

**Minutes of a Meeting of Ellisfield Parish Council
held in the Memorial Hall on Monday 06 October 2014**

Present

Tim Guinness (Chair), Caroline Cazenove, Gavin Park-Weir, David Richards, Rose Taplin, Julian Wright
(Vice-Chair), (Councillors)

Apologies: None

In Attendance

Jacqueline Matthews (Clerk)
PC Andy Reid, Local Beat Officer, Hampshire Constabulary
Colin Brooks, Sales & Customer Experience, NGA Development Solutions Manager, BT Openreach
Peter Cowen, Regional Partnership Director South East, BT

23 members of the public, apologies: Dee Haas

1. **Apologies for Absence:** None
2. **To Receive Declarations of Interests on any matter on this Agenda:** None
3. **Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 01 September 2014;** Agreed and signed as a true record
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes (for which no relevant Agenda Item is listed below).** None
5. **OPEN FORUM**

PC Andy Reid reported that there had been no crime reported in Ellisfield since last parish council meeting. PC Reid also confirmed that a new force structure will be in place from March 2015 borne out of a need to make cuts to Force Budgets. The intention is that the existing beat will have a dedicated PCSO and PC Reid to be part of a larger team to react to crime throughout the whole rural area, combining a number of beats with two or three Police Officers. PC Reid answered questions from the audience, many of whom resolved to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner to raise concerns and support PC Reid. Councillors discussed later in meeting.

Cllr Wright explained that whilst the Hampshire Superfast Broadband programme is proceeding as planned it will not include Ellisfield for the time being. It is likely that by the end of 2015 we will be stranded in the pool of the last 3,500 properties in the county with a broadband speed of less than 2 Mbps. He explained Ellisfield has the opportunity to leapfrog the queue and place a contract directly with BT Openreach for "fibre to the cabinet" superfast broadband. BT would deliver the "fibre to the cabinet" service around 9 months after contract signature.

Colin Brooks, Sales & Customer Experience, NGA Development Solutions Manager, BT Openreach outlined the BT proposal "fibre to the cabinet" solution to the village and together with BT Area Director Peter Cowen answered questions raised.

Details of the BT Offer; properties in Ellisfield are connected to the Herriard exchange via two cabinets: one at the north end of the village at the junction between Church Lane and College Lane and the other outside the Fur and Feathers pub in Herriard. Four Ellisfield properties, on Berrydown Lane and Grammarsham Lane, are connected to different exchanges and so will not be covered by this initiative. The BT offer is therefore in two parts but will be treated as a single project by EPC, with a total value of £66,329 plus VAT.

Ellisfield South; a new fibre-equipped cabinet would be installed at the junction between College Lane and the Axford Road. This would replace the connection to the cabinet outside the Fur and Feathers and cover 66 properties (Axford Road, College Lane below College Farm and Green Lane up to and including Farriers Field) costing £36,816 plus VAT (£558 + VAT/premise). This part of the project would have been many times more expensive were it not for the discovery of unused underground cable ducting running all the way to the bottom of College Lane.

Ellisfield North; the existing cabinet at the junction between College Lane and Church Lane would be converted to offer fibre to the cabinet services. This cabinet serves 50 houses plus the solar farm and anaerobic digester sites (Bell Lane, Green Lane from Meadow View, College Lane from

College Farm, Church Lane, Northgate Lane and Bushywarren Lane) costing £29,513 plus VAT (£568 + VAT/premise).

Fibre to the Cabinet Service; the new service would be available on an opt-in basis, with the old ADSL broadband service remaining by default. Customers of the existing broadband service would be able to continue with their current contracts should they not wish to take advantage of the new fibre to the cabinet offering.

Many of the questions from the audience focussed on potential speeds of the fibre to cabinet service. The available download speeds on the new service would vary depending on the distance to the cabinet with a maximum of 80 Mbps for those immediately adjacent, reducing over distance to 10 -15 Mbps for those more than 900 metres from the cabinet. Rough estimation 56 houses will be within 900m of a cabinet and 45 within 900m - 1,500m, leaving 16 houses, all in the settlement around The Fox Inn, between 1,500m and 1,850m from a cabinet. According to Openreach estimates there are only 10 of these houses which may not receive 10 Mbps or more. 10 Mbps should enable downloads 5-10 times faster than at present. It was agreed to ask BT for the precise speed for individual properties should it be you required.

BT Openreach would own the network going forward and be responsible for future upgrades.

By the time BT had left the meeting had been in progress for 2 hours, so it was decided to work through the agenda focussing specifically on Actions raised at last meeting.

6. To receive an update on current Planning Applications and to consider any new Planning Applications: Written summary of current/recent planning applications in agenda:

Clerk confirmed 14/02388/FUL Ellisfield Memorial Hall, Church Lane: Replacement of 2 rear windows with opening double doors and creation of path and steps. Granted. Clerk confirmed email sent to Chairman of Memorial Hall Committee and ask for confirmation of details of fenestration; type of materials to be used and overall aesthetic effect.

