

**Minutes of the Ellisfield Annual Parish Meeting
held in the Memorial Hall on Friday 23 May 2014 at 8.00 pm**

Present

Tim Guinness (Chairman of Ellisfield Parish Council and Chairman of the Meeting)

34 members of the public

(including Parish Councillors Caroline Cazenove, Gavin Park-Weir, David Richards, Rose Taplin, Julian Wright)

Minutes

Taken by Jacqueline Matthews (Ellisfield Parish Clerk)

In Attendance

PC Andrew Reid, Local Beat Officer, Hampshire Constabulary
Mark Ruffell, Borough Councillor for Upton Grey & Candovers

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Adrian & Christian de Ferranti, Jenni & Steven Gould, Natasha & Mark Selby, Zani Robinson, Dee & Richard Haas, Lyng & Peter Hopwood, Mandy Lunn, Hannah Houstin-Lacey
2. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17 May 2013.** The Minutes had been circulated at the beginning of the meeting, on back of Agenda and green pages but time was allowed for reading. Agreed and signed as a true record.
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 2013/14 Accounts and details of the 2014/15 Budget and Precept Calculation.
5. **To receive a report from the Trustees of Ellisfield Educational Trust.**
Bernard Cazenove reported on behalf of the Trust; informing Capital stands at £56,327 and this year expenditure (£2,395) exceeded income (£2,211) representing 6 grants to individuals, £960 to Cliddesden School. Longer term, grant over preceding 17 years amount to £32,619 towards education of villagers. Applications always welcome. Chris Allen to be new Trustee.
6. **Any other Village Matters.**

Nicky Palmer (Manor Cottage) – parish council spent much time and effort to obtain ‘salt bins’ at various points around the village but these had been installed with no hard standing and now at risk of splitting. Clerk to contact HCC Highways

Edward Dowson (Woodpeckers) – has the parish decided to go ahead with Community Speedwatch? Chairman responded that costs of approx. £3,500 to set up scheme meant this would only be possible in collaboration with other villages. Clerk to establish if any other villages willing to participate.

The meeting closed at 8-25pm

Chairman.....

Date.....

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

Borough Councillor, Mark Ruffell reported:

No increase in Council Tax within the borough for 5 consecutive years. Recycling rates have not increased, perhaps due to weekly bin collections. Town Centre achieved 'Purple Flag' status for safe town centres. Basingstoke Festival continues to be supported. Local Plan currently undergoing another consultation, suspect there will be pressure to drive up the number of houses to be built. Network rail £50m building project, John Lewis Home & Waitrose likely to bring jobs. £3.6m to be spent improving Basing View, the council owns the freehold and rents help keep council tax low. Also improvements on-going for Leisure Park, 'Top of Town,' Farmers Markets to return and M3 Junction 6.

PC Reid, Hampshire Constabulary reported:

Sadly this parish has seen an increase in crime rising from 5 in 2011, 9 in 2012 to 10 in 2013. Burglary offences rose particularly, with two burglary offences (a man was later arrested but released as there was insufficient evidence) and three non-dwelling burglaries; one vehicle crime, two criminal damage (one has been detected) and two possessions of drugs (both detected).

Other incidents include eight false burglar alarm activations, a report of illegal hunting, three concerns for welfare calls, one injury and three road traffic accidents. Also two reports of tree blocking roads, a missing man (later found safe) a domestic dispute, a suspicious vehicle, an abandoned car and two abandoned 999 calls (faulty line).

So far in 2014; on-going investigations into an assault, theft from a motor vehicle, reports concerning flooding, a dangerous tree, illegal hunting, anti-hunt protest, false burglar alarm activation, suspicious vehicle, sudden death and three concern for welfare reports, thanks to Rev Stephen Mourant for help with these.

Hampshire Constabulary has to save £80 million! The Force has done extremely well, however, PC Reid advised it needs to find a further saving of approximately £25 million by 2017. A Force wide review is currently taking place on how best to find these further savings and how they will operate after the review. PC Reid agreed to provide more information when it is available.

Finally PC Reid repeated his request to please report anything suspicious, it may provide a vital link.

