

MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL

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FINAL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAYFIELD
AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
HELD AT MAYFIELD MEMORIAL HALL
ON MONDAY 21 MAY 2007 AT 1930 HOURS**

SUMMARY OF MEETING

- Police report lower crime figures
- Court Meadow future management discussed
- Mayfield Charities report received
- Chamber of Commerce report received
- Quality Council progress reviewed
- New Councillors introduced
- Primary School reports submitted

ATTENDANCE

Martin Pitcher Chairman	(MP)	Apologies for Absence
Paul Amans	(PA)	Present
Peter Deller	(PD)	Present
Jane Driscoll	(JD)	Present
Elaine Wheeler	(EW)	Present
Patricia Balfour	(PB)	Present
Jayne Bramwell	(JB)	Present
Graham Playfoot	(GP)	Present
Hubert Hills	(HH)	Present
Deveda Redman	(DR)	Present
Catherine Swingland	(CS)	Present
Robert Fitzsimmons	(RF)	Present
Chris Lilly	(CL)	Present
Jerry Watkiss	(JW)	Present
Tony Lay	(TL)	Present

Present 13

Apologies for Absence 1 Not present 0 Other Council Business 0

Also Present

ESCC Councillor Robert Tidy (RT), Wealden District Councillor Brian Redman (BR)
David Thompson Parish Clerk (DT) and Caroline Peck, Assistant Parish Clerk (CP)

There were 27 members of the public present.

MINUTES

1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN

- 1.1. Robert Fitzsimmons introduced himself as the recently elected Vice Chairman of the Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council. He had served as a councillor for Five Ashes Ward for four years.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2.1. Apologies for absence were received from:
- Martin Pitcher - holiday
 - John Logan – other business

3. POLICE REPORT

- 3.1. Steve Ethrington of East Sussex Police gave the report on behalf of the Police.
- 3.2. Steve Ethrington distributed the annual crime figures for 2006 for Mayfield. There had been a total of 92 recorded crimes, which was one of the lowest in the country. Details were:

Offence Type	Total	% of Wadhurst Total
Theft	22	24%
Burglary Non Dwelling	17	18%
Criminal Damage	16	17%
Theft from M/V	15	16%
Theft of M/V	7	8%
Burglary Dwelling	6	7%
Public Place Violent Crime	4	4%
Non Public Place Violent Crime	3	3%
Drugs	1	1%
Fraud & Forgery	1	1%
Grand Total	92	100%

Crime rate is lower in Mayfield than Wealden as a whole.

	Crime 2006/7	Pop 2006	Rate per 1000 Pop
Mayfield	92	3,651	25.2
Wealden Total	6661	143183	46.5

Wealden has one of the lowest crime rates in the country.

- 3.3. So far as the police coverage of our villages was concerned Steve Ethrington reported that the North Wealden area was still within complement, and that training had taken place with new Government approved speed camera equipment. Neighbourhood watch was developing successfully and the non emergency police telephone number of 0845 60 70 999 was well used.

- 3.4. In conclusion North Wealden was one of the safest areas of England, and within it Mayfield was even safer.
- 3.5. The following questions arose:
- Tony Lay – Could Steve Ethrington as a constable issue a fixed penalty ticket for traffic offences. Answer yes – up to £60 or 3 penalty points on the licence.
 - Paul Amans noted that the Police were using a CCTV vehicle when covering criminal damage issues. Answer - Steve Ethrington reported that in order to gain maximum use of vehicles and vehicle deployment, on occasions CCTV vehicles were used. This also had the additional advantage of a deterrent factor.
 - TB reported on the recent damage to the Mayfield pre-school and of the action taken through the youth group to work on crime prevention. RF noted that the issue was also covered by neighbourhood watch.
 - Jo Woodliffe wished to know whether or not our PCSO had a car. Answer, car allocation is still on a shared basis, and that although North Wealden had more vehicles at its disposal sharing was still required at the present time.
 - Lloyd McClean considered that the sharing of vehicles was totally inappropriate, because of the time and difficulty it took for the PCSO to arrive on the scene of an incident. For the Police Steve Ethrington agreed with these comments, but pointed out that by re-deploying vehicles efficiently, there had been a net gain, particularly in Crowborough. In reply Lloyd McClean considered that using a taxi service or setting up satellite offices would solve the problem.

4. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 15 MAY 2006

- 4.1. The Minutes of the Annual Assembly, which had already been noted by the Parish Council were accepted.
Proposed by HH, Seconded by DR and passed by the Annual Assembly.
- 4.2. Actions progress was as follows:

• 6A1/2.7	Amount of successful prosecutions by police in East Sussex. Question by Iris Bruce. Answered	CLOSED
• 6A1/9.2	Question from Jayne Bramwell over the extent that houses at South Street would obscure the view over the valley. Still the subject of Planning development.	OPEN
• 6A1/11.1	Mayfield Charities accounts: Published by the committee, and available for inspection.	CLOSED
• 6A1/10.5	Mayfield Roundabout – taken over by ESCC for Commercial Development.	CLOSED
• 6A1/14.1	Towards a Quality Council 99% complete – see agenda	OPEN
• 6A1/15.1	Search for Mayfield Cup. Not located as yet.	OPEN
• 6A1/16.1	Mrs Neal questions about St Dunstan's Church reform. Covered by the Chairman during the year.	CLOSED

4.3. There were no matters arising.

5. COURT MEADOW

5.1. The issue for debate was that:

Notification by Chairman that the land known as Court Meadow should not have been transferred to the King Georges Field Mayfield Charity. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

In a message from the Chairman of the Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council, it was stated that in accordance with the final paragraph on page 2 of the SALC letter the Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council are seeking the views of Parish residents under this Agenda item.

The Parish Council was now faced with making the decision either to manage Court Meadow directly or to reapply for charitable status with the attendant Management Structure.

Background correspondence had been circulated.

5.2. Mr A Thurley noted that Court Meadow had been transferred to a charity incorrectly but it did not mean that it could not become a charity as laid down in the SPLC advice of 15 November 2006 and Charity Commission letter of 7 September 2006, both of which had been circulated to the Assembly.

5.3 Nick Sabine drew attention to the paper "Dedication as a King Georges Field by Local Authorities of land they already hold as part of their corporate property last update 1 February 2007."

He asked the Council to:

- Consider the statements made in paragraph 4 and 24 and take these into account during any review.
- To note that those who had initially formed the Charity had acted in good faith.
- To consider the implications under the 1972 Local Government Act.
- Answer clearly why there should be reasons not to re-register the Meadow to charitable status.

5.4 PD was not sure if any additional light had emerged on the status of the field as a result of the statements made by A Thurley and N Sabine. He considered that as a local council they were more than competent and empowered to manage the field on behalf of residents, and that adequate safeguards were in place.

5.5 JD asked if Court Meadow lost its charitable status whether the buildings on the field would attract council tax. The Clerk agreed to investigate this issue.

ACTION DT

5.6 Annette Nabavi asked how the discussion would be taken forward. The Chairman replied that the issue would be placed before the Full Council for decision with all comments made at the assembly being made available to members.

5.7 A Thurley asked whether the Parish Council would consider holding a parish poll. The Clerk replied that if the Full Council were so convinced, a Parish Poll could be arranged with some ease, but at a substantial cost.

- 5.8 PD also noted that until a few years ago the field had been administered by the Parish Council and to many the existence of a charity was unknown. He also noted that the Parish Council had arranged for a full survey to be carried out.
- 5.9 N Sabine remarked that the charitable status of the Court meadow had played a significant part in the rejection of the car park proposals for part of the field in 1990.

6. MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006/7

- 6.1 The Chairman stated that copies of the Annual Report had been circulated to the meeting. The report covered all aspects of Parish Council activity during the year.
- 6.2 The report was received by the Assembly without comment.
- 6.3 N Sabine asked whether the Atkins Report on the NCN21 Cycle route had been received. Answer – not yet but imminent.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- 7.1. Tim Cornish asked whether the new council had any single issue members, or members of pressure groups for example CPRE the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England. The Clerk replied that Council members were legally bound to list such issues in their interest statements, and that these statements were available for public inspection, at The Parish Council Office or through the Monitoring Officer at Wealden District Council.
- 7.2. There were no further questions from the public.

