

(These Minutes will be formally approved at the 2014 Annual Parish Meeting)

DRAFT Minutes of the Ellisfield Annual Parish Meeting

Held in the Memorial Hall on Friday 17 May 2013 at 8pm

Present

Tim Guinness (Chairman of Ellisfield Parish Council and Chairman of the Meeting)
36 members of the public
(including Parish Councillors David Richards, Rose Taplin and Julian Wright)

Minutes

Taken by Susie Deane (standing in for Parish Clerk)

In Attendance

County Cllr Anna McNair Scott
PC Andrew Reid, Local Beat Officer, Hampshire Constabulary

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Caroline Cazenove, Jacqueline Matthews, Jane & Gavin Park Weir, Maggie Heath, Jenni & Steven Gould, Christian and Adrian de Ferranti, Roger Graham, Hannah Houstin-Lacey, Richard Haas, Roger and Shirley Colman.
2. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11 May 2012.** It was agreed that the formal minutes were an accurate record and will be signed by Tim Guinness.
3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes.** (None)
4. **To receive a report from the Chairman of the Parish Council.**
Chairman presented his report (**Appendix 1**) which included draft 2012/13 Accounts and details of the 2013/14 Budget and Precept Calculation.
5. **To receive a report from the Trustees of Ellisfield Educational Trust.**
Bernard Cazenove reported on behalf of the Trust. As of 31.12.12 funds stand at £48,932, income was £2,149 and expenditure £2,291. Nine individuals had been supported. £431.05 was given to Cliddesden School.
6. **Any other Village Matters.**
Road Closures: Steve Brabbin asked why Green Lane had been closed without warning. Paul Turner explained this was not a formal closure but was for digging out and re-filling pot holes and that Green Lane had been passable to traffic. The general road surfacing in Green Lane is still due 29 – 31 May. Steve Brabbin said the signs said Road Closed and not Passable to Traffic. Sue Self said many pot holes still needed to be filled (possibly to be highlighted by white paint?). Cllr David Richards was asked to pass these comments to Basingstoke & Deane and Hampshire County Council.
Telephone Box: **Now** used as a library. Paul Turner said he had cleaned the outside of the phone box and that Theresa and Andy Webb had sorted the books inside. Paul will repaint the box in the true paint colour and place silicone gel packs to absorb damp. He requested volunteers to help filling book gaps and cleaning maintenance.

Thanks Joanne Thomas proposed a vote of thanks to Tim Guinness.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

Chairman

Date

The formal meeting was then followed by presentations (**Appendix 2**) from PC Reid and representatives of Ellisfield Village Organisations.

ELLISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2012/13

Section 1: Chairman's Report

Your Councillors

Members of Ellisfield Parish Council are:

Caroline Cazenove	
Vice Chairman	Brocas, The Green
Tim Guinness	
Chairman	Widmoor Farm, College Lane
Gavin Park-Weir	Homestead, Green Lane
David Richards	September, College Lane
Rose Taplin	3 Hill Farm Cottages, Green Lane
Julian Wright	Ivy Cottage, Bell Lane

We met six times, in April, June, September, October, December, and February. We published three newsletters.

Andy Webb resigned in July 2012, in October you elected Gavin Park-Weir in his place.

Individual councillors are tasked with keeping a watching brief on specific areas of interest. During the past year these have been:

Caroline Cazenove	Burial Ground, Hill Farm Pond, Neighbourhood Watch
Tim Guinness	Website, Planning, Affordable Housing, Welcome Packs
Gavin Park-Weir	Land & Property
David Richards	Highways, BDAPTC, Environment
Rose Taplin	Memorial Hall, Allotments, Environment
Julian Wright	Broadband, Planning, Footpaths/Rights of Way,

Report on 2012/13

MAIN AREAS OF FOCUS

Planning

Construction of an anaerobic digestion installation for rotational arable crops and local food waste together with landscaping and highway improvements on Bushywarren Lane:

In early May 2012 this application for planning consent was submitted to HCC. Despite enormous local opposition, co-ordinated by the Parish Council working party with Julian Wright as Chairman and Ellisfield Village Association with Dee Haas as Chairwoman, the application was approved; but not without a number of modifications along the way and some stringent planning conditions being imposed.

