

ELLISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on Thursday 27th April at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Ellisfield

NAME	ATTENDANCE	APOLOGIES	ABSENT
Cllr Haas		√	
Cllr L Rule	√		
Cllr M Guinness		√	
Cllr Park-Weir	√		
Cllr Dunse	√		
Cllr Swanston	√		

Also in attendance: Hannah Ford- Clerk, 2 members of the public, Borough Councillor Paul Gaskell, PCSO Andy Jones and Borough Councillor Diane Taylor. Apologies were noted from many members of the village also.

1 Introduction, Welcome

Cllr Andy Swanston as Vice chair chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were **NOTED** from Councillor Haas and Cllr Guinness. Julian Jones has also sent his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting today.

3 To receive the Annual Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council A brief report from the Parish Council year 2021/2022

Annual Parish Meeting – 27th April 2023

Thank you for coming this evening and many apologies that I cannot be here in person for health reasons. However, while my doctors thought it unwise to attend tonight, they didn't tell me to stand down from the Parish Council so, myself, Andy Swanston, Mary Guinness and Gavin Park Weir were all elected unopposed in advance of the elections on 4th May, with nobody else having come forward. Lucinda Rule and Gordon Dunse have both agreed to be co-opted back onto the Ellisfield Parish Council (EPC). I would also like to thank Andy for his support as my Vice Chair and for standing in for me tonight.

I also want to thank Gordon, Gavin, Mary, Lucinda and above all, Caroline Cazenove (who stepped down last May), for all the hard work and support they do on the Parish Council and for the Village generally. Welcome Packs, for example don't get delivered to new residents on their own and nor do Allotments run themselves!

I also want to thank Karen Ross for coming to our rescue last year as our interim Parish Clerk and helping to recruit and train up Hannah Ford, who has settled into her new role extremely well and already passed her ILCA exams which is the first step to becoming a fully qualified Parish Clerk. I would also like to thank Steve Brabbin as our lengthsman and in particular for the work does to maintain the flood defences. Finally, there are also a number of people in the Village who have been invaluable in their support and lending professional help to the Parish Council for which we are truly grateful.

I am very conscious that an appointment to the Parish Council can seem like a life sentence. I want to ensure that people can sign up knowing that they can come off again without feeling guilty or feel they would be leaving a big hole. To that end, Gavin Park Weir, who has been on the PC for a number of years, has indicated that he would like to step down this coming year. Anyone who is interested (and being interested does not mean you have signed up!) please talk to one of us. We want to put together a long-term succession plan of interested residents for the future – a number of people have already expressed an interest.

During the year, a several projects were completed including Broadband for the north of the village (although not as quickly as we would have wished but this was out of our hands). We have also installed Broadband in the Memorial Hall and new Play Equipment on Lower Common as signalled in last year's report. After consulting a number of past and present EVG volunteers, we have incorporated the admin activities into the Parish Council, saving time and cost for those involved in the running and volunteering thereof. The EVG, however, will continue to operate as normal with Andy Webb as Chairman managing the volunteers. Finally, we have also installed a new hand rail in the Burial Ground.

For many years, the EPC has successfully and safely employed two teenagers to litter pick around the Village. When we came to renew our licence with HCC, they would no longer allow young people to collect sort refuse due to a change in regulations. This came as big change for the village.

We have managed to negotiate the installation of some bins in the village from Basingstoke and Deane who will be responsible for emptying them. The bins have been installed on College Lane and Green Lane and will help keep Ellisfield tidy. If you do notice an increase of litter in the village please contact the Clerk who will report back the Basingstoke and Deane.

If we can, we will organise some voluntary litter picking as and when allowed by the authorities.

On the subject of Potholes, particularly Berrydown lane, we are well aware of the current problems and have involved our MP Ranil Jayawardena (who has his own campaign), Highways, HCC Chancellor and Borough Councillors in the hope they can make progress. The latest information we have is a plan to repair the potholes this year and then resurface in 2024/25. Whilst not ideal, Highways have confirmed they will continue to monitor the road every 3 months. I would ask you as residents that you continue to report potholes to HCC and Ranil in order to maintain the pressure.

