



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

**HELD AT MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
ON MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2011 AT 1930 HOURS**

**Chairman of Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council
Councillor Deveda Redman**

**11C09
APPROVED
FULL COUNCIL**

**D REDMAN
CHAIRMAN**

SUMMARY OF MEETING

- Finance Report for September approved.
- Budget 2012/13 approved
- Dennis Blurton gains Wealden District Council Chairman's Civic Award

ATTENDANCE

Robert Fitzsimmons	(RF)	Present and Voting
Monica Aitkin	(MA)	Apologies for Absence (B)
Rosemary Neal	(RN)	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
Ian Parker	(IP)	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 (S)

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

Also in attendance: East Sussex County Council Councillors Robert Tidy (RT), Wealden District Council Brian Redman (BR), and Jonica Fox (JF) and David Thompson, Clerk.

Apologies for Absence: WDC Councillors Graham Wells (GW) and Robert Standley (RS) and ESCC Councillor Chris Dowling (CD)

There were no members of the public present.

MINUTES

1. COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS

- 1.1. There were no declarations of interests by members on agenda items.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 2.1. The Chairman wished all members of the Parish Council, the Clerk, and Members of the Principal Authorities a Happy Christmas and New Year.
- 2.2. There was no Police report.
- 2.3. Refreshments provided at the end of the meeting would be charged at £2 per head.
- 2.4. The Chairman drew attention to one of our most active residents, Dennis Blurton who had been awarded the Wealden District Council Chairman's Civic Award. The award was made by Councillor Jonica Fox Chairman of Wealden District Council on 30 November 2011.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

4. REPORT FROM EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

- 4.1. East Sussex County Councillor Robert Tidy reported that:

- The East Sussex County Council budget would be held at 0% increase for the year 2012/13, however there would be a 5% increase spread over years 2013/14 and 2014/15. Capital spend would be £175 million spread over 3 years, however a sum of £222 million was needed to meet all capital requirements.
- £24.5 million was needed for the Hastings-Bexhill link road.
- The Rural Broadband Project would be progressed with extra expenditure being committed for the difficult access areas.
- No decision had yet been made on the Revenue Budget.
- There would be an elected crime commissioner to be appointed on 22 November 2011 after elections. There would also be a 20 person Scrutiny Committee.

- 4.2. Questions from members to Councillor Tidy were:

- DR on council tax planned 0% increase – Central Government would grant the 2.5% needed in order to hold the cost down.
- JW on the broadband access project.
- CL on general levels of rural crime.
- RF on the Crime Commissioner – where RT noted that the Chief Constable would remain as now and the structure would be that of a mini Metropolitan Police. Councillor Peter James was a candidate.
- JB with regard to recent cable theft reports where Cllr Tidy had been told that some of these had been in fact engineering contractors going about their lawful business. Cllr B Redman challenged this idea.

5. WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

- 5.1. BR reported that Wealden District Council was still considering council tax options for 2012/13.
- 5.2. JF reported that:
 - Strike Day – Very few members of staff were absent on strike day (approximately 6%), key services such as bin-emptying ran as usual as Unison members within Wealden chose not to go out on strike. Unison is the largest (by Wealden membership) of the three unions that operate within Wealden DC.
 - Boundary Commission – Wealden has made a formal response to the Boundary Commission asking for mathematically acceptable changes to the proposed constituency boundaries to take local historical and cultural links into consideration. One of these changes proposed that the Cross-in-Hand and Five Ashes ward transfers from the proposed Bexhill constituency to the proposed The Weald Constituency, Another recommendation that the proposed Bexhill Constituency is renamed Bexhill and Heathfield.
 - Chairman’s Civic Awards – Three awards were made this year to individuals whom, through their voluntary work, make Wealden such a good place to live. Awards were made to Ann Thompson of Maresfield, Sophie Fuscio of Ninfield and Dennis Blurton of Mayfield. Dennis was proposed by Councillor Brian Redman in partnership with Parish Councillor Jayne Bramwell. All three received their awards and certificates on 30 November 2011.
- 5.3. There were questions on the effect of the recent strike, where it was noted that structural changes in the waste collection service had had some effect.
- 5.4. With regards community housing, DR reported that a note from the Clerk had indicated that so far no people from the Parish Council area had been allocated a dwelling in the new affordable housing development in St Leonards Lane, despite their being applications. JF would investigate and report.

