



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

**HELD AT MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
ON MONDAY 8 MARCH 2010 AT 1930 HOURS**

9C11
Draft

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

SUMMARY OF MEETING

- Finance Report for January approved
- Office relocation Resolution to proceed
- John Lewis and Mike Heggerty remembered
- Enforcement of car parking Mayfield High Street agreed
- Grit bins for winter weather agreed.
- Report on Footpath 13C Appeal heard
- Revised Standing Orders agreed
- Revised Financial Regulations agreed
- Revised Financial Process agreed
- Argos Hill Windmill progress agreed

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 (B)
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)	Apologies for Absence (B)

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

Also in attendanc: Wealden District Councillors Brian Redman (BR), Graham Wells (GW)
ESCC Councillor Robert Tidy (RT)
David Thompson Parish Clerk (DT) and Courier Reporter Vivien Levy

Apologies for Absence: WDC Councillors Jonica Fox (JF) and Robert Standley (RS) and ESCC
Councillor Chris Dowling (CD)

There were no members of the public present.

MINUTES

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS ON AGENDA ITEMS

- 1.1. CL declared a general interest on Agenda item 12, being owner on the land adjacent to Mayfield and Five Ashes Footpath 13C, the subject of an appeal.
- 1.2. There were no other declarations of interest.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 2.1. The Chairman reported the death recently of Mike Heggarty, who had been a Vice Chairman of the Parish Council and also the Chairman of the lighting committee.
- 2.2. The Chairman announced the recent and sudden death of John Lewis, who had been a Lay Member of several Parish Council Advisory Committees, and had made a substantial contribution to the organisations, and people of Mayfield.
- 2.3. The Chairman welcomed Vivien Levy as the new reporter for the 'Courier'.
- 2.4. The Chairman reported that the Parish Council precept would increase by only 3.5% over the previous year. The percentage increase per household had been offset by a number of new houses being completed.

3. POLICE REPORT

- 3.1. In the absence of Police representative, the Chairman gave the Police report as under.
- 3.2. Parking on the High Street: letters had been hand delivered to shops and flats along the High Street and warnings given. There was also a warning letter in this month's Yellow Pages coupled with a press release in the Courier. Ticketing to be enforced as from 11 March 2010.

With regard to speeding there was a rural speed enforcement in late February with officers from the Road Policing Unit doing speed checks at Rotherfield, Mayfield, Five Ashes, Frant, Eridge, Mark Cross and Wadhurst. This was supported by a local speed watch and leaflet drop in – Operation Crackdown.

Crime: There was a shed break-in at Mayfield on the same night as four separate incidents in Rotherfield. A request to be vigilant and report anything suspicious.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

5. REPORT BY ESCC COUNCILLOR R TIDY

- 5.1. RT reported that he had consulted with the ESCC legal department over the reported purchase of land by ESCC to form a footpath from the old railway line trackbed to Yew Tree Lane. He reported that there was no evidence of such a purchase.
- 5.2. JB reiterated that the Parish Council were in possession of correspondent that showed that David Munn had authorised the payment as part of the project. However it was reported that the land in question had since been sold on.
- 5.3. In answer to a question from JD, it was confirmed that ESCC would be making substantial cutbacks in services and administration.
- 5.4. With regard to rural issues and the creation of Transition groups, RT urged them to work in partnership with ESCC, in order to share expertise and to improve co-ordination.

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

6.1 BR reported that:

- The Transformation programme now being carried out envisaged the concentration of County Offices at Hailsham would be achieved by 2012, and that Pine Grove, Crowborough would be sold.
- The segregated waste project was being implemented in the Mayfield area commencing 8 March 2010.

6.2 GW reported that WDC had produced its road safety report the key features of which were:

- Age groups 15-19, 20-24
- Accidents are predominant in the summer months and occur between 16:00 and 17:59 hours.
- Normally happen close to home.
- Number of killed and seriously injured in Wealden in 2008 was 145 of which 17 were fatal.
- The three top causes were:
 - Failed to look properly
 - Failed to judge other persons speed
 - Travelling too fast for conditions

WDC were pressing for much stricter driving tests.

6.3 Public and Community transport was being developed in East Sussex, and Parish Council were urged to put ideas forward.

6.4 Attention was drawn to the Safer Wealden Partnership with regard to Crime and Safety issues.

6.5 There was a new scheme for involving the 'over 50s' in fitness programmes, but there was no additional cash funding.

6.6 It was noted that in development areas, demolishing an existing house to make way for 2-3 new dwellings can be possible, and that WDC may support in order to avoid the cost of an appeal.

6.7 There was some debate led by DR on the WDC road accident report and the desirability of requiring newly passed motorists to display 'P' plates.

