

**Minutes of a Meeting of Ellisfield Parish Council
held in the Memorial Hall on Monday 19 March 2012**

Present

Tim Guinness (Chairman)
Caroline Cazenove, David Richards, Rose Taplin, Andy Webb, Julian Wright (Councillors)
Apologies: none

In Attendance

Jacqueline Matthews (Clerk)
PC Andy Reid. Local Beat Officer, Hampshire Constabulary)

10 members of the public

1. **Apologies for Absence.**
2. **To Receive Declarations of Interests on any matter on this Agenda:** None
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 23 January 2012;** Agreed and signed as a true record.

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Friday 24 February 2012; Agreed and signed as a true record.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes (for which no relevant Agenda Item is listed below).**

It was confirmed that a letter be written to Bernard Cazenove to confirm that Ellisfield Parish Council had accepted his offer to lead the planning and organisation of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in the village. Chairman reported that Bernard Cazenove had held an initial planning meeting and that several sub-committees had been formed to organise celebrations.

Action: Chairman

OPEN FORUM – *PC Andy Reid reported there had been a false burglar alarm activation on 13 February and theft of the lightening conductor from church roof which cost approx. £300 to replace.*

Roy Frankham (Pemberton Bays, Axford Road) asked what the Parish Council was going to do about the speeding traffic on Axford Road. There followed a discussion with contributions and suggestions from PC Reid, Councillors and members of the audience making suggestions; SID's – Speed Indicator Devices (Preston Candover considering this) Traffic calming chicane (Rotherwick considering this). Chairman suggested residents of Axford Road come up with ideas. Cllr Richards and Clerk to liaise with Keith Holdsworth (HCC Highways Engineer). PC Reid to visit as frequently as possible with speed monitoring device. PC Reid reported he had attended 3 or 4 times recently and the Safer Roads Unit mobile van had also visited twice, each issuing a number of penalties to speeding motorists.

Action: Cllr Richards & Clerk

A response to the Hampshire Police - Your Voice Counts survey was discussed, several councillors and residents having responded individually. It was agreed to submit a 'parish council' response; 1, Burglaries; 2, Roving sales people; 3, Speeding.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Wright took this opportunity to update the council and members of the public on the progress of the parish council consultation in relation to the proposed planning application for an Anaerobic Digestion Plant in Bushywarren Lane. Following the Extraordinary PC meeting on 24 February, detailed questions to Barfoots had been posed and replies received and circulated. Many Ellisfield residents and parish councillors had attended the Open Evening at Herriard British Legion Hall on 05 March and the Parish Council had organised for a group to visit Sefter, Barfoot Energy's only other AD Plant on Friday 23 March. Also a parish council newsletter to be circulated shortly to formally seek the village view of the proposed AD Plant. Cllr Wright also reported that several lines of research were being followed, taking the existing HCC waste and minerals policy. There are 13 areas that could apply, 12 of which are environmental, and research is focussed in five key areas.

Action: Cllrs Guinness & Wright & Clerk

Open discussions continued; Mrs Dee Haas asked how long it might be before EPC have result of village consultation – Clerk replied responses requested by 31 March, Cllr Wright confirmed that Barfoots application expected by end of March and there would be 4 weeks to respond.

Nicky Palmer offered to help deliver newsletters.

Zani Robinson asked what were the views/position of County Councillor Anna McNair Scott and Borough Councillor Mark Ruffell regarding ADP.

Other points discussed re ADP included concerns about increased traffic on A339, lorries parked-up in the early morning outside entrance to Veolia site making turning onto A339 hazardous, disposal/spreading digestate, seepage/leakage from lagoon, previous failure of landowner to comply with planning conditions (solar). All to be considered in EPC response to planning application.

There was further discussion about the impact on the A339, It was reported that an increase of 5% could provide the basis for a good strong (legal) argument against the proposal. PC Reid reported that it is proposed to introduce a speed limit along the stretch that includes the Ellisfield turning. It was reported that Borough Councillor, Mark Ruffell would support an argument against using a Greenfield site but not increased traffic.

Also some discussion concerns regarding non-compliance with planning conditions re solar panel screening planting, points raised included; Planting scheme should have been agreed in writing, another planting season has been missed – frustrating as construction was speeded up to meet Feed In Tariff (FiT) deadline. There was a view expressed that John Jervoise had failed to ensure BDBC planning conditions were adhered to for projects on his land and this should be taken into consideration for future planning applications and conditions made mandatory.

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/75822 Land grid ref: 465093 146525, north of Bushywarren Lane

Variation of Condition 1 of Planning Permission BDB/73851 to amend plan numbers to relocate the solar farm to the northern perimeter of the site and redistribute the solar panels within an alternate field layout; reduce the height of solar panels from 3.3m to 2.3m; erect a 2.5m high earth bund; relocate fencing line and amend specification to replace approved 1.1m stock proof fencing with 2.1m weld mesh fence; amended number, size and location of control box, switch gear and inverter equipment; and amended number, location and size of CCTV camera systems (Retrospective).

