

**Minutes of a Meeting of Ellisfield Parish Council
held in the Memorial Hall on Monday 25 February 2013**

Present

Tim Guinness (Chair) Caroline Cazenove (Vice-Chair), David Richards, Julian Wright (Councillors)

Apologies: Gavin Park-Weir, Rose Taplin

In Attendance

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

11 members of the public

BEFORE MEETING STARTED

To grant Special Dispensation under the Localism Act 2011 to Cllr Wright who was unable to attend December meeting to enable discussions to agree budget and set Precept.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Gavin Park-Weir and Rose Taplin unable to attend due to work commitments.
2. **To Receive Declarations of Interests on any matter on this Agenda:** None
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on Mon 10 December 2012;** Agreed and signed as a true record.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes** (for which no relevant Agenda Item is listed below). None
5. **OPEN FORUM** – *PC Andy Reid reported that since the last parish council meeting, a number of matters had come to police attention in Ellisfield; a faulty burglar alarm, a report of illegal hunting and two potential burglaries. PC Reid also reported that it had that day been confirmed that there would be no decrease in rural police numbers.*

Chairman asked Cllr Wright to update meeting on latest situation regarding Anaerobic Digester to enable village residents in audience to ask questions and make comments.

Cllr Wright reported a meeting had been held on 08 February with Barfoots, the developer and future operators of the Anaerobic Digester and John Jervoise, landowner. Cllr Wright had chaired the meeting as charged by parish council at previous meeting, Dee Haas had attended as Chair of Ellisfield Village Association and Jacqui Matthews, Parish Clerk and Susie Deane had attended and taken minutes.

Cllr Wright reported it was a good first meeting following the granting of planning permission with conditions and all had agreed the importance of establishing good relations at the beginning of construction and through future operations. Cllr Wright gave the meeting a brief overview of the meeting as per minutes (Appendix1). A colour – coded plan showing landscaping of site was projected and explained. A number of points were raised and discussed;

Cllr Julian Wright (JW) – remembering the development of the Solar Farm, EPC has asked developers for monthly meetings throughout construction to ensure compliance with planning conditions.

Dee Haas (DH) – John Jervoise had stated that grass or crops to be grown in field between Solar Farm and AD - DH to suggest a few trees in that area. Also expressed concern there were no plans for trees on top of the bund and insufficient under storey if trees only to be planted every 4 metres. Ideally completed landscaping should mean very little of the AD plant would be visible.

JW confirmed on completion there will be a demonstration of the flare so villagers are familiar with process. Also JW confirmed a copy of the emergency plan for the (assuredly low risk) potential problems with the flare.

DH commented that Barfoots had stated there would be no lights on the site at night as they intend to operate a dark site, but as there will be a night-watchman on site this should be monitored.

Cllr Tim Guinness (TG) commented that planning permission allowed lorries to deliver/collect

between 7.00am and 6.00pm and it would be dark during some of the operating times in winter.

TG asked why cat's eyes were going to be installed on Bushywarren Lane – DH explained they would only be on access road.

TG commented that plans don't show passing places – it was an HCC Highways requirement – DH commented it was more or less road-widening. TG asked why kerbs were necessary on newly constructed passing places – DH confirmed they would be ground level.

TG asked about the colour of the tarmac – DH said this had not been discussed.

Concerns about Bell Lane being used as a diversion route while Bushywarren Lane closed during construction were raised by residents of Bell Lane who expressed concern over the number of blind bends which made it an unsuitable choice.

Paul Turner commented that the plan projected on the screen appeared to be quite different to the layout of the plan originally presented to the village. Dee Hass confirmed that indeed many changes had been made prior to planning permission being given. Peter Hopwood asked if there were to be two more tanks and TG commented that he thought Barfoots had permission for four digester tanks but were only constructing 2 initially.

Cllr Wright also brought the meeting up to date regarding the progress of bringing faster broadband to the village, explaining options; fibre optic cables to each house (unlikely), fibre optic cables to Herriard exchange but probably not to Ellisfield (most likely), nothing (unlikely).

JW confirmed that it was likely that money would need to be raised to achieve faster broadband with HCC likely to pay half. It was suggested that local businesses and landowners be approached.

It was also confirmed that 99 houses in Ellisfield had registered with HCC as receiving less than 2 megabits per second.

