

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 12 JANUARY 2009 AT 1930 HOURS**

8C09
FINAL

MARTIN PITCHER
CHAIRMAN

**Chairman Of Mayfield And Five Ashes Parish Council
Councillor Martin Pitcher**

SUMMARY OF MEETING

- Monica Aitken co-opted as member for Rushers Cross.
- Mayfield roundabout discussed.
- Finances in line with forecast results.
- Parish Council discussing land at Rotherfield Lane for youth adventure and nature conservation purposes.
- Resolution 8C09 Freedom of Information Act – carried.
- Resolution 8C10 Argos Hill Windmill – withdrawn pending further information.
- Resolution 8C11 Local Governance Review – carried.
- Mayfield Village Centre – discussed.
- Court Meadow Management Committee meetings to be increased.

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

Also Present

Wealden District Councillors Brian Redman (BR), Jonica Fox (JP), Graham Standley (RS) ESCC
Councillors Robert Tidy (RT), Chris Dowling (CD)
David Thompson Parish Clerk (DT)

Apologies for Absence

G Wells (GW)

There were no members of the public present.

MINUTES

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS ON AGENDA ITEMS BELOW

- 1.1. P Deller declared a personal interest on minute 8C09/8.2 Provision of Bollards on the stub end of the old A267 (north).
- 1.2. There were no other declarations of interest.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

- 2.1. There were no Chairman's announcements.

3. CO-OPTION OF MEMBER FOR RUSHERS CROSS

- 3.1. Two candidates had applied for co-option to the vacant Parish Council seat at Rushers Cross.
 - Monica Aitken
 - Tim Cornish
- 3.2. Tim Cornish addressed the Full Council stating his interest in local history, and his work on other issues that affect our villages. He had recently completed some research on the origins of Mayfield and its church and royal connections. However he had decided to withdraw his candidacy in favour of Ms Aitken who he thought was better placed to serve Rushers Cross.
- 3.3. Monica Aitken had a long standing business engagement and was consequently unable to attend the meeting. She did however provide comprehensive biographical details which had been circulated to all members.
- 3.4. PD commented on the high quality of the two candidates and wondered whether any of the existing members were considering resignation. The Clerk confirmed that the names of potential co-optees were kept on record for future use.
- 3.5. The Chairman then asked member to vote on the co-option of Ms Monica Aitken. The vote was UNANIMOUS and Monica Aitken was declared to be the new member for Rushers Cross.

ACTION DT

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2008 (8C08)

- 5.1. The Clerk accepted three amendments to the minutes, which were then approved by UNANIMOUS vote.

QUESTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE MINUTES

- 5.2. DR commented on the situation with regard to the Mayfield roundabout as noted in the Clerk's report. MP ruled that the issue would be discussed under Agenda item 18.

6. MINTUES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 22 DECEMBER 2008 (8F08)

- 6.1 The Clerk accepted one amendment to the minutes, after which they were accepted by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 6.2 CL had no comments to make on the minutes.

QUESTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE MINUTES

- 6.3 With regard to minute 8F08/10.1 JB asked what the financial infringement was. The Clerk reported that a book had been ordered direct from the publisher, instead of through the authorised supplier. The F&GP committee had been asked to authorise the payment.

7. FINANCE REPORT NOVEMBER 2008 (8FA08)

- 7.1. CL introduced the report and noted that the Parish Council was well on course to complete the year as forecast with no problems currently foreseen. The results were accepted by the Full Council.

QUESTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS ON THE REPORT

- 7.2. With regard to a question on Rights of Way expenditure, CL noted that the current year to date overspend was due to work being carried out in advance of budget periodicity. The year end result was anticipated to be in line with budget and year end forecast.
- 7.3. PD reported that he had spoken with CL regarding the need to take steps to reduce costs where possible and complete the year as much as possible below budget. The Clerk, as RFO, observed that all contract expenditure was reviewed on a regular basis, and that the expenditure forecast was already anticipated to be substantially below budget. Cost reduction was sought at every opportunity.
- 7.4. PD questioned whether the Parish Council was at risk with the precept because of possible defaults in council tax payment brought on by the current financial situation. The Clerk considered that as the District Council were the collection agency, they carried any risk of non-payment and had powers of enforcement. Some members were of the view however that the precept could be reduced if there were defaults and considered this to be a risk to the budget. RS said he would check with WDC as to the process. DT would assess the budget risk.

ACTION RS/DT

8. REPORT FROM ESCC COUNCILLORS R TIDY AND C DOWLING

- 8.1. Land at Rotherfield Lane – RT noted that the Parish Council had an interest in the ESCC surplus land, and to avoid confusion he would ask ESCC to set up the necessary contacts with the Parish Council so that the matter could be progressed.

ACTION RT

- 8.2. PD declared a personal interest in the bollards which were to be set up at the end of the stub end of the old A267. He reported that there was a 21 day consultation period and that there would be a limited number of key holders to raise and lower the bollards. The system was a six month experiment following which there would be a review. He thanked the officers of ESCC and in particular for the work that had been done to deliver the project. The bollards would be installed before the end of the fiscal year.
- 8.3. RT noted that the reason for the experimental period was to avoid lengthy licence negotiations with the Department of Transport which could take a considerable amount

of time. Work to make the project permanent would commence at the end of the experimental period.

