

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 20 APRIL 2009 AT 1930 HOURS

9C01

FINAL

MARTIN PITCHER
CHAIRMAN

Chairman Of Mayfield And Five Ashes Parish Council
Councillor Martin Pitcher.
Councillor R Fitzsimmons took the Chair from 21.25 hours

SUMMARY OF MEETING

- Death of Mrs Margaret Walsh-Atkins and Ted James announced.
- Preparation for Annual Meeting elections announced.
- Police participation at meetings announced.
- Mayfield High Street South Side pavement to be reviewed for improvement.
- Mayfield Village Centre proposals and agreement with Parish Council discussed.
- Five Ashes Speed Restriction progress discussed.
- Youth Committee costs and progress discussed.
- Risk Register formation reported.
- Power of well-being legislation discussed.

ATTENDANCE

Martin Pitcher	(MP)	Present and Voting (until 21.25 hrs)
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 (arrived late by agreement)
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)	Apologies for Absence (S)

Present and voting 13 Present and not voting 0
Apologies for Absence 2 Not present 0 Other Council Business 0

Also Present

Wealden District Councillors R Standley (RS), B Redman (BR) ESCC Councillors Robert Tidy (RT)

David Thompson Parish Clerk (DT)

Apologies for Absence

Jonica Fox (JF), Graham Wells (GW), Chris Dowling (CD)

There were 2 members of the public present, one MVC representative and Courier Newspaper Group.

MINUTES

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS ON AGENDA ITEMS

- 1.1. LM declared a personal interest as the representative for the MVC on architectural matters for the Mayfield Village Centre.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

- 2.1. The Chairman announced the recent death of Mrs Margaret Walsh-Atkins. Mrs Walsh-Atkins had made an effective and significant contribution to Mayfield life. The Parish Council sent its condolences to her relatives.
- 2.2. The Chairman announced the recent death of Ted James who had served the Parish Council as a member for a number of years. The Parish Council sent its condolences to his family and relatives.
- 2.3. The Chairman announced that the Clerk had sent each member a letter to solicit the committees on which they would wish to serve, roles they would wish to fill as representatives and nomination forms for the position of Chairman and Vice Chairman. This was to aid voting at the Annual Meeting elections.
- 2.4. The Chairman reported that he had recently had discussions with the Police, and that both Steve Etherington and Matthew Boyle had expressed a desire to attend Council meetings on a regular basis, and participate in Question Time. Steve Etherington had expressed surprise at the vehement feelings towards the Police in Mayfield.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS TIME

- 3.1. There were no questions from the public.

4. MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 9 MARCH 2009 (8C11)

- 4.1. There were four errors accepted by the Clerk to the minutes, after which the minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS vote.

OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS ON THE MINUTES

- 4.2. There were no observations or comments on the minutes.

5. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 23 MARCH 2009 (8F11)

- 5.1. There were no amendments to the minutes, which were confirmed by UNANIMOUS vote.

OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS ON THE MINUTES

- 5.2. With regard to minute 8F11/8.3 on the establishment of the boundaries of the footway between Rosina's and the café it was noted that it was not possible to utilise the potential parking space because of insufficient width. It was also noted that the area covered by white diagonal lines was considered to be public highway. After consideration by the Council it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would write to the shop owner stating the position, but the Parish Council would not be seeking to enforce the issue.

ACTION DT

- 5.3. LM drew attention to an old project to develop the South Side footway to a similar standard to the North Side. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would consult with ESCC to define the width of the footway which could be paved with brick. **ACTION DT**

- 5.4. With regard to minute 8F11/8.5 JB enquired as to the purpose of the Mayfield Scouts funding project. The Clerk would obtain the information.

ACTION DT

- 5.5. In answer to a question from JB with regard to minute 8F11/9.1 PD reported that WDC had resolved difficulties with regard to conservation standards, and that work on Stone House would commence very soon.

- 5.6. CL had nothing to report on the minutes.

6. MINUTES OF MEETING WITH MAYFIELD VILLAGE CENTRE REPRESENTATIVES HELD ON 16 MARCH 2009

- 6.1 In response to a comment from PD, the Clerk accepted an amendment to the last sentence of minute 8M04/3.1. The minutes were then confirmed by 12 votes and one abstention.

- 6.2 LM stated that the compromise site agreed to at the meeting was not suitable for the reasons stated by Mr B Horwood on the 29 March 2009.