ACTION JF

6. MEETING OF THE FULL COUNCIL 14 NOVEMBER 2011

- 6.1. There were 7 amendments accepted by the Clerk to the minutes after which they were approved by UNANIMOUS vote.
 - 6.2. With regard to Minute No 11C08/14.1 it was reported that the letter for the Five Ashes War Memorial appeal was being prepared and that the address labels were being ordered. The flagpole had been delivered.
 - 6.3. Comments were received from WH on Minutes 11C08/14.3 and 11C08/14.2, with regard to the Remembrance Day maroons, and the Fingerpost Inventory.
 - 6.4. There were questions and comments on the current situation with regard to the Grange Cricket Ground and the communal sharing arrangements. Clerk to follow up and ask Cllr G Wells where we had got to.
- ACTION DT**
- 6.5. RT reported that the alleged theft of wire from the stub end of the old A267, had in fact been contractors carrying out legitimate work. Cllr B Redman disputed this.

7. FINANCE REPORT SEPTEMBER 2011 11FA06

- 7.1. CL reported the year to date results and noted that the revised forecast indicated a potentially adverse gap of £1377. This would be kept under review. Other details were as published.

Key numbers were:

	August Actual Results	Year to Date April – August	Forecast Results At Year End
Income	£8.91	£52,844.87	£181,405.00
Revenue Expenditure	£6,418.79	£42,660.13	£88,578.00
Projects	£4,302.00	£83,982.71	£90,450.00

- 7.2. The results were approved by UNANIMOUS vote.

8. MINUTES FOR ADOPTION

- 8.1. The minutes for adoption were reviewed as shown below:

Meeting	Title	Status	Corrections Accepted
11P11	Planning Executive	CA	3
11P12	Planning Executive	CA	3
11D05	Community Development Advisory	CA	1
11R04	Rights of Way and Trees Advisory	D	0
11F07	Finance and General Purposes Executive	CA	1
11S04	Community Safety and Traffic Advisory	CA	0
11D05A	Green Sub-Committee	CA	0

CA = Approved by Chairman D= Draft

- 8.2. Comments were made by JB on 11P11/4.8 where she noted that it was important that in ménage planning applications that full details of drainage requirements were needed on Planning Applications. Clerk to take forward.

ACTION DT

- 8.3. With regard to Rights of Way JB noted that tourism was now vital to rural development and to this end the Central Government were making money available for tourism development which might be available to assist with the Parish Council's BW92 extension development.

- 8.4. With regards to the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting CL explained the philosophy behind the allocation of grants for 2012/13. RN questioned the validity of this approach, and it was agreed that the grants criteria would be revised by the Clerk in time for a future meeting of the F&GP.

ACTION DT

8.5. With regard to the Community Safety and Traffic Committee minutes there were questions on:

- Fingerpost progress
- Emergency process

RF reported that speed checks were being carried out in Five Ashes.

8.6. With regard to the Green Sub-Committee JD reported that she had read about the 2012 new Queen Elizabeth II Fields in Trust that are going to be made for the Diamond Jubilee and this prompted her to investigate as it would give the meadow the protection we thought we had lost in 2003 when SALC told us that our registration was invalid.

The result of this investigation is that we still are and will be in perpetuity, a King George V Field and have the protection that this gives. FIT advises that this protection would be strengthened if we were to register as a KGF Charity. This would cost nothing and could include the community buildings so that the PC would only need to charge a peppercorn rent.

The next step therefore is to investigate the advantages and disadvantages to becoming a charity as well as looking into covenants. The Sub-Committee haven't completely discounted Village Green option, as theoretically, it is possible to register a KGF as a green.

