

**Minutes of a Meeting of Ellisfield Parish Council  
held in the Memorial Hall on Monday 13 June 2011**

**Present**

Tim Guinness (Chairman)  
Caroline Cazenove, Glen Horgan, David Richards, Rose Taplin Andy Webb (Councillors)  
Apologies:

**In Attendance**

Jacqueline Matthews (Clerk)  
P C Andy Reid Local Beat Officer  
18 members of the public

**1. Apologies for Absence:** None from Councillors

Mrs Nicki Palmer sent apologies and asked for the parish council to write to Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council for clarification of Conditions applied by BDBC to Solar Farm Planning application approved by Development Control Meeting (13.5.11) – see 4 below

**2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 04 April 2011:** Agreed and signed as a true record.

Cllr Horgan asked for it to be minuted that he had raised a number of objections to the minutes re recent proposal by Simon Linford to explore an affordable housing project citing in an email that the minutes are missing some key points and are misleading in others. No other councillors supported this view.

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Ellisfield Parish Council held on 13 May 2011:** Agreed and signed as a true record.

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes (for which no relevant Agenda Item is listed below):** None

**OPEN FORUM – PC Andy Reid reported that since the last Parish Council meeting, an office had been broken into in College Lane; a man had been arrested and charged.**

*Roger Colman (Lanterns, 1 Cannon Close) raised the matter of road closures during forthcoming Basingstoke Half Marathon. It was discussed and agreed to contact the organisers, 'Destination Basingstoke' and relevant people at highways to express concern about the lack of consultation.*

**4. To receive an update on current Planning Applications and to consider any new Planning Applications:** Clerk issued a written summary of current/recent planning applications as follows:

**BDB/73578 Coopers Farmhouse, Bell Lane – REVISED PLANS**

Erection of part first floor to existing single storey side extension - EPC response via website in support

**BDB/73851 Solar Farm application Land grid ref: 465093 146525**, north of, Bushywarren Lane, Continued use as agricultural land with the erection of a new solar farm of up to 5 MW generating capacity, comprising installation of solar photovoltaic panels and associated infrastructure & landscape planting on land north of Bushywarren Lane. **APPROVED**

Councillors reviewed draft letter to BDBC requesting confirmation of conditions – see appendix 2

**BDB/73506 College Farm, College Lane**, Change of use of land for siting of a caravan for temporary farm worker. **WITHDRAWN**

**BDB/84141 Grammarsham Dairy, Grammarsham Lane**, Installation of Solar PV system on farm building roof. No Objections

**BDB/74413 Copper Beeches, Axford Road**, Erection of double garage/car port and associated excavation works (part retrospective). Discussed and agreed No Objections. Cllr Horgan stated he was unhappy with the process but would not seek to have the construction pulled down.

## 5. To receive a report and approve any action needed on:

- i. **Highways:** Cllr Horgan reported he had not met with Keith Holdsworth (HCC Highways, Area Engineer) who had not yet confirmed a date for resurfacing Axford Road.

There were further discussions of road closures due to Basingstoke Half Marathon, including White Hill/Northgate Lane/Church Lane/College Lane/Green Lane and Grammarsham Lane A339 under the motorway and the Basingstoke Half Marathon - road closures between 11am and 2pm on Sunday 2 October. Cllr Horgan to liaise with Hampshire Highways and find out details of their traffic Management Plan.  
*Action: Cllr Horgan*

Cllr Cazenove reported she had attended a consultation meeting re buses. Going forward there is to be one contact telephone number for Basingstoke Community Transport, Dial-a-Ride and Neighbourcare Groups. Cllr Cazenove to publish full details in Hill & Dale, and would be happy to take any queries which she would pass on to the organisers.  
*Action: Cllr Cazenove*

It was discussed and agreed that no more litter bins are required around village.

- ii. **Web Site:** Cllr Guinness reported the website had recently been is a bit out of date, partly because of Mark Thomas' lack of time. There have also been problems with BDBC website down – security issues – changes to passwords etc. Cllr Guinness thanked Paul Turner for pointing out some minutes of Parish Council meetings etc missing from website and commented he'd identified the same issue when writing his report for the APM. The fault here probably lies in part with us (i.e. the Parish Council) not Mark for not sending him the missing APM minutes because these are not produced to the same regular timetable as the PC meeting minutes. Mark Thomas also commented that other village organisations sometimes did not send in updates regularly enough to keep everything up to date. He also passed on the comment from BDBC that all minutes from the start of the website were still available online and maybe we would like to take off some of the oldest minutes – it was discussed and agreed that it was useful to have a long historical record and therefore not a good idea to remove any old minutes. The Chairman said he would try and review the site more regularly himself to help chasing up out of date pages.
- iii. **Land and Property:** Chairman raised the matter of the proposed climbing frame/slide requested by several village mothers and grandmothers. Clerk read out a letter from Mrs Lunn, Heath, Webb, Gilvear and Freeman requesting Parish Council permission for play equipment to be sited on Lower Common. Clerk then read out four letters/emails of objection from residents of Lower Common.

