

**ELLISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**Date:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

**Time:** 8:00pm

**Venue:** Memorial Hall, Ellisfield

**Present:** Tim Guinness Chairman  
Caroline Cazenove Vice-Chair  
Gavin Park-Weir  
Rose Taplin  
Victoria Reed  
David Richards  
Wendy Simson Clerk  
PC Reid  
Eight members of the public

**Apologise:** None

**54 Apologies for Absence**

All Councillors were present at the meeting.

**55 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The Chairman asked the Councillor to confirm that they had read and approved the minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015. They were agreed and the Chairman signed the copy for the records.

**56 Matters arising**

**Litter pickers** – The Councillors confirmed that they had received the map of the two litter picking rounds.

**Broadband speed** – Councillor Park-Weir briefed the Council about the two possible solutions to this issue. The Government backed scheme which would mean the north of the village would get a new cabinet in 2018/19 but there was no plan for the south of the village. There is also a possibility that a company called “Red Raw” which runs masts and repeaters across an area with limited Broadband speed. While “Red Raw” doesn’t plan to put a mast in Ellisfield, they will be running a repeater past the village and so homes may be able to subscribe to this solution depending on the speed available

**Allotments** – All payments have been received for the allotments which are leased and the money paid into the allotment bank account. There is one plot not let which the Parish Council need to promote.

**Highways** – Councillor Richards has spoken to Highways prior to the recent flooding about the pot holes in the village. It is expected that more damage will have occurred and a full audit of the roads is required by the Highways Team.

**Notice Board at Bell Lane** – The Chairman has spoken to Dee Haas and Nicky Palmer about a plan to give a suitable area in front of the notice board from which to view it. A Plan will hopefully be drawn up by end of January.

**Action:** [Chairman to bring plan to February meeting](#)

**Farriers Field** – Both no. 3 & no. 4 Farriers Field have now been let to people with a connection to the village/neighbouring villages.

**Missing Minutes** – Mrs Matthews is to write up the minutes of the AGM and the Chairman to look at completing this for the June meeting.

**Action** – Chairman to present minutes to the Councillors for approval ready for the next meeting.

**Internal audit** – The Clerk reported that she is booked to visit John Murray on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 10:30am, in order that he can confirm that the Parish Council have sufficient evidence for the year-end audit. The Clerk also agreed to get a price for the audit and copies of Mr Murray's credentials and qualifications.

**Action** – Clerk to report at next meeting

**Tesco grants** – Councillor Reed reported that she had not received the email about the grants offered by Tesco from the sale of the carrier bags

**Action** – Clerk to resend email

**Site visit to the Old Manor** – A number of the Councillors including the Chairman visited the Old Manor and were talked through the plans by the new owners. The project is expected to take a year to complete and the Councillors raised no objections to the plans.

**Rights of way** – Councillor Reed had been in contact with Councillor Alexander from Preston Candover & Nutley Parish Council along with a number of others including from Basingstoke & Deane. One of the main issues is Ducks Alley which is very churned up from the 4x4's which use it.

#### 57 **Flooding issues**

The Parish Council and members of the public discussed the flooding which occurred on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January in the public forum and the following actions were agreed:-

**Action:** Councillor Richards would do a survey of Culverts; grips; drains; ditches

**Action:** Councillor Richards to speak to Highways about our existing request that detritus left by flood be cleared up along with mending new potholes and tarmac damage

**Action:** Councillor Richards to request that Highways clean out culverts

**Action:** Clerk to progress the 10 village cooperative idea for grip etc maintenance

**Action:** Clerk to work to organise a meeting of EIA, Highways, Landowners, EPC to discuss longer term solutions

**Action:** Councillor Park-Weir to order more sandbags and have an oversight of storage; disposal renewal and allocation

#### 58 **Allotments**

Discussed under matter arising, nothing further to add.

