
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH
COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING
HELD AT FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 8 JUNE 2009 AT 1930 HOURS**



**Chairman of Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council
Councillor R Fitzsimmons**

9C03
FINAL
R FITZSIMMONS
CHAIRMAN

SUMMARY OF MEETING

- Nick Sabine (ex Chairman) and Norman Bennett (ex Clerk), remembered
- A267 speed restriction scheme agreed
- Presentation on the Code of Conduct and the work of the WDC Standards Committee heard
- Section 137 grants approved
- Site visit to see proposed site for MVC scheme agreed
- WDC housing needs policies challenged

ATTENDANCE

Robert Fitzsimmons	(RF)	Present and Voting
Paul Amans	(PA)	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
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 13 Present and not voting 0
Apologies for Absence 0 Not present 0 Other Council Business 0

Also Present

Wealden District Councillor Brian Redman (BR) ESCC Councillors Robert Tidy (RT) and Chris Dowling (CD), David Thompson Parish Clerk (DT)

Apologies for Absence

Jonica Fox (JF), Robert Standley (RS), Graham Wells (GW).

There were 10 members of the public present, and Courier Newspaper Group.

MINUTES

1. REFLECTION – NORMAN BENNETT AND NICK SABINE

- 1.1. The Parish Council stood in silence and remembered the Contribution made to the work of the Parish Council, as well as the lives of:
 - Norman Bennett ex-Clerk to the Parish Council
 - Nick Sabine ex-Chairman of the Parish Council

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS ON AGENDA ITEMS

- 2.1. LM declared an interest as consultant to the Mayfield Village Centre on architectural matters.
- 2.2. There were no other declarations of interest.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 3.1. There were no Chairman's announcements.

4. PRESENTATION BY WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL ON THE WORK OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1. Linda Francis representing Wealden District Council gave a presentation on the work of the Standards Committee and the implications of the Code of Conduct.
 - Standards Committee – purpose and process
 - The need for high standards
 - Advice on the operation of the Code of Conduct
 - Interests
 - Consideration and adjudication of complaints
- 4.2. The legislation had been passed down to District Councils as from 8 May 2008, and the process followed when a complaint against a Councillor was described, together with the differences between a prejudicial and public interest. The Code applied to all members of the Parish Council.
- 4.3. Notes of the presentation are attached as Annex 1. (1)
- 4.4. RF asked for an idea of the costs involved in a case review. These were estimated at between £1000-£1500 all of which was borne by Wealden District Council.
- 4.5. JB asked whether or not the provisions of the Code applied to resigned Councillors. Linda Francis in answer, was of the view that it did, but would check with Mr T Scott (The Monitoring Officer) and would report back.
- 4.6. JB asked whether all complaints should be addressed to the Monitoring Officer. In answer it was agreed that it was often possible to process simple complaints locally without the need to refer to the Monitoring Officer, but care was needed to avoid creating more difficulty for the Parish Council.
- 4.7. It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate the notes of the presentation to all members

ACTION DT

(1)MD/CLK/CP, C/STR/09/CODE

- 4.8. The Parish Council thanked Linda Francis for her presentation and she left the meeting at 1950 hours.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

6. FIVE ASHES SPEED RESTRICTIONS

- 6.1 The Chairman noted that copies of the drawing and a letter from East Sussex County Council had been circulated to members. It was necessary to approve Resolution 9C01 so that the formal public consultation process could continue.
- 6.2 RF reported that after a considerable depth of consultation ESCC had extended the speed restriction boundaries as far as possible and he believed that the Parish Council had achieved as much as they possibly could.
- 6.3 During the debate the following issues were noted:
- LM asked whether the national 30 mph limit could be continued towards Butchers Cross, noting that similar layouts were situated in other parishes.
 - Public response – Could double white lines be placed near the primary school area. It was also noted that it might be possible for the primary school to apply for a 20 mph zone.
 - Was there anyway in which the 40 mph buffer could be reapplied at the Southern end.
- 6.4 With regard to speeding, Steve Etherington (Police) reported that changes in shifts had been agreed so that speed watch work could be carried out in the early morning and night periods in order to enforce the project.
- 6.5 The following Resolution was put to the Parish Council.

