

**MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAYFIELD  
AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL  
ORDINARY MEETING**

**HELD AT MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL  
ON MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2008 AT 1930 HOURS**

**8C07  
FINAL**

**MARTIN PITCHER  
CHAIRMAN**

**Chairman of Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council  
Councillor Martin Pitcher**

**SUMMARY OF MEETING**

- Budget 2009/10 approved (Minute 8C07/10.8)
- Precept 2009/10 approved (Minute 8C07/10.9)
- Change in police organisation for Mayfield and Five Ashes reported (Minute 8C07/2.1)
- Report on Five Ashes speed restriction project (Minute 8C07/7.5)
- Present position of FP 13 reported (Minute 8C07/11.2)
- MVC issues debated

**ATTENDANCE**

Martin Pitcher	(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)	Apologies for Absence (B)
Patricia Balfour	(PB)	Apologies for Absence (B)
Jayne Bramwell	(JB)	Present and Voting
Graham Playfoot	(GP)	Apologies for Absence (S)
Hubert Hills	(HH)	Present and Voting
Deveda Redman	(DR)	Apologies for Absence (H)
Robert Fitzsimmons	(RF)	Present and Voting
Chris Lilly	(CL)	Present and Voting
Jerry Watkiss	(JW)	Present and Voting
Lloyd McLean	(LM)	Present and Voting

Present and voting 10      Present and not voting 0  
Apologies for Absence 4      Not present 0      Other Council Business 0

**Also Present**

Wealden District Councillor Graham Wells (GW) ESCC Councillors Robert Tidy (RT) and Chris Downling (CD)  
David Thompson Parish Clerk (DT)

**Apologies for Absence**

Jonica Fox (JF), Brian Redman (BR) and Robert Standley (RS)

There were 19 children and 14 members of the public present.

## **MINUTES**

### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

- 1.1. There were no declarations of interest.

### **2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

- 2.1. The Chairman announced that following recent organisational changes Sergeant Howard Neville would be replacing PC Steve Etherington for the responsibility of the Mayfield area policing.
- 2.2. MP noted the proposed changes to the policing in the area, but it was observed that the Mayfield PCSO Tamara Bennett had not been seen in the village for some time.
- 2.3. MP asked whether the PCSO would have her own transport. In reply it was noted that it was the aspiration of the police to have PCSOs walking their respective areas. Transport was still a major issue.
- 2.4. LM asked for a Police contact number. This was 07785 714976. It was also reported that a drop off point and booking on point at the Fire Station was being considered.
- 2.5. A record of man hours for police time in Mayfield was requested. The police agreed that this would be possible and made available.

**ACTION DT**

### **3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

- 3.1. There were no public questions.

### **4. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2008 (8C06)**

- 4.1. Four minor errors of fact were agreed, after which the minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 4.2. PD questioned whether the meeting was a statutory one; the Clerk confirmed that it was.

#### **COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS**

- 4.3. With regard to minute 8C06/17.2 PA confirmed that he would be giving a report on the Chamber of Commerce later in the agenda.
- 4.4. With regard to Mr Nabavi's suggestion the Clerk confirmed that out of academic interest he had asked SALC to fully answer his questions. However he noted that the questions had no bearing on the Resolution 8C08 which had been turned down by the Full Council, and that currently the Parish Council would manage Court Meadow without seeking 'Village Green' status.

### **5. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 OCTOBER 2008 (8F06)**

- 5.1. Two minor changes were accepted to the minutes, which were then approved by the Full Council.
- 5.2. CL noted that the minutes reflected many issues which were included elsewhere on the agenda. It was noted that the kerbstones at the Five Ashes War Memorial had been replaced by tarmac.

#### **COMMENT AND OBSERVATIONS**

JB asked about the FACTS letter to Mrs Siggs. The Clerk confirmed that the proposed letter had been sent, and a reply received, which had been noted by the F&GP. A copy would be sent to her and PD.

