

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT 8PM AT THE MEMORIAL HALL ELLISFIELD
ON FRIDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2019**

Present:

Committee:

Andy Swanston (Chairman)
Zani Robinson (Treasurer)
Paul Brown
Graham Simpson
Janette Bacon (Secretary)

Members:

Dirk Bacon
Steve Brabbin
Dave Fripp
Sue Fripp
Phil Self
Diane Simpson
Ali Swanston

Apologies:

1. Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 23rd February 2018.

The Minutes from the meeting held on Friday 23rd February 2018 were approved. Proposed by Ali Swanston and seconded by Dirk Bacon. The Minutes were agreed and duly signed.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

2018 was another good turnout for volunteers. After a fairly wet and snowy start, the season settled down to be fairly light one for the Volunteers group with the hot sunny weather. Indeed there were mainly occasions where we skipped the sessions in the schedule.

In terms of volunteers there have been no changes to the volunteers apart from Sean Wheatley stepping down as a volunteer. We are always looking for new volunteers and indeed if you know of anyone – perhaps a neighbour who has recently moved into the village – do let any of the committee members know in order that we can approach them.

On the subject of the flood defences the Parish Council and Preston Candover are now turning their attention to the bottom of Green Lane. You may recall that in 2017 the defences at the back of Lower Common were cleared and upgraded with the help of village volunteers. We have a similar (but less complex) initiative at the bottom of Green Lane whereby we will be removing trees in order than the highways can access and dig out the ditch. This activity starts on the 8th February.

With respect to the storage of the equipment I'd like to thank Marcus and Lucinda Rule and Julian and Margaret Evans for letting us use their premises to store the equipment for Burial Ground and Gravel Pits.

On the equipment side we there weren't any major issues with the equipment apart from the Ride-On Mower which had a major service during the year. Going forward we will need to plan to replace the ride-on within the next 3-4 year timeframe. There were no other equipment replacements but we do plan to replace the strimmer at Lower Common due to its age.

On the safety side, I can confirm the Risk Assessments have been through their annual check by the area co-ordinators. These assessments also act as instructions on the use of the equipment so as a reminder of Health and Safety, especially new volunteers, please take the time to review these materials which can be found on the Ellisfield website.

With respect to the grant for 2019, we have requested an increase of £200 to cover the replacement of the Lower Common strimmer. To put this in context this will be the first increase since 2014. Zani will provide more updates in her Treasurers report.

Moving on to the committee. As I mentioned in a recent email to you all, I will be stepping down as chairman after 7 years. I'd first like to thank you the volunteers for all your support during this time (EVG does not exist without you!!) and also the EVG committee who provide invaluable support in the day to day running of the group. I've always maintained the group is an integral part of the village community providing the opportunity for villagers to get to know each other and benefit the village as a whole through activities such as the flood defence work. I am however very pleased to announce that one of the long standing committee members, Graham Simpson, has come forward to take on the role as Chairman for the EVG and co-ordinator for Lower Common. We will cover election of officers later in the agenda. For myself, after much cajoling by Tim, I have taken up a role as Parish Councillor.

Once again, I'd like to thank YOU the volunteers for your on-going commitment to the group for which it would not exist.

Andy Swanston

EVG Chairman February 1, 2019

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented her report:

We have had a fairly benign year for repairs and maintenance, with no replacements. In 2019 we will be replacing the Lower Common strimmer at a cost in the region of £250.00.

As stated in the 2017 report, in 2018 EVG paid for the rental of Cannon Close garage for the years 2017/8 and 2018/9. In 2019 this will revert to an annual event.

EVG's main expenses remain insurance followed by new equipment, maintenance and the shared rental of the Cannon Close garage where the Lower Common equipment, including the Ride on Mower, is stored. The Ride on Mower has had a major overhaul this year, but will require a service before use this year.

For the last five years EVG has requested a Grant of £1,450.00 from Ellisfield Parish Council. To keep an optimum balance in the account to allow for contingencies, EVG will need to increase their request for a Grant to £1.650.00 for 2019.

Action: Graham agreed to inform the PCC that the ride-on mower would need replacing and, hence, we would seek funding to provide a replacement. In the meantime, Graham would investigate the cost of a replacement.

6. Proposal: That the EVG shall continue operation in 2019

The proposal that the EVG shall continue operation in in 2019 was proposed by Dirk Bacon, seconded by Phil Self and unanimously agreed.

7. Election of Officers

Chairman: Andy Swanston informed the meeting that he was stepping down as EVG Chairman. Graham Simpson had volunteered to take on the role. His election was proposed by Ali Swanston, seconded by Dave Fripp and unanimously agreed – duly elected.

The Committee and members expressed their thanks to Andy for his seven years of voluntary service to the EVG as Chairman and acknowledge his achievements and unstinting contribution. This was proposed by Dirk Bacon, seconded by Sue Fripp and unanimously agreed.

Treasurer: Zani Robinson expressed a willingness to continue as the EVG Treasurer – proposed by Sue Fripp, seconded by Ali Swanston and unanimously agreed – duly re-elected.

Area Manager Gravel Pits: Graham Simpson was taking on Area Manager Lower Common, leaving a vacancy as Area Manager Gravel Pits. Andy Webb had expressed a willingness to take on the role — proposed by Ali Swanston, seconded by Steve Brabbin and unanimously agreed — duly elected. The Chairman would inform Andy that he had been successfully voted onto the Committee in the role.

Area Manager Lower Common: Graham Simpson expressed a willingness to succeed Andy Swanston as Area Manager Lower Common — proposed by Janette Bacon, seconded by Dirk Bacon and unanimously agreed — duly elected.

Area Manager Burial Ground: Paul Brown expressed a willingness to continue as the Area Manager Burial Ground — proposed by Dirk Bacon, seconded by Dave Fripp and unanimously agreed — duly re-elected.

Village Hall Representative: Ray Reed had informed the Committee that he was stepping down as the EVG's Representative on the Village Hall Committee. It was agreed that, as no volunteer had come forward to succeed Ray, the position would be left vacant.

Secretary: Janette Bacon expressed a willingness to continue as the EVG Secretary — proposed by Diane Simpson, seconded by Sue Fripp and unanimously agreed — duly re-elected.

Changes to the list of EVG Volunteers

The Chairman informed the meeting that the following volunteers would be stepping down from the EVG and thanks them for their service to the group:

Adam Gilvia

Sean Wheatley

The Chairman informed the meeting that that Jamie Miles had volunteered to join the EVG and welcomed him to the group.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Diane raised the question of security in respect of the garage where some of the equipment was stored. It was confirmed that this was an issue and some of the garages had been the subject of break-ins previously, but Basingstoke Council, who owns the garages, had improved the locks which, in turn, provided a better deterrent.

9.0 Closure

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.25 for refreshments