

Ellisfield Parish Council - Second Open Forum Statistics (22 Meetings: 2011 to Latest Minutes)

	Residents Present at Start of Meeting	< Second Open Forum >		Meeting Length	
		Comments	Questions	Hours	Minutes
2014 - February 3	4	4	2	2	20
2013 - November 25	2	1	3	2	-
October 14	2	5	1	2	-
September 2	1	-	1	2	25
July 1	5	1	-	1	50
May 13	2	1	-	2	25
April 8	17	4	1	2	18
February 25	11	-	-	2	30
2012 - December 10	1	-	-	2	30
October 29	3	-	-	2	20
September 17	1	-	-	2	16
June 18	19	-	-	2	55
April 30	4	-	-	3	7
March 19	10	1	2	3	50
January 23	12	-	-	1	53
2011 - December 12	0	-	-	2	20
October 24	13	2	7	3	5
September 5	9	1	1	2	40
July 11	14	1	1	2	50
June 12	13	1	2	3	18
April 4	14	1	-	3	0
Feb 14	4	-	1	2	0
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22 Meetings - Total		23	22	55	52
Average per meeting		1.05	1	2	32

As can be seen, for the above 22 parish council meetings, residents remained for an average of 2 hours and 32 minutes before making an average of just 1.05 comments (23/22) and asking just 1 (22/22) question in the second Open Forum.

For the most recent 8 parish council meetings (the 7 held in 2013 and the only 1 held in 2014 meeting with published minutes), the average number of comments doubled to 2 (16/8) but the number of questions remained at 1 (8/8) average. **However, it should be noted that ALL 16 comments and 7 out of the 8 questions asked were made by Paul Turner (the other question was asked by Meg Freeman).**

Meetings

24th March, 2014 (2 residents present at the start of the meeting)
(Minutes not yet released.)

3rd February, 2014 (4 residents present at the start of the meeting)

Second Open Forum:

Resident Paul Turner made the following comments/raised the following questions;

1. Comment: The rejection notice from BDBC ref Northgate Cottage was priceless
2. Comment: Regarding the Ellisfield website, Mr Turner stated he had supplied Cllr Guinness with a complete solution by email and now the parish council wants to talk about a 'contract.'
3. Question: Did the cost quoted for replacement noticeboards include VAT?
4. Comment: Kissing gates on zig-zag footpath, Mr Turner confirmed gates previously installed by Ellisfield volunteers were wood but that he recommended metal but suggested it should be landowner Adrian de Ferranti's decision
5. Question: Does the 'Welcome Pack' contain details of the website?
6. Comment: Finally if the parish council's 'meddling' causes him (Paul Turner) to abandon the Ellisfield website then the parish council can answer to the rest of the village.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

25th November, 2013 (2 residents present at the start of the meeting)

Second Open Forum:

Paul Turner raised the following points:

1. *Comment:* Requested that any village news is passed on to website administrator; he had not been informed of Mrs de Ferranti's death.
2. *Question:* Was the cost of the Ellisfield.org.uk domain included in budget considerations?
3. *Question:* Are two seats needed at Gravel Pits? Cllr Guinness to ask Margaret Evans what is needed.
4. *Question:* What are councillors proposing to discuss in 'closed session.' Cllr Guinness replied that discussions were to be based on recent email exchange between himself and Mr Turner regarding the ownership and management of the Ellisfield.gov>Ellisfield.org website.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

14th October, 2013 (2 residents present at the start of the meeting)

Second Open Forum:

Paul Turner made the following points:

1. *Comment:* Steve Brown had first come across the 'Big Picture' Broadband map
2. *Comment:* All work on 'kissing gates' should be done in collaboration with landowner Adrian de Ferranti
3. *Question:* Had HCC Rights of Way been approached to supply 'kissing gates'
4. *Comment:* HCC RoW should be notified of intention to replace stiles with 'kissing gates'
5. *Comment:* Adrian de Ferranti should be given final say in choice of 'kissing gates'
6. *Comment:* Hannah Houstin-Lacey used to send 'items of interest' to Paul Turner in addition to reports to place on website; reports only now received

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

2nd September, 2013 (1 resident present at the start of the meeting)

Second Open Forum:

1. *Question:* Mrs Meg Freeman asked if the parish council could help in the matter of the removal of a pile of brick rubble in the parking bay at Farrier's Field. BDBC dustbin lorry had knocked down wall of dustbin shelter and contractors who repaired wall had not removed rubble.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm

