

MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAYFIELD
AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
ON MONDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2007 AT 1930 HOURS**

7C:05

FINAL

MARTIN PITCHER
CHAIRMAN

SUMMARY OF MEETING

- Report from Mayfield Charities
- Over 10,000 responses have been received on the LDF consultation
- Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3) explained
- Tenants no longer able to buy housing association built homes
- Wealden's expected delivery of 8000 new homes increased a further 20%

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
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), ESCC Councillor Chris Dowling (CD), Wealden District Councillors Brian Redman (BR) and Robert Standley (RS), Mayfield Charities John Logan(JL) and Mrs M Pennington(MP)

Apologies for Absence

Graham Wells

Not Present

Jonica Fox

Caroline Peck, Assistant Parish Clerk (CP)

There were 6 members of the public present

MINUTES

1. DECLARATION ON INTEREST BY MEMBERS ON AGENDA ITEMS

- 1.1. Graham Playfoot declared that he was the Chairman of the Five Ashes Village Hall Committee.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

- 2.1. The Chairman informed members of the public that they could, on any subject:
 - Make comment
 - Ask questions

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- 3.1. Simon Rudge (SR) thanked the Parish Council for the opportunity to speak to them. He explained that the Mayfield Band had two main areas of concern:

- The New Memorial Hall Proposals

SR stated that the Mayfield Band felt that the Memorial Hall Development Committee was unprepared to look at alternatives to the existing plan which includes the demolition of the Band Hut. The Mayfield Band is very happy with its current premises as it provides good acoustics and exclusive use. SR went on to explain that the Mayfield Band has been a family tradition that has been handed down through the generations, with the original Band Hut being built by its founding members. Currently 8 under 11's are taught. The band has 25 senior members. SR stated that as a consequence of future uncertainty members will leave.

- Lease on Court Meadow

SR explained that the Lease drawn up in 1972 for 22 years had no renewable clause. The Mayfield Band pays 25p per year to the Parish Council. The Parish Council had promised a 10 year lease renewal, however, to date, this has not happened and only a one to two year renewable period has been suggested.

- 3.2. MP thanked SR for his comments and stated that the PC was currently awaiting a detailed proposal for the new Memorial Hall. MP confirmed that the security of tenure was not in question. The PC would be issuing simple agreements to its tenants and that a 10 year renewable period was not out of the picture.
- 3.3. PD enquired about the Band Huts usage. SR stated that the hut is used 3 hours each Friday for practice and for access when they have concerts and at weekends.
- 3.4. Lloyd Mclean asked how many members were there in the band and how many were residents of Mayfield. SR stated that there were 25 Senior Members and 8-10 Junior Members. Half of the Junior Band is local. Most seniors are outside the area. SR stated that he was the only senior band member who lives in Mayfield.
- 3.5. Lloyd Mclean queried the status 'Closed' on minute 7C04/3.1 of the Clerks Report. However there seemed to be some confusion as to which notice board this referred to. GP stated that he thought this was the notice board near to the Five Ashes Village Hall. LM thought that it was the public notice board situated on the green triangle on the highway. The Clerk to clarify.
ACTION DT
- 3.6. Lloyd Mclean stated that the trees opposite the Doctors Surgery needed Pruning. The Clerk to arrange.

ACTION DT

- 3.7. Iris Bruce asked for the rose beds outside the Memorial Hall to be tidied as they look a disgrace. The Clerk to arrange.

ACTION DT

- 3.8. Iris Bruce also noted that the recycling bins were unable to be emptied on Friday due to cars being parked in front of them. IB felt that some form of 'No Parking' signage be erected. The Clerk to investigate

ACTION DT

- 3.9. PD responded that he felt that a 'No Parking' sign would do little to deter cars parking there. PD noted that he was surprised that they were trying to empty the bins on a Friday as usually this is done on a Tuesday.

- 3.10. Iris Bruce noted that she was not aware that the PC was awaiting detailed Memorial Hall plans. IB stated that she was very sorry with the current relationship between the Committee and the Mayfield Band. It had never been the Committees intention to antagonise the Band.

IB explained that she had personally asked the band their needs. The Committees intention is to have a multi-purpose facility available for musical events. IB stated that if the Mayfield Band did not want to be included in the new hall, then the Committee would work round this, however IB hoped that they could accommodate everyone's wishes.

- 3.11. MP thanked IB for her positive words.

