



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

**HELD AT MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
ON MONDAY 18 JANUARY 2010 AT 1930 HOURS**

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

9C09

**APPROVED FULL
COUNCIL**

**R FITZSIMMONS
CHAIRMAN**

SUMMARY OF MEETING

- Finance Report for November approved.
- Mayfield Village Centre proposals reviewed.
- Budget 2010/11 proposals agreed
- Bad weather arrangements noted.

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)	Apologies for Absence
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), G Wells (GW),
ESCC Councillor Robert Tidy (RT) and C Dowling (CD)
David Thompson Parish Clerk (DT) PCSO M Boyle (MB)

Apologies for Absence

WDC Councillor R Standley (RS) and Jonica Fox (JF)
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 Chairman's announcements.

3. POLICE REPORT

- 3.1. MB reported that:

- Crime levels were insignificant over the period.
- The police letter with regard to unauthorised parking in Mayfield High Street had been agreed and would be distributed. The enforcement of the two hour parking period would then follow.

The arrangements had been discussed and agreed by the Community Safety and Traffic Committee at its meeting on 4 January 2010.

- 3.2. In answer to comments from MA and WH it was noted that the two hour parking rule applied between 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. Continental practice (not applicable in England) was also noted.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- 4.1. BR complained about the Parish Council response to the recent ice and snow.

- Memorial Hall car park
- Major roads – gritting and salting
- The number of pot holes appearing

- 4.2. RF noted that at meeting 9S05 (4 January 2010) it had been reported that ESCC had to grit 840 miles of A and B roads in 2.5 hours of a bad weather event, and that the problems concerning pot holes had been reported. It was also noted that in the forthcoming budget this amount would be cut back to 700 miles of road. RT confirmed that A and B roads were covered, and in addition steps were taken to ensure that each village was connected.

- 4.3. With regard to pot holes RT noted that since the pot holes were caused by water and frost, effective repairs could not be carried out until there was a spell of dry weather.

- 4.4. There would be a conference with Parish Councils to discuss these issues, but it was essential that residents were empowered to help themselves. It was noted that in the past dairy farms would keep minor roads clear, but this was no longer done. There was also the costs of insurance to be taken into account.

- 4.5. DR considered it was a communicative issue, and it was noted that those who cleared pavements could be liable should an accident occur on a stretch of cleared pavement which had subsequently iced over.

- 4.6. The following was agreed:
- RT would place an article in an appropriate issue of 'Your County'.
 - Pavements were **not** a County Council responsibility
 - The Clerk would consult with NALC over legal and insurance issues.

ACTION RT AND DT

5. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING (9C08) HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2009 (9C08)

- 5.1. There were no amendments to the minutes which were approved by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 5.2. JD asked if the Clerk had followed up the issues raised regarding Mayfield roundabout. The Clerk noted that as yet this had not been carried out.

ACTION DT

6. FINANCE REPORT NOVEMBER 2009 (9F08)

- 6.1 It was noted that the report had been circulated in November 2009. CL reported that at the year to date:
- Income was down due to lower amounts of bank interest, and the loss of forecast MMM income
 - Expenditure was some £9,800 below budget forecast
- Detailed explanations and trends were fully described in the Clerk's Report.
- 6.2 The report was approved by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 6.3 There were no questions on the Finance Report for November 2009.

7. REPORTS BY ESCC COUNCILLORS R TIDY (RT) AND C DOWLING (CD)

- 7.1. RT reported that:
- The Prime Minister's initiative on free personal care for the elderly included those who already paid for care and that this would add to ESCC's financial burden - £1.5 million in the remaining part of the financial year and £3 million in a full year. No decision on how this extra money would be found had been as of yet resolved.
 - It was noted that the Sidley Depot would undertake temporary pot hole filling if advised. It was noted that the Parish Council had submitted a request list.
- 7.2. JB reported the case of the A267/Firtoll Road minor works issue, and noted that it was possible for the Parish Council to monitor minor works if they had a list. RT reiterated that ESCC policy was that payment was not made until confirmation of completed works had been carried out. It was agreed that the Clerk would follow up with Brian Banks.

ACTION DT

- 7.3. CD reported that there had been an objection to the Five Ashes speed restriction project and that he would represent the Parish Council at the hearing on 20 January 2010. The objector was a resident from Heathfield. CD would advise the Parish Council of the result.

ACTION CD

- 7.4. CD reported that the application by the Children of Five Ashes Primary School for a 20 mph restriction of speed in the area of the school had been received by ESCC. At the present time the Council were still considering the policy advice from Central Government.

8. REPORTS FROM WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLORS GRAHAM WELLS (GW) AND BRIAN REDMAN

- 8.1. GW reported that:

- The District Council had sent a letter of apology to residents with regard to the breakdown in refuse collection services over the snow and ice period.
- There were issues with regard to the ESCC core strategy on waste disposal since the District Council had no landfill sites and had to dispose of non recyclable waste elsewhere.
- The Audit Commission had awarded the District Council $\frac{3}{4}$ of the recent review of the Council's plan.
- The review panel on Council issues which was conducted with local residents was working well and was highlighting weak spots in Council performance.
- The leisure centre contracts were to be reviewed in 2012 and service reviews were taking place.
- It was noted that the local press had misinterpreted WDC's policy on car parking charges.

- 8.2. There was no report from BR.

- 8.3. There were no questions for the WDC Councillors.

