

MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL

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

**HELD AT MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
ON MONDAY 8 DECEMBER 2008 AT 1930 HOURS**

8C08
FINAL

MARTIN PITCHER
CHAIRMAN

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

SUMMARY OF MEETING

- Actions arising from the schools meeting (8C07A) to be progressed.
- Precept – letter sent to WDC explaining reasons for increase.
- ESCC warn of increased activity in rural areas by ‘loan sharks’.
- Surplus land at Mayfield – Parish Council to progress possible development for youth activities.
- Community payback opportunities to be followed up.
- MVC – latest position discussed.

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

Also Present

Wealden District Councillors Brian Redman (BR) ESCC Councillors Robert Tidy (RT)
David Thompson Parish Clerk (DT)

Apologies for Absence

Jonica Fox (JF), Graham Wells (GW), Robert Standley (RS) and Chris Dowling (CD)

There was one member of the public present.

MINUTES

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS

- 1.1. GP declared a personal interest as Chairman of the Five Ashes Village Hall.
- 1.2. There were no other declarations of interest.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

- 2.1. The Chairman apologised on behalf of the Clerk for the electronic transmission failure of the agenda and papers for the meeting. The reason was being investigated.
- 2.2. PD wished to know why the Chairman's name appeared three times in the agenda.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- 3.1. There were no public questions.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 6 NOVEMBER 2008 (8C07)

- 4.1. Five changes were accepted to the minutes, which were then approved for signature by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 4.2. There were no questions or observations on the minutes.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SCHOOLS COUNCIL HELD ON 10 NOVEMBER 2008 (8C07A)

- 5.1. There were no changes to the minutes, which were approved by UNANIMOUS vote.

QUESTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE MINUTES

- 5.2. It was noted that the Clerk would progress all school raised actions to a satisfactory conclusion.
- 5.3. With regard to minute 8C07A/4.4, JB had visited Five Ashes Primary School and had given the school a number of Rights of Way footpath maps. It was noted that, if required, distribution on a personal basis could be arranged. The children had been encouraged to walk the paths.
- 5.4. With regard to minute 8C07A/4.2, JB reported that if the children could find a suitable location, help could be given to find a suitable tree.

NOTE – This would need to be done in conjunction with the Five Ashes Village Hall Trust Committee, as noted in the minute.

6. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2008 (8F07)

- 6.1 One minor change was accepted to the minutes, which were then approved by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 6.2 CL noted that with regard to the precept, a letter had been sent to WDC reporting the reasons for the increase in the precept.
- 6.3 There were no questions or observations on the minutes.

7. FINANCE REPORT OCTOBER 2008 (8FA08)

- 7.1. CL reported that the October financial results were in line with expectations, and that there were no significant issues arising.
- 7.2. The report was accepted by UNANIMOUS vote.

8. REPORT FROM ESCC COUNCILLOR R TIDY

- 8.1. RT reported that:
 - With regard to the oncoming period of economic recession, ESCC had committed £100,000 to the development and improvement to East Sussex Enterprise Advice.
 - Steps were being taken to curb the activities of 'loan sharks' who were known to be moving into areas of Hasting, Eastbourne and the South Coast. It was anticipated that as the County Council made operations difficult for the loan sharks that they would move to other areas of the County. He appealed to all members of the public to be vigilant and report any such cases to Trading Standards.
 - Two Credit Unions had been set up by ESCC and were located in the South Coast area.
 - The energy from waste facility at Newhaven had been finally approved for construction.
 - Youth Development Services. A sum of £30,000 which had been reallocated from the Wealden area because it was not being used to best benefit was available. There were management groups in each area and Parish representatives were required. Also there was to be a more mobile team of youth workers.
- 8.2. In answer to a question from DR, it was noted that the Youth initiatives would commence on 1 April 2009. The Clerk would follow up with East Sussex.

ACTION DT

- 8.3. DR asked when the barriers for the stub end of the old Tunbridge Wells Road would be erected. RT replied that authority for the work to be carried out had been given.
- 8.4. With regard to the planting of the Mayfield roundabout it was noted that:
 - Roundwood Timber had not consulted with the Parish Council.
 - JB had had been told that ESCC would decide the specification.RT noted that this was not what was intended and would follow up.