#### 59 **Police Update (reported as part of Public Forum to allow PC Reid to continue is rounds)**

PC Reid informed the Parish Council that there had been five incidents since the 2<sup>nd</sup> December meeting, these were:-

- 3/12 – A damage road traffic incident to a delivery van in Bell Lane
- 9/12 – Highland cow seen on road in Red Lane, PC Reid explained that the cow was no longer an issue
- 21/12 – Poaching in Bell Lane
- 25/12 – A large pothole opened up in Northgate Lane
- 25/12 – An alarm activation at a home in Ellisfield (false alarm/fault)

PC Reid reported that there had been 10 crimes in Ellisfield to date in 2015 which was 8 more than 2014.

The Chairman asked about the progress with the rural policing issue and PC Reid confirmed that it was still being discussed. The Chairman also enquired about how many vehicles and officers were based at Tadley, PC Reid informed the Council that there were 10 vehicles and about 18 people including an inspector, sergeant, 7 constables and about 10 PCSOs. The Chairman asked if the lack of cars was one of the reasons for the changes, PC Reid was not able to confirm this.

#### **60 Financial update**

The Clerk circulated the financial statement to the Parish Council showing the income and expenditure to date for 2015/16. The Chairman confirmed that the grant request for the new flagpole was for £300, the Councillors all approved this payment.

**Action – Chairman to get a copy of the invoice for the flagpole so payment can be made at the next meeting**

Budgets for 2016/17 were discussed; the Chairman spoke about a budget line for celebrating the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in June, a budget of £250 was approved. It was also agreed that the grant of £1,000 for the Lengths Man role to be added to the accounts and that this value be budgeted for flood maintenance work.

**Action: The Vice-Chair to ask Bernard Cazenove to coordinate the celebrations**

The Clerk informed the Council that the salary for the Clerk was very high in relation to the value of the precept and work required. It was agreed that this salary to be reduced to £2,400 per year.

**Action: Clerk to confirm with HALC this is possible**

The precept was agreed at £5,521, the same as last year. The paperwork for the precept and general grant were signed by the Parish Council.

It was agreed that the Clerk would remain in post until the AGM provided a new Clerk could be found it was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk would produce a newsletter to promote the role. The Clerk informed the Parish Council that she may be able to stay in post for a further 12 months if a suitable replacement could not be found.

#### **61 Planning**

The plan for the erection of first floor rear extension over existing ground floor accommodation at Church Cottage was discussed at the previous meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December and the Parish Council had no objections.

#### **62 Burial Ground**

An application had been received for a new memorial for Mr Chilton, the Vice-Chair described the stone and the Councillors approved the application.

**Action: The Vice-Chair and Mrs Matthews to make sure main funeral parlours are aware of the Parish Council's burial ground style guidelines.**

The Chairman asked if there were further fees due for the Burial ground

**Action: Vice-Chair to ask Mrs Matthews and report at next meeting**

#### **63 Localism/HALC/Local Business Liaison**

A Community liaison meeting has been booked at the Veolia site for 19<sup>th</sup> January at 3:30pm chaired by HCC Councillor Anna McNair Scott and attended by representatives of the

businesses on Bushey Warren Lane. Councillor Park-Weir is attending and has a list of items to discuss including:-

- The pot holes in the road caused by the large lorries
- The queues of lorries waiting to get into the facility
- General traffic behaviour particularly leaving and joining the A339
- Litter
- Original suggestion about the layout of the entrance/exit and comments made by the Parish Council when planning was approved

**64 Highways**

The Chairman had been approached by a member of the public about conducting a speed survey in the village as it was believed that a high number of drivers speed in the area. The Clerk suggested that Cliddesdon Parish Council had purchased a speed gun and were prepared to visit other parishes and carry out a "speed watch". The Chairman explained that the resident was asking for the compressed air pipes to be laid across the road so all vehicles were recorded, the Clerk suggested that PC Reid may be able to help with this.

**Action:** Clerk to speak to Clerk at Cliddesdon Parish Council about costs for Speed Watch

**Action:** Clerk to speak to PC Reid about Highways conducting a survey

**65 Land and Property**

Councillor Park-Weir proposed that the notice boards on the bus shelters should be replaced with the budgeted amount in the 2015/16 accounts. Councillor Park-Weir suggested getting a quote for the notice boards and asked if the Council would look to approve just one or both, it was agreed both needed to be replaced.

