

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 9 MARCH 2009 AT 1930 HOURS

Chairman Of Mayfield And Five Ashes Parish Council  
Councillor Martin Pitcher

8C11

FINAL

MARTIN PITCHER  
CHAIRMAN

**SUMMARY OF MEETING**

- Argos Hill Windmill current position noted.
- Further topographical survey for MVC to be prepared.
- Financial Results – January noted.
- Progress on Five Ashes speed proposals debated.
- May House planning application WD/2008/3045/F 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)	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
Monica Aitken	(MA)	Present and Voting

Present and voting 15      Present and not voting 0  
Apologies for Absence 0      Not present 0      Other Council Business 0

**Also Present**

Wealden District Councillors G Wells (GW), B Redman (BR) ESCC Councillors Robert Tidy (RT) East Sussex County Council Road Traffic Engineers Department, Michael Oates (MO) and Michael Higgs (MH)  
David Thompson Parish Clerk (DT), Nicholas Hitchen (NH) Courier Newspapers

**Apologies for Absence**

Jonica Fox (JF), Robert Standley (RS), Chris Dowling (CD)  
There were 16 members of the public present and three police officers.

## MINUTES

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

- 1.1. Councillor P Driscoll declared a personal interest with regard to minutes 8P15 (Minute 12.1).
- 1.2. There were no other declarations of interest.

### 2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

- 2.1. There were no Chairman's announcements.

### 3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- 3.1. All the public questions were on the question of speed restrictions in Five Ashes and were taken during the presentation and discussion on the subject.

### 4. FIVE ASHES SPEED RESTRICTIONS

- 4.1. MP introduced Michael Oates (MO) and Michael Higgs (MH) to the meeting of the Full Council and invited members of the public from Five Ashes to ask questions on the proposals.
- 4.2. PD prefaced the discussion by drawing attention to the large amount of detailed work carried out by members of the Traffic Committee and East Sussex County Council. The response to suggestions made to ESCC had been very positive and helpful.
- 4.3. RF reported on the petition which had contained the names of 130 people. He had attended the hearing of the petition at East Sussex County Council and had submitted a report.
- 4.4. M Oates opened the discussion by explaining the detailed reasoning behind the current proposals for the 30 mph scheme. These were described on drawing No E Five Ashes/01/503050. The speed bands proposed were 50-30-50 mph.
- 4.5. A discussion and question session with members and Five Ashes residents took place the key issues of which were:
  - Five Ashes residents and members wanted a longer 30 mph restriction which would encompass more of Five Ashes, especially in the area of the A272, where there had been a number of accidents, and in Criers Lane area where there were difficulties.
  - ESCC noted that these suggestions would in some cases contravene Traffic Engineers guidelines and would not be possible.
  - GP read a letter from the Five Ashes Primary School Council which asked for a 30 mph limit throughout the village.
  - There would be a need for enforcement and a greater police presence.
  - ESCC explained that traffic surveys had been carried out in April 2008, November 2005 and November 2003.
  - There was a clear division of opinion between the desire for a long 30 mph zone and the principles of Traffic Engineering where if traffic is slowed down without apparent reason there will be problems.
- 4.6. At the end of the debate, it was agreed that ESCC would examine a further compromise solution, which would include a 40 mph buffer between the 50 mph – 30 mph zones which would enable some more of the resident's 30 mph aspirations to be taken into account. They would report back in due course.

- 4.7. The Chairman thanked the East Sussex County Council representatives for attendance, and for the work carried out on behalf of the community.
- 4.8. It was agreed that the proposed resolution 8C12 would be postponed until a later date.

**5. NOTES OF THE MEETING ON FIVE ASHES SPEED RESTRICTIONS HELD ON 2 FEBRUARY 2009 (8MO1)**

- 5.1. These were accepted by the Full Council after an amendment to Annex 2 had been taken into account.
- 5.2. There were no observations on the minutes.

**6. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL ON 9 FEBRUARY 2009 (8C10)**

- 6.1 Fourteen amendments were accepted to the minutes.

**OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS ON THE MINUTES**

- 6.2 It was reported that apparently there were no plans for traffic calming on Newick Lane in the future, but lines will be placed on the bend edge of the road.

**7. MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY 2009 (8F10)**

- 7.1. There were no amendments to the minutes, which were approved by the Full Council.