- More excavation of the slope will be required possibly involving removal of spoil from the site. The preferred site would avoid this.
- The building would be closer to established trees leading to increased maintenance when operational especially with the green roof.
- The band hut would need to be removed before building work could commence to allow a safe working envelope around the construction site, and the works could be over their drains.
- The increased distance from the playing field end of terrace will reduce its usefulness in conjunction with the activities on the playing field/hard court.
- Overflow parking behind the building will be significantly reduced.

- 6.3 MP acknowledged that the needs of the Parish Council and MVC had been met by a compromise solution and where the MVC teams had accepted the compromise position, the Parish Council would also have to manage objections from residents who were against any further building on Court Meadow.

- 6.4 LM was of the view that there would be little or no objection to further building on Court Meadow and that if necessary a Parish poll would confirm this. He considered that the Parish Council were failing in their duty and must consider the issues very carefully, and he was worried about the future effect on the village should the project fail. He proposed that the Parish Council appoint a consultant to examine and report on the project.

- 6.5 Members considered that they needed more time to consider, and it was agreed that:

- Debate on the appointment of a consultant be deferred to next meeting.
- 15 maps and a list of the compromise solution to be circulated to members.

ACTION DT

- 6.6 BH confirmed that MVC had agreed to the compromise solution and that despite the problems the project could be carried out. LM considered this to be the wrong solution.

7. FINANCE REPORT FEBRUARY 2009

- 7.1. The Finance Report had been circulated. CL noted that the under-spend against budget continued and that the Parish Council would end the year around £10,000 under budget.
- 7.2. PD asked for a rough percentage of Section 137 expenditure against total budget. Answer around 3%. Financial ceiling for Section 137 expenditure around £16,300.
- 7.3. There were not other questions on the Finance Report.

8. FIVE ASHES SPEED RESTRICTIONS – MEETING HELD ON 7 MARCH 2009 WITH EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

- 8.1. Two descriptive changes to the minutes were accepted.
- 8.2. PD reported on the agreement reached with East Sussex County Council, which in his view was the best solution to the Five Ashes speed restriction problems that could be achieved. They also answered a question posed by EW on the positioning of National Speed limit signs on other roads adjacent to the speed restriction area.
- 8.3. RF asked if the letter of confirmation referred to in para 3.2 of the minutes had been sent.
- 8.4. It was noted that ESCC would complete their work in six weeks from the date of the meeting and then an agenda item would be placed on the Agenda for the meeting of the Full Council.

9. REPORT FROM ESCC COUNCILLOR R TIDY

- 9.1. ESCC Councillor R Tidy reported that the energy from waste project was now nearing completion after 5 years of expensive consultation.
- 9.2. The Rotherfield Lane land project was being held up because all available staff were working the compulsory purchase of land for the Bexhill Hastings by pass. RT would try to expedite.

ACTION RT

- 9.3. It was reported that Chief Inspector Julia Pope had replaced Chief Inspector Honnor. Chief Inspector Pope had come from Eastbourne where she had covered community policing and had achieved the greatest reduction figures for the Sussex division.
- 9.4. A pledge for neighbourhood policing was soon to be published. Some of the issues covered were:
 - Fairness
 - Visibility
 - Priorities:
 - 24 hour response
 - 999 calls answered in 10 seconds
 - immediate emergency response
 - regular meeting with public
 - vulnerable 60 minute (under review)
 - local updates on crimeIt will be published on ESCC website.

- 9.5. PD noted that since we had not seen Inspector Honor the position could only get better. It was suggested that Chief Inspector Pope be invited to a meeting, however JB questioned whether this was the best use of a Chief Inspector's time.
- 9.6. MP noted that policing had improved because he had been able to get a parked car removed in front of his garage within 30 minutes.
- 9.7. It was noted that a recent survey showed that one third of children are bullied.

10. REPORT FROM WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLORS R STANDLEY AND B REDMAN

10.1. Councillor R Standley reported that:

- WDC were reviewing service provision, and was examining what was done, and whether outsourcing opportunities were available. There would be consultation in June/July.
- Recycling on target for 2010, with a minimum of two bins per household. Noted that green waste included cardboard. Information will be supplied.
- Recession - WDC doing all possible with an advice service to firms and individuals. In Hailsham 30-40 shops were empty.

10.2. In answer to a question about the amalgamation of the two Wealden District Council Offices it was considered that a new building might be too expensive and refurbishment of the existing building was being considered.

