

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



Venue Mayfield Primary School  
Date Monday 10 February 2014  
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
Ian Parker	Present and Voting
Rosemary Neal	Present and Voting
Elaine Wheeler	Present and Voting
Jane Driscoll	Present and Voting
Patricia Balfour	Present and Voting
Monica Aitken	Present and Voting
Andrew Burnett	Present and Voting

### Also in attendance:

Cllr Chris Dowling (ESCC), Cllr Bob Standley (ESCC & WDC) and Cllr Brian Redman (WDC); James Stobart, PC Dighton, PCSO Paula Gatward & PCSO Matt Boyle (Sussex Police); Andrew Thompson & Jo Tucker (WDC Planning Policy).

There were 8 members of the public present and Janna Todd (Parish Clerk)

### 1. Public Questions

- 1.1. The Parish Council was made aware of two future events to provide information to the community on fracking that councillors were urged to attend. Attention was also drawn to the consultation by the Department of Energy and Climate Change concerning the licensing of fracking. Details can be found on the Transition Mayfield website: [www.transitionmayfield.org.uk](http://www.transitionmayfield.org.uk).
- 1.2. The PCSO's confirmed that crime rates are currently very low in the area. No ticketing of cars has taken place recently due to the outstanding absence of parking restriction signs in the High Street.
- 1.3. The PCSO's will look in to why speed surveys only work to the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile and ignore the highest speeding vehicles.

## **2. Apologies for Absence**

2.1. Cllr Graham Wells (WDC).

## **3. Declarations of interests**

3.1. There were no declarations of interests.

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

4.1. A new electricity sub-station is to be installed at the entrance to Jubilee Wood which the Parish Council will receive ground rent for. There may also be a donation made from Network UK towards some fencing in the vicinity.

4.2. The Rausing estate has generously offered to refurbish four more fingerposts towards the eastern side of Mayfield.

4.3. The roof of South Street toilets has been repaired and insulated. WDC have confirmed that the order for further repairs will be placed on 18 February 2014.

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

5.1. The minutes were passed and adopted by UNANIMOUS vote and signed by the Chairman.

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

5.2. The New Memorial Hall Committee has been disbanded thus freeing up the Parish Council funds ring fenced towards the building of a new hall.

## **6. Operation Crackdown**

6.1. James Stobart from Sussex Police gave a short presentation on Operation Crackdown for reporting abandoned vehicles and antisocial driving by using the website at [www.operationcrackdown.org](http://www.operationcrackdown.org) or by telephoning 01243 64 22 22.

6.2. The registered owners of any reported vehicles initially receive warning letters from the police. Their driving is monitored by the police if a further three reports are received.

## **7. Wealden District Council's Delivery and Site Allocations Local Plan**

7.1. Andrew Thompson and Jo Tucker of the WDC Planning Policy Team gave a presentation on the next stage of the Local Plan, which will include reviewing the development boundary in the parish and a formal re-appraisal of the conservation area.

7.2. The Parish Council will be proactively involved in looking at other potential areas that should have a conservation area and how they can be managed in the future.

7.3. This will be discussed at the next Community Development Committee meeting.

## **8. Reports from East Sussex County Council**

8.1. ESCC need to make revenue spending savings of approximately £78m over the next three years.

8.2. The Council Cabinet decision has recommended a 1.95% increase in Council Tax for 2014/15.

8.3. The Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee recently considered a report concerning the reorganisation of maternity services in East Sussex. There were six options, some of which would affect the service at Crowborough Hospital. Public consultation is underway.

8.4. An additional £2.25M of contingency funds will be used to increase pothole repair.

8.5. The reduction in speed limit at Argos Hill currently looks likely to go ahead, however the current policy is to look for Parish funding towards the scheme and it is unclear whether a Parish contribution will be required.

8.6. The problem beneath the road surface outside the Five Ashes Inn has been identified. The ESCC road warden will inform of when repairs will be carried out.

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

9.1. It is expected that the WDC element of the Council Tax will be frozen for 2014/15 for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

9.2. The community waste dividend received from Kier has been divided up with Mayfield and Five Ashes receiving around £2,700. Ward Councillors will consult with the Parish Council then will decide how the funds are spent.

9.3. Waste collection rates have increased to 99.7% with the majority of missed collections caught up within 24hours.

## **10. Finance Reports (previously circulated)**

10.1. The Finance Reports for November and December were reviewed.

10.2. Due to significant increases in electricity prices the cost of street light electricity will exceed budget in the year.

10.3. The Unity Trust Bank account is now being used for public donations.

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

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

- P23DEC13 Planning Executive
- P13JAN14 Planning Executive
- P03FEB14 Planning Executive
- R27NOV13 Rights of Ways and Trees Advisory
- D02DEC13 Community Development Advisory
- S13JAN14 Community Safety and Traffic Advisory
- G29JAN14 Governance and Risk Advisory

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

11.2. Cllr Driscoll expressed disappointment that planning application WD/2013/2288/F had been supported by the Planning Committee.