Chairman explained he and Clerk had read through minutes from 1996/97 when existing swings on Lower Common were mooted/consulted/installed; anxious to establish if there had been an undertaking not to position any more play equipment on the common, none found.

Chairman opened the meeting to the audience and discussions raised a number of alternative sites, concerns and issues. It was agreed that Cllr Cazenove would convene another meeting, perhaps on the common (weather permitting) to explore views and options and try to establish a way forward. Several people offered to get involved including Cllrs Webb and Guinness and Mrs Alix Taylor who had experience of a similar situation in Wield. Cllr Horgan did not vote saying he had a personal interest as he has young children, Clerk pointed out that all Cllrs except one had young children/grandchildren. No final decisions were made at this meeting.  
*Action: Cllr Cazenove*

Clerk reported Lower Common swing weekly safety reports and annual risk assessment show some wear – will need maintenance/replacement ongoing. Also Lower Common bridge has one rotten plank/sleeper which needs replacing, also one wooden post loose/rotten, others may follow. EVG had said at Annual parish meeting they would investigate cost and viability of replacing. Ongoing,

**Phone Box-** Cllr Webb reported that he had circulated details to councillors of several villages that had converted the phone box they had bought from BT for £1 into mini libraries/book/DVD exchanges. It was discussed and agreed that Cllr Webb explore how this could be achieved.  
*Action: Cllr Webb*

Bus Shelter Cllr Horgan left the room declaring an interest but did not sign the book.

Cllr Webb reported that he had spoken to two builders but only one had been interested in quoting for the job; £365 to re-felt the roof and £675 to put in steps. It was discussed and agreed to go ahead with this but then Cllr Taplin suggested asking Ellisfield Volunteers to quote, members of EVG in the audience said they would look and see if they could do the work and keep costs down.

Clerk then read out a proposal from Cllr Horgan;

*"Proposal to move Lower Green Lane bus shelter to enable buses to wait at the Axford/Green Lane triangle junction."*

*The issue here is that the buses won't wait at lower Green Lane because the road is a single lane in front of the shelter. The buses can arrive anything up to 20 minutes early and 20 minutes late. In theory, I have discussed this with the bus company, they are supposed to wait, but in practise they simply cannot. They would be pleased to talk to the Parish Council about a more convenient location on Green Lane. Pam and Betty, in particular, wait every week for around 30 minutes to make sure they catch the bus and I have had to drive Katy up to the Ellisfield Green bus shelter a number of times to meet an "early bus" there.*

*The current service is simply unacceptable.*

*There are other issues: The existing bus shelter has also been built too high on the side up on the verge, thereby requiring steps/ramp (Andy is currently exploring costs). Also the previous repairs using white sheeting in a black bus shelter look very odd and should be replaced. The roof is rotten and needs replacing (Andy also looking into costs) Therefore, with all these costly things needing to be done, it may now be the right time to move the shelter back down Green Lane about 30 or 40 yards well beyond Nightingales drive to enable the buses to stand and wait until the published time (assuming its early!) and it can be rebuilt at ground level, probably where it should have been placed in the first place, to allow proper access to old, young and disabled. I can only assume it was not built by the triangle originally simply because the land was waste gravel pits with uncertainty over what would happen to it if the gravel pits ever got reopened or transferred to some other use. Now that the Parish Council owns this land and has created a beautiful small park area, it is now possible to use this verge without fear for its future.*

It was discussed and agreed that certain aspects of Cllr Horgan's point above be explored but that the repairs needed now be progressed in any event. Clerk to contact bus company and ask for performance punctuality data and the matter of moving the bus shelter be discussed further at another Parish Council meeting. *Action: Clerk*

