

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



Venue Mayfield Primary School  
Date Monday 11 November 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
Deveda Redman	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

### Also in attendance:

Cllr Bob Standley (ESCC/WDC), Cllr Graham Wells (WDC), Cllr Brian Redman (WDC)  
There were 7 members of the public present and Janna Todd (Parish Clerk)

### 1. Public Questions

- 1.1. Following the disappointing approval of a new dwelling at Hawthorns, West Street and despite substantial local opposition, residents have written in protest to Charles Hendry MP and have written an article for the press.
- 1.2. It was suggested that East Sussex Highways be made aware of the probable closure of West Street for extended periods of time during the excavation and construction of this property. **Action JT**
- 1.3. Residents informed the Parish Council of their concerns surrounding the closure of Mayfield Post Office and the provision of free transport to Heathfield Post Office until Post Office services are resumed in Mayfield.
- 1.4. Residents would prefer the Post Office to provide a fortress counter in an existing business to maintain the level of service previously enjoyed before its closure. A Post Office Local would result in some transactions no longer being available.

## **2. Apologies for Absence**

- 2.1. Cllr Patricia Balfour, Cllr Monica Aitken, Cllr Jonica Fox (WDC), Cllr Chris Dowling (ESCC), 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. Cllr Watkiss thanked Cllr Fitzsimmons for representing the Parish Council at the Remembrance Services and Rededication Service for the Five Ashes War Memorial.
- 4.2. East Sussex Police report:
  - The ticketing of vehicles on double yellow lines in Mayfield High Street continues.
  - Vehicles and flower pots in South Street, Mayfield were damaged following a party.
  - There have been additional break-ins to sheds and garages.
  - Oil thefts are again on the increase .
- 4.3. Cllr Weavers will be entering a Christmas tree for the Parish Council in Open Door's Christmas Tree Festival at the beginning of December.
- 4.4. The new playground equipment in for Five Ashes has been installed and there will be an opening ceremony at 2pm on Saturday 16 November 2013.

## **5. Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held 14 October 2013 (previously circulated)**

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

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

- 5.2. Data from ESCC on the speed monitoring exercise in Five Ashes is still awaited.

## **6. Report from East Sussex County Council**

- 6.1. ESCC has achieved savings of £14.4m but more are required to achieve their goal of £60m.
- 6.2. To reach their target funding will not be reduced for highways maintenance. Discussions are taking place concerning the possible closure of Wadhurst Household Recycling Site.
- 6.3. Cllr Standley was informed of the deteriorated road surface of the A267 north of the Boship Roundabout on the A22.

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

- 7.1. Kier's overall refuse collection rates are slowly increasing although councillors advised that the service in Five Ashes appears to be declining.
- 7.2. Cllr Redman informed that the £42k from the developers of the Love Lane site was still awaited and expressed concern over development sites that have been granted planning permission and not subsequently developed.

## **8. Finance Report (previously circulated)**

- 8.1. The Finance Report for September 2013 was reviewed.
- 8.2. There were no matters arising from the Finance Report.

## 9. Minutes for adoption (previously circulated).

9.1. The following minutes were passed and adopted by UNANIMOUS vote:

- S07OCT13 Community Safety and Traffic Advisory
- P21OCT13 Planning Executive
- F28OCT13 Finance and General Purposes Executive

### Matters arising from the minutes

9.2. Community Safety and Traffic

- Despite numerous requests drains and gullies have not been emptied.
- A request was made to prevent vehicles in Bicycle Arms Lane using the left hand fork at the junction with the A267 when turning right. This issue is being addressed as part of the campaign to reduce the speed limit at Argos Hill.
- Cllr Wheeler will apply for a grant that will fund 75% of the Ecological Survey required for Jubilee Wood. Once the survey is received the planting of new trees will be arranged. **Action EW**

## 10. Mayfield Post Office

10.1. The Post Office have advertised the vacancy of a Post Office in Mayfield and advised that applications have been received. A new Post Office is not anticipated until February 2014 at the earliest.

10.2. Cllrs expressed their disappointment that an interim service could not be provided.

10.3. The Parish Council is very supportive of maintaining a fortress style Post Office to ensure that the level of service previously provided for residents is not reduced.