RESOLUTION 9C01 FIVE ASHES SPEED RESTRICTIONS

- **That the Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council RESOLVE to approve the ESCC SPEED RESTRICTION Proposals as described on ESCC drawing number E10050/10.**

The Resolution was approved by the Parish Council by UNANIMOUS vote.

- 6.6 It was agreed that the Clerk would report the passing of the Resolution, and in doing so would report the three caveats as described in Minute 9C08/6.3.

7. POLICE REPORT

- 7.1. Steve Etherington of the Sussex Police Force reported that:
- In the summer period there was an increase in thefts of garden tools and implements and for the need to keep equipment locked away after use.
 - There was an increase in fly-tipping, and asked members of the public to report any suspicious lorries in the area.
 - The Police were still collecting evidence regarding the recent collision on the A267. An enquiry was made as to the condition of the person who was reported to be seriously injured, but the Police were unable to respond.
 - East Street – car parking issues, (3).

(3), T/CAR/09/EAST, MD/T/COR/2009

7.2. There were no questions to the Police.

8. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1 JUNE 2009 (9C02)

8.1. Two minor errors were accepted by the Clerk after which the minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS vote.

OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS ON THE MINUTES

8.2. With regard to minute 9C01/11.4, it was reported that a second letter had been sent to PD, and that the Chairman had acknowledged his resignation.

8.3. LM queried whether PD had indeed resigned. It was noted that this had been done verbally and reported in the press and confirmed by PD's letter in Yellow Pages.

8.4. LM, GP, and JD insisted that a letter of apology must be sent. RF ruled that as the matter was now in the hands of the Monitoring Officer no further action could be taken and the matter was sub-judice pending the report from the Monitoring Officer.

8.5. There were no other observations or comments on the minutes.

9. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 1 JUNE 2009 (9F02)

9.1. CL reported that the minutes were not available due to the short timescale between the meeting and the date for distribution.

9.2. The key issues arising at the meeting were:

- An application for a grant for the History Society to enable some valuable research projects to be undertaken.
- An application for a grant for the Mayfield Scouts and Guides Centenary project.

Both parties had presented documented requests for grants which were debated by the Committee.

The grants would be considered for Budget 2010/11.

The Committee were generally supportive.

9.3. There were no questions on the Committee report.

10. FINANCE RESULTS – PERIOD 1 2009/10 APRIL 2009

10.1. The Financial Results for Period 1 2009/10 and accompanying Financial Report had been circulated.

10.2. CL reported that as it was the start of the year, no defined trends in expenditure were emerging as yet. It was noted that the precept had been met by WDC.

10.3. GP asked to know the current position with regard to the Assistant Clerk. The Clerk reported that changes had been made within the office routines to absorb the work, and as an economy and efficiency measure the post would not be filled in 2009/10.

10.4. There were no changes to the report which was approved by UNANIMOUS vote.

11. REPORTS FROM EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCILLORS R TIDY AND C DOWLING

11.1. R Tidy thanked the Council for the messages of congratulations on his re-election. The East Sussex County Council was now comprised of:

Conservatives 29

Liberal Democrats 13

Labour 4

Independents 3

Induction training was scheduled for 23 June 2009.

11.2. CD reported on the current position with regard to the Five Ashes Traffic issues and noted subject to some minor changes and good results had been obtained for residents.

11.3. B Redman noted that following the destruction of one of the bollards on the stub end of the A267, replacements had been quickly fitted.

11.4. With regard to the proposed heavy road works on the A267 at Wellbrook Hill, it was considered that there needed to be advanced advertising in particular on Newick Lane and Fir Toll Road. It was agreed that the last week of July or August was the best time for the work to be carried out.

ACTION DT

12. REPORTS FROM WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR BRIAN REDMEN

12.1. BR reported that the ongoing Wealden District Council programme of internal review was looking at cost savings of £1.3 million.

