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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES PARISH  
COUNCIL STATUTORY MEETING  
HELD AT FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL  
ON MONDAY 12 OCTOBER 2009 AT 1930 HOURS**

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9C06

FINAL

R FITZSIMMONS  
CHAIRMAN

**Chairman of Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council  
Councillor R Fitzsimmons until 2100 hours and Councillor D Redman from 2100 hours**

**SUMMARY OF MEETING**

- Corporate Trustee for Argos Hill Windmill approved Section 5
- Finance Report for August 2009 approved Section 6
- Authority for payment arrangements reviewed Section 9
- South Street allotments and car park housing policy reviewed Section 12
- Pandemic flu arrangements discussed Section 13
- Community Safety Committee to be formed in 2010 Section 14
- WH to represent Parish Council on Mayfield Village Centre and churchyards

**ATTENDANCE**

Robert Fitzsimmons	(RF)	Present and Voting
Monica Aitkin	(MA)	Present and Voting
Paul Amans	(PA)	Present and Voting
Patricia Balfour	(PB)	Present and Voting
Jayne Bramwell	(JB)	Present and Voting
Andrew Burnett	(AB)	Present and Voting
Warwick Child	(WH)	Present and Voting
Jane Driscoll	(JD)	Present and Voting
Hubert Hills	(HH)	Present and Voting
Chris Lilly	(CL)	Present and Voting
Lloyd McLean	(LM)	Present and Voting
Graham Playfoot	(GP)	Present and Voting
Deveda Redman	(DR)	Present and Voting
Jerry Watkiss	(JW)	Present and Voting
Elaine Wheeler	(EW)	Present and Voting

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

**Also in attendance:**

Wealden District Councillors Brian Redman (BR), Robert Standley (RS) and Graham Wells (GW)  
ESCC Councillor Robert Tidy (RT), David Thompson Parish Clerk (DT).  
In addition Nigel Hannam and Geoffrey Daughtrey with regard to Argos Hill Windmill.

**Apologies for Absence**

WDC Councillor Jonica Fox (JF) and ESCC Councillor C Dowling (CD)  
There were no members of the public present.

## **MINUTES**

### **1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

- 1.1. There were no other declarations of interest by members on the agenda items.

### **2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 2.1. The Chairman reported that the Police report was not available; however Steve Etherington would be contacting the Chairman shortly to report on the issues arising from the Mayfield Bonfire Society Carnival.
- 2.2. The Chairman reported that in conjunction with the Clerk it was proposed that all minutes should be covered by one agenda item (instead of debating each individual meeting), which was the practice in most other Parish Councils and was recommended best practice. Each Committee would approve its own minutes.
- 2.3. The Chairman presented Power of Well-Being Certificates to the candidate who had recently taken part in the Power of Well-Being course.

### **3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

### **4. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2009 (9C05)**

- 4.1. Two amendments were made to the minutes.
- 4.2. There were no observations or comments on the minutes.

### **5. ARGOS HILL WINDMILL**

- 5.1. The Chairman read the following statement of advice from SALC on the draft trust documents.
  - Clear objectives to be included.
  - Access issues to be noted.
  - Financial liabilities to be clear.
- 5.2. Nigel Hannam of WDC and Geoffrey Daughtrey commented as follows:
  - There would be no liability on individuals.
  - WDC is providing £39k capital grant once the trust is set up with up to a further £61k capital of matched funding in addition to a revenue contribution of £8k per annum for the first 5 years.
  - Insurance is to be provided by the trust but the revenue contribution has been increased from the original discussions to recognise this.
  - Would be a benefit to the people of Sussex.

- 5.3. There were a number of questions from members covering the following issues:
- Insurance
  - Public access and access for maintenance
  - Aims and objectives of the trust
  - Grants, where it was noted that grants could be obtained provided the trust met the criteria appertaining to each grant.
- 5.4. The under mentioned resolution was put to the Full Council:

**RESOLUTION 9C09**

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

Proposed by Councillor J Driscoll, Seconded by Councillor P Balfour

The Resolution was carried. Vote 13 For and 1 abstention.

