

Minutes of a Meeting of the Ellisfield Parish Council in the Memorial Hall on Monday, 26 January 2015 from 7.30pm.

Present

Tim Guinness (Chairman) (TG), Caroline Cazenove (CC), Gavin Park-Weir (GPW), David Richards (DR),
Julian Wright (JW) (Councillors).

Apologies: Councillor Rose Taplin (RT).

In Attendance

Jacqueline Matthews (Retiring Clerk), Christina A. Veasey (Proposed Clerk),
PC Andy Reid; Local Beat Officer, Hampshire Constabulary.
24 members of public (apologies from Rev'd S. Mourant).

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Taplin.
2. **Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 24 November 2014;** agreed and signed as a true record.
3. **Matters arising from the Minutes;** (for which no relevant Agenda item is listed below).
Cllr Guinness (Chair) outlined appointment of Christina A. Veasey (CAV) as new Parish Clerk. TG proposed; CC seconded; all Councillors unanimously agreed appointment of CAV as Ellisfield Parish Clerk.

Mrs Jacqueline Matthews was thanked by Chairman for 10.5 years of unstinting, effective and dedicated service as Ellisfield Parish Clerk. All attendees reinforced this with their thanks wishing a happy retirement in pastures new.

4. Open Forum:

I. PC Andy Reid reported;

Generally, crime in and around Ellisfield continues to reduce from;

- 10 investigated crimes in 2013 and
- 2 investigated crimes in 2014; relating to domestic disputes between 2 residents (now left the area) plus local car thefts

During 2014 reports requiring police time and attendance included;

- Flooding
- 11 damage reports from road traffic accidents
- 1 sudden death without other collateral suffering
- 111 reports of dangerous trees
- 6 masked men monitored on anti-hunt protest
- Ellisfield road enforcement resulting in 6 warnings and 3 penalty notices
- 11 false burglar alarm activations
- 11 suspicious vehicle reports.

In discussion, some residents via Cllr Guinness, apprised PC Reid of serious concerns when Veolia vehicles park outside their Veolia site; sometimes overnight, in early mornings and/or during staff breaks. That HGV/waste vehicles regularly queue adjacent to the Veolia site

entrance effectively blocking safe access to and fro the lane near the T junction with A339. This problem, north of the entrance to Barfoots AD Digester where passing places exist, apparently has caused reported near-miss accidents over past months.

PC Reid offered to visit the site to investigate with Veolia management. Discussions continued; see paragraph 4iii/page 1024.

II. Cllr Park-Weir;

New Noticeboard: various residents queries into the positioning on leaning old posts of new larger/locked noticeboard near the junction of College and Bell Lane's; recent pruning's left nearby and proposals for access/security of this community provision.

Discussions included a resident's offer to burn prunings and closure solutions using a lockable bolt/padlock. The retiring Clerk stated this was larger than previous noticeboards so new concreted-in posts were preferable. Cllr Park-Weir undertook to resolve these queries.

III. Residents and EVA concerns regarding Barfoots planning application;

A resident/Chair of Ellisfield Village Association (EVA) reported recent EVA members expressed increasing concerns over the Barfoots planning application BDB/76332, Application No. 14/03351/CMA, in that;

1. EVA residents felt EPC letter dated 04 December 2014 poorly reported strong local concerns discussed last EPC meeting (24/11/14) as Barfoots planned a significant increase in daily waste vehicle movements, from 16 to 40 per day, under new regulations.
2. EVA Chair asked that EPC considers sending an addendum to the original letter reinforcing local concerns. New Clerk, via Chair, asked for specific incident times and dates preferably with photographs.

Clerk to draft and circulate to Councillors before submission to Hampshire County Council (HCC) Regulatory Committee via HCC Development Control.

Discussions continued;

- a) Regarding Barfoots obligation to return AD site to brownfield should new plans and/or EU regulations reduce success of this venture. Cllr Wright commented that the obligation to return to green-field is a condition on the land so reverts to the landowner if the tenant fails to comply. Thus AD site might become redundant, potentially falling into uncared for disuse.
- b) Councillors reported existing planning permission states land must return to Greenfield when/if AD business ceases. Concerns were 'who would pay if business bankrupt? Mark Thomas (resident) confirmed Borough Councillor Mark Ruffell and HCC Councillor Anna McNair-Scott had promised to ensure restoration to appropriate condition.
- c) Recent concerns seemingly resulted in Barfoots AD site owners and nearby landowners suggesting Bushywarren Lane be widened (see also HCC/BDDB objections page 1026) to

achieve the proposed almost tripled traffic movements. This suggestion was abhorrent locally as both EPC and residents had worked very hard to prevent this before.

- d) Councillors suggested the 'real issue' was Veolia's poor vehicle management (see pages 1022/3). Albeit likely exacerbated by Barfoots recent planning application. Cllr Wright reminded all that Veolia vehicle access management was an on-going issue requiring a different approach i.e. recommending that it be addressing directly with a Veolia director at an EPC meeting? If agreed then Cllr Park-Weir would become responsible for arranging a meeting soon.

Other solutions discussed;

- 1) Suggesting the Veolia access to be re-sited; east or west of the current A339 junction.
- 2) Resurfacing Bushywarren Lane repairing damage caused currently by heavy vehicles.
- 3) Not muddling the Veolia vehicle issues with the Barfoots current planning enhancement as sites occupied differing parts of Bushywarren Lane (paragraph 6/page 1027).

Chair EVA obviously had specific evidence; to assist the new Clerk in contacting HCC Development Control and drafting an EPC approved addendum ready to send to the HCC Regulatory Committee (March meeting).

IV. *Cllr Wright – Broadband queries;*

At least 20 residents attended specifically to understand the current situation with the village's Broadband project.

In terms of the county programme, the contract had now been let for wave 2 of the HCC/BT Openreach Superfast Broadband programme. Cllr Wright explained that the HCC programme is due to deliver Superfast broadband to Ellisfield North in December 2018. Other parts of Ellisfield would be eligible for future waves.

The alternative private project was significantly short of its fundraising target. External funding is being sought from various sources. In the absence of additional funding then residents would need to roughly double their pledges. Residents expressed the view that they would like to see a higher participation rate than the current 40% before considering increasing their pledges.

Residents' seemed irritated that despite many requests, BT had not provided estimated speeds likely under the proposed BT Infinity service. An important factor here is line quality which can significantly degrade the speed attained but individual residents need to report line faults/issues to their service provider. Cllr Wright undertook to follow up again with BT on predicted speeds.

Cllr Wright confirmed minimum guaranteed Broadband speed was >2 Mb from late 2015/early 2016 . It is uncertain what form this programme would take and whether the funds could be redeployed elsewhere such as a subsidy to the village's private project. In addition HCC are considering offering to part-fund private projects in general.

Cllr Park-Weir stated that there were potential tax and VAT reliefs possibly reducing Ellisfield total contributions. A resident suggested this was specialised accounting but had contacts

useful to advise EPC. Alternatively SEEDA enterprise funding might be feasible but needed investigation. Cllr Park-Weir was keen to contact new 'accounting' contacts in case.

Cllr Wright also asked residents to consider differing scenarios across Ellisfield i.e. the 'top of village' might have earlier installation because technology and distances there were simpler than for 'lower village.' Residents apparently strongly resisted this option wanting all households treated equally, in similar timeframes, so as not to divide Ellisfield. EPC committed to continue with a single village-wide project if this was financially viable.

As no decisions could be made yet, Cllr Wright undertook to continue investigating. All residents were assured that all Ellisfield households would be surveyed for final funding decisions when further information became available.

Open Forum ended at 9.25pm. No second forum planned as under advice this change would be reviewed after 6 meetings; i.e. after next meeting.

5. To receive an update on current Planning Applications and to consider any new Planning Applications; Written summary of current/recent planning applications on agenda page 2.

- I. PLAN/RS/BA173 Land Adjoining Green Waste Composting Facility Bushywarren Lane. Application for amendment to condition 8 (vehicle movements) and condition 12 (annual throughput) to planning permission BDB/76332 – Application No 14/03351/CMA. Decision to be made by Hampshire County Council (HCC). **Status; Pending Consideration.**

To date; HCC have received 7 comments from consultees including 3 from Highways. Also 38 +3 objections from local residents and a request from Hampshire County Councillor, Anna McNair Scott for this application to be considered by the Regulatory Committee (11 February 2015) or during its March 2015 meeting.

HCC Highways have objected on grounds of poor visibility.