Representatives of Ellisfield Village Organisations (see below)

St Martin's Church:

Assistant Rector, Stephen Mourant reported a couple of events had been trialled across the Benefice in recent months; 'Messy Church' at Cliddesden and 'The Filling-Station' a monthly, mid-week event attracting a range of speakers. 18 weddings are planned this year across the benefice and pastoral visits a key aspect of the ministry.

Church Warden, Bernard Cazenove reported the DCC, responsible for the fabric of the church had met three times during the year to discuss fund-raising etc. Also the AGM to elect members and sidesmen. St Martin's has been more successful than in the past meeting the 'Parish Share' our contribution towards Diocese running costs. Thanks to Belles of St Martin's Choir.

Memorial Hall:

Ray Reed Chair of the Memorial Hall Committee reported recent changes in personnel forming the Memorial Hall Committee; Jane Evans and Christine Turner retired after many years' service and were presented with a small gift and vote of thanks. Tony Matthews had been co-opted to take responsibility for bookings and Susie Deane now Treasurer, Alison Swanston joining the committee as EVA representative.

Following investigations Ray had established that solicitors Lamb Brooks hold the deeds for the hall; in 1920 The Countess of Portsmouth had donated the land and a committee of 4 including the vicar was set up and continues to oversee the running of the hall; The Memorial Hall is a Registered Charity and finances are overseen by the Charity Commission.

Ray reported the committee had met several times during the year and had considered a range of options for improvements; an outside tap, garden restoration (hedges and fallen trees) removal of windows in annexe to be replaced by doors to garden. Beverley Guinness asked if there were to be any additional security measures for new doors. Finances remain healthy and considerable reductions

had been achieved for insurance and electricity costs. Events planned for forthcoming year include; wine walk, BBQ lunch, Hog the Limelight.

Neighbourhood Watch:

Parish Councillor, Caroline Cazenove read out a report from Neighbourhood Watch Area Co-ordinator, Hannah Houstin-Lacey who had sent apologies.

I would like to thank PC Reid for his excellent support to our community – we are extremely fortunate to have such a good policeman. Also, I wish to extend my personal thanks to Andy for his kind support.

My sincere thanks to Peter Hopwood for his immense support in manning, Scheme No. 090 which covers the south of the village, mainly along Axford Road. Also, to Caroline Cazenove who kindly agreed to take on Scheme No. 263 which extends from the houses just below the Fox Pub in Green Lane to Lunn family homes' in Northgate Lane.

I currently cover Schemes 299 and 300. Scheme 300 includes Church Lane, Bell Lane and the Upper part of College Lane. However, I believe Roger Graham may consider taking Scheme 300 on again since he is now making/made a good recovery. Scheme 299 is made up of the houses surrounding Lower Common.

PC Reid recently advised on a new scheme called IMMOBILISE. A Nationwide Property Register - residents can register their property for FREE. Why not view the website www.immobilise.com/ or the latest copy of Hill & Dale for more info.

As this is my last year as your NW Co-ordinator, I would like to take this opportunity extended my sincere thanks to everyone for their support in circulating information and for reporting anything suspicious to PC Reid or myself.

My current catch phrase is: help protect yourself and your property - please continue to do so! If you have not provided your email address to one of the scheme co-ordinators, then please consider doing so. Confirming this is to be Hannah's last year as NW Co-ordinator, Caroline extended thanks and asked if anyone in the village would be willing to take on the role, to contact her.

Horticultural Society:

Parish Clerk read report from committee member, Meg Freeman; Spring Show in Cliddesden was well attended, Plant Sale held at The Jolly Farmer, Cliddesden in May. There are to be five evening meetings this year covering a range of subjects. Evening garden visit to Farrington planned for 17 June 2014.

Ellisfield Ladies:

Celia Lunn reported on behalf of the committee; full calendar of events again this year, including Carol singing at The Fox, Burns Night celebrations, Darts Match, Cookery Demonstration (and lunch). Belles of St Martin's Choir to participate in The Basingstoke Festival of Choirs concert at The Anvil on Sunday 06 July, a celebration of 100 years of War and Peace, A 'Scarecrow Festival' planned for August, to be judged by PC Reid. Ellisfield Ladies are planning a major event in 2015 to celebrate 40 years. New members always welcome £7 per year subscription.