**ACTION DT**

- 5.3. With regard to minute 15.2 the Clerk confirmed that he had followed the issue up with WDC, with the hope of getting a suitable sign for Victoria Road and Love Lane.

**6. FINANCIAL RESULTS 8FA05 (AUGUST 2008) AND 8FA06 (SEPTEMBER 2008)**

- 6.1 CL drew attention to the August and September results, and considered that the year to date results were within expectations. He drew member's attention to the year end forecast, which showed a reduction in income of £6970 and expenditure reduction of £8812.
- 6.2 With the inclusion of a minor error, the reports for August and September were approved by the Full Council.

**COMMENT AND OBSERVATIONS**

- 6.3 JB asked what was meant by 'recoveries' in outstanding work on the lighting report. It was explained that these were cases where work was actually carried out at a different time to those stated in the budget.
- 6.4 PD noted that the lower than budget results for staff salaries were partially offset by an overspend in professional fees. It was confirmed that the ex-assistant clerk was paid on a contract basis, but had been budgeted as an employee, which was the case at the time the budget was constructed.

**7. REPORT FROM ESCC COUNCILLORS BOB TIDY AND CRISTOPHER DOWLING**

7.1. Councillor Tidy reported that:

- County Council elections will be on 4 June 2009, to coincide with the European elections.
- Care of older people by ESCC is very successful with 92% being satisfied with care received. ESCC have made a large investment, and in some cases, over the needs of other services.
- The Police precept is being considered, committed to providing first class neighbourhood policy. Every five district council wards will have a sergeant, four constables, and sufficient PCSOs. This will overcome the current abstraction problem.
- Transport and Environment – North Wealden Accessibility Study, shows that Wealden is very poorly served. Needs more public transport and timetables readily available.
- Village Greens – a team is being put together to handle the consideration of a large number of applications.

7.2. PD noted that high crime will follow economic depression, so that an increase in the police precept was to be expected.

7.3. RT in reply to a question from PD noted that ESCC would be signing up to the 'Nottingham' agreement. In due course, however Central Government had not delivered on its promises.

7.4. PD noted that in a guide to local NHS services, Annual Health Check that:

- QUALITY OF SERVICE had gone from FAIR to WEAK.
- USE OF RESOURCES had gone from WEAK TO FAIR

The costs were half a billion pounds per year, and there were accountability issues.

RT would ask Councillor S Tidy to look into the matter.

**ACTION RT**

7.5. CD reported on the Five Ashes traffic speeds issues as follows:

- 40 mph to be extended round bend to touch the 50 mph zone.
- Introduction of 30 mph north of Paragon Garage, which was 40 mph and remove and install 30 mph vehicle activated signs to replace the existing 40 mph vehicle activated signs.
- 30 mph ends just after recreation ground near Rosemary Cottage.
- No change in Southern 40 mph limits.
- New 50 mph past A272 junction up to Coles Hill and then derestricted.
- 40 mph repeaters to remain.
- Legislation forbids 30 mph repeaters.
- At South End provision for vehicle activated sign change from 40 mph to 30 mph.

All subject to consultation and design team.

Drawings ready late December, consultation in March/April. March 2009/10 implementation.

7.6. It was asked that a 30 mph limit should be considered as far as Froghole Lane (Southern End), and LM asked for 30 mph to be considered at Butchers Cross.

## **8. REPORTS FROM WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR GRAHAM WELLS.**

8.1. GW reported that:

- Kerbside recycling was to be advanced for rural areas following successful experiments in Dane Hill and Forest Row. Wadhurst and Mayfield would be in October – December 2009.
- Planning – the current two planning committees are to be amalgamated and will be based in a single building.
- There is to be a development team for all major projects, which will be empowered to bring in specialists and local people.
- Rural Youth Conference discussion sessions brought out the following Youth orientated issues and perceived problems:
  - 25% of youth had nothing to do after school.
  - Play/parks need to be provided.
  - Sheltered areas requested.
  - Lack of public transport.
  - No jobs and no shops.
  - Cinemas were too expensive.

