

MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAYFIELD
AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 14 MAY 2007 AT 1930 HOURS**

7C:02

FINAL

M PITCHER CHAIRMAN

SUMMARY OF MEETING

- Martin Pitcher elected Chairman
- Robert Fitzsimmons elected Vice Chairman
- Committees and organisation representatives elected
- Code of Conduct (2007) unanimously accepted by the Parish Council
- Position on St Leonard's School Development reported on by the Chairman.
- Internal Auditor appointed

ATTENDANCE

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

Present and voting 13 Present and not voting 0
Apologies for Absence 1 Not present 0 Other Council Business 0

Also Present

ESCC Councillor Robert Tidy (RT) and Christopher Dowling, Wealden District Councillors Graham Wells (GW), Brian Redman (BR) and Robert Standley (RS).
David Thompson Parish Clerk (DT) and Caroline Peck, Assistant Parish Clerk (CP)

There were six members of the public present.

Apologies for Absence were received from WDC Councillor Jonica Fox (JF)

MINUTES

1. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

- 1.1. The Clerk confirmed that he had received thirteen Declarations of Acceptance of office, all of which had been signed in his presence.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

- 2.1. MP was proposed as Chairman for 2007/8 by JB.

Seconded by PD Vote UNANIMOUS

MP took the Chair and signed the Declaration of Acceptance in the presence of the Clerk.

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

- 3.1. DR was proposed as Vice Chairman by PA and Seconded by HH.
RF was proposed as Vice Chairman by PD and Seconded by GP.
The vote was: DR 5; RF7; Abstention 1
RF was elected as Vice Chairman for 2007/8.

4. CO-OPTION OF MEMBER FOR RUSHERS CROSS WARD

- 4.1. The Clerk reported that he had sought advice from Christine Swan of SLCC and ruled that:

- Up to 35 days after the election the Parish Council could co-opt to fill vacancies as it wished, provided that the co-optee was prepared to represent the ward and that he resided within three miles of the Ward, or had a business there in.
- After 35 days the vacancy needed to be advertised.

- 4.2. Tony Lay was proposed by MP, who noted that TL had consented, and was prepared to serve Rushers Cross. Seconded by JB

Vote for 7 Against 0 Abstention 5

Tony Lay is co-opted to serve Rushers Cross Ward.

ACTION DT

5. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- 5.1. The following members were elected to the Finance and General Purposes Executive Committee by UNANIMOUS VOTE CL; HH; PA; RF; CS; DR. Total 6.

- 5.2. The following members were elected to the Planning Executive Committee by UNANIMOUS VOTE.

GP; EW; JD; PB; CS; PD.

- 5.3. The following members were elected to the Development Advisory Committee by UNANIMOUS VOTE.

PB; JW; CS; DR.

- 5.4. The following members were elected to the Rights of Way and Trees Advisory Committee by UNANIMOUS VOTE.

JB; EW; JW

- 5.5 The following members were elected to the Security Committee by UNANIMOUS VOTE.
HH; PA; RF
- 5.6 The following were elected to the Traffic Advisory Committee by UNANIMOUS VOTE.
PD; CS; GP; CL
- 5.7 The following were elected to the Youth Advisory Group by UNANIMOUS VOTE.
DR; EW.
- 5.8 It was agreed that the King Georges Field Mayfield Charity Committee to be renamed the: Court Meadow Management Group Advisory Committee. The following were elected by UNANIMOUS VOTE.
JD; DR; CS.

6. ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

- 6.1 Representatives to village organisations were elected by the Council by UNANIMOUS VOTE as follows:
- Old People’s Welfare DR
 - Mayfield Primary School JD; HH
 - Five Ashes Primary School RF
 - Mayfield Memorial Hall Committee JD; HH
 - Five Ashes Village Hall Committee GP
 - Chamber of Commerce CS
 - Mayfield Charities Mrs Pennington
 - National Health Matters DR; HH
 - Open Door HH; DR; PB
 - Village of the Year Competition DK
- 6.2 With regard to the Mayfield Charities, the Clerk explained that the charity was an amalgamation of a number of local charities. Mrs Pennington had not spoken to the Parish Council about the charities activities.

7. APPOINTMENT OF SUB COMMITTEE

- 7.1. NCN21 Sub-Committee - it was agreed on advice from PD not to form this sub-committee until it was known to be needed.
- 7.2. SE Plan Sub-Committee it was agreed by UNANIMOUS VOTE that the following members would form the sub-committee.
JD; HH.