ACTION RT

9. REPORT FROM WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR BRIAN REDMAN

- 9.1. BR reported that:
 - The economic downturn was beginning to affect Wealden with a mounting loss of jobs, on what is by any standard a low employment time.
 - WDC were carefully examining their budget in order to ensure that they meet their commitments.
 - Swimming for elderly would be free from Crowborough, Hailsham and Uckfield pool facilities.
 - The planning design guide had been issued.

- Consultation on the WDC proposed budget was forthcoming.
- 9.2. PD asked about the proposed kerbside recycling scheme. It was reported that each household would get two bins, possibly four based on the Forest ROW experiment. The questions that needed to be asked was is it value for money, and is the proposed system right? There are varying types of schemes in different parts of the country.
- 9.3. CL asked how much it costs to recycle a Tetra Pack, and B Horwood noted that according to the press it was now difficult to recycle rubbish because of lack of demand. BR reported that as yet Wealden were not heavily affected because they had some good contracts in place, however Corus the steel company were no longer accepting the cans. There are storage facilities available.

10. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 NOVEMBER 2008 (8P11)

- 10.1. RF reported one minor typing error, which was accepted. The minutes were then confirmed by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 10.2. In his report PD noted that in conjunction with the economic climate there had been a marked downturn in the number of applications, and within these they were mainly minor housing improvements rather than developments.
- 10.3. There were no other comments and observations on the minutes.

11. MINUTES OF THE RISK ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 2008 (8U03)

- 11.1. The minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS vote, without amendments.
- 11.2. PD asked whether any problems were arising from cases where the elderly were having difficulties in meeting financial commitments.

In reply RT reported that ESCC worked through the voluntary agencies in order to meet commitments:

- £100,000 invested in age concern.
- 5 laptop computers had been made available.
- Help to complete the 17 page benefit application document.
- Over £5.5m invested in adult social care.
- Some people would not admit to having problems.

12. MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2008 (8Y06)

- 12.1. The minutes were taken as read and approved without amendment.

QUESTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS

- 12.2. With regard to minute 8Y06/7.1 on surplus land, PD noted that in connection with the housing development in Love Lane by Oakdene Homes there was a requirement to provide a play area in the vicinity of the site. DR reported that the Youth Committee had inspected the two sites.

The area for consideration by the Youth committee was the northern side of Rotherfield Lane bypass/bridge and was rather boggy and steep but could be used for an assault course type activity.

It would require supervision, and in DR's view could only be opened at certain times of the year. DR considered that a climbing wall could be provided but again it would require supervision.

- 12.3. MP requested that if the land was acquired care should be taken over any liabilities that might be inherited, and that these needed to be taken into account as well as the potential benefits.

13. MINUTES OF THE SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2008 (8S04)

- 13.1. With the acceptance of two errors, the minutes were approved by the Full Council.
13.2. RF reported that there were no further issues other than those reported in the minutes.
13.3. There were no questions or observations on the security minutes.

14. REPORT ON THE DISTRICT/PARISH CONFERENCE

- 14.1. It was noted that the Clerk had circulated a written report on the minutes.
14.2. HH also reported that:
- The Local Strategic Partnership work had occupied all of the first session of the conference, although for Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council most of the work had already been done.
 - So far as community payback was concerned, WDC wanted to develop schemes which would cover groups of Parishes. However there were a number of employment regulatory problems associated with the scheme.
- JB identified footpath and bridleway work and litter clearance as jobs which could be done. The Clerk would follow up these items with Wealden District Council.

ACTION DT

15. REPORT FROM ARGOS HILL WINDMILL REPRESENTATIVE

- 15.1. JD had nothing to report on the work of the proposed Argos Hill Windmill Trust.

QUESTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS

- 15.2. With regard to the nomination of the Parish Council Trustee, it was agreed that JD and PB would place a resolution before the next meeting of the Full Council asking that the Parish Council as a corporate body be made the Trustee for Mayfield and Five Ashes.

ACTION DT

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

- 16.1. PA reported that:

- The Chamber had met on 17 November and the publicity group had met on the 15 December, when James Gallifant attended, and a new publicity leaflet was designed.
- Friday late night shopping campaign had gone well.
- Leaflets had been delivered to 500 residents.
- A new Chamber of Commerce logo had been designed by Jerry Watkiss.
- Residents who work from home were being targeted for membership.