**OBSERVATIONS ON THE MINUTES**

- 7.2. With regard to minute 6F7/14.2, the Clerk reported to PB that since Court Meadow had passed into full ownership of the Parish Council it would be necessary to value it so that an entry could be made in the Parish Council Asset Register. This was proving difficult, but it was now the intention to seek advice from National Playing Fields.

**8. MINUTES OF MEETING TO DISCUSS THE SALC LETTER AND THE TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY SHOWING LAND TO BE MADE AVAILABLE BY THE PARISH COUNCIL. MEETING HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2009 (8M02)**

- 8.1. There were no amendments to the minutes which were approved by the Full Council by UNANIMOUS vote.

**OBSERVATIONS ON THE MINTUES**

- 8.2. PB noted that the current map showing the Court Meadow available land was acceptable to the Court Meadow Management Committee.
- 8.3. JD noted that in her view Village Green status would not put the income of Court Meadow at risk.

**9. FINANCE REPORT JANUARY 2009 (8FA10)**

- 9.1. There were no changes to the Finance Report which was approved by the Full Council by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 9.2. CL reported that there had been some tree work carried out on Court Meadow, during the period, but the year to date results were in line with expectations.
- 9.3. There were no issues on the Finance report.

## **10. REPORT FROM ESCC COUNCILLORS R TIDY AND C DOWLING**

10.1. Councillor R Tidy reported that:

- There was growing concern over the number of car accidents which occurred when vehicles collided with deer. There had been two meetings and there was a need to get trained deer wardens who could take control when accidents happened. However the problems were how to deal with traumatised people and also the problem of shooting deer that had been badly injured. It was considered that there was a need to re-educate the public, publicise the problem through the media, and place warning notices at strategic places.
- ESCC Executive meeting to discuss bank holiday speeding on A26 and A267.
- Audit Commission Annual Inspection reported good services for children and young people and social care for adults.
- Other issues accidents on roads 392 killed and seriously injured annually, mainly due to the county's narrow roads. ESCC working towards 30 mph in villages.

10.2. There was a comment that a further issue was a problem with motorbikes speeding on the A267 on Sundays and this needed to be taken into consideration. RT noted that the police carry out campaigns from time to time.

10.3. DR noted that some villages needed a 20 mph speed restriction in particular where there were schools.

10.4. PD questioned whether or not deer were now classified as vermin.

## **11. REPORT FROM WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

11.1. GW reported that:

- Tenants were 85% happy with the services provided by WDC and that new contracts were being developed.
- The WDC budget was set at an increase of just 3.5%; there had been considerable reductions in costs, and working practices were being examined, and also the possibilities of outsourcing.
- On 19 February there had been a kids being safe function which had been attended by ESCC, East Sussex Fire and Rescue, EDF Energy, ESC Downs NHS and the Safety Partnership.
- To reduce the amounts of food thrown away there was a competition love food less waste.

11.2. BR reported that:

- WDC had contacted him with regard the latest position with regard to the Argos Hill Windmill (See minute 8C11/15.1 and Annex 1).
- He had received some response with regard to the WDC recycling programme.

11.3. JB asked whether anything was being done with regard to her observations on week wheelie bin lids. It was noted that there was a shortage of bins at present.

11.4. An issue over parking at Criers Lane was raised. Was it possible to repaint the double yellow lines in the area, plus arrange for some policing of the area?

**ACTION SECURITY COMMITTEE**

## **12. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2009 (8P15)**

- 12.1. The minutes were confirmed by the Full Council without amendment.
- 12.2. There were no comments on the minutes.

## **13. MINUTES OF THE RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25 FEBRUARY 2009**

- 13.1. The minutes were approved by the Full Council with one minor amendment.

### **OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS ON THE MINUTES**

- 13.2. With regard to minute 8R06/3.1 PD asked for a definition of promoted routes. Promoted routes were those which featured in guide and publicity literature, for example the Mayfield Circular Walks.
- 13.3. With regard to the incident reported under minute 8R06/6.1, PD asked to be given some detail of the incident. This was duly given.
- 13.4. PD drew attention to the good work carried out by the Rights of Way Committee in maintaining the Rights of Way network.
- 13.5. BR noted that with regard to FP13 WDC had taken the trouble to look into all the issues involved and had made a decision. JB replied that there had been 13 objections to the decision.

## **14. MINUTES OF COURT MEADOW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 2 MARCH 2009 (8K04)**

- 14.1. Three minor amendments were accepted to the minutes after which they were approved by the Full Council.
- 14.2. With regard to minute Section 4, it was noted that the Full Council had voted on the subject, and that the matter will be reviewed in a further four years.