- Elderly did not understand.
  - Each village should have its own Council.
  - Quality of life survey being carried out on 3000 households, will help to monitor council performance as well as police, fire and rescue.
  - The Parish Conference was to be held on 11 November 2008 at Uckfield.
- 8.2. JB reported that her new wheelybin had a very weak lid, and was part of a new production batch. GW noted that there was a European shortage of wheelybins but he would advise the WDC procurement department so that they could investigate the problem.
- 8.3. RF noted that the Heathfield recycling area had been removed. GW would follow up.

**ACTION GW**

## **9. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2008 (8P10)**

- 9.1. With one minor alteration the minutes were confirmed by the Full Council.

### **COMMENT AND OBSERVATIONS**

- 9.2. PD advised the Council that in regard to the planning application for Minicot Cottage he had been in personal correspondence with WDC over the timing of the application and the dates on which the Parish Council objection had been received, where there was a substantial difference in the views of the Parish Council and WDC on the processes whereby Parish comments are reviewed.
- 9.3. With regard to the Minicot Cottage application JB asked whether the Rights of Way objections had been notified to WDC. It was confirmed that they had been submitted, but due to problems with the WDC planning process had not been taken into account.

## **10. BUDGET 2009/10**

- 10.1. CL introduced the budget for 2009/10 and explained the philosophy behind the proposals. These were continued in a paper circulated to all members which followed the decisions made by the F&GP committee at meeting 8F06.

In summary these were:

- Expenditure on day to day village items £90,000 per year.
  - The precept had been held at low levels for at least the last five years.
  - The once substantial reserves are now exhausted.
  - The Parish Council had been criticised for allowing reserves to drop below the recommended safety net.
- 10.2. The budget proposals (see Annex 1) were designed to hold expenditure levels intact, noting that cuts would severely effect the services and employment provided to our villages, and therefore to raise the precept to a figure of £83,500.
- 10.3. The budget had been risk assessed (meeting 8U03), and although challenging it was thought that it could be met.
- 10.4. LM asked whether the Parish Council were paying the proper rates for the Clerk and Assistant Clerk, and considered current pay rates too low.
- The Clerk noted that this area of negotiation was an exempt item and not open to general discussion. However he reported that:

- The Parish Council had obtained an independent assessment of the Clerk's role in Mayfield and Five Ashes and also the NALC rates of remuneration of such a post.
  - In an exempt item meeting the F&GP had approved an adjustment to reflect this advice and information and the Clerk would stand by that decision and award.
  - With regard to Assistant Clerk, there were problems in finding a person with the right attributes for the post, and the NALC recommended remuneration would be applied.
- 10.5. PD noted that the increase in precept proposed was of the order of 12% and he believed that Wealden District Council would advise against such a proposal. It was noted that although WDC might not approve they had no powers to cap the amount requested, since they were a collection agent.
- The Clerk as a matter of courtesy would be explaining the reasons for the proposed precept increase appropriately.
- 10.6. JB asked whether further cuts in expenditure could be made. It was noted that all possible cuts, not without risk, had already been made during the first review of the budget.
- 10.7. It was anticipated that the increase in precept would not come to more than £6 - £7 per annum on the average household, and it was worthwhile in order to preserve the new youth policy and the Mayfield – Crowborough bus route.
- 10.8. The Chairman then called on the Full Council to approve the Budget for 2009/10.
- The Budget was approved by nine votes for NIL against and one abstention.
- 10.9. The Chairman then called on the Full Council to approve the Precept for 2009/10.
- The Precept was approved by nine votes to NIL against and one abstention.
- 10.10. The Parish Council then noted the 'wish list' of projects that would be developed, but not authorised unless full funding could be obtained. The list would be reviewed in subsequent budgets.