8. FINANCE REPORT

- 8.1. Councillor C Lilly gave the provisional financial report for the Year 2006/7 as under:
- The budget for the year was £99474. The differences in income and expenditure from this budget are due to:
 - Income £19877 from reserves not used
 - Expenditure - £11500 for large Village Road signs part funded by the Chamber of Commerce. This project will complete in 2007/8.
 - £1800 Tax and NI payments paid in next financial year
 - £6032 other items including projects coming late in 2007/8

- The un-audited results for 2006/7 for Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council are:

INCOME	£
Precept	70344
Other	9253
TOTAL	79597

EXPENDITURE	£
Administration	37409
Agency Services	6094
Playing Fields	6800
Community	5109
Lighting	7433
Youth	3073
Projects	7393
Grants	7022
Other	4783
TOTAL	80142
Shortfall	545

- During the year financial responsibilities were placed under the Clerk, in order to improve financial control and accountability. The objective of these changes is to make the Parish Council's finances more transparent in meaning and to enable residents to have full access to financial data at any time. Greater clarity in reporting financial results will be fully achieved during 2007/8.

The changes in personnel also enable the Parish Council to operate at the level and status expected of a Quality Council.

- The assets of the Parish Council increased during the year by £5950. The total value of the Parish Council assets is now:
 - Court Meadow £100739
 - Other parish assets £98304
 - Total £199043
- The financial balances of the Parish Council at the end of 2006/7 were £67834, which after allowing for uncleared cheques and VAT reclaims is forecast to be around £58000.

8.2. The Clerk reported that the statutory Annual Return was published in December, but regrettably because of personnel and management change issues the Parish Council had been reported for late submission of data.

8.3. There were no questions on the Financial Report.

9. REPORT FROM EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

9.1. R Tidy reported that:

- As per ESCC policy council tax increases were being reduced in size each year, however the average age of the population was increasing and this was creating considerable problems so far as care for the elderly were concerned.

9.2. RT noted that the cost of waste disposal was increasing because recycling was a much more expensive operation. The county had reached the target for recycled municipal rubbish.

9.3. Where opportunities arose the opportunity was taken to reduce staff and therefore in the longer term reduce the amount of council tax.

9.4. With regard to the Police Authority, a reduction in costs of £10m was required over the next three years. Accidents on the roads remained a problem within East Sussex, and 48% of all road accidents were in Wealden area. The main problem was excessive speed. The police issues were being dealt with under the ESCC Challenge 2010 project.

9.5. The Atkins Report had been received and the way forward had been placed before the Parish Council (see minutes 7C02).

9.6. The ESCC conference on Speed Management was underway and actions and consultation will be carried out over the next three years.

9.7. Grants were being given for the promotion of safe walking to school schemes.

9.8. In answer to a question from a member of the public it was confirmed that ESCC were the fourth worst county in England for road accidents and that Wealden had a very high proportion of these accidents.

10. REPORT FROM WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

10.1. District Councillor Brian Redman noted that the Mayfield Ward of Wealden had had the second highest turnout at the District Elections.

10.2. Wealden District Council were endeavouring to reduce costs by restructuring the administration.

10.3. On planning there was a need to ensure that over development did not take place in certain locations, whilst being allowed to take place in other locations.

10.4. Waste and re-cycling – WDC had met the target of 30% recycled which was over 63000 tons and was looking into rubbish bin collection.

10.5. In a question Annette Nabavi asked to know the current position with regard the Argos Hill Windmill. Brian Pike representing the Friends of Argos Hill Windmill replied that:

- WDC had tried to set up a trust, but no-one was prepared to take this forward because of Health and Safety issues.
- A static display approach was being taken forward, which would bring the mill back to its 1990 position. Progress was slow.

11. CALOR VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

11.1. The Clerk reported that this was being progressed by D Kirkness.

12. MAYFIELD CHARITIES

- 12.1. The Chairman gave a written report to the Assembly which had been provided by John Logan.