Last, but not least, good progress has been made with Edna Chilton's book on the History of Ellisfield and thanks to Tim Guinness, Susie Dean and several other people who have been through it to spot any inaccuracies, provide names or more detail in places.

4 To receive reports from outside bodies

The Belles of St Martins

The year started off well with the long-awaited village pantomime in February at the memorial hall. Most of the choir members took part with some additional villagers also taking part. The pantomime – Dick Whittington, which played to full houses and ran for 3 performances, was well supported and brought the village back together after a long break due to covid. The profits were shared equally between the choir and the hall, as rehearsals had not been charged for. Due to storm damage to the roof, the church was unavailable for rehearsals and services, so subsequently, the services were held over at the memorial hall and were lay led or led by a visiting vicar. The belles took part in several services.

Thankfully, by June, we were able to get back into the church in time for the platinum jubilee celebrational service. We invited Ross Palmer from Cliddesden to accompany us on his guitar.

September, the country was in mourning as we all heard the sad news of Her Majesty's death. A few of us sang at a service the following Sunday singing 'Make me a channel of your peace'. The service was led by Peter Raine and we were accompanied by Sylvia on the organ. Later in the month, we sang at a wedding in Preston Candover church accompanied by Richard Morgan. The bride and her family were thrilled at our contribution. The next day we sang at the harvest festival service accompanied by Caroline Cazenove.

November we were invited to sing at Dummer again for the remembrance service and to finish the month off and to kick start the festive season, we were invited to sing for the Ivy Club at Old Basing British Legion. 10 members of the choir performed at this event singing popular Christmas songs and we were accompanied by Sylvia, Ross and Neil. A really lovely afternoon which was enjoyed by all, and they very kindly paid us, which was unexpected, but very much appreciated.

And to finish the year off, the choir sang at the 9 Lessons and Carols service. We processed in with our newly bought candles singing 'Once in Royal David's City'. Which looked very effective according to the feedback I received.

And that was the end of the year!!! The choir has now 21 members and are looking forward to another busy year ahead.

Teresa Webb-Choir leader for the Belles of St Martins.

The Oil Syndicate

APM 2023 - Ellisfield Oil Syndicate

During the last 12 months (Apr '22 - Mar '23) we have actually had 6 order cycles for oil rather than the usual 5. This was due to the very high prices last March '22 and the difficulties in getting bulk deliveries from the regular suppliers. After a May and July delivery we were back on the usual schedule for September.

Although the oil price is still historically high (double of 2021), it has been coming down very slightly every order cycle from the May peak of 93.44p per litre to last month's 74.9p per litre. Thankfully the syndicate has not broken through the £1 psychological price barrier although I know many of the members were forced to order above this price last March and April when we couldn't arrange delivery.

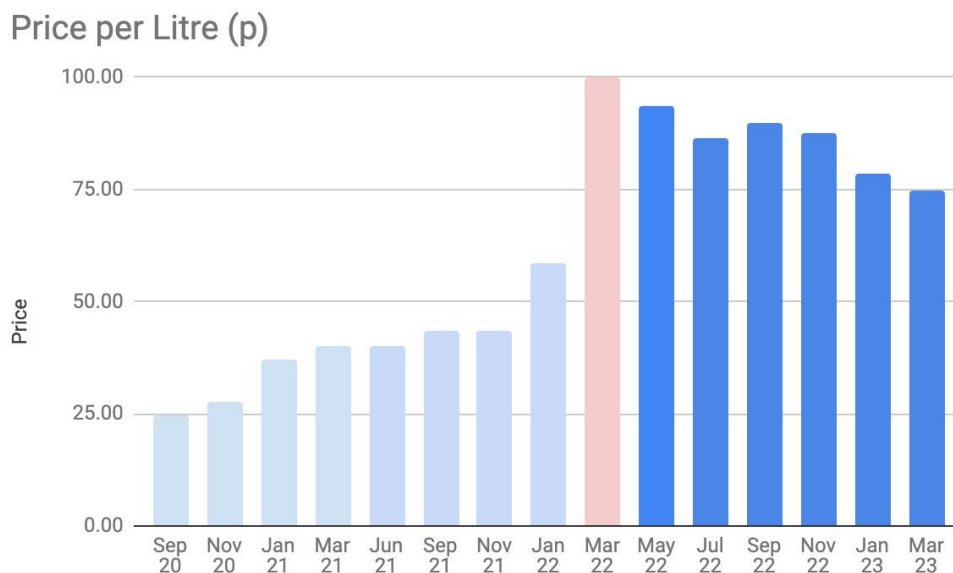
I'll leave price forecasting to the experts but it feels like these current circa 75p per litre pricing might be the new norm for a while.