**6. FINANCE REPORT AUGUST 2009 (9FA05)**

- 6.1 A minor amendment was accepted to the title of the report.
- 6.2 DR reported the key issues from the report as:
- 55 transactions, 50 on expenditure, 5 on income. A busy period.
  - Income £708.51 against a budget of £1280 in the period.
  - No need to use reserves to bolster expenditure needs.
  - Expenditure £6764.23, £1984 above budget clearance of outstanding work.
  - Year to date income was £42534.69 against a budget of £46,000 loss of interest payments and loss budgeted Court Meadow fees.
  - Balances after all adjustments were £27,444.
  - No change in outturn forecast.
  - Full details were in report 7FA05
- 6.3 JB was concerned over the relationship between the period expenditure overspend of £1984, and the under spend on the year to date at period 5. This was due to under spending against budget in the early part of the year, which included making economies where possible. The Period 5 spending was due to a catch up of budgeted work not carried out.
- 6.4 There were no other questions to the RFO on the report.
- 6.5 The report was approved by the Full Council.

**7. REPORT BY ESCC COUNCILLOR R TIDY**

- 7.1. R Tidy reported that:
- Following the baby P case, ESCC had reviewed its services for signs of neglect and had committed £2 million for additional care.

- Foster children were reported to stay with their foster parents for a considerable period of time, and it was reported that this year two foster children had gained university places.
- The Bexhill-Hastings link road would be designed to pay full attention to wildlife requirements.
- BW92 extension was being assessed but there were problems with the link, access path where ESCC were having problems establishing ownership despite the existence of letters confirming the purchase arrangements.
- Two new libraries were to be constructed.
- Library use had increased by 5%.

## **8. REPORTS FROM WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLORS, BRIAN REDMAN (BR), GRAHAM WELLS (GW) AND ROBERT STANDLEY**

8.1. BR reported that WDC were:

- Making savings where possible on all operations.
- Holding planning and housing reviews.
- Over 6000 elderly people were taking advantage of the free swimming opportunities.
- Were planning the implementation of the rubbish recycling project.

8.2. GW reported on:

- Young people's issues
- The care strategy for 2010
- Homeless persons
- Electric blanket tests where it was noted that last year 376 of blankets were tested and of these 40% had failed to pass the test.

8.3. RS reported on:

- WDC efficiency savings project.
- LDF which would be published in 2010, although there could be delays if a General Election took place.
- Parish Planning Conference 4 November 2009.

8.4. Members asked questions on:

- The electric blanket testing project and whether there was compensation for failed electric blankets – yes.
- Housing and landlords risks in renting.
- LDF forecasts.
- Recycling revenue in the recession – only tin cans affected at present.

## **9. RESOLUTION 9C10 AUTHORITY FOR PAYMENT**

9.1. CL explained that the internal auditor had drawn attention to the fact that the Parish Council did not carry out the requirements of Paragraph 39 of Standing Orders. The reasoning and proposed solution to the problem was described in Minute 9F05/14.1.

9.2. A number of amendments to Parish Council documentation would be required.

- 9.3. The following Resolution, proposed by RF and seconded by HH was put to the Full Council.

**RESOLUTION 9C10 AUTHORITY TO PAYMENT**

**Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council RESOLVE to delegate authority for Authority for Payment (Section 39 Standing Orders) to the Finance and General Purposes Committee and instruct the Clerk to amend the following documents as described in Minute 9F05/Section 14.**

- Standing Orders
- Finance Regulation
- Finance process

- 9.4. The Resolution was carried by UNANIMOUS vote.