8. RESOLUTION 7C01

8.1. The under-mentioned resolution was placed before the Council.

RESOLVED

- (1) That pursuant to Section 51 of the Local Government Act 2000 the Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council in place of the model code of conduct previously adopted in 2002 hereby adopts with effect from 14th May 2007 the Standards Board's version of the model code of conduct attached to the report being an amended version of the code set out in the Schedule to the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 (SI 2007/1159) to the extent that it is mandatory for Parish Councils and including paragraph 12(2) of the model code and this code shall be the code expected of Members, and Co Opted member of the Council**
- (2) That the ten principles are hereby adopted as a non-enforceable annex to the code to remind members and the public of the principles underlying the Code**

HH considered that the issue needed debate before the vote, MP replied that the new Code of Conduct was an act of law and as such there was no need for debate.

The resolution was proposed by MP, Seconded by PD and approved by the Council by UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ACTION DT

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 9.1. MP explained to new members the purpose, reason and process for declarations of interest to be made.
- 9.2. The following interests were declared:
JD as a Friend of St Leonard's School
GP as Chairman of the Five Ashes Village Hall Committee
- 9.3. There were no further declarations of interest.

10. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 10.1. The Chairman announced that following the presentation on St Leonard's School developments at Meeting 7C01, a further meeting had taken place with two of the school trustees.

MP had emphasised the problems to the Parish which would result from developing the maintenance yard as a housing site. The two sides had agreed to recognise each others differences and points of view and to work together as much as possible. The Bursar of St Leonards would attend Council meetings and receive minutes.

ACTION DT

11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- 11.1. There were no questions from members of the public.

12. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16 APRIL 2007 (7C01)

- 12.1. Two minor errors were accepted by the Clerk, after which the minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS VOTE and signed by the Chairman.

ACTION DT

- 12.2. With regard to minute 7C01/6.7 RF reported that the Leeds Lane site as a location for the proposed nature garden was not viable, since the site had fallen into disuse and the property had changed hands.
- 12.3. With regard to minute 7C01/4.2 – Mayfield Memorial Hall car park relining. PD noted that the hatched area near the scouts hut prevented parking near the waste disposal recycling area and that it was not necessary to change the bay marking. It was noted that the work would be carried out on 29 May and that the car park gates would be locked.

ACTION DT

13. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 APRIL 2007 (7F01)

- 13.1. One minor error was accepted by the Clerk after which the minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS VOTE.
- 13.2. With regard to minute 6F4/16.1 – the Clerk reported that the Council’s concern was over the amount of A boards used by the Rose and Crown, these had since been substantially reduced.
- 13.3. It was noted that Mazars had been appointed as External Auditors for 2007/8.

14. RESOLUTION 7F01

- 14.1. The following Resolution was placed before the Council “That the Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council Resolve to appoint Gregor Smith as Internal Auditor for the year 2007/8”.

Proposed by HH, Seconded by PD.

The Resolution was passed by UNANIMOUS VOTE.

15. REPORTS BY ESCC COUNCILLORS R TIDY AND C DOWLING

- 15.1. R Tidy reported that he had asked Council Officers to approach Wealden District Council over the possible conflict with the sale of the maintenance yard and the necessary developments at the school.
- 15.2. RT summarised the current position with regard to the NCN 21 and the Atkins report. He noted that the current proposal was made 12 years ago and envisaged the Cuckoo Trail going from Heathfield to Forest Row using the old railway line as much as possible. There were controversial aspects to this project since the trackway passed through the land of several domestic dwellings. There had been a number of consultations culminating with a consultancy report from Atkins on the various possible routes.

It was reported that the Atkins report had failed to meet the laid down criteria, despite a number of revisions.

ESCC had decided to take the project forward and would issue a report on 25 June after which there would be extensive consultation.

- 15.3. It was noted that Heathfield see the project as a great opportunity to aid the town's regeneration and will encourage the route to be developed through the old railway tunnel and out to Mutton Hall Lane.

RT wished to close down uncertainty over the route but noted that ESCC did not have sufficient resources in the capital fund.

PD asked whether Sustrans had the necessary funds, but RT advised that all of the £43m originally made available had been used up. CS asked to be made aware of the cost of the Atkins Consultancy report – answer £40,000.

- 15.4. CD had nothing further to report.

16. REPORT FROM WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLORS ROBERT STANDLEY, GRAHAM WELLS AND BRIAN REDMAN

- 16.1. R Standley reported that the Wealden District Council had not met since the election and had nothing to report.
- 16.2. Graham Wells introduced himself as the new Councillor for the Lake Street and Rushers Cross area.
- 16.3. Brian Redman reported that the Mayfield Ward turn out for the election had been 43%, the second highest in Wealden.
- 16.4. BR reported that a further planning application had been made to erect a mobile telephone mast on the spare ground at the junction with the Tunbridge Wells Road and the A267 and considered that there could well be health hazards.

17. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 APRIL 2007 (7P02) AND 30 APRIL 2007 (7P03)

- 17.1 With the correction of a minor error to the minutes of meeting 7P03, both sets of minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS VOTE.
- 17.2 There were no other issues.

18 MINUTES OF THE RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE HELD ON 23 APRIL 2007 (7R01)

- 18.1 The minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS VOTE, and there were no questions on the minutes.
- 18.2 JB noted that a recent planning application had been passed for a gallop at Highfields, where a footpath was involved. The Planning Committee had not referred the issue to the Rights of Way Committee. The Clerk agreed to put a process into place to prevent further such cases in the future.

ACTION DT

- 18.3 JB drew attention to the footpaths survey currently being carried out. There were five footpaths in Five Ashes which needed to be surveyed. Volunteers were required. EW, RF and GP volunteered to survey the paths.

ACTION JB

- 18.4 The Clerk reported that Joan Redman had sold 35 footpath booklets at the Mayfield Fair on Saturday 12 July.

19 MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMITTEE (7T01) HELD ON 26 APRIL 2007

- 19.1 PD reported that ESCC had a £1 million capital budget for 2007/8 and that this would be used for traffic calming and local safety schemes within the county. In addition there was money for speed management.
- 19.2 Speedwatch, there was now a Government approved speedwatch initiative with trials being undertaken in East Sussex.
- 19.3 SID - T Lay had completed a successful week of speed indicator use in Newick Lane.
- 19.4 Safe Lanes Project had now run its course.
- 19.5 It was noted that the Parking Review was still going and Mayfield was now fifth on the list.
- 19.6 There were no amendments to the minutes which were approved by UNANIMOUS VOTE.
- 19.7 DR asked if the Mayfield roundabout could be protected from vehicles which drive straight over the top. It was noted by RT that the roundabout was a key part of the ESCC income generation project and ESCC would take this issue into account.

20 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES NOT HOLDING MEETINGS DURING THE PERIOD

- 20.1 Youth Committee - DR had nothing to report other than that the Youth Drop-in Centre had been substantially developed by Diane Kirkness and that membership was now over 30 persons. Further report next month.
- 20.2 Security – RF reported that crime was down, but a lack of money threatened police community support and policing in general. It was noted that community policing would be held at present numbers.

Challenge 2010 was a project to save £10 million from the police budget and ESCC were doing all possible to protect neighbourhood policing.
- 20.3 In answer to a question, RF replied that the PCSO for Five Ashes, Paula Mackie, had not been seen very often in the Five Ashes area, but they do keep in touch.

21 CALOR VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

- 21.1 It was noted that the completion date for applications was now 10 June 2007. The Clerk would advise Diane Kirkness.

ACTION DT

22 PROPOSAL FOR REGULAR PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

- 22.1 Following proposals from members of the public the provision of a regular surgery was discussed.

RS noted that in Wadhurst this had been tried, but with difficulty.

PD was not against the ideas but wary since it could lead to the provision of advice which could have legal ramifications.

PA was worried about giving advice in isolation.

HH agreed to try out a surgery using the Open Door meetings.

The idea to be developed for consideration at the next F&GP meeting.

23 CLERK'S REPORT FOR MAY 2007 (7X02)

23.1 In answer to questions the Clerk replied as follows:

- Action 7C01/10.2 Waste site No 2 – The agreements and advice received from WDC will be put to complainants for consideration.
- Action 7C01/13.3 It was noted that the basketball mast currently on the Skateboard Park would probably be not wanted by Five Ashes Village Hall.

24 DOCUMENTATION – COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

24.1 The item was left over to the June meeting (7C03).

25 OTHER INFORMATION AND NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

25.1 It was noted that Standing Orders and the financial regulations will be on the agenda for the June meeting (7C03).

25.2 It was noted that the Planning Meeting (7P04) will be rescheduled for Monday 21 May 2007 and that the mobile phone mast application will be on the agenda.

25.3 DR requested that the pre-school fencing project be placed on the next F&GP agenda.

ACTION DT

25.4 CS drew attention to the work of the voluntary groups on climate change issues.

25.5 The meeting of the Annual Assembly was noted. PD requested that the minutes item be brought up higher on the agenda. RF would chair the meeting. Court Meadow would be discussed.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2109 HOURS.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WILL BE:

VENUE: MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
DATE: MONDAY 11 JUNE 2007
TIME: 1930 HOURS