9. BUDGET 2010/11

- 9.1. CL introduced the budget tables and the commentary on the budget produced by the RFO. CL reported that:

- The F&GP Committee had taken some three months to review Parish Council expenditure needs.
- As the ESCC and WDC Community Charges were to increase by 2.5% - 3% he considered that as a policy the precept should not be increased by more than 5%. As a result many grant and spending initiatives had had to be deferred. It was noted that income rates were down because of lower interest rates and lower reserve funds.
- A precept increase of £87,216 an increase of 4.4% was recommended.
- Attention was drawn to the new policy on grants whereby grants would only be made to organisations who applied for them with documentation in support of such grant, and the concept of regular annual grants being made to certain organisations would cease.

- 9.2. There were questions from JB and WH on presentational issues regarding the figures.

- 9.3. MA recorded her disappointment that the hanging basket project could not be funded from the budget since we were one of the few villages that did not supply them. After debate it was agreed that the project could be progressed if grants towards the cost could be obtained and any other costs could be found from within the existing budget.

ACTION DT

9.4. A request had been made by the RFO for the inclusion of an additional £1,500 to fund a project to provide grit bins at strategic locations in the two villages. The subsequent debate identified a number of problems which would need to be overcome before the project could be initiated. It was agreed that:

- The project could proceed if grants towards the costs could be obtained and any other costs be found from existing budgets.
- The project to be carried forward by the Community Safety and Traffic Committee.

ACTION DT

10. RESOLUTION 9C16

10.1. Proposed by Councillor C Lilly, Seconded by Councillor D Redman

Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council **RESOLVE** to adopt budget draft 2C as the Budget for 2010/11.

Vote UNANIMOUS in favour.

11. RESOLUTION 9C17

11.1. Proposed by Councillor C Lilly and Councillor D Redman

Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council **RESOLVE** to set a precept of £87,216 for 2010/11.

Vote UNANIMOUS in favour

12. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

12.1. Prior to the Resolution on the appointment of the Internal Auditor CL and DR had reservations on reappointing the auditor on the grounds that it was good practice to change from time to time and wished to defer the appointment so that the F&GP Committee could review the issue.

12.2. The Clerk replied that the Internal Auditor had only been in place three years and the previous Internal Auditor had been ineffective. Although in principle he did not have a problem with a change of Internal Auditor, there was no time in this year's Year End accounting process to make a change.

12.3. The Clerk noted that any future Internal Auditor must be fully acquainted with:

- Parish Council Audits
- The processes required by the Account and Audit Regulations as amended for both accountability and governance.
- Ideally be listed on the SLCC/SALC list of recommended internal auditors.

12.4. It was agreed that the Clerk would place the review of the Internal Auditor on the Agenda for a subsequent F&GP meeting.

13. RESOLUTION 9C20

Proposed by Councillor C Lilly and Councillor D Redman

Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council **RESOLVE** to appoint Mr G Parish as Internal Auditor for 2009/10.

Vote For 12 Against - Abstentions 2

14. RIGHTS OF WAY REPORT

- 14.1. JB reported on the forthcoming appeal hearing on the 24 February 2010 at the Memorial Hall over the proposed diversion of footpath 13 (part) at Strathbourne. It was hoped that as many people as possible would attend. JB briefly outlined the reasons for appeal.
- 14.2. The Clerk reported that good progress was being made on the adoption of the Parish Council footpath in Court Meadow which connected FP46C with FP55.

15. ADOPTON OF MINUTES

- 15.1. The following minutes were adopted by the Full Council by UNANIMOUS vote.
 - 9P12 Planning Committee
 - 9P13 Planning Committee
- 15.2. There were no questions on the minutes.
- 15.3. The Agenda item to discuss the recommendation on the adoption of minutes as per part 4 of the Clerk's Report (part 4) was withdrawn by the Clerk.

16. COMMUNITY SAFETY AND TRAFFIC COMMITTEE REPORT

- 16.1. RF reported that the Committee had met on 4 January 2010:
 - Crime numbers were reported to be light, with odd garden incidents
 - Draft Terms of Reference agreed
 - Dustbin stickers that would show on collection days, were available as a reminder against traffic speeds.
- 16.2. It was noted that the full police report had not been received recently. Clerk to follow up.

ACTION DT

17 MAYFIELD VILLAGE CENTRE REPORT 10 DECEMBER 2009

- 17.1 The report had been circulated at the last meeting of the Full Council.
- 17.2 WH reported that the project needed to be taken forward and to do this it would need extensive consultation, and that he had some misgivings over the project.
- 17.3 LM noted that as the Parish Council had restricted the amount of land it was prepared to make available, there needed to be some extensive redesign work and the Committee would need to submit new plans.
- 17.4 It was decided by the Parish Council to wait until a definitive project had been prepared.

18 TRASITION MAYFIELD

- 18.1 There would be an event at St Leonards in the near future.

19 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- 19.1 The Chamber had held late night shopping events in December. Other issues were:
 - Social event held at the Rose and Crown had been attended by seven members.
 - There was a need to provide grit bins for the High Street.
 - The hanging basket project would be considered.

ACTION DT

- 19.2 The next meeting of the Chamber of Commerce would be at St Leonards at 1730 hours on 15 February 2010.

20 CLERK'S REPORT

- 20.1 The Clerk's report was approved by members of the Full Council without amendment.
20.2 The Clerk drew attention to the revised date for the Councillor Training session. This would now be on Monday 15 February 2010.

21 ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

- 21.1 GP asked that the Courier reporter be advised of meeting dates. **ACTION DT**
21.2 EW enquired as to which roads were designated not to be gritted. **ACTION DT**
21.3 PB noted the recent power cut on Newick Lane and the provision of generators.
21.4 JW drew attention to a fallen tree on Coggins Mill Lane and the effect on street light 17.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2146 HOURS.

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

VENUE: FIVE ASHES VILLAGE HALL
DATE: MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2010
TIME: 1930 HOURS