12.2. With regard to the Local Development Framework (LDF) the revised housing number for WDC were 11,000, and that this number was part of the approved South East Regional Plan. The delivery was to be completed by 2026.

12.3. The Housing Needs survey would be sent to all residents in rural areas and parishes would be full consulted.

ACTION DT

12.4. BR stated that he would if required help the Planning Committee.

12.5. JD asked about the provision of allotments, in particular in regard to the South Street site. BR noted that the Parish Council had agreed to the site being used for Social Housing development.

13. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 MAY 2009 (9P02) AND 1 JUNE 2009 (9P03)

13.1. GP reported that a site visit had been made to 'Cannington', and that as a result members had changed their views.

13.2. The minutes of both meetings were approved by UNANIMOUS vote.

13.3. There were no questions on the Planning Committee minutes.

14. RESOLUTION 9C02 – SECTION 137 GRANT – ANCHORS STAYING PUT

14.1. RESOLUTION 9C02 – SECTION 137 GRANT – ANCHORS STAYING PUT

That the Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council **RESOLVE** to make a grant of £250 to Anchors Staying Put under provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, and such a grant would provide benefits to the elderly of the Parish.

14.2. The Council approved the Resolution by UNANIMOUS vote.

15. RESOLUTION 9C03 - SECTION 137 GRANT – OPEN DOOR

15.1. RESOLUTION 9C03 - SECTION 137 GRANT – OPEN DOOR

That Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council **RESOLVE** to make a grant of £400 to Open Door, under the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, and such a grant would provide benefits to the well-being of the Parish.

15.2. The Council approved the Resolution by UNANIMOUS vote.

16. RESOLUTION 9C04 – SECTION 137 GRANT – MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

16.1. RESOLUTION 9C04 – SECTION 137 GRANT – MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

That Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council **RESOLVE** to make a grant of £50 to Mayfield Primary School, under the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, and such a grant would provide benefits to the well-being of the Parish.

16.2. The Council approved the Resolution by UNANIMOUS vote.

17 RESOLUTION 8C05 – SECTION 137 GRANT – FIVE ASHES PRIMARY SCHOOL

17.1 RESOLUTION 8C05 – SECTION 137 GRANT – FIVE ASHES PRIMARY SCHOOL

That Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council **RESOLVE** to make a grant of £50 to Five Ashes Primary School, under the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, and such a grant would provide benefits to the well-being of the Parish.

17.2 The Council approved the Resolution by UNANIMOUS vote.

18 MINUTES OF THE SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 18 MAY 2008 (9S01)

18.1 The minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS vote.

18.2 The Chairman of the Security Committee noted that with the summer holiday season approaching it was time for people to be vigilant.

18.3 There were no questions on the Security Committee minutes.

19 MINUTES OF THE COURT MEADOW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 18 MAY 2009 (9K02)

19.1 JB reported on the Mayfield Village Centre position noting that Scheme B did not meet MVC specification and the larger Scheme D had been chosen.

19.2 However it was noted that Scheme B had been downsized by the architect because it would meet village needs. However it was also noted that the MVC Committee had selected Scheme D and would not promote Scheme B.

LM noted that Scheme B did not comply with the written brief and that the architect had not attended the MVC Committee and had made no comments.

19.3 LM noted that the Court Meadow Advisory Committee were holding a site visit on the 29 June at around 0930 hours and that members of the Council were invited to attend.

19.4 It was noted that indeed Scheme D was large and represented challenges in the current financial climate. However it provided the village with an extra asset. A full set of drawings was now available and these would be sent to the Clerk for circulation.

ACTION DT

19.5 It was agreed by all that in future the Court Meadow Management Committee would be known as the Court Meadow Advisory Committee.

ACTION DT

20 YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT

20.1 It was reported that the minutes of the Youth Committee meeting held on 2 June 2009 (9Y01) would be circulated at the next Full Council meeting.

20.2 It was noted that EW had been elected as Chairman, and that it had been decided to create a Five Ashes group on a three month trial basis.