Ellisfield Volunteer Group:

Chair, Andy Swanston reported that 2013 was a warm and sunny year with very little impact on the equipment keeping repairs to a minimum. The number of volunteers now stands at 35. This is not an insignificant organisation and one that only exists from a desire and commitment from people to support the village community, important not to overlook the impact of the group and its importance to the village. However, I'm often reminded by villagers of how fortunate we are to have an organisation that enables people to work together and feel as though they are making a contribution to the community, even if it's in a small way. That word 'small' is important – it doesn't matter how big your contribution is – any help is always appreciated.

In late 2012, the EVG took a conscious decision to request a significant increase in the annual parish grant. This was to address the cost of equipment repairs largely due to the adverse weather in 2012 and fund a new home for the Lower Common equipment. This inevitably raised some concerns at the Parish Council given cost pressures. However, on reflection this proved to be the right decision as we

were able to rebalance the EVG books and future proof against further repairs/replacements in the short to medium term.

Moving onto 2014, I'm pleased to say that all volunteers have committed their time again for the new year. I would also like to welcome some new volunteers to the group – John Hellewell and Dave Waters. On the equipment side repairs were minimal for 2013. However, for 2014 we have (as planned) replaced one of the Burial Ground mowers and plan to replace the bridge at Lower Common. One of the benches at the Gravel Pits will be replaced but will be funded by the Parish Council.

It just remains for me to say a big thankyou to the volunteers. Without their help the EVG would not exist. I would also like to thank the EVG committee who support me in the day to day running of the organisation and finally a thankyou to Steve Brown who stepped down as the Area Co-ordinator for the Burial Ground. Steve Brown has been working for the EVG for a number of years and I'm sure we will all agree that his dedication in this time has resulted in smooth running of the Burial Ground.

Oil Syndicate: Ted Dowson reported that the syndicate currently has 47 member households across The benefice; over the past 6 years, 350,000 litres have been purchased saving a total of £9,000. Thanks to Richard Haas for negotiating such keen prices.

Ellisfield Allotment Gardeners Association:

Clerk reported currently one vacant allotment.

Ellisfield Village Association (EVA): Alison Swanston, Committee member delivered report from Chair, Dee Haas.

Now well into our second year, EVA continues to fight for the countryside and environment around Ellisfield. The main issues we are dealing with are the larger development sites affecting the village

- **Veolia Composting Site;** we have written a response to their application to extend operations to include animal waste from Marwell Zoo. We were able to point out to Hampshire County Council that previous planning conditions had not been satisfied. (I have a copy of the letter here in case anyone wants to see it) This application has now been withdrawn.
- **Barfoots Anaerobic Digester;** Dee had a meeting with Chris Cooper who runs the plant. He agreed to reduce the intensity of the lighting on the site and increase the density of screening on the bund. We are hoping to have a joint tour of the facility with the EPC this autumn.
- **Solar Farm;** this is now operational, complete with sheep grazing beneath the panels.

What next for EVA?

We are working on two ideas;

- **Cycle Track** along the old Basingstoke and Alton Light Railway line; we are researching the feasibility of a cycle and walking route on the path of the old railway. We have found the track clearly mapped on the 1911 O.S. map and are now intending to identify landowners and contact other villages along the route with the aim of **seeing if it would be feasible to build** (probably with funding from Sustrans or similar). The route follows the line of the A339 closely and we think that opening a safe cycle track would benefit residents from all the villages along the route. Imagine being able to cycle into town safely through beautiful landscape! We also realize that both Alton and Basingstoke may be supportive as their residents can more easily access the countryside. Early days but we thought it would be worth a try....
- **Storm Damaged Tree Survey;** Did you lose a favourite tree in the storms this winter? We would like to send a survey around to see if any much loved trees were lost. If we can identify trees in need of replacement, we could have a replanting day this Autumn and replace them for future generations to enjoy. Look out for a survey form coming round soon.

Lastly, a reminder that subs are due. If anyone still hasn't renewed their membership or if you would like to become a member of EVA, please come and see me or Tony Simmons, our Treasurer. £5.00 minimum per household. Thank you for your support over the year.

Reports and Presentation Session ended at 9-15pm