
**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MAYFIELD AND
FIVE ASHES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
HELD AT LONDON HOUSE, HIGH STREET, MAYFIELD,
ON MONDAY 18 AUGUST 2008 AT 1930 HOURS**

Committee Chairman Councillor Deveda Redman

SUMMARY OF MEETING

- Action plan distribution agreed.
- WDC housing strategy discussed.
- WDC homelessness strategy noted.
- Parish boundary policy debated and decision made.
- Debate at Full Council on affordable houses discussed.
- South Street allotment site – current position reported.

ATTENDANCE

Councillors

Deveda Redman	(DR)	Present and Voting
Patricia Balfour	(PB)	Present and Voting
Jerry Watkiss	(JW)	Present and Voting
Tony Lay	(TL)	Present and Voting

Lay Members

Garnet Shackel	(GS)	Present
John Coulter	(JC)	Apologies for Absence (B)
Leonard Trevellion	(LT)	Present
Steve Harland	(SH)	Present

Councillors Present and Voting 4	Apologies for absence 0	Not present 0	Total 4
Lay Members Present 3	Not Present 0	Apologies for Absence 1	Total 4

Also Present

David Thompson (DT) Parish Clerk

MINUTES

1. COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS

1.1. There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 JUNE 2008 (8D03)

2.1. It was noted that the minutes had been approved by Full Council.

3. ACTIONS PROGRESS

3.1. Action progress was as follows:

MINUTE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
• 6D10/6.2	Mayfield Open Day Questionnaire packs to be presented to mothers visiting Mayfield Primary School – Held for later date.	HELD
• 6D10/11.2	PX/JC to consult with Mayfield and Five Ashes Society with regard to the update of the 1969 Conservation Area Paper. In hand.	OPEN
• 6D10/11.3 • 7D10/3.2	WDC requirements with regard to any proposed changes to development and conservation area boundaries. To be considered at the June meeting. Done.	CLOSED
• 7D10/4.4	First full review of Plan. October 2008	OPEN
• 8D1/4.3	Printing enquiries for Plan and Annual Report to be progressed by JW/DT. Done.	CLOSED
• 8F03/5.1	Clerk to send Parish Plan Template to WDC. Done.	CLOSED
• 8F03/7.2	Affordable Housing Policy – Full Council debate. Clerk to place on October agenda.	OPEN

4. MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL ACTION PLANS

4.1. The Clerk reported that he had updated all the action plans as required by the committee. He had produced one complete master set of actions, and one set sorted by Committee or representative involved.

4.2. It was agreed that distribution would be as follows:

One complete set to each Committee member

One Committee set to each relevant Committee Chairman

One set for public scrutiny

ACTION DT

4.3. With regards publicity, it was agreed that the Clerk would:

- Publicise in Yellow Pages
- Place on website and advertisement

- Provide copies to Parish Council office
- Produce ‘peacock’ posters for two weeks
- Publicise on Notice Boards

ACTION DT

5. WDC HOUSING STRATEGY REPORT

- 5.1. The Clerk reported that WDC had produced their Housing Strategy report. This consisted of nearly fifty pages, and parishes had been invited to comment.
- 5.2. It was noted that in Planning Application terms, applications for 136 dwellings has been approved for larger schemes, plus a considerable number of ‘one off’ applications, and that some 20 affordables were in the pipeline. Thirty-two dwellings were estimated for 2008/9.
- 5.3. After debate it was agreed that members would make their comments, and the Clerk would send a consolidated response to WDC.

To fully inform members the Clerk would:

- Send each member chapter 1 and 4 in hard copy
- Provide each member with a full electronic copy

ACTION COMMITTEE (Comments) AND DT (Data Distribution)

6 WDC HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

- 6.1 The Clerk advised the Committee that the WDC Homelessness Strategy document had now been received.
- 6.2 The Committee noted the document, and also noted that within the Parish there were 55 second homes and 16 long term empty homes.

7 BOUNDARY DEBATE

- 7.1 The Clerk reported that he had spoken to WDC with regard to boundaries, and the relevant rules by which local councils were bound were contained in:

Development Areas

Conservation Areas

Copies were held in the office.

- 7.2 In the ensuing debate it was noted that at present most of the building was by infill within the development area, or by substituting a number of dwellings in place of one existing dwelling on the same plot.
- 7.3 It was also noted that the necessary improvements to infrastructure were not following. There were now no large sites left for development within the Mayfield boundaries and little opportunity in Five Ashes. However it was noted that Mayfield and Five Ashes had delivered a substantial building programme, albeit in the current potential recession climate. It was clear that there would be delays in construction and business failure.
- 7.4 The Committee made the following decision:

That both the Conservation and Development boundaries should be kept as they are for the present, but the Committee would review the decision should economic circumstances radically change in the future.

8 SCHEDULED DEBATE ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- 8.1 DR produced a paper, which argued the case for the Council maintaining the policy put forward in the Parish Plan in respect of affordable housing, which members had agreed to. The grounds being the non proven hypothesis that it would devalue nearby dwellings.
- 8.2 It had been noted that two recent applications fully endorsed by the Planning Committee had contravened this policy, and that if we had an underwritten Parish Plan, the whole council should stand by its policies regardless of the attitude of Wealden District Council.
- 8.3 The Clerk explained that the September Full Council meeting would need to be devoted to the clearance of committee minutes and financial reports which had arisen since July and that he had reserved the October Full Council meeting for important policy debates. The committee agreed to hold the debate in October.

ACTION DT

9 SOUTH STREET ALLOTMENTS

- 9.1 DR reported the current position. The Clerk had written to Charles Lant, the Chief Executive of WDC arguing the case for the re-opening of the allotment site who had since replied.
- 9.2 The Clerk reported he had three names on the waiting list for allotments at the present time.

10 ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

- 10.1 There were no items of information.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 21.25 HOURS

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE WILL BE:

VENUE: LONDON HOUSE, HIGH STREET, MAYFIELD

DATE: MONDAY 20 OCTOBER 2008

TIME: 1930 HOURS

Note meeting 8D06 September 2008 is cancelled.