21 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES NOT HOLDING MEETINGS DURING THE PERIOD

21.1 DR reported that the next meeting of the Development Committee would be on 26 June 2009.

21.2 JB reported that the next meeting of the Rights of Way Committee would be held on 24 June 2009.

21.3 JW reported a further incident of public intimidation by the use of dogs on FP13 (Strathbourne) had been reported. It was noted that the case was now in the hands of Wealden District Council.

22 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES – ARGOS HILL WINDMILL

22.1 JD reported that the remaining obstacles to the formation of a lease to the trust had been cleared.

22.2 It was also reported that the Waitrose Supermarket Charity Scheme included the Windmill project, and Waitrose users were urged to place their Charity Discs in the Argos Hill Windmill box.

23 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES – TRANSITION MAYFIELD

- 23.1 PB reported that Transition Mayfield were concentrating on food and energy and that they thanked the Parish Council for their grant payment.

24 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES – NHS MATTERS

- 24.1 DR reported that more members of the Flu Pandemic Committee had been acquired and that a letter was ready for approval and would be sent out in September. The critical period was considered to be November.

25 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- 25.1 PA reported that a cheese and wine event had been held at Peckish on the 21 May 2009. The results were not available yet. The next Chamber of Commerce meeting would be held on Monday 15 June 2009.
- 25.2 It was reported that the May Fair had gone well, and lessons had been learnt. The May Pole would be ready for next year.
- 25.3 It was intended to hold a sport and games day in September.

26 DEBATE BY COUNCILLOR L MCLEAN

- 26.1 To commission a consultant to examine the agreement reached between the MVC Committee and the Parish Council with regard to the siting of the new Mayfield Village Centre. Minutes 8M04 refer:
- 26.2 In view of the intended site visit on 29 June 2009 by Full Council prior to the formal meeting, on 13th July 2009, at 1900 hrs, it was agreed that this item be withdrawn.

27 WDC HOUSING POLICY WITH REGARD TO HOUSING NEEDS INFORMATION

- 27.1 DR reported that the WDC had advertised three dwellings on the Five Ashes affordable housing sites as finished and ready for habitation.
- 27.2 However it was considered that issuing these posters was a way to avoid consultation with the Parish Council by WDC. The Parish Council did not know who was on the list and therefore could not exercise any choice in the matter.
- 27.3 WDC Councillors BR and JF were following the matter up with WDC. There were apparently two lists of possible candidates.
- 27.4 It was agreed that the Parish Council had the right to be fully consulted and that the obstacles preventing such a consultation could easily be removed.

28 CLERK'S REPORT (9X03)

- 28.1 It was noted that a Well-Being course had been organised for Friday 17th July 2009 at Weald Hall Uckfield. The following would be able to attend: MA, PB, JB, GP, JD, EW, CL, RF AND HH.

ACTION DT

29 ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

- 29.1 MA asked about the repairs to finger posts on Penny Bridge Lane. Clerk to follow up.

ACTION DT

- 29.2 MA considered that the Annual Parish Meeting should have large posters placed in the village to advertise the event. This would be done.

ACTION DT

- 29.3 JB asked the Clerk to follow up the suggestions of moving the yellow lines in South Street car park in order to make more parking space.
- 29.4 JB asked the position with regard to the replacement of resigned councillors – the Clerk noted that the process was in hand.
- 29.5 PA reported that the gardens scheme had been successful and that over £2000 had been raised for charity. In all there had been 416 visitors.
- 29.6 HH asked for an update on the position with regard to Stone House High Street, Mayfield.

ACTION DT

- 29.7 As part of the budget process the Clerk agreed to inform those organisations asking for grants from the Parish Council, to be given the decision much earlier in the budget process.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2150 HOURS.

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

VENUE: MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

DATE: 13 JULY 2009

**TIME: 1900 HOURS – SITE VISIT- MAYFIELD VILLAGE CENTRE
1930 HOURS – FORMAL MEETING -MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL**