

**Notes of a Meeting of Ellisfield Parish Council held in St. Martin's Church, Ellisfield
on Monday 13th July 2015**

Present: Mr Tim Guinness (Chairman), Mrs Caroline Cazenove, Mr Gavin Park-Weir,
Mr David Richards, M/s Rose Taplin.

In attendance Mrs E Chilton, to take notes, PC Andy Reid (for part of the meeting)

There were four residents present.

1. Apologies for Absence.

There were none.

2. To vote in a Chairman to chair this meeting.

Mr. Tim Guinness was elected unanimously.

3. To receive Declarations of Interest and Meeting Protocols for any matter on this Agenda.

Councillors stated that these had been updated on the website.

4. Actions required following resignation of the Clerk.

Chairman stated that, following a disagreement, the Clerk had resigned without notice, without providing draft Minutes of the May Meeting or an Agenda for this meeting and was still in possession of Parish property, including the cheque book. Action was in hand to recover this property and to find a replacement Clerk.

Mrs Edna Chilton had agreed to carry out such duties as she was able but excluding financial matters, on a temporary basis, for one month. She was willing to have custody of the cheque book, once recovered, for the time being.

In view of the need for continuity and transparency it had been thought desirable that this scheduled, publicised and expected meeting should be held as planned despite the late posting of the agenda, which had been prepared by the Chairman and that notes should be taken rather than minutes and no decisions involving finance be made until the next meeting.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th May 2015 (for approval and Chairman's signature.)

There being no Minutes this was not possible.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

There being no Minutes there were no Matters Arising from them.

7. The chairman then opened the meeting to those residents present for the OPEN forum

Matters discussed which are not noted elsewhere:

PC Reid reported that a suspicious car had been seen in College Lane, there had been criminal damage to a fence in Furzen Lane and at an outbuilding to Merritt's Farm an attempted burglary had occurred.

Two men had been apprehended carrying cannabis and given fixed penalty notices and a person fell from a horse in Church Lane.

On 15th and 30th June speed guns were in operation on the 30mph area of Axford Road. One person had been reported for driving at 37mph and another for 38mph and 3 warnings had been issued.

Due to a new police reporting system crime appeared to be increasing but was in fact very low in this area.

He commented that the poor standard of re-surfacing on the roads was universal and that there was little chance of the 30mph speed limit on Axford Road being extended due to Highways regulations.

Residents reported that the footpath past the Burial Ground (footpath no 5, the zig zag) was very overgrown by brambles and nettles. Cllr Cazenove undertook to ask the groundsman for the Burial Ground to deal with them.

There was a suggestion that the Parish Council should organise and pay for a village party to celebrate HM The Queen's 90th birthday next year but this was thought to be more a matter for the Memorial Hall organisation or the Ladies' Club and unlikely that the Parish Council had power to spend such a large amount for this purpose, though possibly a contribution or grant could be managed.

In response to a query as to whether an Annual Parish Council Meeting had been held and whether Councillors had signed forms of Acceptance of Office, the Chairman not having been present the other Councillors confirmed that the meeting had been held and that they had signed the forms.

Following this Open Forum the Chairman called the Council back into session.

8. To receive an update on current Planning Applications and to consider any new or potential Planning Applications.

Councillors considered an application from the owners of Church Cottage, Church lane for:

erection of a first floor rear extension over the existing ground floor accommodation and to provide a carport and new road crossover.

Councillors had viewed the plans for this on line and were in general approval. Consultation Form to be returned marked NO OBJECTION.

9. To receive any report and approve any action needed.

Localism/HALC/Local Business Liaison

Chairman reported that good visit by Ellisfield residents to Herriard Bio Power AD plant had taken place. Mending fences the objective. Laings (owners of Bushey Warren Solar Farm) had given EPC £1000. Previous clerk had thanked them.

Chairman attended annual BDAPTC Chairmen & Clerks event in Basingstoke.

Cllr Park-Weir had still to follow up on Veolia visit.

Policing in Hampshire

Chairman reiterated comments made in response to a question asked in open forum that letter had been sent at the end of March to Daphne Taylor setting out our preparedness to support rural policing modestly (£250 - £500) if our requirements met. But no reply had been received.

Highways

Agreed that Lane re-surfacing had been done to a very poor standard and that no pot holes had been filled either on the resurfaced Lanes or Axford Road despite constant reminders by Councillor Richards.

Website

Some unsuitable material had appeared on the site and had been removed.

Broadband

Cllr Park-Weir volunteered to take on this topic and continue the campaign for this to come to the southern part of Ellisfield

Land and Property

- i. Cllr Park Weir had prepared the asset register for the previous Clerk

- ii. Swings. Now out of action. Chairman showed sheared swing bolt – sheared trying to tighten post that was too loose. 4 replacements costing c £200 have been ordered and will be delivered direct to Tony Matthews around the 20th July and he will install them.

Allotments

No report as such but noted that Adam and Tracey Gilvear had won the Horticultural Society 'Best Vegetable Garden' award with their plot.

Footpaths/Rights of Way

Top section of zig zag: Chairman re-iterated that Adrian de Ferranti has said that walkers can go round the paddock and he will move paddock fence in the next few years. What to do with £750 grant remains open issue, we will have to return it if not used.

Burial Ground

Councillor Cazenove had made a recent inspection and found it to be tidy The records are presently with Jacqui Matthews (a former Clerk) pending appointment of a new Clerk.

Environment

There was no report and it was agreed to remove this item from the regular agenda.

Neighbourhood Watch

It was reported that Jane Hannah had taken over the co-ordinator's role. Noted that Hill & Dale editor was very happy with the present reports from PC Reed and had no need of another.

Memorial Hall

The Wine Walk had been very successful.

BDAPTC

Chairman had attended a Chairman and Clerk's meeting and heard a presentation on Broadband.

New residents

Agreed to keep an eye on changes as the Hopwoods and Lavenders leave.

Affordable Housing

No report

10. Administration Matters including approval of new Standing Orders.

Deferred to next meeting.

11. Financial Matters including approval of Accounts and Annual Returns for 2014/15

Deferred to next Meeting.

12 Filling of Casual Vacancy on Council

Reported that there were two outstanding candidates and that B&DBC be requested to allow an increase in the membership of Ellisfield Parish Council from six to seven. Also to ask NALC whether legal for the RFO to be someone other than the Clerk.

13. To discuss any matters which the Chairman considers urgent.

There were none.

14. To confirm date of next meeting.

27th July with 8.00 start on a trial basis.

15. Closed session to agree outstanding issues, if any, arising from resignation of Clerk

The Chairman requested the public to leave for discussion of this item wherein it was agreed that: Councillors Cazenove and Park Weir would progress the return of council property; that emails for the Clerk be diverted. Various names had been suggested to fill the vacancy including a locum and these persons would be approached informally

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Chairman