10.3. Councillor B Redman had no report to make.

10.4. PD reported on a recent appeal hearing which had found in favour of gypsies and travellers and was due to the fact that WDC had not delivered the required number of sites.

11. MINUTES OF PLANNING MEETING – 8P16 9 MARCH 2009; 8P17 30 MARCH 2009; 8P17A 3 APRIL 2009

11.1. There were no errors to the minutes which were accepted by UNANIMOUS vote.

11.2. With regard to Minutes 8P17A members of the Planning Committee had met with the Mayfield Village Centre representatives and had agreed that a notice board could be placed on the bus shelter in Mayfield High Street as an alternative to the original plan to site the boards on the side of Hamilton House.

12. MINUTES 8P17A/4.9 and 8P17/4.10 Middle House

12.1. PD reported that this was a retrospective application and that in the Committee's view there was no material change from the previous application that had subsequently been withdrawn. Later he had received a telephone call from the owner of the Middle House asking when the application would be heard. The subsequent telephone call had attracted a complaint. However he had not personally been made aware of the complaint until 9.15 hours on Monday 20 April even though the complaint had been discussed at meeting 9U01 on 6 April 2009. He also noted that most of the complaint was about the handling of the Planning Application by Wealden District Council. The Clerk had given him at his request copies of the letters that morning (20 April 2009).

- 12.2. The Chairman replied that on receipt of the complaint he had reported to the Risk Assessment Committee that he had received a complaint which had brought the Parish Council into disrepute. The Chairman of the Full Council had read the letter to the group. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond as a matter of urgency and that the response needed to be ready and agreed in 3 days.
- 12.3. PD stated that he was personally aggrieved and angry that he had not been informed, and that in his view the response from the Clerk understated the position and was outwith the procedures. He quoted from parts of the letter of complaint and the Clerk's response. He noted that the decision had been made by HH, CL, RF and MP, none of whom were on the Planning Committee. Do they wish to respond?
- MP insisted that the letter be read out in full.
- 12.4. MP replied that the Committee had dealt with the complaint under 2.3 of the Complaint against the Council process, to deal with the matter on a less formal basis and avoid a potentially difficult situation from escalating.
- 12.5. LM said he would defend PD and that there should have been a formal meeting, and that the Clerk had failed in his duty and should be censored. He noted that when he was Chairman of the Planning Committee site visits were rare.
- 12.6. MP accepted the criticism and apologised to the Council. LM demanded that the letter be withdrawn.
- 12.7. PD stated that he worked hard on planning matters, did detailed preparation and made site visits.
- 12.8. LM stated that he was making a formal complaint, whilst PA was aggrieved that the matter had not been formally investigated. CL stated that the matter had been dealt with a view to pour oil on troubled waters.
- 12.9. MP made a further apology to the Full Council, but PD noted that the Planning Committee worked within a Code of Practice, and made a reference to the Chairman drinking with the complainant in the Middle House. MP considered this to be a slur on his character and asked for the reference to be withdrawn. PD did not withdraw the statement.
- JB noted that the Chairman had apologised to the Council and asked PD to be magnanimous and accept the apology.
- 12.10. LM raised a point of order and noted that this planning application had been turned down a number of times, and that the Clerk should write a letter to the complainant withdrawing the apology given and that each of the 15 members should get the letter before it was sent.
- 12.11. HH insisted that the matter be moved on, and that any circulation of letter on this matter be restricted to that which was necessary.
- 12.12. At 21.25 hours MP asked RF to take over the meeting, and left the building.
- 12.13. RF as Chair told members to make comments in writing to the Clerk and Chairman within 48 hours.

13. MINUTES OF THE SECURITY COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 MARCH 2009 8S07

- 13.1. Two errors were accepted to the minutes which were then approved by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 13.2. In answer to a question from PD with regard to panel meetings it was reported that the PCSOs are holding regular meetings to discuss residents views.

- 13.3. JB asked whether the new PCSO for Mayfield was covering Rotherfield as well. It was confirmed that he would only cover Mayfield.
- 13.4. There were no further questions on Security.

14. MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE HELD ON 25 MARCH 2009 (8Y08)

- 14.1. It was noted that the Clerk had accepted some changes to the minutes from DR, after which the minutes were approved.
- 14.2. PD enquired as to charging for the use of the Drop-in Centre, bearing in mind the costs which were analysed in Minute 8Y08/4.1. It was noted that some charges had been raised and the concept was being developed. In addition they were trying to get volunteers to drive some of the youngsters to various locations. It was pointed out however that there could be insurance and CRB issues arising from such a project.

