

MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAYFIELD
AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL
ON MONDAY 11 JUNE 2007 AT 1930 HOURS**

7C:03

FINAL

MARTIN PITCHER
CHAIRMAN

SUMMARY OF MEETING

- Tony Lay joins Full Council as member for Rushers Cross
- Presentation on village website
- Request for Rights of Way to be marked on Planning Applications
- Five Ashes Village Hall – lottery fund application rejected.
- Annual Assembly Minutes approved by Parish Council

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)	Apologies for Absence (A)
Catherine Swingland	(CS)	Present and Voting
Robert Fitzsimmons	(RF)	Present and Voting
Chris Lilly	(CL)	Present and Voting
Jerry Watkiss	(JW)	Present and Voting
Tony Lay	(TL)	Present and Voting

Present and voting 14 Present and not voting 0
Apologies for Absence 1 Not present 0 Other Council Business 0

Also Present

ESCC Councillor Robert Tidy (RT), Wealden District Councillor Robert Standley (RS).
David Thompson Parish Clerk (DT)

There was one member of the public present.

Apologies for Absence were received from WDC Councillor Jonica Fox (JF), Graham Wells (GW) and Brian Redman (BR) and ESCC Councillor Chris Dowling (CD)

MINUTES

1. DECLARATION ON INTEREST BY MEMBERS ON AGENDA ITEMS

- 1.1. JW declared an interest in Agenda Item 5, being a member of the Rother Media team.
- 1.2. GP declared an interest in Agenda item 16 as Chairman of the Five Ashes Village Hall committee.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

- 2.1. The Chairman reminded the Council members that the return of election expenses was required by WDC even if it was a nil return.
- 2.2. The Chairman reminded members to ensure that interest statements were completed and sent to the Clerk.
- 2.3. The Chairman introduced Tony Lay, the co-opted member for Rushers Cross to the Council.

3. THE MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES VILAGE WEBSITE

- 3.1. JW gave a presentation to the Council on the new village and council website.
- 3.2. It was designed to be in two sections:
 - Village
 - Parish Council
- 3.3. The Parish Council section had comprehensive sections on:
 - Introduction to Council
 - Councillors
 - Committees and Sub-Committees
 - Comprehensive range of meeting minutes
 - Council documentation
 - Diary for Parish Council
 - Feedback section
 - Parish Council news
- 3.4. The village section had information on:
 - Shops and Business directory
 - News page
 - Churches
 - Clubs and Association
 - Feedback
 - Village Diary
- 3.5. RT asked whether ESCC and WDC could have a page where they could place items of interest to the villages. PD noted that this would speed data flow. MP agreed and asked the Clerk to investigate.

ACTION DT

- 3.6. TL asked whether advertising would be placed on the site. MP replied - not at present, but it will be considered for a possible future enhancement.
- 3.7. PD noted that it was possible that some minutes of meeting may be interpreted in the wrong way.
- 3.8. JW noted that a messaging and public comment area could be developed for the future.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- 4.1. Lloyd Mclean congratulated the Council on the new website, but expressed disquiet over the view of Mayfield which formed the background to some screens.
- 4.2. Lloyd McLean complained about the state of the Notice Boards – Clerk accepted that Mayfield did not have the current agenda on it, and noted that the Five Ashes Board had seized up and could no longer be opened. The necessary action would be taken.

ACTION DT

- 4.3. Lloyd McLean reported a road sign leaning over at Butchers Cross.

ACTION DT

- 4.4. Lloyd McLean complained about the state of the bus shelters and seats. Clerk noted that these were being done during June.

ACTION DT

5. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 14 MAY 2007 (7C02)

- 5.1. Three changes to the minutes were accepted by the Clerk after which they were approved by UNANIMOUS VOTE, and signed by the Chairman.
- 5.2. There were no issues arising from the minutes.

6. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 29 MAY 2007 (7F02)

- 6.1 CL reported the key issues from the minutes:
 - The documentation being prepared for Council approval at the next meeting.
 - That the accounts had been sent for audit.
 - The decision to place the use of green electricity in Abeyance on the grounds of cost and the Sunday Times article on how green is Green electricity.
 - The formalisation of finance processes.
 - Clerk had submitted his CILCA Portfolio, after the results had been obtained the Quality Council application would be submitted.
 - The proposal to go forward with the Court Meadow decision process, which would lead to a decision paper in July and a Yellow Pages article for July.
 - The debate on Council Surgeries, and the decision not to proceed at present, but to use Public Question Time at the Full Council meeting.

- 6.2 JB asked if all members could have a copy of the Green Electricity article. This was agreed.

ACTION DT

- 6.3 Two errors within the minutes were accepted after which the minutes were accepted by UNANIMOUS VOTE.

7. FINANCE REPORT

7.1. The Financial Report, notes and formal reconciliation for April 2007 were circulated.

7.2. CL in presenting the financial report first explained in the data layout:

- Monthly details (3 columns)
- Year to date (3 columns)
- Remaining budget (1 column)
- The year end forecast (3 columns)

and then explained the key issues emerging within the first month of the Fiscal Year.

7.3. PD asked for an explanation of the definition of Section 137. The Clerk replied:

Section 137 (LGA 1972) enables Local Councils to expend a limited amount of money for purposes for which they have no other specific statutory power. It must provide a direct benefit to its area or part of its area, or all or some of its inhabitants.

Section 137 cannot be used where:

- If there is already a specific power applying to the function.
- To get round powers restricted by condition or limitation.
- To get round a prohibition on a Council carrying out a statutory function.

Expenditure is limited to £5.64 (2007) per elector at the first April in the Parish in any one fiscal year.

Under section 137A of the Act, any expenditure in excess of £2000, given to a voluntary body or charity is supported by a statement of account to verify expenditure.

7.4. GP asked for an explanation of the item in the March 2006/7 Financial Statement relating to Five Ashes Village Hall. The Clerk will reply separately.

ACTION DT

7.5. The Financial Statements were noted and agreed by the Full Council.

8. REPORTS BY ESCC COUNCILLOR R TIDY (RT)

8.1. RT reported that with regards to St Leonard's School and the maintenance site situated near the Primary School two meetings had taken place between Lt Col Bayliss and ESCC Local Education Property Officers. In summary ESCC did not see the need to expand the school, and therefore did not need the Maintenance Yard. If the Mayfield Primary School wished to take the case forward they would need to submit a business case.

8.2. RT outlined the work carried out by ESCC to raise the issue of domestic violence. After much investigative work they had created a domestic violence Reduction Panel which was working closely with the police and that help was now available.

8.3. There were no questions for RT.

9. REPORT FROM WDC COUNCILLOR ROBERT STANDLEY (RS)

9.1. RS reported that WDC were now moving forward with the LDF, which takes a view of the Wealden district up to 2026. Consultation with Parishes was taking place.

- 9.2. However the Medium Term Financial Strategy for Wealden was based on a 3% reduction in services, which after allowing for those which cannot be cut means an overall reduction of 5% with a cap on council tax increases.
- 9.3. There were no questions for RS.

10. MINUTES OF PLANNING MEETINGS

6P04 14 May 2007

6P05 29 May 2007

- 10.1. PD noted that as an executive committee, with delegated decision making powers that the minutes did not require detailed scrutiny.
- 10.2. PD commented on the minutes for meeting 6P04 being largely in the first person. The Clerk had already agreed to future publication to the laid down standards.
- 10.3. PD noted that for the meeting on 29 November they had been unable to form a quorum, and pointed out the importance of regular attendance.
- 10.4. PD – he was also considering a three week cycle, the decision on which will be made at the next planning meeting.

Clerk to place on Agenda.