Mayfield Trust 2006

	2006	2005
Income	£5016	£4990
Admin Expenses	£324	£365
Distributions	£4217	£4151
Excess of Income Over Expenditure	£475	474
Net Assets	£127,026	£123,116

There has been no change in the trustees and they are:

Mrs F Bickerton

Mrs M Pennington

Mrs A Adam

Fr Nigel Prior

J Logan (Chairman)

Mrs B Hopkin (Clerk)

Mr B Martin (Hon Solicitor)

The Charities are always pleased to hear of cases of social, medical or general need from individuals or organisations. The need must arise within the ancient Parish of Mayfield. Audited accounts will be lodged with the Parish Clerk.

13. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- 13.1. On behalf of Diane Kirkness the Chairman introduced the circulated report from the Chamber of Commerce. The May fair event had been very successful, and this is to be followed by a Christmas Festival in December.
- 13.2. DK again reiterated the need to support local shops if the village is to thrive.
- 13.3. The full report is attached as Annex 1.

14. TOWARDS A QUALITY COUNCIL

- 14.1. The Clerk reported that a year ago 62% of the work necessary to obtain Quality Status had been completed. The current position was that the Clerk had submitted his portfolio examination for the CILCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration). All other work had been completed and the portfolio submission for Quality Council status was being completed.
- 14.2. There were as a result a number of changes in the way the Council conducted its activities. It was also gratifying to note that 93% of the Parish Council seats had been filled by contested elections.

15. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

15.1. RF drew attention to the two reports which had been circulated from Mayfield Primary School and Five Ashes Primary School. He also drew attention to the November meeting of the Full Council whereby the two primary schools attend the meeting to discuss issues of importance to themselves and the community. The school reports are attached as Annex 2 and Annex 3.

15.2. New Councillors were introduced to the Assembly:

- Elaine Wheeler- Five Ashes
- Jerry Watkiss - Mayfield
- Patricia Balfour – Mayfield
- Jane Driscoll – Mayfield
- Tony Lay – Co-opted member for Rushers Cross

15.3. The Clerk read the following statutory notice to the assembly.

MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH, THE CLERK'S OFFICE, COMMITTEE ROOM, LONDON HOUSE, HIGH STREET, MAYFIELD, EAST SUSSEX, TN20 6AQ

MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL ADOPTION OF REVISED MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council has adopted with effect from 14th May 2007 a Code of Conduct which sets out the conduct which is expected of Members and Co-opted Members of the Parish Council. The Members' Code of Conduct can be inspected by the public at London House, High Street, Mayfield, TN20 6AQ between the hours 9am and 12noon, Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except Public Holidays) and at the main reception of Wealden District Council Offices at Pine Grove, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 1DH and Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, BN27 2AX between the hours of 8.30am and 5.30pm Mondays to Fridays (excluding Public Holidays) David Thompson, Parish Clerk

15.4. A member of the public asked if a CCTV camera could be placed in South Street, in order to combat anti social behaviour. RF replied that CCTV had been fitted in the High Street in conjunction with the Middle House, but it tended to move the problem elsewhere. However the Security Committee will examine the issues and will also see if the police can provide assistance.

ACTION SECURITY COMMITTEE

15.5. Norman Bennet thanked the Clerk and his assistant for the quality of the administration and arrangements made for the Annual Assembly. This was confirmed by the audience.

15.6. RF updated the assembly on the current position with the new Parish Website. He reported that it would be active in June 2007.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2050 HOURS.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY WILL BE:

VENUE: FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL
DATE: MID MAY 2008
TIME: 1930 HOURS

**REPORT FOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PREPARED BY DIANE KIRKNESS
PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE**

I can start on a very positive note the Chamber just having provided the village of Mayfield with a very successful May Fair on the 12th May.

The weather, which had been dreadful for the previous week, helpfully changed on the day and the Maypole dancing and Country dancing by both pupils from Skippers Hill and the Primary School could both take place. The May Queen entered into the spirit of the day and the Mayfield Silver Band provided plenty of music.

The hog and lamb roast attracted large queues and the other stalls all received good business.

It is hoped to make this event a regular on the Mayfield calendar as it was very well supported by the community, as is the Christmas Festival for late night shopping in December.

There are other events mainly appealing to the younger age group during the year, please watch shop windows for announcements of these.