**10. RESOLUTION 9C12 PETER DELLER**

- 10.1. RF reported that a Resolution from G Playfoot had been discussed at F&GP meeting 9F05, and that a majority vote of the meeting supported it. RF found the wording unacceptable and a compromise amendment was agreed, and LM would discuss with GP to see if it was acceptable.
- 10.2. CL and a number of other Councillors asked GP that if they voted for the original resolution rather than the amendment, that they would have assurance that no further action would be taken by the complainant and that the matter would be concluded. This assurance was given.
- 10.3. As a consequence the amended resolution 9C12A was withdrawn and the original Resolution was put to the vote.

**RESOLUTION 9C12**

**Proposed by Cllr G Playfoot Seonded by CLLr L Mc Lean**

**Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council RESOLVE to record that the critical and adverse statements concerning the conduct of and performance of former Parish Councillor Peter Deller, written in the Parish Council letter dated 7 April 2009 addressed to Mr Blundell, are unreservedly withdrawn.**

**VOTE**

For 11      Against 2      Abstention 2

Resolution 9C12 was carried.

- 10.4. LM then declared that the Chairman should resign and that PD should be reinstated. This was ruled out of order since vacancies needed to be filled in accordance with the law.
- 10.5. Following this intervention, the Chairman left the meeting at 21.00 hours. The meeting was chaired by Vice Chairman D Redman from then on.

**11. MAYFIELD SOUTH STREET ALLOTMENTS AND CAR PARK SITE HOUSING POLICIES RESOLUTION 9C11**

- 11.1. JB introduced the debate by noting the history of the decision to include South Street allotments in the HOPE Plan, a decision which did not appear to have been placed in the public domain.

11.2. Arising from the debate, the following issues were noted:

- Growing demands for allotments.
- Opposition to housing development in the area.
- Access issues.
- Geological issues affecting the allotment sites.
- Growing need for the South Street car park.

11.3. The Resolution before the Council:

Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council RESOLVE to reconsider the need for South Street allotments and South Street car park to be used for social and private housing development.

It was not considered to be strong enough to state the Parish Council case, and after debate amongst members the following resolution was agreed and put to the vote.

**RESOLUTION 9C11**

**Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council RESOLVE to remove the need for South Street allotments and South Street car park to be used for social and private housing projects and to inform WDC accordingly.**

**The Resolution was passed by UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

**ACTION DT**

11.4. JB noted that a number of alternative sites were potentially available.

## **12. PANDEMIC FLU CONTROL CENTRE**

12.1. DR reported that:

The Parish Council through the Pandemic Flu Committee have been making preparations for the Pandemic should it occur. Firstly should there be a major outbreak of Swine Flu the Parish Council has applied to take over the bottom floor of London House for the duration of the Pandemic, and this will form the Co-ordination Headquarters for the Pandemic team to work from. A special telephone number will be installed, and the number will be made available to residents.

The Committee had now compiled a substantial list of volunteers to help during the period, and Parish Councillors have also been asked to help. As yet we do not know whether there will be a major outbreak or not.

12.2. Arrangements were being made by the Clerk, and an article would be placed in November's Yellow Pages.

## **13. RESOLUTION 9C13 COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE**

13.1. It was reported that as part of a review of Committee requirements that it was proposed that the Security, Traffic and Health Sub-Committees be amalgamated into one committee as from January 2010.

- 13.2. Members considered that health matters should not be included in the work of the combined committee, and that the name of the committee should include the word traffic. It was agreed that the Resolution be amended as follows.

**Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council RESOLVES to instruct the Clerk to form a new committee to commence business in January 2010, which will be known as the Community Safety and Traffic Committee, and will cover the remits of the existing Security and Traffic Committees. The Security and Traffic Committees would then be disbanded.**

**The Resolution was passed by UNANIMOUS VOTE.**

- 13.3. It was noted that the Sussex Police were holding a Neighbourhood Watch event on 14 October 2009 at the Sussex Police headquarters at Lewes starting at 1900 hours. EW would attend, and it was agreed that the Clerk would advise M and K Wapling of the Mayfield Neighbourhood Watch.