15. MINUTES OF THE RISK ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 6 APRIL 2009 (9U01)

- 15.1. The minutes of the meeting were approved without amendment by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 15.2. CL reported that as part of the Risk Assessment process a Risk Register was being created, and that a good quality Risk Register was being sought.
- 15.3. With regard to Transition Mayfield it was reported that a grant of £150 had been agreed as part of the Budget 2009/10 of the balance requested. The Parish Council did not have the powers to fund conferences (£170) and had declined to fund the other items until more was known about the objectives and financing of the group.
- 15.4. The minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS vote.

16. ARGOS HILL WINDMILL

- 16.1. JD reported that a letter had been received from WDC as follows:

“The latest on Argos Hill Windmill is that, since your last meeting, I have spoken with Geoffrey Daughtry and discussed the outstanding points and resolved a number of them.

I believe there are now three issues outstanding. I have written to Geoffrey Daughtry giving the Wealden District Council position on these (on 31 March). I am writing for a response and I am hopeful that these issues can be resolved. I am aware that Mr Daughtry has been on leave for some of that time.”

- 16.2. There were no questions on Argos Hill Windmill.

17 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- 17.1 PA reported that the planned provision of the May Pole for the May Fair had failed to materialise and provision was likely to be curtailed until the August holiday period.
- 17.2 It was agreed that the Chamber of Commerce would return the monies voted by the Parish Council towards the project, and that the Parish Council would provide the grant at the appropriate time.

ACTION DT

- 17.3 PA reported that programmes were being prepared for the May Fair event, and after debate the Parish Council **RESOLVED** by UNANIMOUS vote to place an advertisement in the programme at a cost of £20.

ACTION DT

18 TRANSITION MAYFIELD

18.1 PB reported that Transition Mayfield were holding their country skills event at the weekend.

19 COURT MEADOW MANAGEMENT

19.1 PB had nothing to report prior to the meeting on 27 April 2009.

20 TRAFFIC

20.1 The meeting scheduled for 22 April 2009 had been cancelled.

20.2 PD reported that the bollards to be fitted at the Stub End of the old A267 were awaiting the delivery of keys before fitting could take place.

21 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

21.1 DR had nothing to report.

22 RIGHTS OF WAY AND TREES COMMITTEE

22.1 JB reported that Brian Banks of East Sussex County Council had arranged to deliver free of charge a number of Horse riding warning notices for use on country lanes.

22.2 The next meeting of the Committee would be on 22 April 2009.

23 CLERK'S REPORT (EXCLUDING WELL-BEING)

23.1 The Clerk's report was taken as read.

23.2 Summary of the detail of the Private Housing Renewal Strategy would be provided to DR.

23.3 Management summaries of the housing needs survey and the empty houses strategy would be sent to DR.

23.4 Details of National Family Day would be sent to those requesting it..

23.5 The Village Maintenance Team Programme would be discussed at the Rights of Way and Trees Committee meeting on 22 April 2009.

23.6 Details of Applause Rural Touring would be circulated.

24 POWER OF WELL BEING

24.1 R Fitzsimmons summarised the Clerk's paper on the subject and noted that prior to a decision three issues remained to be completed to qualify:

- Council Members briefing – the majority of members wished to undertake the briefing which would probably take place at Sheep Setting Lane or Wakefield.
- Publication of the statement of intent as to community engagement – to be prepared.
- Clerk to pass additional examination – submitted.

24.2 It was agreed to place the item on the next agenda.

ACTION DT

25 INFORMATION AND NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

25.1 JB asked whether the hatched area of South Street car park could be made into an additional parking space. PD noted that there were guidance rules on parking space layouts. The Clerk will ask for formal comments on the suggestion and progress the issue.

ACTION DT

25.2 EW noted that she had been elected to serve as treasurer for the Five Ashes Village Hall.

25.3 EW and PD requested the Clerk to consider the following suggestions with regard to minutes:

- Standardise fonts
- Regularise ad hoc minutes

ACTION DT

25.4 LM asked for some guidance on the Transition Mayfield expense items, and the extent of the Parish Council support. This was given. Note also previously covered under minute 9C01/15.3.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2215 HOURS.

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

VENUE: MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL

DATE: 11 MAY 2009

TIME: 1930 HOURS

NOTE: ANNUAL MEETING