

Ellisfield Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

Held on Friday 26th April 2024 at 7.00pm in the Memorial Hall, Ellisfield

NAME	ATTENDANCE	APOLOGIES	ABSENT
Cllr R Haas	✓		
Cllr L Rule	✓		
Cllr M Guinness	✓		
Cllr S Alexander	✓		
Cllr G Dunse	✓		
Cllr A Swanston	✓		

Also in attendance 15 members of the public, Borough Councillors Diane Taylor and Hannah Golding and PCSO Andy Jones.

1. Introduction, Welcome

Councillor Richard Haas as Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members of the public.

In the absence of the Clerk Cllr Haas took the minutes.

2. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were also received from Borough Councillor Juliet Henderson.

Apologies were also received from the Clerk Hannah Ford who was unable to attend the meeting due to a family emergency.

3. To sign the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 27th April 2023

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on the 27th April 2023 were approved as a correct record.

4. To receive the Annual Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council for 2023/2024

Thank you for coming this evening and it is good to be here in person this year.

Firstly, I would like to thank Gavin Park Weir, who stood down as a Parish Councillor in September 2023 having served on the EPC since 2011, for all his dedication and hard work while working full time and having a young family at

home. I am delighted that Shaun Alexander volunteered to replace him and I am very pleased that we now have someone from the Axford Road again!

I also want to thank Andy who has been a tower of strength as my Vice Chair, especially while I was ill last year and Gordon, Mary, Lucinda and Shaun for all their hard work and support. Welcome Packs, for example don't get delivered to new residents on their own and nor do Allotments or the burial ground run themselves!

I also want to thank Hannah Ford who has been our Parish Clerk since August 2022 and is sadly standing down for family reasons. Thanks also go to Karen Ross for coming to our rescue last year as our Locum Clerk while Hannah was on maternity leave and also helping to train Hannah and giving her help and support when needed. I would also like to thank Steve Brabbin as our lengthsman and in particular for the work does to maintain the flood defences of which more later. 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.

Flood Defences. During the year, the main challenge was flood defences which, given the unprecedented amount of rain this winter have stood up remarkably well and is also a testament to the work that Steve Brabbin (our lengthsman) has been doing around the village. In addition we are talking to local landowners and HCC as to how we can use their resources to improve the situation. Going forward this is something we are ensuring we have sufficient funding to continue to maintain the defences.

EVG. Once again there was good support from the EVG to maintain the three green areas and I want to thank Andy Webb and the volunteers for all the work they do to keep Ellisfield tidy! Also many thanks to Steve Gould of Green Lane who maintains the equipment for us. If you are new to the village or would like to get more involved, this is a great way to meet other residents.

Tree Maintenance. The extreme weather and Ash die back continued to take its toll on a number of trees last year resulting in additional tree maintenance at Hill Farm Pond and Lower Allotments. We are also keeping in contact with landowners and highways to ensure resources are shared to maintain residents and road users safety.

Pot Holes have been a continued challenge in our lanes this year. This has been mitigated to an extent with the resurfacing on Axford road but there are still potholes to be addressed just outside of the village limits. While the Parish

Council are reporting them, I would urge you to do the same as that seems to be the only way to get us to the top of the queue.

The Cosmic Roots Festival is planned to happen over the weekend of 5th-10 September 2024. We are in contact with both the Festival organisers and Basingstoke and Dean Licensing Department.

The current planned route for festival goers is understood to be using Grammersham Lane.

We have agreed with the organisers that The Cattery will be our formal measurement point for noise. The organisers are holding a briefing session on the 10th May 2024 in The Cliddesden Village Hall at 7:30pm to which you are invited.

Andy and I have also met with Veolia and Herriard Bio Plant, both of whom are keen to support the village and will hopefully help financially by supporting a particular project. The Solar Farm have also indicated their commitment and have pledged £5,000 towards village funds.

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. 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 and a number of people have already expressed an interest.