6. 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/77418 September House, College Lane Erection of single storey rear and two storey side extensions. **Granted**

BDB/77459 Northgate Cottage, Northgate Lane Demolition of existing garage/store, adjacent sheds and animal pens. Erection of new lofted outbuilding and garage to provide additional accommodation associated with the existing residential smallholding. **Temporarily withdrawn by applicant**

Update on any issues relating to;

Anaerobic Digester: building on Cllr Wright's summary during the Open Forum; discussions continued to focus on the potential disruption to Ellisfield residents during construction and operation of the AD. Cllr Guinness suggested a marker be put down confirming the positive action of a constructive meeting at the beginning of February and requesting confirmation of timescales for construction, road closures etc and commissioning and suggesting developers think about how to compensate village for disruption etc. Cllr Cazenove expressed concern that this might be viewed as accepting a bribe – it was discussed and agreed that compensation for loss of amenity (unspoilt countryside) was very different to a bribe (in support of planning application). Cllr Guinness reported that the government now moving toward compensating local communities for effects of green energy initiatives. It was agreed that Cllr Wright draft a letter. Cllr Guinness also suggested putting down a marker with the landowner John Jervoise (JJ) regarding compensation in the form of 'giving something back' to the community via creating a permissive bridleway joining Portsmouth Estate with Herriard Manor Home Farm. Cllr Wright confirmed this matter had been raised and dismissed by JJ at meeting with Barfoots on 08 Feb.

It was recorded that following HCC's planning inspectorate's decision to reopen the new Minerals and Waste policy for further consultation, Clerk had forwarded EPC response which received the following acknowledgement... each representation which has been sent in will be recorded separately, based on what your comments are about; your unique reference number is 62/1. EPC was not invited to speak at public examination of the 'soundness' of the plan, including the resumed

public hearing on 13-14 March 2013 at the County Council's offices in Winchester.

Solar Farm: Cllr Wright reported that a meeting with new owners, Laing, on-site in December was positive. Points raised included apparent solution of noise problem from cooler fans (remains to be seen in summer sunshine if this an effective fix) also the it was discussed and agreed that Cllr Wright make an informal approach regarding the gate in the boundary fence adjacent to the bridleway which is in effect a breach of planning conditions.

Telecoms mast (planting): Cllr Guinness confirmed he would draft a letter pointing out to landowner (JJ) that he is in breach of planning conditions and if planting not complete by end of next growing season – EPC will contact BDBC.

Veolia site: Cllr Wright and EVA Chair, Dee Haas had met with Veolia site manager regarding the screening on A339 which is part of a rotating plant and cut scheme?? Sometime was also spent collecting litter which had blown off site – an on-going problem which must be addressed by Veolia site management and if not, Cllr Wright requested approval from EPC to escalate this and contact Veolia Directors and then HCC – approved.

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

i. Highways:

Clerk reported all grips in College, Green, Berrydown and Furzen Lanes had been cleared by mechanical digger – no heavy rain since to check effectiveness. Clerk had emailed thanks to KH.

Also HCC Highways had been requested to investigate (new) flood between Hill Farm Pond and telephone box – it's on the list and has been marked for attention.

Also HCC Highways Engineer had commented (and sent photographs) on practice of Park View residents putting ashes on bank recently have caused localised flooding. Park View residents have concerns about BT wires caught in falling trees. HCC and BT say it's the landowner's responsibility.

Action: Cllr Richards to examine and report back to next EPC.

- ii. **Web Site & Broadband:** Cllr Wright updated meeting on progress towards increasing broadband speeds with 119 people registered to confirm demand. Cllrs Guinness and Wright to attend CLA/Enterprise M3 Broadband Conference: Delivering the Economic and Social Benefits of Superfast Broadband to the Rural Sector. Friday, 22 March 2013 Winchester (Country, Land and Business Association). It was discussed and agreed that as suggested by Cllr Wright during Open Forum; it was likely that money would need to be raised to achieve faster broadband with HCC likely to pay half. It was suggested that local businesses and landowners be approached.

Website: Cllr Guinness thanked Paul Turner (PT) for all his (pro-bono) work in setting up and now maintaining new Ellisfield website; www.ellisfield.org.uk which is now live and well promoted – noticeboards, flyers, Bas Gaz etc. PT reported most of his work is now updating village organisation pages and latest news etc. Cllr Guinness offered help in loading historic parish council minutes.

- iii. **Land and Property:** Clerk reported a letter had been received from village resident (R Colman, Lanterns, Cannon Close) reporting very poor state of Lower Common noticeboard (wood rotting and hinges failing). It noted that replacement of all village noticeboards had been on the back-burner for nearly 10 years and agreed that perhaps all village noticeboards could be replaced/refurbished.

Action: Cllr Park Weir to investigate.

- iv. **Allotments:** AGM cancelled in summer 2012 due to illness etc – hope to reschedule in March

- v. **Rights of Way:** At a previous meeting Paul Turner had reported landowner; Adrian de Ferranti had said (at 2012 APM) he would entertain kissing gates on zig-zag path. Cllr Wright to clarify with A de F and pursue with HCC to explore logistics. It was noted that The Ramblers association together with HCC keep a weather-eye on condition of footpaths.

- vi. **Burial Ground:** fallen headstone reported in previous meetings, Cllr Cazenove to confirm completion of repairs to next meeting.