ACTION DT

- 10.5. With correction of one error the minutes were confirmed.
- 10.6. JB asked that steps be taken to ensure that Rights of Way are marked on Planning Applications.

ACTION DT

11. MINUTES OF THE SECURITY MEETING HELD ON 5 JUNE 2007 (7S02)

- 11.1. RF drew attention to the key issues:
- Minute 5 Neighbourhood Watch gets good local response. The community contact email address had been changed: c.c.registration@sussex.pnn.police.uk.
 - Minute 6 – Tack marking can now be carried out at local stables – the service is free.
- 11.2. JB asked about the Playgroup Hut where there now had been a number of break-ins.
- 11.3. There was also a request from T Bennet to cut the environmental area of Court Meadow to prevent taking advantage of the dense undergrowth.
- 11.4. The minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS VOTE, and there were no matters arising.

12. COMMITTEES NOT MEETING DURING THE PERIOD

- 12.1. PD noted that Steve Ethrington had been trained to use the new laser gun speed measurement devices. RF also reported that he was also part of the Traffic Police contingent in East Sussex.
- 12.2. It was proposed by PD and seconded by GP that TL be a member of the Traffic Committee. This was agreed by UNANIMOUS VOTE.
- 12.3. PD reported that the Memorial Hall car park lining had been carried out on the 29 May.
- 12.4. Rights of Way Committee. JB had nothing to report.
- 12.5. Youth Committee – next meeting 26 July 2007 – nothing else to report.

13. FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL

13.1. GP reported that the lottery application for the Five Ashes Village Hall had been rejected. The reasons were:

“We assessed your application against our two criteria using the information you gave us. Your application was then considered in competition with other applications. We decided not to offer you a grant because:

- We considered the extent to which the outcomes you proposed for your project related to the need you had identified and were aiming to address. Our view was that you had not sufficiently demonstrated how your proposed outcomes addressed the need, and that your project was weaker in this area than others we considered.
- We noted that you have applied to us for part of your project costs and need to raise funding for the rest. However, we felt that there was a risk that your plans for securing the additional funding needed to deliver the project were not realistic and that your project might not therefore go ahead.”

13.2. The next meeting of the Hall committee would consider the way forward:

- Other funding sources
- Refurbish existing hall
- Do nothing

14. MINUTES OF THE PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 21 MAY 2007

14.1. Seven changes were agreed to the minutes.

14.2. PD took issue with minute 7A01/5.6 pointing out that the Council was the only body who could make a decision with regard to the field.

14.3. JD was of the view that a public meeting had been agreed. The Clerk replied that the assembly had time set aside to debate the issue, but a public meeting had not been called for. The Clerk had noted that if the Parish Council were so minded a postal ballot was feasible. The cost would be approximately £1000.

14.4. The minutes were confirmed by the Council.

15. CLERK'S REPORT

15.1. JB asked to be advised as to the content of the WDC LDF toolkit.

ACTION DT

15.2. CS asked to have a copy of the High Weald grants paper.

ACTION DT

15.3. Documentation – drafts would be sent out well in advance of the July meeting for the following:

- Standing Orders and charges
- Finance Regulations
- Complaints against the Council

15.4. The Clerk's paper on decisions for Court Meadow would be circulated soon.

16. ITEMS FOR NOTING

- 16.1. JB asked when WDC would be replacing the dead Willow tree in South Street car park.
- 16.2. CS mentioned the programme of meetings of the post oil energy transition committee for the year:
- 22 July 2007 Memorial Hall
- 18 August 2007 Memorial Hall
- 9 September 2007 Memorial Hall
- 6 October 2007 Memorial Hall
- 16.3. EW asked for the Five Ashes Memorial be maintained.

ACTION DT

- 16.4. TL asked if the Traffic Committee could be brought forward to be agreed with PD and the Clerk.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2120 HOURS.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WILL BE:

VENUE: MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
DATE: MONDAY 9 JULY 2007
TIME: 1930 HOURS