4. REPORT FROM MAYFIELD CHARITIES

- 4.1. John Logan reported that the Mayfield Charity was started over 300 years ago with a number of small charities. The Thomas Baker, their biggest charity, is over 240 years old. The Charity continued until the middle of the 20th century with the principle source of income coming from the Charities Cottages. The Charities Cottages were then sold with the capital being invested. JL explained that they were totally independent working within the guidelines of the Charity Commission. JL explained that the aim of the charity is relieving either generally or individually person's resident in the ancient parish of Mayfield who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress. People can apply yearly with the charity meeting once a quarter. JL noted that they were always very pleased to hear about possible recipients. Currently their annual income is around 5K with their Capital Investment standing at 125K. The list of trustees is Mr John Logan, Mrs Mary Pennington, Father Nigel Prior, Mrs Ann Adam and Mrs Fiona Bickerton.
- 4.2. MP asked whether they had a scheme issued by the Charity Commission. JL noted that there was one and that he would be happy to send it to the Parish Office.
- 4.3. PD asked how many of the recipients got the full amount that they had asked for. JL responded by saying that few people ask for a specific amount instead they explained their need. He sited that recently they had received an application for a chair. The Charity actually purchased the chair on behalf of the recipient. JL explained that at Christmas time they give gifts to the elderly and also disabled people.
- 4.4. PD suggested that joining forces with other charities may be of benefit. JL explained that they had tried this with Social Services; however their processes were a lot slower than their own.
- 4.5. MP thanked JL for his informative report.

5. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 JULY 2007 (7C04)

- 5.1. One minor change was accepted to the minutes, after which they were approved by UNANIMOUS VOTE.
- 5.2. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

6. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 23 JULY 2007 (7F04)

- 6.1. In the absence of Councillor Lilly, the F&GP Minutes, together with the Internal Audit Paper and Budget Timetable were noted.
- 6.2. With regards to minute 12.1, JB thought the cost of the line marker for Mayfield Football Club seemed excessive. The Clerk to investigate.

ACTION DT

7. FINANCE REPORT JUNE AND JULY 2007

- 7.1. Both reports were noted.

8. REPORTS FROM ESCC COUNCILLORS R TIDY AND CHRIS DOWLING

- 8.1 R Tidy reported on three main areas:
 - School numbers and provision of places
 - NCN21 Cycle Network
 - Post Bus
- 8.2 JD asked why ESCC never bid for the Maintenance Yard to expand Mayfield Primary School. RT explained that ESCC were content that the existing primary school had sufficient capacity and consequently there was no need to use the Maintenance Yard for future expansion.
- 8.3 PD noted the heavily overgrown hedgerows within East Sussex. RT confirmed that all main roads had now been cut and the small roads and lanes were in the process of being cut. RT confirmed that the main roads would be due another cut before winter. RT noted however, that the County Council's financial situation was dire.
- 8.4 DR reported that the trees around the roundabout in Mayfield were growing taller and that they would eventually cause a visual problem. RT confirmed that he would have a look.
- 8.5 C Dowling reported that the gully emptying in Five Ashes had been completed. RF will continue to monitor.

9. REPORTS FROM WDC COUNCILLOR B REDMAN (BR) AND ROBERT STANDLEY (RS)

- 9.1. Brian Redman noted the recently approved St Leonards Maintenance Yard Planning Application and the recently received Alywins Application.
- 9.2. BR reported on The Wealden Design Guide consultation which runs until the 15th October, the purpose of which is to encourage a higher standard of design for development within the District.
- 9.3. BR reported on the Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3) which came into force on the 1st April and details the strategy for providing housing in the next 5 years. BR explained

that the Government has now removed the right of purchasing housing association built houses therefore safeguarding homes for the future.

- 9.4. BR noted that the deadline for nominations for the Community Award Scheme was 28th September.
- 9.5. Iris Bruce congratulated members of Wealden for acting very efficiently in last week's fire emergency in the village.
- 9.6. PD asked whether there would be a post event analysis with the various attending organisations. BR stated that he thought this to be a good idea and praised the wonderful response of locals to the emergency.
- 9.7. Robert Standley reported that over 10,000 responses had been received on the LDF consultation.
- 9.8. RS reported that Wealden was expected to deliver 8000 new homes, however this had been subject to a further 20% increase.
- 9.9. Free electric blanket testing returns to Mayfield Fire Station on 17th October.
- 9.10. An Open Day on Affordable Housing is to be held at Pine Grove on 25th September.
- 9.11. RS was pleased to report that a saving of £1.4 million for the 2005 Annual Efficiency Statement had been achieved over a two year period rather than the budgetary target of 3 years.
- 9.12. GP observed that the PC had received no apologies of absence from Councillor Jonica Fox.

10. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS, 16 JULY 2007 (7P08), 6 AUGUST (7P09) AND 28 AUGUST 2007 (7P10)

- 10.1. 7P08, 7P09 and 7P10 minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS VOTE.

11. MINUTES OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS, 16 JULY 2007 (7D04) and 13 AUGUST (7D05)

- 11.1. The minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS VOTE.
- 11.2. DR reported on the LDF consultation and noted that a more comprehensive response document is due to be presented to Council in October.
- 11.3. PD noted that the planned delivery time of October was tight. DR stated that the sooner the Committee delivers the happier it will be. The aim is to get it done before the end of the year.
- 11.4. RT explained that for every 100 homes built, 2.5 pupils per year group spring from those 100 homes. RT further explained that an increase school places has to be sponsored by the Department Of Education.

12. NCN21 CONSULTANCY MEETING HELD ON 3 SEPTEMBER 2007 (7M01)

- 12.1. PD reminded the Parish Council that as a body they had a serious role to perform and urged the council to agree a resolution for the next council meeting.
- 12.2. R Nabavi thanked the council for arranging the NCN21 meeting and thanked Councillor Lock for attending in person. RN then outlined the issues as he saw them, in response to the Atkins report.

- 12.3. RT reported that Councillor Lock was very complimentary and grateful for the responses received. There had been a variety of suggestions and it was felt that people were now more supportive.
- 12.4. Tim Cornish, a local cyclist, whose alternative route of Piccadilly Lane, endorsed Councillor Tidy's comments.
- 12.5. JB asked whether a decision would be made this time. She cited a property that was days away from exchange which had fallen through due to the uncertainty of the compulsory purchase order.
- 12.6. RT explained that there was still a further consultation period after Councillor Lock had decided on their preferred option.
- 12.7. JB stated that the council was under the impression that Councillor's Lock decision was final.
- 12.8. MP suggested formulating a proposal for the next council meeting as the council were unable to come to a consensus over which option should be supported. MP invited PD to propose a resolution at the next council meeting with a Proposer and Seconder.

13. MINUTES OF THE COURT MEADOW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 20 AUGUST 2007 (7K01)

- 13.1. There was one minor error to the minutes after which they were approved by UNANIMOUS VOTE.

14. MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC COMMITTEE HELD ON 25 JULY 2007 (7T02)

- 14.1 There was one minor error to the minutes after which they were approved by UNANIMOUS VOTE.
- 14.2 PD reported that Keith Sinden was happy to visit Mayfield and Five Ashes schools to talk about safety issues.

15 MINUTES OF THE SECURITY COMMITTEE HELD ON 4 SEPTEMBER (7S03)

- 15.1 R Fitzsimmons thanked the Police Inspector for the very successful policing of Music on the Meadow and drew people's attention to the Community Contact e-mail which is back on-line.
- 15.2 The minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS VOTE.

16 MAYFIELD POST BUS (7T00)

- 16.1 PD questioned whether there was a demand for this service.
- 16.2 Robert Standley reported that Wadhurst did not want to pay for it.
- 16.3 Robert Tidy confirmed that the ESCC has persuaded the Post Office to continue the service until the end of the year as well as Don Ben who is prepared to continue his contribution. RT suggested that the solution might be to combine funds.
ACTION DT/MP

17 MINUTES OF THE RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 AUGUST 2007 (7R03)

- 17.1 There were several minor errors to the minutes after which they were approved by UNANIMOUS VOTE.

17.2 JB gave an update on Strathbourne and confirmed that the injunction still remains in force.

18 CLERK'S REPORT

18.1 The Clerks report was noted.

19 VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

19.1 It was noted that the presentation was on Friday.

20 ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

20.1 JB noted she had received an ESCC letter regarding views on cycling. MP confirmed that these should be answered and sent to ESCC.

20.2 TL noted that the Carpenters Arms Planning Application to erect a canopy for smokers had been approved. Similarly the Middle House had tables outside on the pavement. MP stated that the pavement outside the Middle House belongs to them.

20.3 CS requested that the Wealden Design Guide be responded to and should be put on Octobers Agenda.

ACTION DT

20.4 RF requested that the grass around the War Memorial be cut on a regular basis.

ACTION DT

20.5 HH requested that grass be cut more regularly around the Memorial Hall and indeed Court Meadow itself.

ACTION DT

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10:21 HOURS.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL WILL BE:

VENUE: MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

DATE: MONDAY 8 OCTOBER 2007

TIME: 1930 HOURS