The Chamber is concerned at the number of shops either changing hands or just leaving the village. Libra's old shop is still empty. Parkers & Sole have recently left. It is possible that this building will get planning permission for residential occupancy. Cinnamon Gallery has become a dental surgery and it is understood Wetherby's is leaving the village and the shop becoming an office.

The shops do need the support of the whole village to keep profitable. It may turn out to be a case of 'use it or lose it' which would change the character of the village, I think to its detriment. Please do buy what you can in Mayfield – there is a good choice at the moment so let's try to keep it that way.

**FIVE ASHES CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
REPORT TO MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Since our last report we have had a very busy and successful year. Here are just some examples of the events and activities that we have been involved in.

Healthy School Award

We have successfully been accredited as a Healthy School under the new national programme.

Sports

Our infant and junior pupils have taken part in a wide variety of sports activities again this year including swimming, football, gymnastics, stool-ball, tag rugby and netball. Our year 5 and 6 came second in the Heathfield Area Schools tag rugby tournament and now move on to represent North Wealden Schools. Our Year 3 and 4 team came third in the area schools gymnastics tournament.

Academic

We have had another very successful year. In year 6 SAT's (national end of key stage test in English, maths and science at age 11) 100% of our pupils achieved level 5 in English. 100% of our pupils achieved level 4 or above in maths and science. Level 4 is the nationally expected level.

Educational Visits

As part of their national curriculum studies our infant and junior pupils have visited a wide range of places of interest. These include:- the Blitz Experience and HMS Belfast in London, the Brighton Toy Museum, The Battle of Hastings site and Wakehurst Place. Our year 5 and 6 pupils took part in a residential outdoors activities week.

We were visited in school by theatre companies who performed the "Lost in Litter Theatre Show" and "Henry's Wobbly Tooth".

School Council

Our School Council took part in a question and answer session at a meeting of the Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council. As a result of this we are working with the Council to try to establish a nature garden in Five Ashes.

Other

An extension has just been completed which gives us a dedicated indoor area for infant activities and play.

MAYFIELD CEP SCHOOL NEWS 2006/7

Looking back to write this report I realise what an extremely busy year it has been!

The school year started in September with the election of the School Council and appointment of Year 6 prefects. During the term School Council worked on revising the school rules and drawing up new ones that the whole school now have ownership of. We welcomed our Graduate Teaching Programme Student, Lawrence Wilson, who joined us to work in Panthers class for the year. Several classes went on trips related to the curriculum. Bobcats had a particularly exciting time tracing the Battle of Hastings and smugglers in Hastings.

During October we had a Harvest Festival celebration in the school hall and gave the proceeds to Demelza House. October also saw two Post Graduate Teaching Students join us from Brighton University. They worked with Cougars class. During the month we had our annual book week and were joined by storytellers and a theatre company from Brighton which was all very exciting!

November saw our School Council join with the School Council from Five Ashes to meet with the Parish Council and ask questions. It was a very successful meeting and a question from one of our pupils, Claudia Salwey, resulted in the Parish Council giving us a grant towards the restoration of the old school bell. This work was completed in April and the bell is now rung every morning.

December was a very busy month. We had our annual infants nativity play which played to packed houses, parties for all the classes, a party for the winning house and a Christingle Service at St Dunstan's Church.

December was also a month when tragedy struck the family of a member of staff. Heather Wickers husband, Geoff, was one of the firemen killed in the fireworks factory blaze. The news stunned the whole school community. Typically Heather insisted that we carry on with our Christmas programme because she didn't want the children to have their celebrations spoiled.

January saw the school receive its Health School award and also the Sports Mark award. Work began on turning the school into a rainforest. The displays were amazing and Jaguars and Panthers classes produced a rainforest show which they performed for parents and friends in February.

In February every Year 6 Bobcat passed their cycling proficiency test. During February the School Travel Plan was also passed by the County Council. Several children from our Gifted and Talented register attended some very exciting Saturday courses and Gifted and Talented students from Jaguars class began work on a visual literacy project.

The summer term began with the school being declared safe for use and a grand opening attended by the press.

We welcomed a Post Graduate teaching student from Brighton University who will be with Cougars until the end of June. Also Lawrence Wilson, our GTP student returned from his practice at Pebsham School.