

MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL STATUTORY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL ON MONDAY 09 MAY 2005 AT 1930 Hrs

Present: Cllrs Diane Kirkness (DK), Martin Pitcher (MP), Paul Amans (PA), Peter Deller (PD), Phil Dixon (PX), Robert Fitzsimmons (RF), Herb Hills (HH), Lloyd McLean (LM), Graham Playfoot (GP), Ron Summerfield (RS), Andrew Stokes (AS), Deveda Redman (DR) and Felicity Ryan (FR),

Also present ESCC Cllr Bob Tidy (RT), Wealden District Cllrs Brian Redman (BR), Jonica Fox (JF), Nargis Jiskoot (Responsible Finance Officer) (NJ), and David Thompson (Parish Clerk) (DT) and 1 member of the public.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Catherine Swingland (CS), Edward James (EJ), and Wealden District Cllrs Robert Standley (RS) and Ann Monaghan (AM).

2 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 2.1 DT asked DK whether she was willing to stand for re - election as Chairman. DK declined on the grounds that after two years it was time for change and new ideas.
- 2.2 DK proposed MP for the position of Chairman. Seconded by PA nomination accepted by MP. Vote unanimous
MP declared Chairman for year 2005/6.
- 2.3 DK proposed PD for the post of Vice Chairman. Seconded by LM
PD declined nomination on the grounds that others should be given an opportunity.
- 2.4 PD then proposed PA as Vice Chairman. Seconded by LM. PA accepted nomination, provided allowances were made for present personal circumstances. VOTE unanimous. PA declared elected.
- 2.5 The election of Committee members then took place. These are recorded in Document C/AGM/05/STR. Published separately, but forming part of these minutes. The following changes to Committee Structure were agreed:
 - Lighting combined with F&GP
 - Youth not active in 2005/6
 - Security to include Emergencies representation.
 - Argos Hill Working Group PC representatives LM, and PX
- 2.6 All committees were elected unanimously.

3 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 3.1 There were no announcements to be made.

4 HOUSING

4.1 SOUTHMEAD

No further developments were reported.

4.2 OAKDENE.

No further developments were reported.

4.3 OTHER SCHEMES

It was reported that a letter from a member of the public, objecting to development of the Criers Lane site had been received.

5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- 5.1 It was reported that the "Tins " recycling bin had not been emptied.

ACTION DT

- 5.2 A Rubbish bin was needed at Five Ashes Playing Field.

ACTION DT

6 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MARCH 14 2005

- 6.1 The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record after noting that an error in the minute numbering would be corrected.

Proposed By GP, Seconded by RS. VOTE Unanimous

7 MATTERS ARISING FROM FULL COUNCIL MINUTES

- 7.1 Argos Hill Windmill. JF reported that a meeting would be held in shortly. Clerk to place on next agenda.

ACTION DT.

- 7.2 It was noted that Council Minutes were now on the Council Website. PD suggested that a short summary of the minutes also be included. MP undertook to examine the practicalities.

ACTION DT

- 7.3 PX reported that the new street lights at the Puffin Crossing in Five Ashes were not working correctly. To be followed up with EDF Energy.

ACTION DT

7.4 PD reported on the Way Ahead project. Which had been dealt with as an exempt item, but was now in the public domain. The village had, in his view, many problems which would arise over the next 20 – 25 years which needed answers:

- Affordable Housing Southmead.
- WDC Short of money for large capital spends.
- South Street Car Park to be given to housing?
- South street Public Toilet to be moved.
- Could WDC sell Car Park to raise money for housing?
- Money would be required to develop Memorial Hall car Park
- Would need to add Public Toilet to Memorial Hall site

There was no objection in principle to Housing Association development.

WDC had responded to an earlier meeting ten days ago, but the response had not said yes, but at the same time had not said no, however the use of funds obtained from sales might cause problems.

PD considered that £100,000 would be needed for the Memorial Hall Car Park extension and a further £40,000 for the Public toilet

Another option was to allow a developer to provide a Car Park

PROPOSED to be debated at next months Council Meeting

PROPOSED a formal sub committee to be formed, which would include DK. This was supported by PA.

PX remarked that it was essential that all people are informed, and all proposals and options be discussed.

JF reported strong resistance was growing to the South Street scheme, since the land was reported unstable, and remedial works would render the scheme ,economically unviable.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT the name of the Sub Committee would be Mayfield and Five Ashes Development Sub Committee, and membership would be DK,MP,PD,PA,PX and others co-opted as necessary. It should also consider whether the Mayfield and Five Ashes Society be asked to send a representative

ACTION DT To arrange meeting and agenda

8 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES HELD ON 26th APRIL 2005

8.1 The Minutes were accepted as a correct record.

9 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE F&G COMMITTEE

9.1 MP introduced the Responsible Finance Office (RFO) to the Council

9.2 It was noted that the Statement for Cheques issued needed to be corrected, from £16K to £20K

ACTION NJ

9.3 MP reported that henceforth, Finance reports would be made one month in arrears to allow any problems to be resolved.

- 9.4 MP explained the Budget Overspend shown in the report for the year end
- Disposal of Players Hut
 - Provision of new office
- 9.5 Arising from the Budget report RS recommended that an Opening and Closing balance be shown on the “unreconciled cheques” Report, which was a Standard Accounting Practice
Next F&GP to examine practicalities
ACTION MP
- 9.6 LM suggested that the financial statements be numbered in a logical order.
ACTION MP
- 9.7 PD and DR requested that the Financial statements be sent out in PDF format, since they could not read EXCEL data
ACTION MP
- 9.8 The year end Accounts as amended were **ADOPTED** by the Council
VOTE UNANIMOUS.
- 9.9 **RESOLVED** that the Clerks hours be adjusted to 25 per week as recommended by the F&GP Committee.
Proposed by DK Seconded by FR
- 9.10 NHS consultation Paper Choose Health. To be dealt with by DR
ACTION DT

10 MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON APRIL 25th 2005

- 10.1 The minutes were accepted as a true record.
Proposed by PD Seconded by HH
VOTE UNANIMOUS

11 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

- 11.1 There were no matters arising from the Planning Committee minutes.