8.7. The minutes of the above meetings were approved by the Full Council by UNANIMOUS vote.

9. BUDGET 2012/13

9.1. CL introduced the Budget for 2012/13, copies of which had been circulated to all members, and discussed key issues. RN raised the issue of the Best Kept Village Competition. Clerk to follow up.

ACTION DT

9.2. RESOLUTION 11C10

That Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council approve the grants made to organisations and monies committed under the Power of Well-Being for 2012/13.

Moved by Councillor D Redman, Seconded by Councillor C Lilly

VOTE UNANIMOUS

ACTION DT

9.3. RESOLUTION 11C11

That Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council approve the monies committed to Village Projects for 2012/13.

Moved by Councillor D Redman, Seconded by Councillor C Lilly

VOTE UNANIMOUS

9.4. RESOLUTION 11C12

That Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council approve the Clerk's salary for 2012/13.

Moved by Councillor D Redman, Seconded by Councillor C Lilly

VOTE UNANIMOUS

9.5. **RESOLUTION 11C13**

That Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council approve the Parish Council Budget for 2012/13.

Moved by Councillor D Redman, Seconded by Councillor C Lilly

VOTE UNANIMOUS

ACTION DT

9.6. **RESOLUTION 11C14**

That Mayfield and Five Ashes Parish Council approve the Parish Council Precept of £91,792 for 2012/13.

Moved by Councillor D Redman, Seconded by Councillor C Lilly

VOTE UNANIMOUS

ACTION DT

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 10.1. Rights of Way and Trees Advisory – JW reported that the Walks booklet was on the last stages of proof checking and that the Circular Walks leaflet was now available. The Walks booklet would cost £5 and the Circular Walk leaflet was free.
- 10.2. Community Safety and Traffic Advisory – RF reported that the police would be conducting a Christmas drink drive campaign and that he had toured the Five Ashes Traffic Calming route with CD.
- 10.3. Community Development Advisory – no report.
- 10.4. Planning Executive – JB raised the issue of drainage arrangements for Harmony House on the Avenue, Mayfield. Clerk to follow up and report. There were no other reports from planning.

ACTION DT

- 10.5. Finance and General Purposes – there were no further reports.

11. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

- 11.1. PB reported that Transition Mayfield was developing a scheme to produce electricity from recycled waste.
- 11.2. Argos Hill Windmill – JD reported that the Trustees had a high estimate for repairing the plastic sheeting that had blown off the scaffolding in the wind so they declined to use the professionals and Alain Beaupain and one or two others were able to climb up and repair it themselves.

We have been awaiting comparison quotes for the work on the mill and then will be able to move forward.

One of the Trustees Richard Howes with Philip Hicks, gave a very successful talk to the local history society about Argos Hill Mill.

Paul Money had included an old photo of the mill on the back cover of his 2012 calendar.

The website had been updated so that people can donate on-line.

The Friends are holding a talk titled 'A working dog's life' given by the police dog handler who lives at Argos Hill. The date to be arranged.

- 11.3. With regard to Argos Hill LM reported that he was receiving complaints about the renaming of Windmill Hill. After discussion it was agreed that Wealden District Council were renaming roads with little or no consultation with the Parish Council and that the Parish Council ought to have more control over local road naming. Clerk to take forward.

ACTION DT

12. CLERK'S REPORT 11X09 DECEMBER 2011

- 12.1 It was noted that there were conflicting views as to whether the Mayfield Fire Service day shift was up to strength. Clerk to follow up and report through Yellow Pages if necessary.

ACTION DT

- 12.2 The Clerk's report was accepted by UNANIMOUS vote.

13. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

- 13.1. RN reported that the tree at Love Lane which had fallen, needed to be cleared away .
- 13.2. IP noted that there were problems with the steps on West Street leading up to the cottages.
- 13.3. WH reported on plans to reconstitute the British Legion Branch in Mayfield.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 21.20 HOURS.