Since the last report for 2022 the syndicate has gained a couple of new members and a couple of members have moved out of the village. The total remains at 52 members.

The syndicate has ordered over 91,000 litres this year, higher than last year due to the order/delivery miss. The group saved over £4,500 against the prices quoted by alternative suppliers as there were some big pricing differentials earlier in the year when delivery was difficult.

We have continued to use Rawlings Fuels as the preferred supplier for the members of the syndicate as they provide a very competitive quote and efficient delivery service.

The graph below shows the trend in delivery prices with the March 22 price of £1 per litre when we did not order.



For further information please contact Ashley Turberfield at ellisfieldoil@gmail.com

The Ellisfield Volunteer group

Once again, volunteers working for the EVG undertook the maintenance of the three public spaces in Ellisfield (Lower Common, Gravel Pits and Burial Grounds) throughout 2022.

Mowing at all three sites was suspended for a couple of months during the summer, as the extreme hot and dry conditions meant that there was no grass to cut and many of the volunteers were therefore lucky enough to receive byes for their allotted weekends.

All of the Group's machinery worked well, once again helped by Steve Gould's pre-season maintenance service, which I am happy to say he has undertaken again this spring.

To finish the year, a number of volunteers turned out on what was a warm December morning to help with the end of year clear-ups. This meant that all 3 areas were left looking neat and tidy for the winter.

Finally, at the EVG's AGM in February of this year, the group said thank you and farewell to two long time served members of the committee, unfortunately leaving the group without a secretary and treasurer. A motion was proposed and agreed by the members, to make a constitutional change, such that the group's administrative functions would become integrated with those of the Ellisfield Parish Council. Going forwards, the volunteers will continue tending to the public spaces on behalf of the community, but now with closer ties to the Parish Council.

Over the course of the last year, the EVG has continued to recruit a number of new members, replacing those who have moved away from the village. This has meant that the total number of volunteers remained very similar, and the number of times you have been asked to help has been kept down to a minimum. We are always happy to welcome new volunteers, so if anyone wishes to become involved, please contact any of the committee who can tell you about the work of the group and help you to get involved.

Andy Webb
Chairman

The Memorial Hall

Ellisfield Annual meeting

Memorial Hall Report – 2022/23

The Memorial Hall continues to perform a central role within our village – it is solvent, wind and watertight, has a well-maintained garden, and is admired by many.

2022 – regular users were The Yoga Group, The Belles Choir and the TCC sessions.

2023 – regular users continue to be the Yoga Group, The Belles Choir and the TCC sessions and have been added to by Private Theatricals (a group of thespians as the name suggests).

Ad Hoc bookings continue from private individuals for family parties, from the Girl Guides for 'cook outs', from the various village groups for their meetings, etc.

The Hall committee, having asked the village for their input and direction, have had Superfast Broadband installed, thanks to the Ellisfield Parish Council, and A Projector Screen fitted, thanks to the Ellisfield Ladies Club. A Detailed Survey will be done to identify any significant fabric requirements that need to be addressed to improve the insulation as well as any major works especially the roof.

The Memorial Hall will live screen the King's Coronation making full use of the new facilities, broadband & screen.

Gordon Dunse

The Ellisfield Education Trust

For the year ending 31st December 2022, the Educational Trust received income of £2,964 compared with £2,636 the previous year. There were only three applications for educational grants in the year, each one was considered as eligible and a total of £1,420 was paid away. The trustees were disappointed that more applications were not received this year, as in the previous twelve months more money was given out (£3,375) than we received in income.

