



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAYFIELD
AND FIVE ASHES PARISH COUNCIL
STATUTORY MEETING**

**HELD AT MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
ON MONDAY 14 DECEMBER 2009 AT 1930 HOURS**

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

9C08

APPROVED

R FITZSIMMONS
CHAIRMAN

SUMMARY OF MEETING

- Finance Report for October approved.
- Mayfield Village Centre proposals received.
- War Memorial refurbishment noted.
- Budget 2010/11 proposals deferred until January 2010
- Pandemic flu arrangements noted.

ATTENDANCE

Robert Fitzsimmons	(RF)	Present and Voting
Monica Aitkin	(MA)	Apologies for Absence (H)
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 14 Present and not voting 0
Apologies for 1 Not present 0 Other Council Business 0

Also in attendance:

Wealden District Councillors Brian Redman (BR), R Standley (RS), Jonica Fox (JF),
ESCC Councillor Robert Tidy (RT),
David Thompson Parish Clerk (DT)

Apologies for Absence

WDC Councillor G Wells (GW) 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 declarations of interest by members on the agenda items.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 2.1. There were no announcements by the Chairman.
- 2.2. Apologies for absence had been received from PC Etherington, and as a consequence there was no police report.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- 3.1. There were no members of the public present.

4. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2009 (9C07)

- 4.1. The Clerk accepted six minor changes to the minutes, which were then approved by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 4.2. There were no issues arising from the minutes.

5. MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2009 (9C07A)

- 5.1. The Clerk accepted one minor change to the minutes.
- 5.2. DR enquired as to whether the Five Ashes Primary School was informed as to the results of the various actions arising from the meeting. The Clerk confirmed that this was so.

6. FINANCE REPORT OCTOBER 2009 (9F07)

- 6.1 The results and report had been circulated to all members.
- 6.2 CL reported that:
 - Recreation expenses were running over budget, however it was considered that due to the spread of the budget recovery would be made over the next few months.
 - Youth expenses were shown as being £1333 under budget at the year to date position; this was because there were a number of invoices awaited.
 - The budget report highlighted all current financial issues.
- 6.3 The Financial report was approved by UNANIMOUS vote, and there were no questions for the RFO.

7. REPORTS BY WDC COUNCILLORS R TIDY AND C DOWLING

- 7.1. Councillor R Tidy reported that:
 - The Audit Commission report on ESCC had given a good rating of three out of four for all categories of work carried out by the audit investigations.
 - As part of a cost reduction initiative the following departments were being merged:
 - Directorate of Law and Personnel
 - Directorate of Policy and Communications

- Bridleway 92 – Progress was being made on the feasibility study and it was hoped to report very soon. The Yew Tree lane access route was still under investigation.
 - The crime report published in Yellow Pages did not give the full picture and the full story was needed. Members considered that on the whole PCSOs did a good job but there were complaints about response times when residents used the non-emergency number.
- 7.2. JB reported that with regard to the A267 at a location where a bridleway conjoins with the road, there were problems with the safety barrier. On enquiry it was noted that the contractor had been paid for safety work to be carried out but the work had not been done. It was suggested that Parish Councils could monitor this type of work should a list be provided.

ACTION DT

8. REPORTS FROM WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLORS R STANDLEY, B REDMAN AND J FOX

8.1. RS reported that:

- The number of complaints received by the District Council were much reduced and that no cases had been upheld by the Ombudsman.
- The WDC budget would increase by 2.7%, despite Central Government grants being reduced. Savings had been made to offset large cost increases. Consultation on the Budget would close in February 2010.

8.2. BR noted that:

- WDC had had a difficult year.
- Reminded the Parish Council that in cases of Planning Application objections, he needed to be advised so that the application in question could be called in for consideration by the District Council Planning Committee.

ACTION DT

8.3. JF noted that:

- A large number of elderly people would not apply for Pension Credits even though they had the right, and asked to be told of any cases where help could be given.
- Housing – rules were being relaxed.
- Traffic accidents were still unacceptably high.
- Noted the Fire Prevention advice service provided by the Fire Services.

8.4. AB drew attention to the high number of pot holes on the A267 at Mark Cross and at Argos Hill.

8.5. The issue of accidents involving deer was reported, and that steps were being taken to try and organise a deer management group. Suggestions were made for the use of deer whistles which frighten deer away and the use of posts as used in Nutley on the A22.