HCC and BDBC objections were read to the meeting – a synopsis being; HCC referenced the balance achieved in the original planning approval which, with local advice and conditioning, the Bushywarren Lane environment had been preserved. Also that unobtrusive passing bays currently prevent conflict despite Barfoots generally using larger vehicles than may be likely in future. This balance was/is deemed successful as it copes adequately with the low number of vehicles permissible. Thus increasing vehicle movements suggests in HCC opinion that the *'current passing bay provision should be reviewed.'*

Disturbingly HCC Highways objections potentially suggest a need to widen Bushywarren Lane and/or *'for the need to bring the AB site access closer to the junction with A339.'* Thus likely creating more conflict with Veolia waste vehicles which already cause continuing queuing/parking concerns nearer the Veolia site entrance. Local residents could demonstrate that current traffic volumes, using Bushywarren Lane to exit Ellisfield via T junction, onto and from an already stressed A339, were currently inviting potential accidents and likely to worsen if extra vehicle movements were granted.

The *Basingstoke and Deane (BDBC)* objection strongly recommended refusal on grounds of Barfoots failure to demonstrate that the variation will not prejudice or compromise traffic and add potential road user hazards.

Cllr Guinness concerns were 'the current passing places' were not under question but that misunderstanding might encourage an unpleasant widening of Bushywarren Lane. Whereas locally reported concerns referred to areas further up Bushywarren Lane, nearer the junction with A339, adjacent to the Veolia site and seemingly caused by Veolia vehicles. However increasing AD vehicle movements daily would probably exacerbate today's potential conflicts and increase safety concerns.

Two Councillors agreed that an EPC addendum should be prepared but that the Veolia parking problems should be escalated as discussed in paragraph 4iiid.

Further discussions suggest the junction with A339 and the Veolia site entrance probably requires a different solution long term; i.e. Veolia site entrance could be re-sited further west on A339 to reduce traffic to and from the present A339 junction with Bushywarren Lane. Thus not overlapping traffic at the AD site entrance.

The Clerk undertook to further reflect strong local concerns with HCC writing an addendum as referred to in paragraph 4iii (page 1028).

- II. 13/01052/LBC – Widmoor Farm, College Lane. Replacement of existing crittall windows with timber units. **Status: Application Refused – Appeal dismissed.**
- III. 14/03419/HSE – Lower Farm, Green Lane. A detached garage/studio in the garden to the side of an increased/extended house. **Status: Pending Consideration.**

Immediate neighbour, Tony Matthews objected, as previous Parish Clerk conflicted. Cllr Guinness, on behalf of the EPC commented, partially supporting application and partly supporting objection.

- IV. 14/03724/HSE – The Old Manor, Church Lane. Removal of existing oil tank, bund wall and wooden sheds to facilitate the erection of a new cart shed with bio-mass boiler room, pellet store, 3 no. parking bays and associated paved yard. Removal of outdoor swimming pool with reinstatement of grass. **Status: Pending Consideration.**

Janine Gosling, Fowler Architecture and Planning Limited, expected to attend EPC meeting to answer queries but failed to do so. The Ellisfield Parish Council (EPC) expressed disappointment. Cllrs had been consulted by email and no objections raised. So no response sent to BDBC.

Memorial Hall Committee received a consultation letter but no objections were raised at their Committee meeting. No objections known either from the Rectory or from other neighbours/residents.

6. To receive a report and approve any action needed on;

I. Localism/HALC/Local business liaison *Cllrs Guinness/Wright/Park-Weir.*

a. Anaerobic Digester;

Planning Application BDB/76332; Chairman reported meeting with Julian Marks (MD/CEO Barfoots) January 2015 discussing mutually important village subjects including Barfoots potential advantages gained if, or when, Barfoots upgraded to Superfast Broadband for their own business and commercial usage.

Barfoots upgrading to Superfast Broadband could effectively support Ellisfield getting similar Broadband technology across the village sooner possibly before 2018.

No additional funding was offered to support the EPC Broadband efforts; so far £1,000 had been donated towards community funds and allocated to purchasing new noticeboard(s). It was suggested to residents that emailing John Jervoise (Herriard Estate), seeking help to encourage early local business support; e.g. Barfoots installing Superfast Broadband (BT Infinity) as soon as it is available might help all Ellisfield with its Broadband programme.

Solar Farm;

Nothing new to report.

Telecoms mast (planting);

Nothing new to report.

Veolia site;

Nothing new to report as discussed in paragraph 4i and 4iii (page 1028).

II. Highways;

Clerk reported need for grips to be cleared in village lanes; raised by resident at last meeting and logged via Hantsweb.