A dozen or so Councillors and residents visited Barfoots' Bognor Regis AD Plant to understand the likely impact and a large number attended the Hampshire County Council Committee meeting to

register opposition. Sadly notwithstanding the latter it was approved. To understand the arguments a great deal of time was put into reviewing e.g. German experience (the leader in AD in Europe); the likely landscape, environmental and traffic impact; the planning laws and so forth.

The basic tenet of the opposition case was not that AD was bad but that it should be done in the right place. Large scale municipal waste AD on the outskirts of urban areas; small scale rural waste AD (especially slurry) on farms. Sadly this application was for large scale municipal waste but to locate it not on the outskirts of an urban area but in a rural area and not even on a farm but in an area of outstanding beauty. The Committee members who approved this application disappointingly appeared not to have understood this.

We have now to live with this decision and intend to engage constructively with Barfoots (developer and operator) and the Herriard Estate (landowner) to try and minimise the impact especially on our landscape. We have emphasised our desire that the landscape and highway "improvements" (a politically correct word for "alterations to facilitate an increase in capacity/traffic") be done as sensitively as possible. We wish the intrusion of industrial fencing signage or gateways; urban street furniture and road architecture (kerb stones, pavements; lighting) to be minimised.

We have been assured the gateways will be out of sight and that kerbstones at the lorry passing points will be level with grass verges. We will see.

Solar Farm: Your council continues to liaise with landowner and operators to ensure all planning conditions are met, this has involved changes to fencing installed and noise reduction measures

Telecoms mast (screen planting): Following fairly lengthy negotiations (the original planning approval with conditions was some years ago) the planting of 10 Holly and 10 Hazel protected by spiral rabbit guards took place on Monday 25 March. Thanks go to Nicky Palmer, assisted by Dee Haas and Susie Deane who organised this. A couple of other planning conditions remain to be achieved; Kerbs leading in to the enclosure should be removed (they are not needed and are inappropriate in the rural context and not part of planning consent.) The light grey cabin that stands out is to be painted a dark grey/black colour.

Veolia site: Your council has continued to liaise with Veolia through the year in respect of a number of issues; Lorries lining up outside the site and blocking Bushywarren Lane has been addressed. We continue to talk with the Veolia site manager regarding the screening on A339 which we have been assured is part of a rotating plant and cut scheme. Also the

collection of litter which had blown off site is an on-going problem which must be addressed by Veolia site management and if not, EPC to escalate this and contact Veolia Directors and then HCC.

Affordable Housing

Last year, the year of transition to a new planning environment and new Basingstoke & Deane local plan/core strategy saw no progress on building more affordable housing in Ellisfield. And I am sad to report the planning environment is mired in a highly contentious row on the Basingstoke & Deane council about their Local Plan/Core Strategy which has been successfully blocked by legal action against it. The issues do not relate directly to rural development but rather to where Basingstoke might/should (?) expand Old Basing or Manydown!

We continue to have some dialogue with C-Zero who wanted to develop two private homes and a new Rectory on land next to the Rectory and Affordable homes next to the Village Hall and have indicated they might be interested in progressing a similar scheme on another site.

But the reality is this remains on ice until the approval of BDBC's new Core Strategy and your council develops a good understanding of what may be possible as a result of the new Localism Act and whether we should create a Neighbourhood Plan which might facilitate this (see further below).

Children's play equipment on Lower Common

Following a village consultation two additional items of wooden play equipment were installed on Lower Common last summer.

Neighbourhood Plan

These are a new concept and something we might want to create (quite possibly in conjunction with neighbouring parishes) as a Neighbourhood Plan once adopted becomes can establish general planning policies for the development of land in a neighbourhood. Little progress has been made on this as there is little point in formulating one until the new BDBC Core Strategy is in place and this as discussed above still remains to be finalised (And furthermore is unlikely, we believe, to be in place till Q2 2014).