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

VENUE: MAYFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL

DATE: MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2012

TIME: 1930 HOURS

Annex 1

Actions from Meeting 10C07		
MINUTE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
• 10C07/7.5	Clerk to develop a press policy.	OPEN
Actions form Meeting 10C09		
• 10C09/11.3	Maypole – arrangements to be made for its recovery. In hand.	OPEN
• 10C09/13.4	Court Meadow encroachment – Clerk to start arrangements to solve problem. In hand.	OPEN
• 10C09/14.5	Mayfield village sign near Piccadilly Lane damaged – In hand.	OPEN
Actions from Meeting 10C11		
• 10C11/11.2	Clerk to offer support to Rotherfield Parish Council for their Rotherfield – Jarvis Brook footpath.	OPEN
• 10C11/22.2	Village section of website to be updated. In hand.	OPEN
Actions from Meeting 11C02		
• 11C02/12.4	Quarterly Youth Reports to be obtained. In hand.	OPEN
Actions from Meeting 11C03		
• 11C03/3.1	Overgrown weeds at rear of Middlehouse to be cleared. In hand.	OPEN
• 11C03/14.1	Clerk to ascertain grant sources for Love Lane and A267 land plots. Done.	CLOSED
• 11C03/14.6	Problems with slide in Court Meadow. In hand. See 11C04/15.2	CLOSED
• 11C03/14.7	Damaged bollard on Five Ashes Village Green to be replaced.	OPEN
• 11C03/14.8	Targets to be placed in Parish Plan. In hand.	OPEN
Actions from Meeting 11C04		
• 11C04/7.6	To work with Chamber of Commerce to produce a village leaflet.	OPEN
• 11C04/15.2	Slide on Court Meadow repairs to be carried out. In hand.	OPEN
Actions from Meeting 11C05		
• 11C05/3.2	Fletching Street – issue over 20 mph speed limit public concern. In hand.	OPEN
• 11C05/5.2	Southmead Housing estate current position needed. In hand.	OPEN
• 11C05/7.3	Millholme – planning application status required. In hand.	OPEN

• 11C05/7.5	Leppards Butchers – state of decoration to be followed up with Mr Smithers. Done.	OPEN
• 11C05/9.2	Develop initiative for licence with ESCC with regard to licence for Bridleway 92. In hand.	OPEN
• 11C05/15.3	Response to JB over email.	OPEN
Actions from meeting 10C06		
• 11C06/6.2	GW to progress position with regard to community use of Grange Cricket Pitch. DT to follow up.	OPEN
Actions from meeting 11C08		
• 11C08/2.2	Content of Police Reports to be widened. RT to follow up.	OPEN
• 11C08/9.9	Clerk to follow up status of grant made to Mayfield pre-school.	OPEN
• 11C08/14.4	Street light 32 covered in Ivy. Clerk to arrange clearance.	OPEN
• 11C08/13.1	Clerk to report state of road at corner of Bassets Lane.	OPEN
• 11C08/14.5	Clerk to contact school to discuss issues with regard to School Council Meetings.	OPEN
Action from meeting 11C09		
• 11C09/5.4	JF to investigate problems and issues over the Mayfield allocation of social housing.	OPEN
• 11C09/6.4	Mayfield Cricket Ground access issues. Current position needed. Clerk to follow up.	OPEN
• 11C09/8.2	Drainage requirements for Menage Planning. Application to be made clear on planning applications. DT to follow up.	OPEN
• 11C09/8.4	Grants award policy to be reviewed and formalised for later F&GP approval. DT.	OPEN
• 11C09/9.1	Best Village Competition – Clerk to follow up current status.	OPEN
• 11C09/9.2	Clerk to advise applicants on budget decision on grants.	OPEN
• 11C09/9.5	Budget approval to be noted as necessary.	OPEN
• 11C09/9.6	Precept requirement to be advised to WDC.	OPEN
• 11C09/10.4	Harmony House, The Avenue, Mayfield – Clerk to raise drainage issues with WDC.	OPEN
• 11C09/11.3	Road renaming policy to be reviewed with WDC. Clerk to initiate.	OPEN
• 11C09/12.1	Clerk to ascertain position with regard to Fire Service recruiting in Mayfield.	OPEN

Number of Actions at 10C08	26
Closed in the Period	2
New Actions 10C08	<u>11</u>
Total	<u>35</u>