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. We hope to publish soon.

5. To receive reports from Borough and County Councillors

No report was received from Diane Taylor or Hannah Golding due to the election period and being in purdah.

County Councillor Juliet Henderson

Hampshire County Councillor Report April - Candovers Oakley and Overton Division

Highways Information

****Additional road repairs funded by HS2****

The Government's cancellation of HS2 resulted in local councils being given additional funding to bring forward road repairs in this financial year and in each of the next 11 years.

Hampshire was awarded £4.22 million last year and this which has meant we are able to bring forward additional road improvement schemes into this year's programme.

You can read the full list here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../20241903NetworkNorthHampshir...>

I don't have dates for this work as yet but it will undoubtedly be before the autumn. I will of course advertise the dates well ahead of time.

Reporting Highway Problems

Links to report road issues are here:

Potholes:

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

Tree/hedge problems:

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

Flooding/drainage issues:

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

Pavement problems:

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

Problems with rights of way:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

When reporting an issue, you'll be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report. If you would like me to follow this up for you then do please forward that message to me and I will chase for you

For full details on the route improvements and to start planning your next journey, glide over to hants.gov.uk/transport/publictransport/timetables and myjourneyhampshire.com.

Footpaths/Rights of Way and bluebells

I thought it might be helpful therefore to share this with you. The [Hampshire County Council](#) website has a copy of the definitive map, which shows you in detail all of the byways, bridleways and public footpaths in the county.

The map can be accessed here: <https://maps.hants.gov.uk/rightsofwaydefinitivemap/>

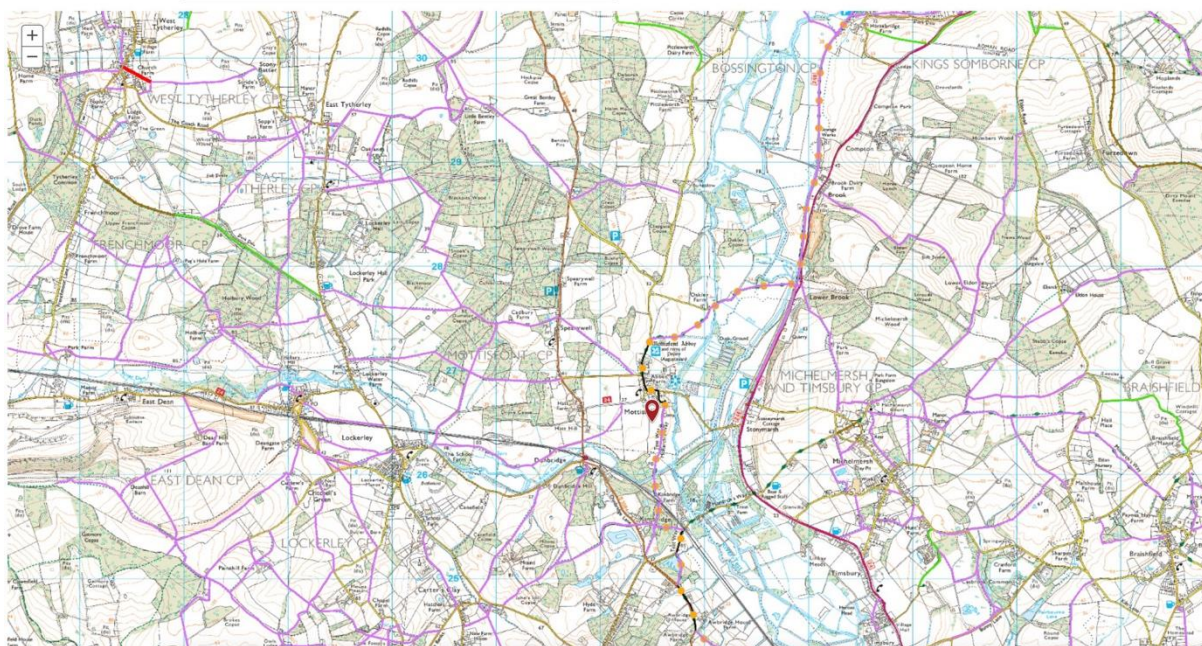
The image below is of the 'larger map', to which there is a link at the top of the page.