ROUTINE AREAS OF FOCUS AND OTHER ITEMS

Highways & other rights of way

There has been regular contact with Hampshire Highways about potholes, grips, gullies, ditches, silt-traps and grit bins. Once again on the positive side many potholes were filled in the weeks before the Basingstoke half marathon in October and have been marked again for maintenance this year, in addition we understand our roads will receive 'top-dressing' following repair of potholes to give a smoother finish.. Finally after several years of requests, large machinery came to carry out a proper exercise to clear the grips; ditches and gullies down Green Lane and College Lane and Furzen Lane in February this

year and subsequently some works have somewhat reduced problem of flooding outside the phone box and towards Hill Farm Pond.

Burial Ground

There was one cremation during the year.

Maintenance of Land and Property

Ellisfield Volunteers continue to mow the Burial Ground; Lower Common; and Gravel Pits for the Parish Council and their quote of £1,600 for 2013/14 which reflects half the cost of renting a garage in Cannon Close to store mowing equipment, additional insurance and maintenance costs was accepted.

As always, many thanks go to all those who volunteer for the mowing schedule and other ad-hoc activities such as Hill Farm Pond maintenance and autumn clear-ups. The mowing schedule can be seen on the village website and there are one or two slots remaining to be filled.

Hill Farm Pond

The pond is beginning to look quite well established and is enjoyed by wildlife and humans alike.

Phone Box

During the course of last year your council decided to convert this into a mini library/book/DVD exchange. Andy Webb did great work overseeing the implementation of this. Paul Turner has now taken over the day-to-day care of the outside and we are looking for a team of enthusiastic readers/budding librarians to ensure the contents are changed regularly and kept in good condition.

Environment

Matters of significance in the year included a major water leak occurred at Northgate reservoir and a shelving of a government proposal that all septic tank emptying events would have to be registered.

Village Website

Paul Turner has taken over the day-to-day operation of the village website. You may remember last we were informed in April that BDBC were intending to cease supporting our and other parishes' sites. We asked Paul Turner to investigate our options and he came back with the design of a completely new and updated website which he now keeps constantly up to date, liaising with all village organisations. Many thanks go both to Paul and to Mark Thomas who valiantly maintained the old website for many years.

Broadband

The issue of slow broadband speeds is one which your council has been addressing in recent months. Julian Wright and I have been engaging with HCC and other bodies on this. Ellisfield's speeds remain atrocious. Amazingly 126 internet users in Ellisfield have registered their poor speeds with HCC.

The current situation remains;

1. Hampshire County Council has signed a contract with BT for a programme that will roll out super-fast broadband to 90% of premises across the county by the end of 2015.

2. There are 3,500 premises in Hampshire within the final 10% that have broadband speeds less than the 2 mega-bit minimum standard. In these cases, which includes Ellisfield, BT will deploy point solutions to individual properties based on satellite, 4G or other technologies but this is currently scheduled for the final part of the three-year roll-out .
3. We are working with HCC and others to see what opportunities there may be for a comprehensive permanent solution, to super-fast standard, for Ellisfield and neighbouring villages and how this might be funded.
4. All this is taking time and there are clearly some in the village who would like to invest in an immediate solution, albeit potentially a stop-gap. One resident has had a satellite system running in the village for a few months and as of Friday 5th April one of your councillors has started trialling specialist 3G equipment. We plan to report back on the results of the 3G trial in May, contrasting this with what we already know about the satellite offering. This may be part of a parish council meeting or as a stand-alone event. We will announce a date in due course.

Planning

In addition to the solar farm, C-Zero and anaerobic digester matters referred to above, the Council was involved in commenting on seven planning applications. One of these – involving Coopers Farm – necessitated our speaking in favour at the BDBC planning committee against the planning officers and we were pleased our advice was accepted

The Council also responded to BDBC's questionnaires entitled "Opportunities for small scale developments in rural areas".

Welcome Packs

During 2012/13 one 'Welcome Pack' was given to the new residents who moved into Kandahar. Welcome to Amanda Harborne and family.