1st July, 2013 (5 members of the public present at the start of the meeting)

Second Open Forum:

1. *Comment:* Paul Turner repeated his request that Councillors look at the website and encourage all to report anything that happens in the village that should be posted.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

13th May, 2013 (2 residents present at the start of the meeting)

Second Open Forum:

1. *Comment:* Paul Turner requested speakers' names to be added to APM agenda.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm

8th April, 2013 (17 members of the public present at the start of the meeting)

Second Open Forum:

Paul Turner made the following points;

1. *Comment:* Confirmed offer of help to JM
2. *Comment:* Burial ground rubbish bin full – needs to be taken to road (CC and RT)
3. *Comment:* Suggested adding a request for inclusion on village email register to Welcome Pack
4. *Question:* Who is responsible for contents of phone box (changing/updating books etc) AW
5. *Comment:* Newsletters on website all PDF, suggested Buddy System for delivery to those without internet access.

The meeting closed at 10.08pm

25th February, 2013 (11 residents present at the start of the meeting)

Second Open Forum:

No one present

The meeting closed at 10.00pm

10th December, 2012 (1 resident present at the start of the meeting)

Second Open Forum:

No one present

The meeting closed at 10pm

29th October, 2012 (3 residents present at the start of the meeting)

Second Open Forum:

No one present

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

17th September, 2012 (1 resident present at the start of the meeting)

Second Open Forum:

No one present

The meeting closed at 9.46pm

18th June, 2012 (19 residents present at the start of the meeting)

Second Open Forum:

No one present

The meeting closed at 10.25pm

30th April, 2012 (4 residents present at the start of the meeting)

Second Open Forum:

No one present.

The meeting closed at 10.37pm.

19th March, 2012 (10 residents present at the start of the meeting)

Second Open Forum:

1. Question: Mrs Meg Freeman asked about lack of progress regarding Affordable Housing – Chairman replied that cross-subsidy was not yet BDBC policy and EPC would need to await final LDF before progressing.
2. Question: Mrs Tracey Gilvear asked why a questionnaire to consult village was needed if EPC had already decided to oppose Anaerobic Digestion Plant – Chairman said consultation was necessary to ensure this was the majority view across the village and EPC were putting in considerable time and effort to understand implications of proposal.
3. Comment: Zani Robinson made the point that despite having registered for improved broadband, her house did not appear of the HCC map. She would register again and wondered how many others in the village needed to.

The meeting closed at 10.20pm

23rd January, 2012 (12 residents present at the start of the meeting)

Second Open Forum:

No further points raised

The meeting closed at 9.23pm

12th December, 2011 (No residents present at the start of the meeting)

Second Open Forum:

No one present

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

24th October, 2011 (13 residents present at the start of the meeting)

Second Open Forum:

1. Comment: Andy Webb stated that there seemed to be an increase in dog fouling on Lower Common – it was agreed to monitor this and mention it in next Ellisfield Parish Council newsletter. Action: Clerk
2. Question: Peter Hopwood asked if a Neighbourhood Plan replaced a Village (Parish) Plan and why the Parish Council had turned down Paul Turner's Village Plan proposal. Chairman responded that they were not the same thing; a Village (Parish) Plan aims to encompass the aspirations for the village including village schools, allotments etc, all aspects other than planning, whereas a Neighbourhood Plan is all about planning. PH asked if the PC was in favour of both. Chairman explained he thought Ellisfield was better without a Village (Parish) Plan than with one, citing that there were already a lot of people doing a lot of things for the village and who would have the extra time to produce plan? He continued to say that over past 6 years Village/Parish Council had achieve a lot; Traffic Calming, 30mph limit at the bottom of the village, Allotments, Hill Farm Pond restored, Phone Box and had dealt with numerous small items as they arose. Chairman questioned how much

else could/would have been achieved if Ellisfield had a Parish Plan, suggesting that people don't think hard enough when answering questions which are not immediately relevant to them, questioning would a Parish Plan help with decisions about Lower Common, play equipment/ storage container etc? Chairman carried on to say that The Localism Bill was different, it was setting out to change the planning landscape and Neighbourhood Planning was something that would have to be addressed, whereas a Parish Plan was optional and doesn't cover planning.

