
Ellisfield Parish Council

NEWS AT 07 FEBRUARY 2009

Parish Council Precept

The 2009/10 precept (the amount that goes on the upcoming Council Tax Bill for parish council expenses) has been set at £4,477 - the same as the 2008/9 year. This figure places Ellisfield at position 9 in the 40 parishes in Basingstoke and Deane that request a precept.

Two New Parish Councillors Co-opted

Following two recent resignations we now have 2 new parish councillors, both co-opted as there was no request for an election. Steven Gould resigned in September and Alison Swanston in December, both for personal/family reasons. Steven had been a member of the parish council for 5 years and Alison for 4; their colleagues would like to thank them both for their hard work and commitment.

Welcome to Ian Seagrave and David Richards who joined the parish council in October and January respectively.

Ian came to Ellisfield in 2004 and lives with his wife Annick and 2 children at Kandahar, The Green. Ian is a Chartered Accountant and has taken on the role of Treasurer and will provide financial oversight of both projects and of the council business generally.

David also came to Ellisfield in 2004 and lives with his wife Judith at September, College Lane. David is a retired engineer and has taken responsibility for the Environment and Allotments, providing much needed hands on support to parish projects.

Ellisfield Volunteer Group (EVG)

You will be aware that the work organised by EVG makes a significant contribution to keeping the Ellisfield Parish Precept so low. At their recent AGM, a motion was passed to open negotiations with the parish council with a view to EVG becoming a sub-committee of the parish council in order to save money on insurance premiums.

Allotments

The Upper Allotments, behind The Fox Inn have undergone a major transformation in the past year. The area for cultivation has been fenced by Steven Gould and once gates are fitted the area will be deer free; rabbit fencing to be fitted shortly; an application has been made to BDBC for funding to complete fencing. Arrangements are in place to secure a water supply, using the £1,000 grant from County Councillor, Anna McNair Scott. The area has been divided into 10 plots, 7 of which are being worked; if any other more Ellisfield resident would like to rent a plot, please contact the parish clerk.

Affordable Housing

Your parish council continues to work towards meeting the needs of those with local connections and are currently working with Hyde Housing Association who are in the process of drawing up draft plans and liaising with Portsmouth Estates for a suitable site.

Security

You may be aware there has been a recent spate of thefts of 4x4 vehicles in the area; PC Reid would like your help. If you have seen anything please do report it – the smallest piece of information can often help solve the crime!

PC Reid's advice to all drivers - Think - do not leave your keys in your vehicles!

You will no doubt have heard that two garages were broken into during 2008. PC Andy Reid, our Rural Beat Officer, would like you to remind all residents to contact him (389050) should they see anything suspicious. Should you require any information on home security, he is more than happy to advise.

Traffic Calming

Following long and protracted negotiations on behalf of the village by Cllr Peter Hopwood, Hampshire County Council Highways Department has agreed to erect 'Village Gateways' either side of the houses along Axford Road. HCC changed contractors last year and projects such as this seem to be taking longer than promised. Your council continue to remind them of their promises and we hope work will begin soon.

Hill Farm Pond

Following the successful bid for an award of £10,000 from The Lottery Awards for All, towards the renovation of Hill Farm Pond, villagers who had expressed an interest were asked to assist with a clear-up of the ground surrounding the pond. On a bright October day, 18 volunteers did a magnificent job of clearing and burning 20 years of brushwood and brambles. It was amazing just how much was achieved in one day. Caroline Cazenove provided refreshments to revive the many perspiring brows.

The recent spell of cold weather firmed the ground and allowed phase two to commence using heavy machinery to remove the fallen trees. The timber was promptly cut and logged to manageable sizes for villagers to collect for firewood. To reduce the amount of silt running from Green Lane via grips into the pond the Highways Department have built silt traps at the roadside to replace the grips.

The next phase of the work is to shift the large accumulation of silt below the pond surface. An additional grant has been awarded by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to assist with the considerable costs involved in this project.

Annual Parish Meeting

This will take place on Friday, 24 April 2009. The formal meeting will start at 8pm and will be followed by short presentations (including Question & Answer sessions) from:

- ◆ Representatives of Ellisfield Village Organisations
- ◆ Anna McNair Scott (Hampshire County Councillor)
- ◆ Mark Ruffell (Basingstoke & Deane Borough Councillor)

After the meeting there will be a light buffet available with wines, beers and soft drinks.

New residents are particularly welcome

Parish Council Contact Details

The four parish councillors are (in alphabetical order):

Caroline Cazenove, Brocas, The Green	381279
Tim Guinness, Widmoor Farm, College Lane	381348
Peter Hopwood, The Acorns, Axford Road	381321
David Richards, September, College Lane	381771
Ian Segrave, Kandahar, The Green	381278
Rose Taplin, 2 Hill Farm Cottages, Green Lane	381417

The parish clerk is Jacqui Matthews (Mayfield, Green Lane, Ellisfield RG25 2QL) and she can be contacted on 381149 or at clerk@ellisfield.gov.uk.

For further information on the Parish Council (including the Meeting Minutes) visit www.ellisfield.gov.uk/council.