Police and Neighbourhood Watch

PC Reid regularly attends Parish Council meetings and thankfully reports low crime figures for our village whilst warning against complacency, particularly regarding distraction burglaries. Hannah Houstin-Lacey continues to keep us all informed through the Neighbourhood Watch network of suspicious or illegal activity in our area with the perennial message to please continue to report any suspicious vehicles, people or incidents.

PC Reid wishes to encourage all residents, who may not have done so already, to sign up to their local Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators e-mail list. A quick and very easy way to receive current information; easy for the co-ordinators too, who can quickly keep you up-to-date with news, from PC Reid, about the crime in your area or police requests for information regarding witness appeals etc. If you haven't already done so, please do consider

providing your e-mail address to Hannah - laconsult@btinternet.com

Litter Picking and other environmental concerns

Litter picking. Our thanks go to Ellie Rudd and Adam Claessens who performed this very necessary task.

Memorial Hall

Rose Taplin continues to attend Memorial Hall meetings as the parish council representative. The Memorial Hall Committee is in the process of expanding its membership to include representatives of all village organisations. Once a new committee has been formed they will hold their own AGM to which all villagers will be invited.

Jubilee Celebrations

Many, many thanks to Bernard Cazenove who so expertly coordinated a full programme of activities in Ellisfield over the Jubilee weekend and somehow even managed to organise the weather too, not one of our events was rained-off and it really was a never ending round of fun and many thanks also to those who organised individual events.

We started with Ellisfield's traditional Wine Walk, on Friday evening, with venues at Drumbeg, College Lane; Meadowview & Homestead, Green Lane.

EXHIBITION: *Ellisfield Through The Ages* arranged by Beverley Guinness, Edna Chilton and Hannah Houstin-Lacey was held at the Memorial Hall between 6.00 and 8.00pm on Friday, 10.00 – 4.30 on Saturday and 10 – 1.30 on Sunday.

TOURNAMENTS: Ted Dowson took control of the croquet tournament at Brocas. At stake was the Ellisfield Croquet Trophy, donated by Rev John Hamilton, last contested in 2008 and Rose Taplin was the champion. Tea and cakes were available and anyone wanting to cool off were invited to bring swimming clothes, I had the enjoyable task of organising the tennis tournament, heats were played at The Old Stables, Widmoor Farm and Brocas and Tina and Simon Wood won the hotly contended final match with Minnie Loftus and Phil Self.

FLOWERS: St Martin's was open all day on Saturday to view beautiful Jubilee Floral arrangements, and children under 12 created a beautiful flag of flowers. Many gardens were open between 2 – 6pm on Sunday.

SUNDAY SERVICE & RECEPTION: Nearly 100 people attended the family service at St Martin's and as many if not more enjoyed drinks in The Memorial Hall afterwards and a last chance to view the magnificent 'Ellisfield Through The Ages' exhibition. Specially commissioned 'Jubilee Mugs' were given by the parish council to all children of the village aged 18 and under.

BIG PICNIC ON MONDAY: Thanks go to Maggie Heath who co-ordinated arrangements for another wonderful village gathering attended by 200.

JUBILEE BEACON: Was lit in Farleigh opposite Broadmere at 10.00pm on Monday Evening in accord

with hundreds of beacons being lit across the country.

JUBILEE TREE: On Tuesday Ellisfield formally adopted a small oak tree near Saucy Corner. The honour was mine as Parish Council Chairman together with Seumas Foster of the Volunteer Group.

FINANCE

2012/13 Accounts

Last year's draft accounts are in Section 2 of this Report.

2012/13 Budget and Precept

The budget for the coming year is in Section 3 of this Report. Once the budget had been discussed and agreed at the December 2012 meeting, the council then had to decide on the actual precept.

As you will see, the amount decided on was £5,521 – no increase on last year and the council decided to dip into our parish funds if expenditure exceeded this and our other revenue...

It should be repeated that the precept we are levying is lower than it might be because of the great contribution by the Ellisfield Volunteers to keeping our public spaces tidy at well below contractor's rates.

Conclusion

I would like to thank my colleagues (Caroline Cazenove, David Richards, Gavin Park-Weir, Rose Taplin, and Julian Wright) who all contribute to our common goal of looking after the interests of the village. And a thank you too to Andy Webb for all he did for the Parish Council over the time he served before he stood down last summer.