10.4. It was agreed to write to the Post Office to reiterate the importance of maintaining the same level of service which is being demanded by residents by means of a petition. **Action JT**

10.5. The necessity for the free bus service to Heathfield Post Office will continue to be monitored.

## 11. Planning Issues

11.1. The application for a new dwelling at Hawthorns, West Street was discussed and its approval by WDC despite being in the Conservation Area and receiving objections from the Parish Council and numerous residents.

11.2. The general feeling was that the whole process was not democratic with too much emphasis placed on the recommendations of a single Planning Officer and to prevent possible appeals.

11.3. It was agreed that a meeting with WDC planners would be beneficial to the Parish Council to learn the guidelines that planners follow when approving applications and how the Conservation Area is taken into consideration. **Action JT**

11.4. The Community Development Committee are planning to produce a Village Design Statement which is hoped will provide more influence on final decisions.

## 12. Committee Reports

12.1. Community Safety and Traffic

- It was agreed UNANIMOUSLY to erect a sign in the Memorial Hall Car park stating "No 24 hour parking by order of the Parish Council" to prevent excessive lengths of stay.

#### 12.2. Finance and General Purposes

- The first draft budget has been examined which included funding for South Street toilets, upgrading street lights, renovating Court Meadow play area, additional funding for the Bonfire Society and an overflow car park at the Memorial Hall.
- An enquiry in to the possibility of replacing existing lamps with LED lighting will be investigated. **Action JT**
- The final 2013/14 budget will be ready for approval at the next Finance and General Purposes meeting and for Full Council approval in December.

#### 12.3. Rights of Ways and Trees

- Nothing to report.

#### 12.4. Planning Committee

- Full responses are not being received on planning applications approved by the Parish Council but refused by WDC. Cllr Redman requested to be informed of any future cases and will follow them up.

#### 12.5. Community Development

- It is hoped to form a sub-committee composed of Councillors and residents with local expertise and knowledge to produce a Village Design Statement.

### 13. Reports from other representatives

#### 13.1. Argos Hill Windmill

- The Barn Dance raised £370 and was a great success.
- A Quiz Night will be held at Five Ashes Village Hall on 1 March 2014.
- The windmill is hoped to be included in a new renovation programme on the BBC.

#### 13.2. Chamber of Commerce

- Christmas late night shopping is on 6 December 2013.
- The licence to erect Christmas lights in Mayfield High Street has been received.
- There was a disappointing attendance of retailers invited to the Parish Council meeting to voice their concerns on the Post Office closure.

#### 13.3. Wealden District Association of Local Councils

- Cllr Neal recommended that a councillor attends future Wealden Planning Panel meetings as an observer to keep abreast of planning issues in the district.
- The next Wealden Planning Panel meeting is on 3 February 2014 at the Hailsham Council Offices.
- The next WDALC meeting is on 15 January 2014 at Uckfield Civic centre.

### 14. Other items of information and next agenda items

- 14.1. Residents of Southmead will be contacted concerning the provision of a dog bin on footpath 51a. **Action JT**

**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 9 December 2013**  
**Time: 19:30 hours**

.....Chairman's Signature

.....Date

**Annex 1**

<b>MINUTE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	
<b>Actions from meeting 12C07</b>			
12.1.3	Monthly job list to be prepared e.g. Court Meadow drainage clearance	JT	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
18.5	Investigate cost of fox proof bins <b>Part of Court Meadow refurbishment</b>	JT	Open
<b>Actions from meeting C09SEP13</b>			
13.2	Post Mission Statement on Website	JT	Closed
<b>Actions from meeting 14OCT13</b>			
12.4	Investigate possible affordable lease for South Street toilets	JT	In hand
13.4	Contact Regional Coordinator to discuss Post Office options	JT	Closed
14.3	Establish speakers for Hawthorns objection	JT	Closed
16.1	Estimates to refurbish Mayfield Village sign	JT	Open
<b>Actions from meeting 11NOV13</b>			
1.2	Inform ESCC of disruption to West Street during Hawthorn's development	JT	Open
9.2	Apply for grant towards Ecological Survey at Wilderness Wood	EW	Open
10.4	Inform Post Office of demand for "fortress style" Post Office in Mayfield	JT	Open
11.3	Arrange Planning meeting with WDC Planning	JT	In hand
12.2	Investigate possibility of LED lighting	JT	Open
14.1	Inform Southmead residents of provision of dog bin from April 2014	JT	Done