Broken signpost opposite bottom of College Lane on Axford Road; damage to this historic sign, belonging to EPC; Cllr Richards salvaged it to investigate and ensure repair.

III. Website; Cllr Guinness.

Cllr Guinness explained that EPC had been informed that Ellisfield Parish Council's original and official website (.gov.uk) and the Ellisfield Community Website (.org.uk), organised by Paul Turner (resident), were extremely similar, causing confusion unless a small print notification on .org.uk home page, was read carefully and understood. Several residents attending voiced agreement.

Therefore steps were being taken to;

- a. Change the official EPC website (.gov.uk) to better define and support EPC business and its documents through a new 'look and feel,' different colours probably using modern software, while still minimising costs.
- b. Clarify and reduce confusion between .gov.uk and .org.uk websites; the latter uses a mirrored window 'portal' format, rather than appropriate links. Issues partly created by hosting changes demanded by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, autumn 2014.

Cllr Guinness expressed desire to preserve all archived historical information from the original Ellisfield Parish Council website (which Tim Sullivan set up) by effectively arranging relevant content on, or through, the EPC official website (.gov.uk) only.

IV. Broadband; Cllr Wright

Already discussed during the Open Forum - paragraph 4iv (page 1024).

V. Land and Property: Cllr Park-Weir

a) Notice Boards; a new oak 2 door, glass fronted board was installed at Bell/College Lane junction – its locking mechanism makes it difficult to access. Cllr Park-Weir to explore alternative closure mechanism.

b) Swings; Lower Common

BDBC Risk Assessment states that some low and medium safety risks exist including;

- i. Chains being notched; fixings loose (medium risk) and seat(s) notched/worn.

Clerk reported email quote, from original supplier Lappset, (our ref – LAP461) as;

- Cost of replacing all parts reported (low and medium risk) = £1, 231 + VAT
Note; without likely fixing costs and carriage of £35.00.

Clarification sought from BDBC Risk Assessor (RA) i.e. Bernard Crisp, Community Services Play Area Manager, (0776 9904161), following his last visit comments; i.e. *'he could not see any problems at the moment with the frame although being timber you cannot guarantee its life expectancy and many in use are many years old and are still in good condition so should be fine for a few more years'*

It was agreed Clerk would confirm with Bernard Crisp which were essential parts needing replacement; when and how urgently.

Cllr Guinness suggested EPC anticipate limited/essential costs in FY14/15 only; although Clerk reported sufficient current funds were available to replace all items this FY, if necessary. Bring forward to next meeting for decision.

c) New nets for goal posts; Lower Common

These nets were delivered to Mayfield and Tony Matthews has offered to put them up in spring 2015 for new season's usage. Clerk to diarise.

VI. Allotments; Cllr Taplin

Nothing new to report.

VII. Rights of Way; Cllr Wright

a) Footpaths; Cllr Wright reported walking path between the 'pub and church' in December 2014; no obvious problems found, with gates working and path in quite good condition.

Attending residents commented they had already cleared overgrowth which had encouraged paths to become muddy and difficult to traverse.

- b) BOAT; Cllr Wright reported limited HCC maintenance funds and infilling large potholes, such as in Duck Alley, cost £30K on each occasion. Ellisfield was an HCC high priority but if/when annual funds (@£60K) depleted, additional grants might be sought, if available. Thus Duck Alley probably best possible currently. Cllr Wright keeping under review.

Chairman reported a conversation with Christian de Ferranti regarding maintenance and also with Adrian de Ferranti; who still needed to confirm preference for type of kissing gate suitable for the zig-zag path and give a date for resolution.

VIII. Burial Ground: Cllr Cazenove

- a) Retiring Clerk reported request from Sally Adam's executors for permission to plant some bluebells on grave. Suggested OK but only if planting English bluebells; probably being taken from Sally's wildflower strip (garden). It was agreed this planting could go ahead, retiring Clerk to notify executors.
- b) Request from John Evans to reserve a double plot in Burial Ground. Retiring Clerk had explained EPC likely to refuse. No requests for reservation(s) had been granted since 1983.

EPC confirmed their policy should stand due to Ellisfield limited consecrated land. But residents should not, as yet, consider 'no space likely' for needs, as they arise. The situation will be kept under review especially regarding family members who have lived in Ellisfield village for so many years.

IX. Environment: Cllrs Richards and Taplin

Nothing new to report.

X. Hill Farm Pond: Cllr Cazenove

Nothing new to report.

