllr Standley will request a consultation on the application by East Sussex Highways.
- 1.2. Requests were received for the Parish Council to give serious consideration to an annual donation to assist with the funding of the Mayfield Bonfire Festival. See agenda item 11.
- 1.3. The fundraising team for a new skate park in Court Meadow requested that the Parish Council take responsibility for the Permitted Development Application. A representative from the Scouts was present to show their support for the project. See agenda item 8.

## **2. Apologies for Absence**

- 2.1. Cllr Deveda Redman, Cllr Graham Wells (WDC), Matt Boyle and Paula Gatward (East Sussex Police).

## **3. Declarations of interests by members on agenda items**

- 3.1. There were no declarations of interests.

## **4. Chairman's Announcements**

- 4.1. When articles and letters written for publication, Councillors were requested to state whether they are writing on behalf of the Parish Council or as a resident.

## **5. Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held 09 September 2013 (previously circulated)**

- 5.1. The minutes were passed and adopted by UNANIMOUS vote.

### **Matters arising from the minutes:**

- 5.2. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## **6. Reports from ESCC**

- 6.1. Cllr Standley announced that Mayfield is to be included in the first tranche of the instalment of Faster Broadband in East Sussex.
- 6.2. East Sussex are organising winter protection for the roads network.
- 6.3. Potholes continue to be filled with 280 miles of repairs within the last two years.
- 6.4. Cllr Dowling is insisting that the East Sussex Highways complete the outstanding road markings in Five Ashes by November and to investigate the cause of the deteriorated tarmac in front of the Five Ashes Inn.
- 6.5. Support from East Sussex Police for the Community Speed Watch Teams enables penalty tickets to be issued when motorists are caught exceeding the speed limit.
- 6.6. Cllr Dowling will enquire why Wealden Safer Roads Group believes there is no appropriate site for a police camera van in Five Ashes.
- 6.7. Data provided by the speed monitoring exercise in Five Ashes is still anticipated.

## **7. Reports from Wealden District Council**

- 7.1. Cllr Standley informed that Kier's refuse collection rates had plateaued in recent weeks below their agreed target and they are receiving financial penalties. Wealden District Council is providing assistance to resolve their collection problems.
- 7.2. Wealden's District Council's headquarters has achieved a rating of excellent for their environmental assessment.
- 7.3. More housing and new homes have been provided by Wealden District Council than in any other region of East Sussex.
- 7.4. Cllr Redman is attempting to draw Wealden's Planning Department's attention to how important the Conservation Area is to the residents of Mayfield. Concerns that Conservation Areas are not mentioned in Wealden's Core Strategy have been raised.

## **8. New skate park for Mayfield**

- 8.1. The fundraising team for a new skate park presented the Parish Council with information on the design and required funding for the project.
- 8.2. Free labour and building work has been secured for the foundations, however the cost of equipment is estimated to be £40K.
- 8.3. Cllr Parker proposed that the new skate park Permitted Development Certificate application should be in the Parish Council name to reduce costs. This was seconded by Cllr Burnett.
- 8.4. It was resolved by UNANIMOUS vote for the Parish Council to apply for the Permitted Development Certificate.
- 8.5. The VAT on skate park equipment purchased by the Parish Council on behalf of the fundraising team can be reclaimed which would further reduce cost.

## **9. Finance Report**

- 9.1. The Finance Report August 2013 was previously circulated.
- 9.2. It was noted that the final invoice for the Five Ashes play equipment will amount to £7,363.06, lower than their original quotation which included the provision of grass guard tiles and a water bowser which are not required. Work is scheduled for 4/5 November 2013.
- 9.3. Remaining funds ring fenced for the project will be utilised to fund replacement of bark chips in the play area.

## **10. Minutes for adoption (previously circulated).**

- 10.1. The following minutes were passed and adopted by UNANIMOUS vote:
  - D30SEP13 Community Development Advisory
  - P09SEP13 Planning Executive
  - P30SEP13 Planning Executive
  - P19AUG13 Planning Executive
  - F23SEP13 Finance and General Purposes Executive
- 10.2. The Japanese knotweed in Jubilee Wood has been reported to the relevant contractor for ESCC.

## **11. Mayfield Bonfire Festival**

- 11.1. Members of the Bonfire Society summarised the expenditure required to host the Mayfield Bonfire Festival and the benefits it provides for the village.
- 11.2. A request was made for the Parish Council to consider donating the equivalent of £1 per household which was thought to be some £2.5k (approximately 50% of the annual cost).
- 11.3. This will be discussed at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting.

## **12. South Street toilets**

- 12.1. The South Street toilets cleaner had reported that the toilets were in a deplorable condition the morning after the Bonfire Festival.
- 12.2. The Bonfire Society was unaware that the toilets were open during the festival and confirmed that they will be cleaned at future events.