**Action:** Councillor Park-Weir to bring costs to next meeting

The Parish Council discussed how to ensure that notice boards are kept up to date, The Vice-Chair agreed to hold all notice board keys and post all updates

**Action:** Clerk to provide the Vice-Chair with all keys at the next meeting

It was reported that the bus shelter at the gravel pit leaks

**Action:** Councillor Richards to investigate and report to next meeting

**66 Footpaths & Rights of Way**

Nothing further to report

**67 Any Other Business**

The Clerk had been contacted by a resident on Green Lane about 4 trees which were resting on the telephone cables. The caller had explained that having contacted both Highway and the Borough Council had not been able to get anyone to act. Councillor Park-Weir explained he had rung the electricity supplier about this issue and they had visited but were not able to act as the cables were not theirs.

**Action:** Councillor Park-Weir to contact BT and report back to the Clerk so information can be provided to the resident.

**68 Date of next meeting**

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 8pm in Memorial Hall

Meeting dates for 2016:-

- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December

### **Matters discussed at Open Forum**

The Chairman opened this part of the meeting by giving an update on the flooding in Ellisfield and the work carried out to deal with the issue, The Chairman reported as follows:-

- “Digger Dave” has been employed for one day to clear the grips and ditches through the village to ensure any future rainfall is able to escape and not flood the roads.
- Basingstoke & Deane provided sandbags for the village which were delivered to the homes in Cannon Close.
- Dealing with detritus; stones flint and gravel on the roads especially at the bottom of Green Lane and College Lane - Highways were asked on Wednesday to clear/sweep the lanes. Tomorrow we will be putting them under as much pressure as we can to get action.
- Dealing with blocked culvert and pipes under the road (particularly the culvert up from Farriers Field). Dave cannot address those. They clearly need addressing and as a result of our inspection trip it was clear our next step needs to be to action getting them blown out by Highways.
- Dealing with damage to highways. Highways were also asked to look at that and action repairs to tarmac and potholes. Again tomorrow we will be trying to get visibility on timing
- Dealing with silt in flood pits. I do not feel qualified to know how much if at all this has been a significant factor. My feel is that it's been much less of an issue than the problem that not enough water was getting into the upper flood pits (bottom of Fox Hill), Lower Common X2 or into the grips. But the Environment Agency or other experts should be asked for advice. Other views very welcome.
- Dealing with the possibility that changes to land use or farming methods or planting to create barriers to slow and divert water flow could help. Again I do not feel qualified to know how much if at all this has been a significant factor. But the Environment Agency or other experts should be asked for advice. Other views again very welcome.
- Following up on a proposal floated by Highways – that a group of villages put in place a cooperative structure that would coordinate the receipt and disbursement of funding to (a) local contractor(s) to receive e.g. £1000 pa per village from Highways to maintain grips, drains and culverts – We agreed to look into it at the last EPC meeting but the Christmas holiday has meant it's been hard to progress. With that behind us and this flooding it should however be easier now to get it to the top of village agendas. If we could make it happen it would ensure regular maintenance and funding. Seems worth exploring energetically.
- Organise a meeting with Highways, the Environment Agency and the landowners of the land on which the flood pits sit or in who may have shared responsibility with Highways to maintain drains and grips. The objective is to receive advice from the Environment Agency (who have most of the flood management expertise) on what action and long term arrangements would be sensible to help minimise the impact of high rainfall and resultant run off. And to clarify who was responsible for doing what and paying for what. After that meeting they would be able to draw up a plan.

A member of the public asked PC Reid if he would be able to speak to the Highways Team to help get the stones and silt moved off the roads. It was reported that a cyclist who use route 23 through the village had fallen off his bicycle after slipping on the detritus. There had also been a number of comments about the state of the roads and some cyclists had got off their bicycles and walked because it was considered so dangerous. PC Reid agreed to speak to Highways.

The Chairman thanked PC Reid and all the volunteers who had given their time to help with the flooding both on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January when it occurred and following.

A member of the public asked when Basingstoke & Deane had last cleared the ditches and grips through the village, it was agreed that it had been some years and some of the grips had been filled in with garden waste. It was agreed that the current situation was to be used as a catalyst to ensure Highways clearing through the village in the summer months to ensure the village was ready for excessive rainfall in the winter.

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