- 8.4. JB noted that the bollards would need to be of sufficient width for users on BW92 which started at the same location. JB would check that the regulations were met.

ACTION JB

- 8.5. PD reported that ESCC were allocating some £400,000 resources towards Gypsy and Traveller sites and asked when this project had been completed would it be possible to require travellers to use these sites. RT confirmed that this was so, but there were still a number of sites to be found, which was a District Council/Borough responsibility. There were two temporary sites now operating.

- 8.6. CD reported that the Five Ashes A267 speed restrictions project was going ahead, there were still some issues over detail. Consultation is expected.

ACTION DT

- 8.7. JB asked RT to explain how much progress had been made with the change over the 0845 telephone numbers, since residents were still having to use premium rate numbers. RT noted that the project was underway and that in many cases BT did not charge for 0845 and 0800 number but other operators did.

PD drew attention to an internet connection which was now available.

DR considered that when Councils paid towards telephone costs, that such costs were eventually passed onto residents.

9. REPORT FROM WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLORS ROBERT STANDLEY (RS), JONICAL FOX (JF) AND BRIAN REDMAN (BR)

- 9.1. RS reported that WDC were consulting on a budget increase of 3.9%. However the reduction in interest rates was affecting revenues, and all processes and services were being examined in an effort to reduce costs.

- 9.2. The tourist notice boards were being refurbished and local content could be included.

ACTION DT

- 9.3. BR reported that in these times of financial crisis, he wanted Parish views on recycling projects.

- The WDC proposals were for two bins with a number of caddies for each household which needed much bigger collection trucks, and not all residents could easily store the bins.
- Were there better and cheaper alternatives, and could not households consume their own waste?
- Should the project be stopped? He would welcome responses at anytime. RS noted that there was a statutory requirement for the waste collection project to be running by 2010. JF noted that there were substantial difficulties in making the project work in the 'lane' areas. Residents wishes needed to be ascertained. PA noted that the increasing number of bins were a blot on the landscape.

- 9.4. JF reported that she was the Chair of a group who were considering how Parish Councils could be asked for views at the pre-planning stage of developments, particularly affordable housing projects. She was happy to discuss with interested parties, there was a need to respond by end of March.

- 9.5. In a question to WDC Councillors LM asked whether it would be feasible to collect rubbish with a viable commercial price as a priority, and to find out whether residents would be willing to do it.
- 9.6. PD reported that work with regard to a concern over a planning case WD/2008/7010 at Angles Farm. Planning Enforcement officers had visited the site and a formal planning application would be submitted. He wished to thank the officer concerned for his prompt action.

10. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2008 (8P12) AND 5 JANUARY 2009 (8P13)

- 10.1. No changes were made to the minutes both of which were approved by UNANIMOUS vote.

OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS ON THE MINUTES

- 10.2. JF reported that with regard to minute 8P13/4.6 Inwoods Cottage, Leeds Lane. WDC would examine the reasons for the Parish Council objection and report back in due course.
- 10.3. PD reported that with regard to minute 8P12/3.1 a resident had brought a development project before the Planning Committee in order to seek advice before proceeding with the formal application. He noted that in a number of cases pre planning advice was not sought.

11. MINUTES OF THE RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 DECEMBER 2008 (8R05)

- 11.1. The Clerk accepted one change to the minutes, which were then approved by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 11.2. There were no comments or observations on the minutes.

12. RESOLUTION 8C09 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

- 12.1. The Clerk explained that under the requirement of the Freedom of Information Act the Parish Council was required to publish a schedule of available information and a charging policy by 1 January 2009. The schedule of information had been published at the appropriate date, and a charging schedule had been published pending a formal charging policy. A resolution was required from the Parish Council to adopt the Act.
- 12.2. Resolution 8C09 Freedom of Information Act

Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council resolve to adopt the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act as applicable to Parish Councils and will provide:

- **A schedule of available information**
- **A policy for making changes, to cover the costs of providing information.**

Proposed by Councillor R Fitzimmons. Seconded by Councillor D Redman
The resolution was passed by UNANIMOUS Vote.

13. RESOLUTION 8C10 ARGOS HILL WINDMILL

- 13.1. The following resolution had been placed before the Full Council as agreed under minute 8C08/15.2.

Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council as a corporate body resolve to become the nominated trustee for the proposed Argos Hill Windmill Trust.

Proposed by Councillor J Driscoll

- 13.2. JD asked for the resolution to be withdrawn, until such time as adequate information was available. This was agreed.
- 13.3. PD asked what was the level of insurance cover where such a trust was concerned. Clerk to progress.