## **11. MINUTES OF THE RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 NOVEMBER 2008 (8R04)**

- 11.1. There were no changes to the draft minutes, which were approved by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 11.2. JB reported that with regard to minute 8R4/4.3 that WDC were minded to approve the diversion of FP 13, despite the objections made by the Parish Council and many others.
- The process for hearing objections was not considered to be of the highest standards.
  - It was not considered that the landowner would co-operate with WDC, to bring the route of the proposed footpath diversions to the necessary standard.
  - In answer to a question from LM, it was noted that on a separate issue ESCC were being asked to take legal action against the landowner, so that his dogs would be restrained from menacing footpath users on the current route.

## **12. MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE HELD ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2008 (8Y05)**

12.1. With the absence of any Youth Committee Councillors, the Clerk reported that:

- A project to visit a bowling centre for two evenings, which would include the hire of a coach, was being developed.
- There had been some representation at the Mayfield carnival.
- The Parish Council had allowed the Mayfield Village Centre to use its Child Protection Policy.
- A project for improving the skateboard park was being considered.

12.2. The minutes were approved by the Full Council without amendment.

## **13. REPORT OF THE TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 OCTOBER 2008 (8T03)**

13.1. There was one minor amendment to the minutes which were then approved by the Full Council.

13.2. PD drew member's attention to section 6 of the minutes, which showed that apart from an apology from PCSO TB, there had been no response at all from the police. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Police and seek clarification as to whether there would be any further co-operation, in these important traffic and safety matters.

**ACTION DT**

13.3. JB reported that with regard to the proposed gateways, although there were problems with Newick Lane, there was no problem with the proposed gateway for the roundabout. On a personal initiative she had been in touch with the local ESCC Highway Depot to progress the scheme. PD noted that it was up to the Full Council to make the decision as to whether the gateway was actually wanted or not.

13.4. With regard to minute 8T03/9.1 it was noted that Roundwood Timber would be consulting with the Parish Council on proposed planting. The Clerk would be writing to Roundwood Timber to ensure that this process was carried out.

**ACTION DT**

## **14. MINUTES OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 OCTOBER 2008**

14.1. There were no amendments to the minutes, which were duly approved by the Full Council.

14.2. JW reported that:

- An investigation was being undertaken to ascertain the merits of extending the current conservation area boundary to include the whole of Court Meadow and parts of the Herons Folly estate.

**ACTION DT**

- The surplus land declared by ESCC had been considered and DR had suggested that one of the plots would make an excellent children's nature and adventure garden. It would be put to the Youth Committee for further consideration. It would need some investment from the community.

**ACTION DT**

## **15. REPORT FROM ARGOS HILL WINDMILL REPRESENTATIVE**

15.1. JD reported that she felt that she was unable to be a named trustee of the proposed trust. It was agreed that further consideration would be made by the Parish Council to be a trustee.

**ACTION DT**

15.2. There were no other issues to report.

## **16. REPORT FROM THE MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPRESENTATIVE**

16.1. PA reported that he had been informed that WDC had decided not to adopt the Street Traders legislation provisions as suggested by a number of other Parish Councils. The reason for the WDC action was lack of information and lack of the necessary finance to make the provisions work.

16.2. PA reported that the Committee would be meeting at Taylor Tofts Estate Agency Office on the 11 November where they would be considering the revision of the Business Directory.

## **17 REPORT FROM MAYFIELD VILLAGE CENTRE REPRESENTATIVES**

17.1 HH and JB reported that the MVC Committee had selected project D for future development which they considered would cost £2.6 - £2.9m + car park costs + professional fees + VAT + fitting out costs. This was considered to be a huge project and that JB had resigned from the committee.

17.2 It was noted that only one of the schemes put forward occupied the area of land which the Parish Council had committed, to the project. The MVC had requested a larger plot to be set aside for them. MP said that a response to their problems, which would also set out the Parish Council position, would be communicated to them.