12 MINUTES OF THE SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30MARCH 2005

- 12.1 RF reported that The Safer Wealden Partnership meeting had been attended by only 6 Parishes. There had been representatives from Police Fire, and the CSOs. The emphasis on Parishes was to identify crime problems so that the Police could act effectively.
- 12.2 HH reported an incident at the Rose and Crown, involving a Tug o' War between 2 4x4's, and that two CSO's had been seen in Fletching Street collecting evidence.
- 12.3 Arising from the debate on the Crime statistics attached to the Security Committee minutes it was agreed that RF would investigate the authenticity of the reported 28 violent crimes for Mayfield.

DOCUMENT LOCATION MD/MD/FC/MINS – C/MN/05MAY09/AGM

ACTION RF

12.4 RT informed the Council that the Crime Hotspots for East Sussex were Hailsham Uckfield and Crowborough.

13 REPORT FROM TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

13.1 PD reported that ESCC have prepared a planting scheme for Mayfield Roundabout. This will consist of some 60 saplings. He had also made an approach to the owner of the Memorial tree which had been removed previously, and offered reinstatement. However this offer was declined.

13.2 SID There were five new volunteers and these had been trained. Conversations were taking place with Wadhurst over use of equipment. For Mayfield the long term future for SID would be unlikely to be beyond this Winter.

14 REPORT FROM ESCC

14.1 RT reported that the results of the election on May 5th were:

- Conservative 29
- Liberal Democrat 14
- Labour 5
- Independent 1

Policy would be directed to:

- Care of the Elderly.
- Community Safety
- Children's Centres
- Policing
- Council Tax to be kept as low as possible
- Three new libraries

Mayfield would be an important part of the policing initiative.

Cllr Tidy also drew attention to some of the drawbacks to direct funding for education.

14.2 DR asked whether there would be visits from ESCC in order to inform residents. RT replied that this was part of the budget process.

15 REPORT FROM WDC

15.1 BR. Referred to progress on the affordable housing sites at Five Ashes and South Street, and noted that all plans will have to go through the normal planning process. JF also commented that WDC were repairing the protective boarding of the garages at Criers Lane. The garages were currently being used for storage.

15.2 JF reported the current position with regard to the Argos Hill Windmill. Work had now started, and for the Working group, a response from Rotherfield was all that was required.

15.3 JF reported that administration of the licensing laws were being transferred to WDC as from February, but at the present time there was a great deal of confusion over how things should be carried out due to inadequate government instruction.

DOCUMENT LOCATION MD/MD/FC/MINS – C/MN/05MAY09/AGM

15.4 JF reported that Chris Dowling had been elected as the ESCC member representing the Five Ashes area.

15.5 Requests were made by the WDC members that their reports be heard earlier in the Agenda. This was agreed.

ACTION DT

15.6 BR drew attention to the open letter displayed at Old Cottage in Mayfield High Street. He considered that this was a delaying tactic by the owners.

15.7 PD drew attention to a "Courier " report, whereby many Parish Councils had withdrawn from affordable housing. BR replied that Parish Councils which supported the WDC affordable housing policy would be given the priorities needed for the development of their services.

16 SOUTH EAST AREA PLAN

16.1 It was reported that the South East Plan questionnaire had been completed and returned. The response had been largely negative since the environment and transport links would only support small scale development.

16.2 RT informed the council that in his view the South East Plan implications were likely to form an important series of issues in the near future and urged the PC to be vigilant. In response the Parish Council had formed a formal sub committee to handle South East Plan issues

17 YELLOW PAGES SPECIAL EDITION

17.1 DT reported the current position with regarding the Yellow Pages Special edition. PD warned the council that with an October deadline, work on this project would need to be progressed. It was agreed that DK and CS would prepare the outline structure of the special edition, for Victor Briggs to work to.

ACTION DK

18 CLERKS REPORT

18.1 The following comments arose from the Clerks report:

- PD Format – more detail on items.
- PX asked if the Best Village competition had been received. DT replied that it had and would be announced at the Annual assembly on 20 May.
- LM reported that three Bus shelters needed attention. DT reported that he was working on a proactive approach to these maintenance problems. Maintenance programmes were being arranged for Seats, Road Signs and Bus shelters.

ACTION DT (all items)

19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

19.1 GP Memorial Hall gates. Reported that the gates were in store.

- 19.2 GP reported that he would attend the WDC Planning Audit on 11 May
- 19.3 DK Reported that MMM would be taking place within the next 6 weeks, could posters be placed on certain lamp posts.
This was agreed.
- 19.4 PD noted the village sign had been damaged
- 19.5 DR requested that the stipend for councillors be reviewed, for out of pocket expenses.
ACTION F&GP
- 19.6 RS enquired about the rent for London House , this was £5,000, offset by savings by having committee meetings at London House
- 19.7 HH was concerned about the proposals for Pembury hospital. Noting poor delivery of the project, and other matters.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 22.35 Hrs.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL.

DATE. 13 JUNE 2005

VENUE. Five Ashes Primary School

TIME. 1930 Hrs