ACTION DT

14. LOCAL GOVERNANCE REVIEW

- 14.1. The Clerk reported that Wealden District Council had asked Parish Councils to discuss and agree policy on Parish boundaries and other electoral issues. Comprehensive notes had been circulated together with a questionnaire to obtain members' views.
- 14.2. Ten replies had been received, which included two of the three Five Ashes members. A resolution had been drawn up on these views.
- 14.3. The following issues emerged during the debate:
- Five Ashes is 20% of the electorate, but not of the cost base at the present time.
 - Five Ashes cannot survive alone, and if not with Mayfield would be absorbed by Heathfield or Hadlow Down.
 - Economies of scale favour Five Ashes staying with Mayfield.
 - There were problems arising from different district and police boundaries.
 - Staying together appeared to be in the best interests of both villages.
- 14.4. The Chairman proposed the following resolution which was seconded by RF:

RESOLUTION 8C011 LOCAL GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council resolve that their view of Parish Boundary and Parish electoral matters to be addressed by Wealden District Council as part of the Community Governance Review is as follows:

- **Create a Parish – NO**
- **Change the name of the Parish – NO**
- **Establish a separate Parish Council – NO**
- **Alter the boundaries of existing Parishes – NO**
- **Abolish a Parish – NO**
- **Dissolve a Parish – NO**
- **Change the electoral arrangement of a Parish Council – NO**
- **Decide whether a Parish should be grouped under a complete Parish Council or de-grouped – NO**

Proposed by Councillor M Pitcher

The Vote was 11 For, Nil Against and 2 Abstentions.

The Resolution was carried.

ACTION DT

15. REPORT FROM PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

- 15.1. Argos Hill Windmill – JD reported no further progress. RS confirmed that WDC had nearly completed the draft trust document. DT to write for copy of the trust document.

ACTION DT

- 15.2. Chamber of Commerce – PA reported that the next meeting of the Chamber would be at the Rose and Crown Public House on the 19 January 2009. The meeting would start at 1700 hours followed by drinks and a meal commencing at 1800 hours.

- The meeting would be concentrating on canvassing leaflets to be delivered to businesses in order to boost membership.
- The late night shopping evenings was judged successful and had created goodwill.

- 15.3. Mayfield Village Centre – CL reported on the attempt to arrange a meeting with the Memorial Hall Committee. Otherwise there was no report. The item will be placed on the next F&GP agenda.

- 15.4. With regard to MVC, LM said it was important to get a large scale drawing instead of a description of the site voted by the Parish Council. He considered the Parish Council negligent on the issue. However it was pointed out by the Chairman that the position of the available area of land within the site had been fully communicated to the group. It was decided that the Parish Council would prepare a drawing of the available area of land within the site and that LM would assist in specifying the architectural specification detail required which would include dimensions.

ACTION DT

- 15.5. Transition Mayfield – PB reported that the next meeting would be next April.

16. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES NOT MEETING DURING THE PERIOD

- 16.1. Traffic – PD reported that the Traffic Committee had disassociated itself with the matter of the Mayfield Roundabout commercial sponsorship.

- 16.2. Mayfield speed restriction project was proceeding.

- 16.3. Development – no issues to report.

- 16.4. Court Meadow – PB reported that because of the lack of meetings (only 4 per year), there was little input being made by the Committee. It was agreed to increase the number of meetings. Clerk to arrange with PB.

ACTION DT

- 16.5. Security - R Fitzsimmons reported that the next meeting would be on 19 January 2009, and that a new PCSO would be serving Mayfield, TB having been transferred to Wadhurst.

- 16.6. Youth – Next meeting 21 January 2009 – no further report.

17 MAYFIELD ROUNDABOUT

- 17.1 PD noted that after much negotiation, ESCC were carrying out the scheme to their requirements. He described the current proposals, which now included trees delivered

initially in pots and a six metre wide grass strip (full details T/ROU/05/MAY). DR and others raised concerns:

- Who is going to prune the trees and who will carry out the maintenance?
- The sponsorship signs were considered to be too small?
- There was a possibility of safety issues for people on horseback, who would not be able to be seen because of the tree scheme.

It was agreed that these issues be communicated to ESCC and a commitment that the Parish Council would not be asked to undertake maintenance.

ACTION DT

18 CLERK'S REPORT JANUARY 2009 (8X09)

18.1 The Clerk's report was taken as read and there were no questions or observations arising.

19 ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND NEXT AGENDA ITEM

19.1 JB announced that she would be tabling a resolution to the next meeting of the Full Council to provide a 'Gateway' at the entrance to Mayfield Village near the roundabout. She had arranged for drawings to be prepared, for a design made from oak to be funded by Round Wood timber.

ACTION DT – Agenda Item

19.2 PD asked the Clerk to write officially over the state of Stone House, High Street, Mayfield and ascertain the reasons for lack of building progress.

19.3 PD drew attention to the letter in Yellow Pages written by B Pike and would prepare a response.

ACTION PD

19.4 RF reported that the road surface on Wellbrook Hill had broken up during the bad weather period.

ACTION DT

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2142 HOURS.

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

VENUE: FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL

DATE: 9 FEBRUARY 2009

TIME: 1930 HOURS