- iv. **Allotments:** Nothing to report.
- v. **Rights of Way:** It was noted that following points raised at previous meetings and recent email correspondence, the village Parish Paths Partnership (PPP) still intends to make good the 'kissing' gate on the path from The Fox to St Martin's and now it has rained, this will be possible. As no one had responded to Paul Turner's request at The APM for 'younger' villagers to join the PPP Cllr Horgan suggested this be included in next newsletter.
- vi. **Burial Ground:** Clerk reported ashes of Mrs Marjorie Castle were interred with husbands ashes in cremated remains section on 18 May 2011
- vii. **Environment:** Nothing to report.
- viii. **Hill Farm Pond:** Cllr Cazenove reported that the pond was looking good, with wildflowers growing around the pond. There has been some mowing to allow access to the two commemorative benches which have been installed by members of the pond committee; David Richards, Ted Dowson and Tony Matthews. Also a path has been cut by Peter Hopwood allowing access to the small coppice to the right of the pond. Seumas Foster and Amanda Bassett of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust had recommended that excessive clearing should be avoided.
- ix. **Neighbourhood Watch:** Mrs Houstin-Lacey, NW Co-ordinator's two latest emails were read out; Lead Stolen from Cliddesden Primary School overnight 25/26 May. The perpetrator has been caught.

A road traffic incident on Friday, 10 June 2011 in Berrydown Lane, Nr. Axford, involving a white

Audi A3 in which damage was caused to a red car. Someone has come forward.

- x. **Memorial Hall:** – Cllr Taplin confirmed the AGM scheduled for 12 July 2011

Chairman reported that due documentation required by Charity Commission had not been recorded as received on their website. As EPC a Trustee of EMH Cllr Taplin to follow up with Memorial Hall Committee.

*Action: Cllr Taplin*

- xi. **Basingstoke District Association of Parish & Town Councils and Localism:**

Clerk reported next meeting scheduled for Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June Civic Centre, Basingstoke. Topics to include; Updates on Standards rules for our Councils, Provision of Broadband Internet connection for all our households, Community Speedwatch. How your community can help the Police focus their resources on your problem roads, AGM. Cllr Horgan to attend

*Action: Cllr Horgan*

- xii. **New Residents:** Cllr Guinness reported no Welcome packs delivered.

- Xiii **Affordable Housing:** Cllr Guinness read aloud letter from Giorgio Framalico, in response to Chairman's letter regarding Simon Linford's scheme. No further developments.

Chairman then read aloud letter /email from Miranda O'Neill asking to meet with Ellisfield Parish Council to discuss an alternative site for development of mixed housing in College Lane. Cllr Guinness reported he had replied to Ms O'Neill but only today, asking for some more information and offering to meet as she had requested to discuss her proposal further.

6. To receive a report from the Clerk on Administration Matters

It was discussed and agreed to leave entering the Village of the Year Competition until 2012.

Clerk reported breakdown of computer leading to loss of Parish Council emails from August 2010 to May 2011, repeated request to councillors to re send any important emails sent during that time. Also requested contribution to cost of upgrading and repairing PC (£140). Councillors agreed to pay for repairs.

Clerk reported APM minutes nearly finished; it was discussed and agreed that draft minutes to be approved at next EPC meeting and then draft minutes to appear on website, circumventing 1 year wait to read minutes. Clerk reported letter of thanks sent to Steven Lugg.

Parish Online Clerk reported availability of free trial of this online mapping service. Details of the User ID and Password for evaluation purposes to be sent to councillors and Paul Turner by email. Cllr Guinness declared a small shareholding in this company which is the reason for free trial.

7. To receive a report from the Clerk on Financial Matters.

Clerk provided a written report to all councillors; Monthly financial report (appendix 1)

Clerk reported a separate Bank Account had been set up for Ellisfield Allotment Charity – approval for transfer of funds next meeting.

The council reviewed and approved the Annual Parish Return to be submitted to the Audit Commission. Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer (Clerk) signed the forms which to be submitted by 21 June 2011.

**Cheques to be signed and payments approved**

13-Jun-11	E. Rudd (Litter Picking June)	30.00	30.00	SO
13-Jun-11	S. Claessens (Litter Picking – June)	30.00	30.00	SO
13-Jun-11	Broker Network (Insurance)	377.92	377.92	619

8. To discuss any matters which the Chairman considers urgent:

Mention that The Fox Inn had closed, some discussion/speculation about future

**9. To decide upon the date of the next Meeting.** Monday 11 July 2011.

**The meeting closed at 10.48pm**

*Open Forum. The following points were raised and discussed;*

*Peter Hopwood mentioned that that one motorist had received compensation for damage due to potholes on Axford Road. The importance of reporting potholes immediately was emphasised.*

*Mrs Meg Freeman asked if the Church Lane Affordable Housing project had been shelved. Chairman replied it was not a formal proposal and had raised the issue of cross subsidy with BDBC and had led to other sites being raised.*

*Mark Thomas asked if EPC position re Simon Linford proposal could be confirmed – Chairman reprised.*

*Paul Turner started to say something as people were leaving but didn't finish....*

Chairman ..... Date .....