The capital value of the trust ended at £61,982 compared to a value of £63,951 at the end of the previous year. This was due to the fall in value of M & G Charifund units. The bank balance rose to £9,281 which is close to the accumulated excess of income over expenditure (£ 9,971) which has built up over the last 25 years.

The annual return was submitted to the Charity Commission on 9th February 2023.

The trustees continue to meet on a regular basis to consider applications.

Bernard Cazenove

Ellisfield Village Association

REPORT from EVA Chair April 2023

EVA was set up to respond to several large-scale planning threats to the village in 2011. It was very active for a number of years, supported by many residents of Ellisfield.

EVA's mission is; To **Protect, Appreciate and Enhance Ellisfield and its surrounding landscape.**

Since the massive threat from Portsmouth Estates to build 2,500 houses on the beautiful chalk landscape between Ellisfield and Cliddesden, we have joined forces with Cliddesden to form STaNHd and our energies have been directed towards fighting this inappropriate development - successfully keeping it out of the local plan for now.

Police Report PCSO Andy Jones

No formal report was submitted.

1x burglary. Historical report. No police action

Concern for safety- pedestrian on A339

2 reports of criminal damage

1 dangerous dog. No ownership established

1x dangerous driving on A339. Incorrectly registered vehicle

1x Hunting report £8,000 pheasants shot and killed

Poaching report-On closer inspection no crime was committed.

Crime

Theft of vehicles Keyless cars most targeted. Mercedes most heavily targeted. Problem across the whole of Basingstoke and Deane.

Catalytic Converters- Honda and Toyota most targeted.

St Martins Church

No report was submitted

Borough Councillor Paul Gaskell

No formal report was submitted.

Councillor Gaskell gave a report which covered many issues including Potholes, flooding,

He acknowledged that the road surface has failed. The road is too unsafe to survey independently. HCC have been contacted along with County Councillor.

Bins- no change over the summer

'Carbon busting team'-Sustainability and energy efficiency drive

Fly tipping- Becoming a bigger problem locally ensure provider have waste carrier licence

Family Friendly arts festival in June

Energy support for non-connected customers subsidy provided for customers.

Cost of living assistance provided £1 million given since 2022.

Down Grange given new surface and running track

Councillor grants scheme opens in early spring.

£3 million on theatres

Eastrop fountain no longer in use

New 'Aquadrome' proposed

Diane Taylor Borough Councillor

No report given.

County Councillor Juliet Henderson

Hampshire County Councillor April Report 2023 Oakley Overton and The Candovers

- **Budget provides £6m extra funding to pothole repairs**

In March the persistent wet weather created further deterioration in road surfaces. This has been frustrating as February was not as bad as forecast and Hampshire Highways were trying to get on top of the situation following a very wet and freezing January. Let's hope we have a drier month in April! Hampshire Highways are working round the clock to assess, prioritise and fix potholes. Please continue to report road defects on the website, we really appreciate it!

Potholes: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

In the Spring Budget on 15 March the Chancellor announced a further £200m for the national Pothole Fund to help local communities to tackle potholes with £5,954,400 confirmed for Hampshire.

This is welcome additional funding. But the twin challenges of ongoing materials inflation and ongoing severe weather means that substantial further funding is still needed. We will continue to make the case to Government for further funding and a multi-year settlement.

- **Create a Local Nature Reserve**

On 20 March 2023 DEFRA and Natural England updated the guidance on declaring a Local Nature Reserve. It is now much easier for Parish and Town Councils to make a declaration. This is a great opportunity for Parish Councils to contribute to Nature Recovery whilst engaging members of the community of all ages in a worthwhile project which leaves a lasting legacy for generations to come.