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

- 15.1. It was noted that a reply from Wealden District Council regarding progress on the lease had been received. Attached Annex 1.

## **16. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT**

- 16.1. It was reported that the next meeting of the Chamber of Commerce would be on 16 March 2009. It was hoped to have the Maypole project completed by that time.

## **17 TRANSITION MAYFIELD REPORT**

- 17.1 PB reported that Transition Mayfield was holding a County Crafts and Skills exhibition at the Memorial Hall on 25 April 2009. HH would have an exhibit on beekeeping.

## **18 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES NOT MEETING DURING THE PERIOD**

- 18.1 Youth – no report.
- 18.2 Traffic – PD reported that the 20 mph restriction through Mayfield was being implemented. He drew attention to the speed restrictions being imposed on Star Lane (FP34).
- 18.3 Development Committee – no report.

18.4 Security – It was reported that the Security Committee would be meeting on 10 March 2009.

## **19 CLERK'S REPORT**

- 19.1 A minor amendment to the Clerk's report was accepted, after which the report was taken as read.
- 19.2 With regard to Action 8C10/9.5 PD reported that as no apology had been received it was necessary to consider if further action was necessary. It was agreed that the Clerk would seek advice from SALC.
- 19.3 LM reported that he had received complaints that the post box outside the Post Office was often over filled raising security issues. Clerk to take action.

**ACTION DT**

## **20 REFLECTION AND SILENT PRAYERS**

- 20.1 JB asked the Council to consider the necessity for silent prayers and reflection, and whether or not it could be dispensed with.
- 20.2 The issue was debated and following a vote the Council **RESOLVED** that: They would request the Clerk to change the item to **REFLECTION**.

The Vote was:

To retain a period of reflection before the meeting: 10

To request the Clerk to remove the item from the Agenda in its entirety: 5

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

- 21.1 RF noted that there was a need to increase the Neighbourhood Watch presence in Five Ashes.
- 21.2 JB reported that a litter picking exercise had been carried out on Newick Lane.

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2202 HOURS.**

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

**VENUE: MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**DATE: 20 APRIL 2009**

**TIME: 1930 HOURS**

## **Annex 1**

### **Letter sent to David Thompson from Nigel Hannam, Director of Corporate Services, WDC dated 4 March 2009**

#### **Argos Hill Windmill**

With reference to our previous communications in respect of the above, I have heard nothing further from Geoffrey Daughtrey in response to my letter of 11 February, in which I requested a response to the outstanding issues. I therefore feel there is little value in me attending the Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council meeting on Monday.

By way of update to the meeting the position is that through to the end November we were progressing the arrangements for, and the items of, a lease for a trust for Argos Hill Windmill. I believed we were close to finalising these arrangements together with agreeing the financial contribution to Wealden District Council (WDC). Ian Simmonds from WDC wrote to Geoffrey Daughtrey on 28 November setting out answers to what we believed were the outstanding issues. Mr Daughtrey is acting on behalf of the Friends of Argos Hill Windmill and other potential trustees.

I contacted Mr Daughtrey by email on 18 December and 20 January, spoke to Mr Daughtrey on the phone on 30 January and wrote to him on 11 February but I have yet to receive any response. We have therefore been unable to progress these issues, conclude the lease arrangements and move to set up a trust.

My letter to Geoffrey Daughtrey of 11 February I stressed again the need for an early response, both to progress the formation of a trust for Argos Hill Windmill and to enable the funding that Wealden District Council (WDC) has set aside to support a trust to be secured. I also highlighted the significant budget pressures faced by WDC over the next three years and beyond and the position that, as a result of these budget pressures, I cannot guarantee the financial support currently being offered by WDC if the formation of a trust does not proceed in the very near future.

As explained in my letter to you on 11 February the lease arrangements proposed minimise the obligations on trustees and although it would be up to potential trustees to agree the trust arrangements I would anticipate that these would result in no personal financial obligations on the trustees. This has been a key point and critical feature of the discussions with the Friends of Argos Hill.

I intend contacting Brian Pike as Chair of the Friends of Argos Hill Windmill to see if he can shed any light on progress as well as continuing to seek a response from Mr Daughtrey.

I will update you further when I have more information. In the meantime please feel free to share the information provided above with your council.