**ACTION DT**

#### **14. MINUTES FOR CO-OPTION**

- 14.1. The following minutes were adopted by the Parish Council:

9A01 Annual assembly May 2009 (including agreed changes)

9H03 Health Sub Committee

It was agreed that minutes 9F05, 9P08 and 9P09 should first be approved by the relevant committee. It was also agreed to Publish the Annual assembly minutes at the time of the meeting.

It was agreed that the system of adopting minutes would be given a six month trial

- 14.2. PA considered that there should be a cut off point by WDC for receiving objections because when the Planning Committee considered objections there was often an overlap. Clerk to take forward.

**ACTION DT**

- 14.3. JB asked what the position was with regard to Shaws Fair. It was reported that the hire fee had been recovered.

- 14.4. JB asked why the path to the band hut had to be diverted at the car park end. Clerk reported that this was for safety reasons.

- 14.5. It was agreed that AB would update the Clerk on progress with the Love Lane housing development.

**ACTION AB**

- 14.6. JB asked if it was possible that the band hut could be used by other bodies.

**ACTION DT**

- 14.7. There were no questions on the Health Sub-Committee minutes.

#### **15. REPORT FROM TRANSITION MAYFIELD REPRESENTATIVE**

- 15.1. PB reported that Transition Mayfield had met on the site of the Old Mayfield Station on 28 September to discuss the Green Street Garden Share Project.

15.2. Other issues were:

- Organic milk deliveries to be organised.
- D O'Connor noted that a grant could be obtained for energy generation.
- Music Concert – Mayfield unplugged, a candle lit meeting with no heating to be organised.

The next meeting would be at the Rose and Crown on 19 October 2009.

15.3. The Clerk noted that the £150 grant cheque for the group had not been cleared yet.

## **16. MAYFIELD VILLAGE CENTRE**

16.1. Nothing to report.

## **17 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

17.1 AB would advise the Clerk of the current position.

## **18 PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE FOR MAYFIELD VILLAGE CENTRE AND CHURCH YARD REPRESENTATIVE**

18.1 WH was elected by UNANIMOUS vote as representative on Mayfield Village Centre. It was noted that the declared involvement with the Village Centre by WC some ten years ago was not relevant to the current scenario.

**ACTION DT**

18.2 WH was elected by UNANIMOUS VOTE as representative for Mayfield Churchyard.

**ACTION DT**

## **19 FIVE ASHES YOUTH GROUP REPORT**

19.1 EW reported that there were problems with the Five Ashes Youth Group, mainly because the security and size of Five Ashes Village Hall was not really suitable. It was considered to be a risk to continue with the group over the winter period.

19.2 It had been decided to discontinue the group after the end of October and start again in May 2010.

19.3 GP asked for information on the issues in 19.2 above

**ACTION DT**

## **20 CLERK'S REPORT**

20.1 The Clerk recorded his personal appreciation for the excellent performance of Zoe Driscoll who had looked after the office in the Clerk's September absence.

20.2 The ruling by the Planning inspectorate overlaid the objection to the diversion of Mayfield Footpath 32 .

20.3 The Clerk reported that the special training day would be held on 30 November 2009. It would cover:

- Power of Well-Being
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Code of Conduct
- Parish Council issues

20.4 There were no other issues arising from the Clerk's report.

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

21.1 It was agreed to invite Skippers Hill Preparatory School to the November School's meeting, and it was confirmed that this meeting would take place at Mayfield Primary School.

**ACTION DT**

21.2 JB noted that there was a flat available at Canterbury Court.

21.3 WH hoped to see a better attendance from Parish Councillors on Remembrance Sunday on 8 November 2009. LM noted that spaces were reserved in the Church for Council members.

21.4 JD asked that S Etherington be reminded to attend Parish Council meetings, including the next one.

**ACTION DT**

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 22.41 HOURS.**

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

**VENUE: MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**DATE: 9 NOVEMBER 2009**

**TIME: SCHOOLS COUNCIL MEETING (9C07A) AT 1900 HOURS  
FULL COUNCIL MEETING (9C07) AT 1930 HOURS**