6.8 JB drew attention to the chaos caused on Newick Lane, as a result of the use by diverted vehicles from the Five Ashes Road (A267) following the accident early that morning. Much of the problem resulted from vehicles slipping on the ice, which in turn caused a further accident. JB asked for a Grit Bin to be provided.

ACTION DT

6.9 GP asked for drainage ditches and drains to be cleared.

ACTION DT

7. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2010 (9C10)

- 7.1. With three corrections for accuracy the minutes were approved by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 7.2. With regard to minute 4.2 JB noted that the deadline for grit bin orders was 10 March, whilst the Clerk's report stated May. The deadline of 10 March was confirmed and the Clerk's report was corrected.

8. FINANCE REPORT JANUARY 2010 9FA10

- 8.1. The Finance Report was approved by UNANIMOUS vote.
- 8.2. CL reported that finances were in order with no significant adverse trends. Full explanatory details was available in the report.
- 8.3. There were no questions to CL or the RFO on the report.

9. MAYFIELD HIGH STREET – CAR PARKING

- 9.1. As reported in minute 3.2, the letters of warning had been distributed, and the issue of parking tickets would commence on 11 March.
- 9.2. WH requested that double yellow lines were needed by the Church because of the need for the hearse to use the area, and also to review the situation in Royal Oak Mews. In addition it was suggested that the yellow lines at the old entrance to St Leonards Mayfield School be pulled back, but after discussion it was considered that the school would probably wish to retain its rights.

ACTION DT

10. REPORT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 1 FEBRUARY 2010 (9D05)

10.1. DR reported that:

- The Plan would be updated and ten key issues selected.
- Action Plans would be updated.
- Housing needs survey.
- Terms of Reference to be drawn up.

10.2. There were no questions on the Development Committee report.

11. RIGHTS OF WAY REPORT AND FOOTPATH 13C APPEAL HEARING

- 11.1. It was noted that CL had made a general declaration of interest on this item.
- 11.2. JB represented the Parish Council at the hearing and reported that:
 - Mr Sharma had diverted the Footpath without permission.
 - WDC had dealt with the case and had agreed to the diversion.
 - The Parish Council considered that the Footpath was not wide enough and had appealed together with 17 other objectors.
 - At the hearing Mr Sharma had offered to make the footpath 2.5 metres wide, and G Keane (WDC) had agreed that this was possible but improvements needed to be carried out.
 - A list of eight requirements were produced, which were agreed by Mr Sharma.

- 11.3. An interim report will be issued first, followed by the Full Report. The Full Report will ensure that the detailed conditions are carried out. PC will still be able to object if necessary.
- 11.4. RF thanked JB for the immense amount of work she had done on behalf of the Parish Council.
- 11.5. CL explained that the reason for his declaration of interest had been because he considered that the diverted footpath would interfere with his boundary, and that there would be ownership issues over the ownership of the hedges and the boundary.
- 11.6. PA drew attention to a recent Planning Application submitted by Mr Sharma which had been deferred pending the settlement of the appeal. The Planning Application sought to extend the domestic curtilidge of Mr Sharma's property by six metres.

12. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

12.1. The following minutes were adopted by the Full Council by UNANIMOUS vote:

- 9P15 Planning Committee Status Approved
- 9F09 Finance and General Purposes Committee Status Approved
- 9S05 Community Safety and Traffic Committee Status Approved

12.2. With regard to minute 6F7/14.2, after discussion it was agreed that it would be difficult to make a valuation of Court Meadow, and it was agreed that a value of £1000 per acre be applied to the meadow to achieve a normal value.

12.3. It was therefore agreed that Court Meadow be valued at £14,200 and that the action was closed.

ACTION DT

13. PRODUCTION OF MINTUES

13.1 There was a short debate on this subject, and it was agreed that:

- Minutes would be turned around in two weeks, thus allowing the Clerk to deal with the actions.
- Sent to Chairman for accuracy check.
- Circulated to Committee Members for review
- Sent to next Full Council for adoption 'as read'

14. OFFICE RELOCATION PRESENT POSITION

14.1. CL reported that:

- An improved offer of rent (£4500) had been made, with a target completion date of 1 June 2010.
- The penalty in the Parish Council existing rent agreement was a problem, but avenues offsetting this cost were being explored.
- A mandate from the Full Council was required in order to make further progress.

- 14.2. There was debate over the cost issues in the Clerk's Report dated 4 February 2010 after which the issue was put to the vote.

RESOLUTION 9C23

Proposed by Councillor C Lilly and Seconded by Councillor R Fitzsimmons

Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council RESOLVE to move the Parish Council Office to the Manor House, High Street Mayfield authorising the Parish Council to:

- Negotiate rental terms
- Commit to rent of £4500 per year
- Aim for a completion date of 1 June 2010
- To give notice to St Dunstan's Church, on the present premises at London House with immediate effect and terms are agreed.
- To note that in the worst case, the move will require the use of £6000 from reserves.
- To authorise the Parish Council to sub-let London House during the notice period.