7. To receive a report and approve any action needed on:

i. Localism/HALC/Local business liaison

Anaerobic Digester: Nothing new to report. Clerk confirmed request to PC Reid to remove road signs installed during construction phase of AD.

Solar Farm: Nothing new to report, Cllr Guinness confirmed he had followed-up correspondence with J Laing regarding community funding.

Telecoms mast: Nothing new to report

Veolia site: Nothing new to report

ii. Highways: Clerk confirmed contact with HCC Highways to establish Keith Holdsworth's replacement and if there is a planned maintenance programme for roadside Grips and Gullies. Ref No 21119945

Clerk reported Ron Darley (Cliddesden PC) had phoned to ask if Ellisfield wanted to get together with other parishes regarding Community Speedwatch; Clerk had confirmed Ellisfield position; happy to proceed with 5 other parishes

iii. Web Site: not discussed - following the meeting Paul Turner asked how the transfer was progressing and Clerk reported, following a telephone conversation with Charlie Hellewell that afternoon, that it wasn't know how long the final stage of transfer and testing would take. Ownership of the domain Ellisfield.gov.uk has been transferred from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to Ellisfield Parish Council and Charlie Hellewell continues to liaise with e-mango in the construction of replacement parish council website

iv. Broadband: Following discussions during *Open Forum*, it was further discussed and agreed to go ahead with Ellisfield's broadband project and launch a fundraising programme to raise the amount necessary to place an order with BT Openreach. Working on the basis that VAT may not apply to

the BT quote the target is £66,329. It was agreed that first attempt would be to try to raise all the money from the village, looking for pledges in the range of £500-£1,000. It may be necessary to top up the Ellisfield's contribution with funds from local businesses and/or Hampshire County Council. Villagers to be assured that pledges wouldn't be exercised until full amount had been pledged and parish council in a position to sign a contract with BT. The importance of keeping all pledges confidential was agreed. Cllr Wright to continue to liaise with BT and HCC and set up fundraising team; clerk to email all residents and log pledges.

- v. **Land and Property:** Clerk confirmed order had been placed for 1 x oak 2 door, glass fronted Notice Board to accommodate 6 x A4 sheets behind each door for Collage Lane.
- vi. **Allotments:** Nothing new to report other than some changes amongst tenancy of allotments.
- vii. **Rights of Way:** Clerk confirmed email had been sent to Adrian de Ferranti with photos of wooden kissing gates on zig-zag path, requesting permission to proceed with installation Cllr Park-Weir to explore Veolia involvement / installation also liaise with Andy Swanston ref installation.
- viii. **Burial Ground:** Nothing new to report.
- ix. **Environment:** Nothing new to report
- x. **Hill Farm Pond:** Cllr Cazenove reported she had been in touch with residents living in the vicinity of Hill Farm Pond and they had met on Saturday 27 September and agreed to meet again and hold a working party on Saturday 11 October 2014.

Neighbourhood Watch: Nothing new to report in addition to monthly report issued by email. Still looking for replacement Area Co-ordinator; Cllr Guinness approached Roger Graham who declined.

- xi. **Memorial Hall:** Nothing new to report.
- xii. **Basingstoke District Association of Parish & Town Councils and Localism:** Next meeting will be Tuesday 2nd December 2014, 7.30pm. It promises to be an interesting meeting with presentations on Reorganisation of Rural Policing and the Village Agent scheme. Cllr Richards to attend. Minutes of September meeting circulated to councillors by email. BDBC CEO Tony Curtis resigned from BDBC with effect from 30 November 2014.
- xiii. **New Residents:** Laurel House – Sonia & Carl Gilbert; JR & JM to take welcome pack.
- xiv. **Affordable Housing:** Still awaiting adoption of Basingstoke Local Plan.

8. To receive a report from the Clerk on Administration Matters.

Nothing new to report

9. To receive a report from the Clerk on Financial Matters.

Clerk provided a written report to all councillors - Monthly financial report (appendix 1)

Cheques to be signed and payments approved

06-Oct-14	S. Claessens (Litter Picking – Nov)	32.00
06-Oct-14	E. Rudd (Litter Picking - Nov)	32.00
06-Oct-14	J Matthews - Clerks salary and expenses	889.00
06-Oct-14	Arien Design Ltd (half cost of replacement oak noticeboard)	538.80

To discuss any matters which the Chairman considers urgent:

10.

Following discussions during *Open Forum* it was further discussed and agreed to write to Police and Crime Commissioner expressing concerns over proposed loss of Rural Police Resource and in support of PC Reid.

Clerk reported email from Gareth Davies, Clerk to Herriard Parish Council regarding setting up a petition opposing the proposals to reorganise our rural policing. Clerk also confirmed telephone conversation with Ron Darley, Clerk of Cliddesden Parish Council and they are still in the process of drafting letter to Chief Constable and Police & Crime Commissioner to express similar views.

11. To decide upon the date of the next Meeting:

24 November 2014 (Budget & Precept)

The meeting closed at 10.05pm

Chairman

Date