17.3 LM considered that to bring the scheme to fruition some 20 years might be required.

17.4 With regard to the resignation of JB, HH said that he was sorry that she had chosen to stand down as a representative, but he would continue as representative for the time being.

## **18 REPORT ON THE TRANSITION MAYFIELD REPRESENTATIVE**

18.1 The Council approved PB as representative on the Transition Mayfield Committee. The Clerk would notify Ms Treherne of the Council's decision in due course.

**ACTION DT**

## **19 REPORT FROM COMMITTEES NOT MEETING DURING THE PERIOD**

19.1 With regard to the Security Committee RF reported that "cold caller" notices for public display were available and it was recommended that supplies be obtained for use in Mayfield and Five Ashes.

**ACTION RF**

19.2 There was nothing to report for Court Meadow Management.

## **20 DOCUMENTATION**

20.1 The Accountancy Classification for 2009/10 was approved by the Full Council. The Accountancy Classification explains the content of each of the Parish Council Income and Expenditure Headings.

20.2 The Agenda and Minutes verification process was approved by the Full Council.

## **21 CLERK'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2008 8X07**

21.1 The Clerk's report was taken as read, and there were no questions.

## **22 ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND NEXT AGENDA ITEMS**

22.1 LM asked when light No 62 would be cleared of foliage. The Clerk would follow up with highways.

**ACTION DT**

22.2 A complaint had been received about an overgrown hedge at Fingal House, East Street.

**ACTION DT**

22.3 A complaint had been received about overgrowing foliage interfering with sight lines on the A267 at Argos Hill.

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2200 HOURS.**

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL WILL BE:**

**VENUE: MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**DATE: 8 DECEMBER 2008**

**TIME: 1930 HOURS**

## ANNEX 1

### BUDGET 2009/10

BUDGET 2009/10 Draft 2A	Year 2007/8 Actual	Forecast 2008/9 Q2 AUG	YTD 2008 AUG	Budget 2009/10
Precept	£70,344	£73,509	£36,754	£83,500
Rents	£587	£400	£0	£3,000
Interest Received	£2,181	£1,000	£445	£1,000
Grants Received	£3,274	£2,500	£1,199	£0
Sale of Assets	£0	£0	£0	£0
Sundry Income	£1,754	£1,000	£210	£600
VAT Receipts	£4,728	£0	£0	£0
Committed Reserves	£24,652	£17,314	£10,000	£2,601
Prior Years Adjustment	£0 £0			
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£107,520</b>	<b>£95,723</b>	<b>£48,608</b>	<b>£90,701</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
A Clerks Salary	£14,395	£15,744	£5,847	£17,330
S Assistant Clerk	£3,309	£0	£0	£3,700
T N I Payments	£1,183	£1,356	£448	£1,550
N Council Corporate Services	£8,833	£17,180	£10,586	£11,500
B Section 137	£750	£2,700	£2,437	£750
C Grants	£2,145	£10,951	£7,706	£5,620
D Village Services	£7,919	£10,000	£3,676	£11,200
E Lighting	£8,214	£10,000	£5,206	£8,200
F Community	£4,335	£3,400	£267	£3,750
G Recreation	£9,784	£10,500	£6,237	£8,500
H Rights of Way	£935	£1,000	£783	£1,000
J Traffic	£921	£600	£273	£700
K Youth	£1,131	£5,000	£1,761	£5,500
L Public Entertainment	£34	£250	£0	£100
M Elections	£4,271	£0	£0	£0
R Office Costs	£10,589	£0	£3,659	£7,300
N Extraordinary Expenditure	£1,500	£0	£0	£0
<b>TOTAL REVENUE EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£80,248</b>	<b>£88,681</b>	<b>£48,886</b>	<b>£86,700</b>
Q New Construction	£0	£0	£0	£1,500
Q Projects	£27,272	£5,200	£2,250	£2,501
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£107,520</b>	<b>£93,881</b>	<b>£51,136</b>	<b>£90,701</b>