XI. Neighbourhood Watch: Cllr Cazenove

Nothing new to report but uncertain whether Hannah Houstin-Lacey still responsible? Monthly report usually issued by email but none received since October 2014. Cllr Cazenove to ascertain position for next meeting.

XII. Memorial Hall: Cllr Taplin

Hog the Limelight – successful recent Saturday event with 50 people attending.

XIII. Basingstoke District Association of Parish & Town Councils and Localism: Cllr Richards

Minutes of 2 December 2014 meeting can be reviewed at;

<http://bdaptc.basingstoke.gov.uk/BDAOPT/Default.aspx>

Next quarterly meeting date unpublished, likely to be in March 2015.

XIV. New Residents:

The following are 'new residents' since last meeting;

- New renters in Kandahar, Pump House
- Possibly new residents in The Thatched Cottage.

Clerk asked the policy for Ellisfield 'Welcome Packs' and whether residents renting Village properties were included to encourage resident involvement, cohesion and equality?

The retiring Clerk offered to prepare several 'Welcome Packs' ready for new residents. She and/or Mrs Judith Richards would willingly continue to provide a simple homemade 'cake' on reimbursement of expenses. These are charged/budgeted to the Chairman's Allowance.

XV. Affordable Housing: Cllr Guinness

Still awaiting Adoption of Basingstoke Local Plan to review potential needs, if any.

8. To receive a report from the Clerk on Administrative Matters:

Nothing new to report.

9. To receive a report from the Clerk on Financial Matters and to discuss budget requirements and precept calculation;

Clerk provided two (2) spreadsheet reports to all Councillors; these Monthly Financial Reports (appendix i & ii total) were explained with limited costs being approved prudently using volunteer help, as possible. Thus FY15/16 budget and pre-cept calculations were similar to FY14/15, but subject to final year end checks. The Chairman assisted report ensuring historical continuity.

1. Standing Order to Harry Rumpus (new litter picker) to be signed along with cheques.
2. Pre-cept and grant request forms signed/authorised for submission by BDBC deadline; 31/01/2015.
3. Clerk handover; changing enabling signatures with Lloyds and NS&I accounts, updating registered Clerk's details with interested parties and file transfer progressing as required.

Cheques to be signed and payments approved

		£p
01-Dec-14	BROXAP Ltd (football nets)	48.37
01-Dec-14	Arien Design Ltd (replacement oak noticeboard balance)	616.80
01-Jan-15	Harry Rumpus (litter picking December)	32.00
26-Jan-15	Harry Rumpus (litter picking January)	32.00
26-Jan-15	HALC - Clerk training	48.00
26-Jan-15	Monthly direct debit payment for garage rental (Nov)	42.03
26-Jan-15	Monthly direct debit payment for garage rental (Dec)	42.03
26-Jan-15	A. Claessens (Litter Picking – Jan)	32.00
26-Jan-15	A N Other (Litter Picking - Feb)	32.00
26-Jan-15	A. Claessens (Litter Picking – Feb)	32.00
26-Jan-15	SLCC - Clerks Manual	55.50
26-Jan-15	J Matthews - Clerks salary and expenses	342.82

10 To discuss any matters which the Chairman considers urgent;

CLLr Guinness reminded all Councillors that the election was due on 7th May 2015. Individual Councillors seeking further service needed to complete nomination packs available from BDBC Electoral Services.

11 Potential dates for next EPC meetings 2015/16 discussed and revised as below;

(Note; usually Mondays in Memorial Hall starting at 1930/7.30pm)

2015 (1); EPC Meeting Monday, 26 January 2015 (completed)

2015 (2); EPC Meeting Monday, 16 March 2015 @1930

2015 (3); Proposed Annual EPC Meeting Monday, 18 May 2015 @1930
(Requirement within 14 days of 2015 election)

2015; Proposed Annual Parish Meeting Friday, 29 May 2015 @2000/8pm

2015 (4); Proposed EPC Meeting Monday, 06 July 2015 @1930

2015 (5); Proposed EPC Meeting Monday, 07 September 2015 @1930

2015 (6); Proposed EPC Meeting Monday, 23 November 2015 @1930

2016(7); Proposed EPC Meeting Monday, 25 January 2016 @1930

2016 (8); Proposed EPC Meeting Monday, 7 March 2016 @1930.

Councillors were asked to respond and diarise proposed meeting dates to facilitate publication on the EPC website and to all interested parties.

The meeting closed at 10.17pm,

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