There had been some discussion regarding this application during the Open Forum and Chairman asked councillors if they were happy for EPC to submit a formal objection – Yes. Chairman to draft response, Clerk to circulate to all councillors for approval before submitting to BDBC.

Cllr Wright explained that the planning application for an Anaerobic Digestion Plant in Bushywarren Lane was expected to be submitted to Hampshire County Council by the end of the month and there would then be 4 weeks to respond. Chairman asked if councillors would formally authorise that he and Cllr Wright continue to research and make preparations towards opposing the application, once village consultation had established general opposition. Councillors voted unanimously in favour of this.

Action: Chairman, Cllr Wright & Clerk

Cllr Wright explained he had set up a 'Cloud site' to facilitate sharing of research information; his company had financed the set-up costs associated with this and the cloud site had proved useful. On-going use of the site would incur costs of £3.50 per month per licence (perhaps 10 licences would be needed). It was discussed and agreed that the usefulness of this approach would be trialled for AD project and that for the future costs/benefits would need to be considered. There was also some discussion about EPC giving financial support to Action Group, Waste not Wanted in Ellisfield to help with printing costs etc. Two points were raised in connection with this; 1, not yet known if everyone in the village opposes AD – need to wait for outcome of newsletter consultation and 2, Clerk to seek advice from HALC to establish whether this type of payment allowed.

Action: Clerk

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

- i. **Highways:** Clerk reported Keith Holdsworth (HCC Highways) had confirmed a £6,000 order had been raised to clear grips using a mechanical digger by end of April 2012. Cllr Richards reported

John Gould (Gravelins, College Lane) had removed all gravel brought down by recent rains from bottom of College Lane. It was discussed and agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent.

Action: Clerk

- ii. **Web Site & Broadband:** Clerk reported St Martin's Church and Ellisfield Ladies' pages still need updating.

Also Clerk reported Chris Guy, Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Basingstoke & Deane BC had recently notified all parishes that a free service that had developed over the years where BDBC had helped parishes with the creation and maintenance of their websites is to be phased out. Mr Guy had informed that the above service had never been properly resourced by BDBC, and seemed to be something that BDBC had just "drifted into". In the light of BDBC's "Efficiency & Savings" programme, it is not something that can realistically be continued however BDBC are implementing some transitional arrangements. It was discussed and agreed that working party should be set up to address the changing needs of maintaining an Ellisfield website; membership – Cllrs Guinness, Wright, Clerk and webmaster, Mark Thomas. *Action Clerk (email members)*

Cllr Wright reported he had attended a meeting organised by HCC and Community Action Hampshire regarding Hampshire County Council's Local Broadband Plan and how this may affect our parish/area in the future.

It appears that HCC has funding to facilitate improved service working towards everyone in Hampshire having a speed of at least 2.00 megabits per second (mb/s). Cllr Wright to attend another broadband meeting, this time hosted by BDBC. *Action: Cllrs Guinness/Wright & Clerk*

Initial response to email sent to all residents on Parish Council database asking for Broadband speeds was low, only 16/85 – a second email has been sent and Cllrs Guinness, Wright and Clerk will continue to gather information. Cllr Wright reported it is important that all Ellisfield residents with broadband register their interest in an improved service and a high percentage of registration; together with majority of speeds below 2.00mb/s will help our case.

iii. **Land and Property:**

Lower Common - EVG Storage: Clerk reported tenancy agreement for 3 Cannon Close garage had been signed. First month's rent payments, future payments by Direct Debit - to be signed today – see finance report.

Lower Common - Swing: Clerk reported BDBC Annual Safety Report had been received – Score 8 – medium risk.

Lower Common - Play Equipment For Small Children:

Clerk reported outcome of Village Consultation distributed in special newsletter as follows

RESULTS: In favour 44 – Against 12

Some comments received

- Lower Common belongs to all the village, not just a few. Lower Common was a playground 70 years ago
- Ellisfield is a 'dispersed settlement' and as such community facilities should match that. We are happy to support additional play equipment provision within the village but believe it is better located elsewhere – i.e. gravel pits or near The Memorial Hall – suiting the needs of a dispersed community better
- we think residents around Lower Common should have the deciding vote as it is them who will be most affected by this proposal
- we feel the houses / people affected by this proposal are the ones who have to decide, not people like us who will not be affected one way or the other
- Assume fathers and grandfathers will be banned!!

Clerk also provided meeting with a village map showing distribution of responses

It was discussed and agreed that Play Equipment working party comprising Cllrs Cazenove and

Webb should produce a timetable/action points with milestones showing how the project will go forwards.

Next Steps to include completion of Fundraising, Working Party to liaise with contractors – supply and fit and manage handover to Ellisfield Parish Council / EVG for maintenance. Clerk to liaise with BDBC re Planning requirements and H & S issues and future inspections.

Action Cllrs Cazenove & Webb and Clerk

- iv. **Allotments:** It was noted the Ellisfield Allotment gardeners Association (EAGA) AGM to be held in April/May and Invoices for year 2012-13 to be issued in April. *Action: Clerk*

- v. **Rights of Way:** Cllr Webb reported replacement finger post had appeared on zigzag path. Cllr Wright asked if EPC had tried asking landowners for permissive paths in the local area. Chairman reported that in the past when he was a member of EPC, Peter Hopwood had worked with HCC on such a project. Item to be discussed at a future date.