How to declare a local nature reserve

To declare your site as a LNR, first you should contact Natural England by email: consultations@naturalengland.org.uk or telephone: 0300 060 3900. You'll be asked to formally declare your LNR by sending a draft declaration document - you can use this [declaration document template](#) (MS Word Document, 26 KB). It must be signed by the relevant local authority committees, have a map showing the boundary and a management plan detailing:

- ownership of the land
- any agreements or partnerships
- why the LNR site was chosen
- aims and objectives
- biodiversity management and environmental education
- community participation, access and visitor management
- costs and funding arrangements

Following the consultation you will be asked to send the final declaration document to Natural England, signed by the relevant local authority committees.

To read the guidance in full please click on this link:

www.gov.uk/guidance/create-and-manage-local-nature-reserves

- **Campaign to recruit more Foster Parents**

While we have been working hard to reduce the number of children coming into care, the gap between the number of children needing a loving home and the number of Foster Carers available in Hampshire, continues to widen.

In order to close the gap, Fostering Hampshire Children has launched its #OpenYourDoor campaign. Dedicated to discovering 150 new fostering households across the county by the end of 2023, the campaign works with local communities across Hampshire to galvanise residents to support vulnerable children who desperately need our help.

Parish Councils can play an important and useful role in supporting the campaign by:

- a) sharing the messages across your PC social media channels and email groups;
- b) including an article in your local newsletters – see below example.

Thank you for supporting the #OpenYourDoor campaign.

Open Your Door to Fostering

Every 12 hours another Hampshire child comes into care in need of a foster carer.

Children deserve to feel safe and happy. They deserve to be cared for. They deserve the opportunity to work towards achieving their potential. They deserve to have a stable home.

While Hampshire County Council has been working hard to reduce the number of children coming into care, the gap between the number of children needing a loving home and the number of foster carers available in Hampshire continues to widen. For every child for whom we find a home, there are others waiting. In order to close the gap, Fostering Hampshire Children has launched a campaign asking Hampshire residents to **#OpenYourDoor**. Dedicated to finding 150 new foster care households across the county by the end of 2023, the campaign works with local communities across Hampshire to galvanise residents to support vulnerable children who need our help.

Foster carers are kind, nurturing and selfless people. They play a vital role in advocating for young people currently in care, nurturing their physical and mental well-being, strengthening their identities, and supporting them on their journeys. It is also important that local communities continue to do all they can to support current foster carers with the hugely important role they play in looking after the most vulnerable children in Hampshire.

Fostering Hampshire Children is an OFSTED-outstanding Local Authority offering generous allowances and pioneering training and support. Our growing community keeps you connected in your vital role enhancing children's lives. Through the Hampshire Hive, buddies, and groups, you will be well supported throughout your fostering journey.

You don't need to own your home or be in a long-term relationship. Sexuality and ethnicity don't matter. You don't have to do fostering as a 'full-time job,' and you certainly don't need to be 'practically perfect in every way.' Fostering Hampshire Children is looking for ordinary people aged over 21 who want to make positive changes within our communities across the county.

There are some things you do need: a spare bedroom, patience, resilience, open-mindedness, and positivity to name but a few. Fostering isn't always easy; there are challenges to overcome and difficult days, but it's also a chance to build new relationships, learn about other cultures and offer stability to a young person at the time it's needed most. The support and training opportunities provided by Hampshire County Council are excellent, and the peer-to-peer support networks are second to none.

Fostering Hampshire Children urgently needs more foster carers to provide homes for Hampshire children, from babies through to teenagers, asylum seekers, sibling groups and children with additional needs or disabilities. We need your help today.

Can you open your door and become a foster carer in Hampshire?

Please visit the [Fostering Hampshire Children website](https://www.fosteringhampshirechildren.org.uk) at

hants.gov.uk/openyourdoor and download an information pack today to

foster



discover more about becoming a carer. Together, we can make a difference to Hampshire's most vulnerable children.

- **Purdah period underway**

With District Council elections taking place on 4 May, the County Council is now in election purdah and I do not expect there to be any significant announcements in April. My next report to you will therefore be sent out by me in the first week of June. I hope you all enjoy a happy, peaceful and prosperous Spring!

Juliet Henderson

County Councillor Oakley Overton and Candovers Division

5 Questions at the meeting from Parishioners/Electorate

There were no questions from the floor.

6 Chairman's closure of meeting

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.22pm.