3. Comment: Paul Turner responded to Chairman's points saying that a Village/Parish Plan was all embracing; the people to produce the plan would be recruited at the exploratory meeting he had asked Parish Council to endorse. He stated that he thought the value of the plan to the village would be up to the Plan Committee and residents to ensure that it would be of use to the village and in response to the Chairman's comments that people don't think hard enough when answering questions which are not immediately relevant to them, he responded that the questions would require objective answers (by asking for yes/no answers and/or scaled (eg, 1 to 9) answers), not ask for subjective comments. Paul Turner also commented that the Parish Council did not turn down the creation of a Village Plan, the proposal put to councillors was that the parish council endorse (and chair) an exploratory residents' meeting only. That was what was refused.
4. Question: Paul Turner also asked How much money is in the EPC Reserve Account, Clerk responded £9,800 as stated in Financial Report. He continued to ask if there were rules regarding the amount of money a parish council can hold at the end of the financial year, in relation to the precept amount. Response from Clerk that she had raised this question at a recent HALC Financial Training Session and was told that this was not the case for very small councils such as Ellisfield.
5. Question: Paul Turner then asked what Ellisfield's £9,800 Reserve Cash was reserved for; Clerk responded it was for emergencies such as legal costs to evict travellers, floodpits etc.
6. Question: Paul Turner also asked whether Parish Council's new status as an employer would be a problem in regards to the litter pickers, Clerk responded it was early days and this was not yet known.
7. Question: PT then commented that EPC used to meet on the first Monday of the month, except for January and August. Residents therefore knew when meetings were going to be held. The current council now only meets, on average, 7 times a year and although it's always on a Monday the actual dates vary from meeting to meeting. Could the parish council consider going back to the earlier arrangement? Chairman's response: we are in fact considering publishing a schedule of Parish Council meetings at the beginning of the year.
8. Question: PT asked if the Affordable Housing Working Party was a parish council sub-committee; Clerk responded that it was.
9. Question: Finally comment from Paul Turner; Mention was made that Neighbourhood Plans was one of the two chosen subjects (the other being Community Engagement) for the upcoming Parish Conference / Mayors' Reception. If the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan is something that residents can be involved in, why not combine it with Affordable Housing Working Party and open up both together for resident discussion? Chairman responded that: Neighbourhood Plans can only be created by Parish Councils, with due consultation with residents and affordable housing is a key component of Neighbourhood Planning.

The meeting closed at 10.35pm.

5th September, 2011 (9 residents present at the start of the meeting)

Second Open Forum:

1. Comment: Ted Dowson commented that a loop system for the hall may be expensive and that the local authority is only obliged to provide waymarkers for rights of way at highways.
2. Question: Ted Dowson also asked for the need for EVG to find alternative accommodation for Lower Common equipment to be noted. Cllr Guinness registered concern about the appearance of the proposed container and reported that both the Clerk and Secretary of EVG were exploring an alternative arrangement of renting a garage in Cannon Close from Kingfisher Sovereign.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

11th July, 2011 (14 residents present at the start of the meeting)

Second Open Forum:

1. Question: Paul Turner asked Chairman to clarify reasons for decision to delay decision about progressing Parish Plan until Sept/Oct. Chairman responded – the passage of time – see above
2. Comment: Mrs Beverley Guinness said that consideration might be given to ways on encouraging younger residents to respond to questionnaire e.g. a barbeque for those that did.

The meeting closed at 10.20pm.

12th June, 2011 (13 residents present at the start of the meeting)

Second Open Forum:

1. *Comment:* Peter Hopwood mentioned that that one motorist had received compensation for damage due to potholes on Axford Road. The importance of reporting potholes immediately was emphasised.
2. *Question:* Mrs Meg Freeman asked if the Church Lane Affordable Housing project had been shelved. Chairman replied it was not a formal proposal and had raised the issue of cross subsidy with BDBC and had led to other sites being raised.
3. *Question:* Mark Thomas asked if EPC position re Simon Linford proposal could be confirmed – Chairman reprised.

Paul Turner started to say something as people were leaving but didn't finish....

The meeting closed at 10.48pm.

4th April, 2011 (14 residents present at the start of the meeting and 3 members of Alectron consortium ref Solar Farm planning application)

Second Open Forum:

1. *Comment:* Glen Horgan stated that some neighbours had expressed concern about development at Copper Beeches, Axford Road. Clerk – subsequently checked plans – building appears to be as plans.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm.

14th February, 2011 (4 residents present at the start of the meeting)

Second Open Forum:

1. *Question:* Mrs Meg Freeman asked if the parish council had considered the field adjacent to Mrs Heath's house for affordable housing; she also advised the meeting that a recently available affordable house in Upton Grey had 86 people bidding in BDBC scheme.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

END