## **12. Mayfield Grange**

12.1. The time limit that the developers of Mayfield Grange were granted to have advertising signage along the A267 will be determined. **Action BR**

12.2. It was originally agreed that local cricket teams should have access to the cricket pitch at Mayfield Grange but this has so far been denied and taking action to pursue it could be too costly.

12.3. The Mayfield Cricket Club will be consulted on whether access to the pitch is still desired. **Action JT**

## **13. Mayfield Post Office**

13.1. The Post Office awaits confirmation from the successful applicant for the new Post Office Local that they are happy to go ahead before it can be announced.

13.2. A consultation on the premises and opening hours will follow which will be open for members of the public, local stakeholders, local ward members and the Parish Council to participate in.

13.3. It is hoped that the new Post Office Local will open within four months. Regrettably, the Post Office has not been able to fill the position of interim Post master.

#### **14. Committee Reports**

##### 14.1. Community Safety and Traffic

- A recent police survey showed that speeding is the primary local concern.
- Police have warned of a new scam where a telephone call is received informing that a relative is in custody and requesting card details for a bail payment.

##### 14.2. Finance and General Purposes

- Finances are looking healthy for the end of the financial year.

##### 14.3. Rights of Ways and Trees

- ESCC are looking to withdraw the licence for footpath 92 along the old railway line. The purchase price of the land has been requested.

##### 14.4. Planning Committee

- Nothing further to report.

##### 14.5. Community Development

- The committee will discuss the presentation of the Delivery and Site Allocations Local Plan at the next meeting.

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

##### 15.1. Argos Hill Windmill

- Following the grant of £100K awarded to the Argos Hill Windmill Trust, work is scheduled to commence next spring/early summer.
- A Race Night will take place on 1 March 2014 in the Memorial Hall.
- George Thompson is running a half marathon and can be sponsored at Leppards or the Shopping Basket.
- They take part in the Waitrose green token scheme in March 2014.
- Charles Hendry MP will visit Argos Hill Windmill on 28 March 2014.

##### 15.2. Chamber of Commerce

- The May Fair will be going ahead on Saturday 10 May 2014.
- Cllr Burnett and Cllr Parker will attend the next Streets Ahead Forum.

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

- Topics discussed at the last meeting included: 'keeping warm this winter', 'fuel poverty, especially for the elderly', and 'how to donate your winter fuel allowance'.
- A presentation on the ESCC Community Self-Serve will take place at the next Finance and General Purposes meeting.

##### 15.4. Parish Planning meeting

- WDC is currently favouring solar farms over wind farms.
- In the future once a planning application has been granted for a new build, a decision will be made to determine whether a Section 106 or CIL charge will be imposed.

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

16.1. The Federation of Small Businesses (part of the Streets Ahead Project) recommends that Parish Councils have a website to promote their villages.

16.2. Details concerning the Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee consultation outlined in Cllr Standley's report will be circulated. **Action JT**

16.3. The next Healthwatch East Sussex meeting will be held on 20 March 2014 in Uckfield. Interested parties must register in advance.

16.4. Letters have been sent from Woodhill Surgery to underage patients living outside their catchment area informing them that they can no longer be registered with them. This is regarded as inappropriate by residents.

**The meeting ended at 21:40**

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

**Venue: Mayfield Primary School**

**Date: Monday 10 March 2014**

**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	JT	Closed
<b>Actions from meeting 12C09</b>			
PQT	Investigate cutting of Southmead verges <b>still 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	JT	Closed
18.5	Investigate cost of fox proof bins – <b>on hold due to budget restraint</b>	JT	In hand
<b>Actions from meeting 14OCT13</b>			
12.4	Investigate possible affordable lease for South Street toilets	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	Closed
9.2	Apply for grant towards Ecological Survey at Wilderness Wood	EW	Closed
11.3	Arrange Planning meeting with WDC Planning	JT	Closed
<b>Actions from meeting 09DEC13</b>			
6.5	Assess outstanding road improvements & forward to Cllr Dowling	JT	Closed
6.7	Inform ESCC's CFO of error on budget leaflet	JT	Closed
7.6	Arrange meeting with WDC to agree lease conditions for South Street toilets	JT	Closed
11.3	Liaise with St Leonard's Bursar to agree wording re: trespassers	JT	In hand
<b>Actions from meeting 10FEB14</b>			
12.1	Determine permitted timescale for advertising at Mayfield Grange	BR	Closed
12.3	Determine whether Mayfield Colts desire access to Mayfield Grange pitch	JT	Open
16.2	Circulate Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee consultation information	JT	Closed