Jacqui Matthews, whose calmness, professionalism and enthusiasm has been invaluable since her appointment as Parish Clerk in August 2004, has also to be especially thanked; as must be Ted Dowson for giving of his time in completing the Internal Audit of the 2011/12 Accounts and who has kindly agreed to carry out this role again for 2012/13..

It has been a privilege being Chairman for the past year.

Tim Guinness
Chairman

2013 Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th May, 2013 – Reports & Presentations

Hampshire Constabulary - PC Reid reported:

Reported Crime 2010	3
Reported Crime 2011	5
Reported Crime 2012	9

Sadly this Parish saw an increase in reported crime with nine crimes being reported, these consisted of a theft of the lightning conductor from the church, the theft of lead from a house being renovated, the theft of heating oil three times (twice from the same house) and three garage doors broken open in one night. Also I saw a car parked up in an isolated area and when spoken to the driver produced some cannabis: enforcement action was taken. Other incidents attended by Police included a report of flooding, concern for a man having a fit, a death message to be passed to a local resident, three false burglar alarm activations, a group of youth causing a nuisance in Furzen Lane, speed enforcement including tickets issued, two suspicious people being seen in the village, five trees across roads and two damage road traffic incidents (accidents). I also received a report of a man who calls on rural rectories asking for food; however he also has violent tendencies. He visited Ellisfield rectory but left prior to police arrival. We also had a herd of cows that went missing from a field in Hackwood Park and went to Ellisfield, remaining in the area for several days until they were pushed into a field at Herriard.

Reported Crime 2013

Three crimes reported to date in Ellisfield: two non-dwelling burglaries and criminal damage to a parked car whilst the owners were out walking. Other incidents reported to Police include two false/fault burglar alarm activations, a report of illegal hunting taking place, a concern for welfare of temporary landlord of The Fox, report of youths racing in cars which was an organised rally and speed enforcement has taken place with warnings and a fixed penalty notice being issued for a speed of 41mph in the 30 limit.

Grateful thanks to Hannah Houstin-Lacey for all her good work within the Neighbourhood Watch.

County Councillor - Anna McNair Scott reported:

Hampshire County Council has engaged British Telecom to provide faster broadband to 90% of premises by the end of 2015. Ellisfield will not fall into this category. A temporary solution will be offered at the end of 2015. Anna McNair Scott will raise the concern about pot holes in the lanes with Keith Holdsworth of HCC Traffic Section.

St Martin's Church - Report from Peter Chilton, Church Warden:

The pew kneeler boards have been re-upholstered, the cost covered largely by sales of Christmas cards and a donation from a generous former parishioner. Rats were seen in the church but removed by Pest Control. The rats caused expensive damage to the organ, now repaired. The Electoral Roll, due every six years, has been up-dated thanks to Caroline Allen. On finances, Rev. Stephen Mourant managed to raise additional regular giving for church expenses related to the provision of Ministry but we are still short of balancing our books. The Benefice of Farleigh needs to raise over £63,000 p.a. to cover Diocesan costs and provide a Priest. The willingness of the community in Ellisfield to support projects related to the fabric of the church is much appreciated. It would be a very great help if we could achieve the same type of assistance in supporting the day to day costs of Ministry. A fund raising supper to be held on 23rd June.

Paul Turner said how delighted everyone is to see Peter Chilton back in action.

St Martin's Church - Report from Rev. Stephen Mourant, Associate Rector:

Inspiring the worship, increasing the prayer, instructing the faithful and inviting the curious. Pastoral visiting in progress. The increased amount of our parish share to the diocese would be met if 40 people gave an extra £20 pcm gift aided.

Memorial Hall - Report from Bernard Cazenove, committee member (not Chairman):

The AGM will be held on Friday 24th May at 7.30pm and village representatives to be elected.