Action: Cllr Cazenove

- vii. **Environment:** The minutes of the last EPC meeting recorded that Seumas Foster was happy to be Ellisfield's Tree Warden and now BDBC think it would be nice if he/we encourage everyone else to become a Friend of the Tree Council and raise ££ that we can then access for use in our village (for trees). This matter was not discussed at the meeting but subsequent email correspondence showed little support.
- viii. **Hill Farm Pond:** Cllr Cazenove reported the Ellisfield Volunteer Group had strimmed nettles etc in front of pond – it was discussed and agreed that once building work complete at Hill Farm Cottage opposite, some restoration work could be undertaken and grass seed sown.
- ix. **Neighbourhood Watch:** see PC Reid's report.
- x. **Memorial Hall:** – In her absence, Cllr Taplin had sent written report stating Trustees of the Village Memorial Hall met on 29th January four trustees attended and Jane Evans was in the Chair. Accounts for 2011 and 2012 had been returned to the Charity Commissioners in accordance with their Trust Deed. Annual General Meeting to be held in May, when such elections as required by that deed will be held.

Memorial Hall Committee of Management as per original Charity Commission registration

Twelve persons comprising;

Three ex-officio members (Rector and 2 churchwardens)

Three elected members (casual members – from residents)

Six Representative members

1. Parish Council
2. Parochial Church Council
3. Horticultural Society
4. Ellisfield and Farleigh Wallop Social Club
5. Ellisfield Football Club
6. Young Wives (Ladies Club)

February meeting of Memorial Hall Committee – reviewed finance report ahead of AGM and it was agreed to increase charges for hiring hall;

Regular users from village	£12 > £15/hr (+25%)
Ad hoc villagers	£14 > £17/hr (+21.5%)
Non villagers	£16 > £20/hr (+25%)

Cllr Guinness stated that he was aware of some negative feedback from villagers who were concerned about the reduced number of village activities organised at the hall.

It was suggested that the Memorial Hall Committee AGM might best be held in conjunction with Annual Parish Meeting. *Action: Clerk to discuss with acting chair, Bernard Cazenove*

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

Cllr Caroline Cazenove and Clerk attended Parish Conference on Monday 28 January and participated in a workshop on Neighbourhood Planning which clarified the process and availability of support for parishes that choose to develop an Neighbourhood Plan – we heard from Whitchurch Town Council who said it was time-consuming and they felt they lacked specialist skills within village and whilst there is lots of information on internet, they felt lack of practical help available and no guarantee Plan will be accepted. It was confirmed that a Neighbourhood Plan should be a positive statement of intent – what the village does want not what is not wanted.

Dates of future meetings

March 21st , July 4th and October 24th

March 21st - more details of the content in March to be circulated. To include; Follow up to Mayors Parish Conference, Improved understanding of the application of the new BDBC Code of Conduct

for Parish and Town Councils - hopefully with recent advice on what is and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest - get this wrong and the result is a criminal offence! Better understanding of the impact of the Community Tax support grants from National Governments and potential impacts on our budgets for 2014/2015. Reductions in support could cause our precepts to go up enough to trigger electors demanding a referendum, should we include an accrual for the cost of a referendum in next year's budgets. To do so would make very significant increases in the precept for most Councils. Updates on Speedwatch.

xii. New Residents: Cllr Guinness reported there were new residents at Falconers and beside College Farm.

Xiii Affordable Housing: Cllr Guinness reported email correspondence from Lord Lymington in July surrounding new national planning policy that may allow cross subsidy to finance affordable housing. Cllr Guinness' response was that Glebe land site had proved too difficult. Cllr Guinness reported a conversation with Lord Lymington where the history of Affordable Housing in Ellisfield was discussed and Lord Lymington had confirmed that Portsmouth Estates not able to promote any land for Affordable Housing and act as lead developer although land may be available for a scheme, Lord Lymington still to respond to question of Simon Linford proposing another scheme. Cllr Guinness confirmed any development would need support of EPC and village.

xiv. Localism/HALC/Neighbourhood Plans: See BDAPTC

8. To receive a report from the Clerk on Administration Matters. None

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

Clerk provided a written report to all councillors - Monthly financial report (appendix 2)

It was discussed and agreed that Clerk ask HALC if there are any rules about where parish councils can invest their reserves (NS&I currently giving very low interest %)

Cheques to be signed and payments approved

25-Feb-13	Memorial Hall rent for 2012 Annual Parish Meeting	48.00
25-Feb-12	Memorial Hall rent for up to 12 parish council meetings	225.00
25-Feb-13	S. Claessens (Litter Picking – March)	32.00
25-Feb-13	E. Rudd (Litter Picking - March)	32.00
25-Feb-13	J Matthews - Clerks Salary & expenses	1,085.66

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

11. To decide upon the date of the next Meetings:

Monday 08 April 2013
 Annual Meeting of EPC 13 May
Annual Parish Meeting TO BE AGREED on 17 May together with Memorial Hall AGM?
 Monday 01 July 2013

Open Forum. No one present

The meeting closed at 10.00pm

Chairman Date