12.3. Wealden District Council is instructing the District Valuer to provide a commercial valuation for the toilets. The Parish Council were led to believe that they hold little or no value to Wealden District Council as previous advice given was to close then demolish the building.

12.4. Cllr Redman and Cllr Standley will investigate this further to attempt to secure an affordable value/lease which would enable the Parish Council to keep the toilets open.

**Action BR/RS**

### **13. Closure of Mayfield Post Office**

13.1. Due to a breakdown in business partnership the Postmaster has been forced to resign and Mayfield Post Office has closed with immediate effect.

13.2. The Post Office Regional Coordinator has advised that interest has been shown from some businesses in the High Street to incorporate the Post Office within their existing establishment.

13.3. Community Cars informed the Parish Council that they do not have the capacity to transport the elderly to neighbouring Post Offices.

13.4. The Postmaster and Post Office Regional Coordinator will be contacted to explore possible temporary and long-term solutions for a Post Office in Mayfield.

**Action JT**

### **14. Committee Reports**

14.1. Finance and General Purposes

- The second tranche of precept has been received.
- A VAT claim for Quarter 2 has been reclaimed.
- The 2014/15 draft budget will be reviewed at the next Committee meeting.

14.2. Rights of Ways and Trees

- Nothing was reported.

14.3. Planning Committee

- Residents of West Street will be contacted to determine who will speak to object to the Hawthorns application at Wealden's Planning North Committee meeting.

**Action JT**

14.4. Community Safety and Traffic

- Residents have formed action groups to reduce the speed limit at Argos Hill and Wellbrook Hill.
- ESCC have confirmed that only two parking reviews can be funded each year. As Mayfield is not a priority there will be no review in the foreseeable future.

14.5. Community Development

- Nothing was reported.

### **15. Reports from other representatives**

15.1. Argos Hill Windmill

- Friends of Argos Hill Windmill have been fundraising and have raised £87K towards their target of £280K.
- It is hoped that a charitable donation will be received from the collections at the 2014 Mayfield Bonfire Festival.

- The History Society has kindly donated an old bakery handcart which requires renovation. They are looking for old mill related relics to add to their collection of exhibits.

15.2. Chamber of Commerce

- Christmas late night shopping is on 6 December 2013.
- The application for a licence to erect Christmas lights in Mayfield High Street has been submitted.

15.3. Wealden District Association of Local Councils

- Nothing was reported.

**16. Other items of information and next agenda items**

16.1. The Mayfield village sign in the High Street requires refurbishing. **Action JT**

16.2. The refurbishment of the Five Ashes war Memorial is complete and a Re-dedication Service is being organised.

16.3. The Five Ashes Bonfire Night Party is on 9 November 2013 at the Five Ashes playing field.

**The meeting ended at 21:35**

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

**Venue: Mayfield Primary School**  
**Date: Monday 11 November 2013**  
**Time: 19:30 hours**

.....*Chairman's Signature*

.....*Date*

**Annex 1**

MINUTE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
<b>Actions from meeting 12C07</b>		
12.1.3	Monthly job list to be prepared e.g. Court Meadow drainage clearance	In hand
<b>Actions from meeting 12C09</b>		
PQT	Investigate cutting of Southmead verges <b>awaiting feedback from ESCC</b> JT	In hand
<b>Actions from meeting C13MAY13</b>		
12.2	Update Standing Orders to add updated Code of Conduct + website	JT In hand
13.6	Action repair of Court Meadow Play area gates	JT Closed
18.5	Investigate cost of fox proof bins <b>Part of Court Meadow refurbishment</b>	JT Open
<b>Actions from meeting C09SEP13</b>		
1.2	Chase missing parking restriction signs from ES Highways	JT Closed
6.2	Roadside debris clearance required to rear of Middlehouse	JT Closed
9.5	Provide Speedwatch team with copies of replies to complaint letters	JT Closed
11.3	Transfer funding for refurbishment & play area from reserves	JT Closed
13.2	Post Mission Statement on Website	JT Open

15.2	Investigate possible action against development at Wealden	JT	Closed
17.1	Report Japanese Knotweed in Rotherfield Lane & Jubilee Wood	JT	Closed
17.2	Request removal of excessive advertising along A267	JT	Closed
17.4	Chase weed spraying from ES Highways	JT	Closed
<b>Actions from meeting 14OCT13</b>			
12.4	Investigate possible affordable lease for South Street toilets	RS/BR	Open
13.4	Contact Regional Coordinator to discuss Post Office options	JT	Open
14.3	Establish speakers for Hawthorns objection	JT	Open
16.1	Estimates to refurbish Mayfield Village sign	JT	Open