8.6. It was noted that the Police were carrying out a ‘Don’t Drink and Drive’ exercise in Heathfield.

9. BUDGET 2010/11

9.1. This item was postponed until the meeting 9C09 January 2010.

10. RESOLUTION 9C16

10.1. This item was postponed until meeting 9C09 January 2010.

11. RESOLUTION 9C17

11.1. This item was postponed until meeting 9C09 January 2010.

12. HEALTH MATTERS

12.1. DR reported that the Swine Flu pandemic was on the wane and that the flu jabs were coming on stream – 0-5 year olds were to be included.

12.2. It was reported that DR had attended the HOSC Rural event meeting held on 27 November at Uckfield. The conference had been very useful, and concerned the delivery of NHS to rural areas.

12.3. In answer to questions DR reported that it was unlikely that London House would be needed in connection with the swine flu pandemic, but it would be necessary to monitor the situation over the coming months.

13. RIGHTS OF WAY REPORT

13.1. JB reported that preparations were underway for the forthcoming appeal against the WDC decision with regard to Footpath 13. JW had assisted in preparing a disc containing photographic evidence and a copy had been sent to the Planning Inspector.

14. MINUTES FOR ADOPTION

14.1. The following minutes were adopted by the Full Council:

9P11 Planning

9K07 Court Meadow Management

9S04 Security

9Y04 Youth

14.2. With regard to minute 9P11/4.4 and 9P11/4.5 JB asked what changes had occurred at Mayfield Grange to warrant the application being made. Answer was to modify the access conditions from the Gate Lodge.

14.3. It was noted that when the Planning Committee had an application where they had reservations over agreeing to the proposals that BR should be informed.

ACTION DT

14.4. With regard to minutes 9K07 it was noted that any remaining actions would be transferred to the new Community Development Committee.

14.5. With regard to minutes 9S04 it was noted that the Mayfield and Five Ashes area had been very quiet with regards to crime over the last four months, but it was noted that according to 'farm watch' crime on farms was on the increase and JB reported cases of horses being stolen.

14.6. There were no comments on notes 9Y04.

15. TRASITION MAYFIELD

15.1. PB reported that the group were proposing to hold a barn dance next May and that they were enquiring as to whether they could have a Parish Council grant to aid funds.

16. MAYFIELD VILLAGE CENTRE

16.1. WH reported that he had attended the last meeting, where more detailed proposals for the hall had been tabled. (Note report circulated to members.)

16.2. Member initial comments were:

- Must have village residents behind the project.
- Must feature in the Parish plan.
- Would need to be approved by Mayfield Memorial Hall Committee.
- Running costs needed close examination.
- Current fund raising was only sufficient for the planning process, and capital needs were substantial.

16.3. It was agreed to place the issue on the January 2010 agenda.

ACTION DT

17 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

17.1 AB reported that:

- Late night shopping had been organised.
- A social event was planned for 18 January 2010.
- The Mayfair would be held on 8 May 2009.

17.2 It was noted that fewer members were turning up to meetings.

17.3 LM made an observation on the car parking situation in Mayfield High Street and suggested that the Police should be more active in enforcing regulations. It was agreed that the matter be considered by the Security Committee.

ACTION DT

18 CLERK'S REPORT

18.1 The following items on the Clerk's report were noted:

- In answer to a formal question from JB The Mayfield Library results were as follows:

Last year 6459 books were issued. In the first six months of this year 3963 books have been issued, and on current performance 7926 books will be issued by the end of the year, an increase of 22%.

Expenditure by the county on the current building has included a sum of £3375 for health and safety work.

Some 55% of the readership is children and 85 children took part in the summer reading challenge.

On average the computers are used between 20-25 hours per week.

Parish Council support is considered vital to the future of the library and current opening hours could not be retained if Parish Council's support was withdrawn.

- The use of the Freedom of Information Act to obtain contract information.

- LM requested the Clerk to ascertain the current position with regard to Mayfield roundabout.

19 ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

- 19.1 WH reported on the War Memorial project and noted that a stone mason would visit the Memorial in the New Year, date to be announced. Option were:
- Place bronze plates around the memorial.
 - Place on the Memorial for new names.
 - Clean off the existing names and recut and reface.
- 19.2 PB noted that driving slowly saved fuel and cut emissions and was therefore a contributor towards climate change.
- 19.3 JD asked that Steve Etherington be reminded to attend the Parish Council meeting.
- 19.4 HH drew attention to the derelict house on the 'Wincanton' site. It was noted that a revised Planning Application for the site was being developed.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2140 HOURS.

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

VENUE: MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

DATE: MONDAY 18 JANUARY 2009

TIME: 1930 HOURS