- Theme of stick together was being developed.
- 16.2. It was reported that the Post Master had written to the Clerk, thanking the Parish Council for its support over the Post Office card account campaign.
- 16.3. There were no questions for the Chamber of Commerce representative.

17 REPORTS FROM MAYFIELD VILLAGE CENTRE REPRESENTATIVES

- 17.1 Brian Horwood reported that he was concerned that issues were still not properly defined and that he had written to D Moss of Wealden District Council to try and obtain clarification of what areas of land could be developed, and which areas could not.
- 17.2 BH questioned the F&GP minute 8F07/7.3 second bullet, second sub bullet which stated that building the new hall on the sloping field area would be vastly expensive over the alternative of placing the new hall behind the existing one. He had not however been able to fully study the draft minutes because of non availability. It was noted that the email problem (see minute 8C08/2.1) had prevented the uploading of the draft minutes onto the website.
- 17.3 PD noted that although he was not a fan of the scheme, he was concerned that the Parish Council were being unhelpful and wondered if the Parish Council were reflecting what was truly wanted. He asked that the Parish Council look at the issue again. MP thanked PD for his comments which would be noted.
- 17.4 JD asked for clarification on Annex 2 to the minutes – the letter written to Mr Wicker on 7 November and asked to what scheme it referred. CL replied that the letter was a general set of rules to apply. The MVC were working on a ‘top down’ basis reflecting all known wishes and requirements, what was needed was a bottom up scheme which reflected that which could be provided on a practical basis.
- 17.5 BH reported that the village remit to replace the hall was from a Parish Poll which had asked by a narrow majority for a complete replacement. Therefore he had a mandate to do something, and that as the project developed the top down vision would change to a bottom up design. That is, the two views would come together. However to achieve this the land required needed to be granted because a two storey building needed to be built on the slope to absorb the size.
- 17.6 LM noted that the chosen architect cannot move without a clear defined site, and a refined brief which reflected village needs.
- 17.7 MP asked when the Parish Poll was carried out and BH reported that it was a long time ago.
- 17.8 JD asked for a discussion on the letters of 26 November 2008 to be placed on the agenda for the next F&GP meeting.

ACTION DT

- 17.9 It was noted that HH had resigned from the position of representative to the Mayfield Village Hall and a replacement was required. There were no volunteers from the Full Council. It was therefore agreed that the matter would be considered by the next F&GP Committee meeting.

ACTION DT

18 REPORT FROM THE TRANSITION MAYFIELD REPRESENTATIVE

- 18.1 PD reported that Transition Mayfield had two working groups Food and Energy. She would report more fully to the next meeting of the Full Council.

19 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES NOT MEETING DURING THE PERIOD

19.1 Traffic Committee

PD reported that:

- Proposals on the Five Ashes speed restriction project were expected for consultation soon.
- In answer to questions on the marking and general parking policies on the south side of Mayfield High Street, it was noted that there were a number of land issues, and the Highways Authority's right to access kerb areas for drains and utility services needs.

- 19.2 JB reported that she had obtained drawings and details for a proposed Mayfield gateway to be erected near the Mayfield roundabout and invited members to consider the suitability of the site. PD noted that the aesthetics of gateways should also be taken into account.

19.3 Development Committee

DR noted that there was nothing to report for the Development Committee.

19.4 Court Meadow Management Committee

PB noted that there was nothing to report for the Court Meadow Management Committee.

20 CLERK'S REPORT DECEMBER 2008

- 20.1 The Clerk's report was taken as read.

21 ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

- 21.1 LM asked about the highway ownership on a triangle of land near the Argos Hill Windmill. MP asked LM to advise the Clerk precisely where the site was so that a satisfactory answer could be obtained.

ACTION LM

- 21.2 LM asked for heating to be provided at Parish Council meetings held in the Primary School Hall. HH would enquire.

ACTION HH

- 21.3 HH asked whether the trees could be planted to replace the Beech tree (shortly to be felled) on Court Meadow. JB would enquire.

ACTION JB

- 21.4 EW enquired as to the price of the ESCC surplus land near Rotherfield Lane. Clerk to advise in due course.

ACTION DT

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2115 HOURS.

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

VENUE: MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

DATE: JANUARY 2009

TIME: 1930 HOURS