- vi. **Burial Ground:** Clerk reported two requests for additional small cremated remains memorials on existing graves, both in front row, nearest Church

Plot 45 - RANDALL, Herbert C, RANDALL, Mabel, RANDALL Harry Charles (CR), **Cripps, Elizabeth M (CR, new memorial) John Arthur Cripps(CR – new memorial)**

Plot 120 - Bone, AE, Bone, Alice, **Linda Hope (47) 2010 (CR – new memorial)**

Cllr Cazenove to visit burial ground to ensure shiny finish on one of these small memorials would not be out of keeping. *Action: Cllr Cazenove*

- vii. **Environment:** Nothing to report
- viii. **Hill Farm Pond:** Clerk reported order had been placed with Chic Teak for replacement plaque to Ron Woolford – cost £45 – cheque to be signed at this meeting.
- ix. **Neighbourhood Watch:** Clerk circulated Hannah Houstin-Lacey NW report for February Hill & Dale (parish magazine) – copies for all councillors
- x. **Memorial Hall:** Cllr Taplin reported there had not been a meeting of Memorial Hall Committee since last EPC meeting. Confirmed the Memorial hall would be the venue for a photographic exhibition of Ellisfield through the ages as part of Jubilee celebrations. Date of Wine Walk confirmed; Friday 01 June, host houses not yet confirmed as position about Memorial Hall opening during wine walk.
- xi. **Basingstoke District Association of Parish & Town Councils and Localism:** Cllr Richards had attended meeting on 23 February 2012 and reported there had been very little information on Localism, main focus of discussions was change in Code of Conduct/Standards.

Cllr Richards had also attended a meeting organised by CPRE to discuss impact of BDBC new LDF in rural areas; discussions focused on larger developments in Oakley and Winchester; Cllr Richards confirmed BDBC LDF proposed 80/20 Social/Private housing in rural areas. Cllr Guinness responded 50/50 better.

- xii. **New Residents:** Clerk reported Welcome Packs had been delivered on 04 March to new residents at 1 Widmoor Cottages, College Lane (Sally Clifford Brown) and Copper Beeches, Axford Road (Natasha and Mark Selby + children)

Clerk reported 11 Welcome packs had been delivered since October 2010 and thanked Judith Richards for making the cakes which were always delicious and much appreciated. Cheque to be signed at this meeting.

- Xiii Affordable Housing:** Nothing to report – see Localism below.

6. **Localism Act:** Chairman confirmed BDBC LDF makes provisions for Neighbourhood Plans and that EPC would (as agreed previously) need to address this to enable parish council to take a

position on the development of Affordable Housing in the village. Until BDBC LDF is confirmed, current issue of proposed Anaerobic Digestion Plant would require PC efforts.

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

Schedule of Incoming Mail: Copies of this schedule circulated to councillors: The following items were discussed;

BDBC

Planning application (retrospective) Solar Farm BDB/75822. See Section 4 above

BDBC

Annual Playground Inspection Report – Medium Risk – discussed and points noted

CPRE

Booklet – guide to Neighbourhood Planning – Councillor Webb to read and report back

National Savings

Notification of changes to accounts – we could get slightly better rates by changing

NatWest Ahead for business details of Parish and Community Fixed rate deposit accounts

Clerk to research alternative accounts

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

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

Cheques to be signed and payments approved		£-p	Chq No
19-Mar-12	Chic Teak - replacement plaque for Hill Farm Seat	45.00	640
19-Mar-12	Ellisfield Volunteer Group (wood to repair bus shelter)	12.86	641
19-Mar-12	J Matthews (clerk Salary and Expenses)	915.85	642
19-Mar-12	J Richards (cost of ingredients for Welcome Cakes)	17.89	643
19-Mar-12	Sign and agree direct debit for garage for EVG £8.43 Inc VAT per week		
19-Mar-12	S. Claessens (Litter Picking – Mar)	30.00	SO
19-Mar-12	E. Rudd (Litter Picking - Mar)	30.00	SO

9. To discuss any matters which the Chairman considers urgent: None

10. To confirm the date of the next Meetings.

30 April EPC meeting + AGM

11 May Annual Parish Meeting - there were discussion about a topic of interest/speaker for this meeting, suggestions included; The Rural Environment, The Planning Process; policy, compliance, legal basis; Broadband;

Open Forum.

Mrs Meg Freeman asked about lack of progress regarding Affordable Housing – Chairman replied that cross-subsidy was not yet BDBC policy and EPC would need to await final LDF before progressing.

Mrs Tracey Gilvear asked why a questionnaire to consult village was needed if EPC had already decided to oppose Anaerobic Digestion Plant – Chairman said consultation was necessary to ensure this was the majority view across the village and EPC were putting in considerable time and effort to understand implications of proposal.

Zani Robinson made the point that despite having registered for improved broadband, her house did not appear of the HCC map. She would register again and wondered how many others in the village needed to.

The meeting closed at 10.20pm

Chairman

Date