Neighbourhood Watch - Report from Peter Hopwood

Peter hoped everyone present is a member. If not, contact Hannah Houstin-Lacey, Roger Graham or Peter, giving email contact if possible. To deter peddlers at the door Hannah has stickers "We do not buy goods or services at the door. Please do not call". Peter thanked Paul Turner for keeping village information up to date on the excellent website. Peter also expressed gratitude to PC Andy Reid who will offer advice on property security. PC Reid stresses the importance of communication: to report anything suspicious immediately. Better a false call than damage to or stolen property.

Horticultural Society - Report from Meg Freeman:

Subscriptions stand at £7 per household. The garden competition will be on 17th June and the garden visit will be to Medstead. The next meeting is on 30 May at Cliddesden Village Hall.

Ellisfield Ladies - Report from Mandy Lunn:

This is a social group, subscription still at £5, meeting every other month with events such as cookery demonstrations, plant demonstrations, a concert at Queen Mary's College and a farm visit (Hill Farm) on 9th July. August's event is a visit to the local vineyard at Ropley. The 40th anniversary will be in 2015 when the club hopes to hold a summer ball.

Ellisfield Volunteer Group - Report from Andy Swanston:

Last year's exceptional weather conditions led to re-scheduled mowing and affected the equipment, needing more repairs. In April the equipment was moved to Cannon Close, a more secure location, but resulting in more expenses for taxing and insuring the ride-on mower. He thanked Paul Turner for keeping the website up to date with information on the annual schedule, risk assessments and how to volunteer. Andy thanked the volunteers for their support and also the committee members Margaret Evans, Steve Brown, Graham Simpson and Zani Robinson and a special thanks to Hannah Houstin-Lacey.

Tim Guinness also thanked the Volunteer Group on behalf of the Parish Council.

Oil Syndicate - Report from Ted Dowson:

The syndicate has existed for five years, has recently enrolled its 51st member and has saved members £7000. 350,000 litres of oil have been delivered. Ted thanked Richard Haas for his price negotiating skills. Deliveries are usually in Feb, May, Aug and Nov although an extra delivery was organised last February due to the cold weather.

Ted also reminded people to use the village shop in Preston Candover, a useful local resource.

Allotments - Report from Eve Lucas:

All allotments now taken and running smoothly, apart from problems with dogs running loose from their owners over the allotments.

Ellisfield Village Association (EVA) - Report from Dee Haas, read by Susie Deane:

It is just over a year since EVA was formed and at our first AGM we decided to stage an Art Exhibition to celebrate the countryside around Ellisfield 5 – 7 July 2013. We are keen to communicate to the outside world, politicians, press and landowners that we are not just placard waving 'Nimbys'. We need everyone to contribute, not just paintings but a photo, a poem, embroidery, an iced cake. A session for Under-10s at the hall on 29 May, run by Mini Loftus and Susie Deane. Deadline for entries 28 June.

Broadband - Presentation of interim solutions (2013-15) by Cllr Julian Wright and Sarah Galbraith.

Hampshire County Council has signed a contract with BT for a programme that will roll out super-fast broadband to 90% of premises across the county by the end of 2015. There are 3,500 premises in Hampshire within the final 10% that have broadband speeds less than the 2 mega-bit minimum standard. In these cases, which includes Ellisfield, BT will deploy point solutions to individual properties based on 4G, satellite or other technologies but this is currently scheduled for the final part of the three-year roll-out.

In the interim there is the option of achieving faster broadband speeds using either 3G Mobile or Satellite broadband. The principal characteristics of these two technologies are:

1. Mobile (3G) Broadband. Speed varies considerably depending on signal strength. Equipment costs in the range of £24 to £360. Monthly contracts available and so no lock-in.
2. Satellite Broadband. Faster than 3G but more expensive. Feasible so long as you have unobstructed line of sight to the satellite. Minimum contract 12 to 24 months.

Further details can be found in the presentation slides available as a download from the Ellisfield website.

Further assistance can be obtained from Julian Wright (£30/hr with all proceeds going to Great Ormond St Hospital). Julian@ivycottage.aero

Website - Presentation by Paul Turner:

Paul demonstrated the new village website and asked to be kept in touch with news and events. Paul asked for photos, topical and seasonal, which he can edit.

Tim Guinness thanked Paul for this superb website.

Reports and Presentation Session ended at 21.50