Vote for 11 Abstain 2 Against 0 RESOLUTION Carried

15. RESOLUTION 9C22 DOCUMENTATION

- 15.1. The Clerk explained that the internal audit report required amendments to be made to the documents under review in order to accommodate the Council's method of authorising payment.

15.2. RESOLUTION 9C22

Proposed by R Fitzsimmons and Seconded by C Lilly

Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council RESOLVE to adopt the following documents:

- Standing Orders 2007 Version 4
- Financial Regulations 2010-03-20
- Financial Process Version 4

For 12 Against 0 Abstain 1 RESOLUTION Carried

- 15.3. It was noticed that further amendment would be needed to Standing Orders to cover the Court Meadow Management meeting referred to in Paragraph 41. The Clerk noted that the whole of Standing Orders were under review to incorporate recent National Association of Local Councils advice and that the Court Meadow issue would be picked up at the same time. The new Standing Orders were targeted for May 2010.

ACTION DT

16. COMMUNITY SAFETY AND TRAFFIC REPORT

- 16.1. RF reported that the Committee had met on 4 March 2010, key issues were discussed:

- East Street car parking
- Stone Cross traffic speeds
- Five Ashes speed restriction project
- Parking locations in Love Lane
- Pot holes and drainage
- A quiet crime scene

- Inviting Inspector Wakefield to attend a Full Council meeting
- Placing an order for two further grit bins and confirming the existence of some four others.

16.2. GP reported that the speed reactive signs at Five Ashes had been turned off, pending being moved as part of the traffic calming scheme.

17 REPRESENTATIVES REPORT – ARGOS HILL WINDMILL

17.1 JD reported that the lease has now been agreed in principle and so now a Company/Trust can be applied for, as can charitable status.

David Thompson was advised by SALC that Local Councils' representation on a Trust cannot exceed 20% of the total membership. This would mean that Argos Hill Windmill Trust could not have representation from both the Parish and from Wealden.

It was felt by the potential Trustees that, as Wealden 'holds the purse strings' and is the owner of the mill, it has sufficient input in the project and could forfeit representation on the Trust. Geoffrey Daughtrey has spoken to Nigel Hannam about this and the Wealden legal team are now looking into whether this is acceptable to them.

12 May is the Argos Windmill AGM.

The 'Friends' are hoping to have a stall at the May Fair in order to raise awareness of the imminent renovation of the Windmill and the fundraising that will accompany it.

18 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS – TRANSITION MAYFIELD

18.1 PB reported that:

- An event was planned with MMM to take place on 18 October 2010.
- The energy study was being developed.
- Co-operation was taking place with St Leonards Mayfield School
- Local food production was being studied
- A website was planned for the near future

18.2 There were no questions on Transition Mayfield

19 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

19.1 PA reported that:

- Main Chamber of Commerce issue was parking in the High Street
- May Fair – 8 May 2010
- Next meeting 15 March at 1730 hours at St Leonards Mayfield School

20 REPRESENTATIVES REPORT - MVC

20.1 WH reported that:

- A meeting of the group had been held on 1 March
- The first phase of design work had been completed
- They needed village support
- They needed to have a convincing reason as to why a new hall was needed.
- Fund raising was going well.

21 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS – OLD PEOPLE’S WELFARE

21.1 JB reported that she has attended their recent meeting and that:

- There were eight representative groups
- U3A had 210 members
- Community cars were making 630 calls per year
- Community cars needed more drivers
- A salt bin was needed for Canterbury Court
- Help the Aged were working with the Tuesday lunch club

21.2 With regard to emergencies Help the Aged were trying to organise an emergency co-ordination centre and were compiling a register of help.

22 CLERK’S REPORT MARCH 2010 9X11

22.1 The Clerk’s report had been circulated in advance.

22.2 With regard to training for the Power of Well-Being, it was agreed that the Clerk would write to the remaining six members, with a view to placing them on the next course which was to be held at Battle on 24 April 2010.

23 ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

23.1 JB enquired as to whether the original stable block which Mr Sharma was going to demolish prior to building his new block had in actual fact been carried out. The Clerk to investigate through the WDC enforcement team.

ACTION DT

23.2 DR asked the Clerk to chase up the South Street Allotment site with WDC.

ACTION DT

23.3 HH requested a large sign to be provided for the Mayfield Memorial Hall. Agreed to go on F&GP Agenda.

ACTION DT

23.4 HH noted that the bridge over the stream at Parson’s Wood was in need of safety fencing. To be placed on Rights of Way and Trees Committee Agenda.

ACTION DT

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2200 HOURS.

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

VENUE: MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

DATE: MONDAY 12 APRIL 2010

TIME: 1930 HOURS