Map of Public Rights of Way

Search by address, place or grid reference

Mottisfont

Choose a location



Big Changes Coming to Hampshire County Council Offices

Hampshire County Council is set to review proposals this week aimed at reducing office accommodation across the county. This move is all about consolidating staff into fewer buildings and saving those precious pennies on running costs.

What's the plan? The strategy will roll out over the coming years, focusing on adapting to changing work patterns and making sure the council's facilities are up to snuff. With many staff working remotely or directly in the community (think local

services like social care for our vulnerable neighbours), it's clear that the way we work is evolving.

This isn't just about cutting costs. It's about ensuring access to public services remains robust for everyone in Hampshire. From libraries to register offices, no public service closures are on the table—just smarter use of the space we have.

This is all about staying efficient, effective, and, most importantly, close to the community's heart. While some staff might see changes in their work locations, the goal is to keep everything running smoothly without a hitch to services or the public.

You can read more here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20240603Officeaccommodation>
[#Hampshire](#) [#LocalGov](#) [#Sustainability](#) [#CommunityServices](#) [#OfficeConsolidation](#)
[#PublicServices](#)

News for Hampshire Bus Travelers

Thanks to a £4.2 million boost from the Government's Bus Service Improvement Partnership, our local bus operators Stagecoach South, Go South Coast, and First Solent are supercharging their services!

What's New?

Enhanced Services: 15 Hampshire bus routes are set to enjoy more day and evening services.

Sunny Sunday Specials: Welcome three new services making your Sundays brighter and better connected.

Extended Hours: Enjoy late-night escapades and early morning rides with improved timings.

This funding magic stems from Hampshire's £7.2 million slice of the DfT's Bus Service Improvement Plan Plus treasure. It's our ticket to not just saving existing routes from cuts but also adding more frequent services across the board.

From the 14 April by Bluestar:

- The Bluestar 1 between Winchester and Southampton will run every 15 minutes on weekdays and Saturdays (current frequency is: every 20 minutes).
- Bluestar 2 linking Southampton, Eastleigh and Fair Oak will run every 15 minutes during the day on Saturdays (current frequency is every 20 minutes) to match the current weekday frequency on this busy route. The Bluestar 2

will also get evening service improvements on Mondays to Saturdays from the same date.

- On the Bluestar 1 between Winchester and Southampton there will be additional evening weekday services and new late-night services in each direction on Friday and Saturday evenings. Additional evening services will operate on the Bluestar 4 between Romsey and Southampton. Bluestar are also set introduce an earlier outbound journey on the Bluestar 4 from Southampton to Romsey on weekdays.
- From May onwards by Stagecoach:
- In Farnborough, buses will run more frequently to and from the Prospect Estate throughout the daytime, and earlier in the morning and later in the evening on Sundays. Extra evening buses will also run to Pinewood Park and Hawley Lane.
- Buses between Newbury, Kingsclere and Basingstoke will run later into the evening and on Sundays for the first time, as well as more frequently at weekday peak times. These changes are in partnership with West Berkshire Council.
- Service 66 between Romsey and Winchester will improve to every 30 minutes, Monday to Saturday daytime.
- In Andover, more buses will run to and from East Anton throughout the week, with extra trips during the day as well as into the evening and on Sundays. Service 76 between Andover, Whitchurch and Basingstoke will improve to every 30 minutes, Monday to Saturday daytime.
- In partnership with Surrey County Council, service 65 between Alton, Farnham and Guildford will move to a new hourly timetable, running seven days a week.

These changes will be delivered alongside other planned commercial improvements to Stagecoach bus services across Hampshire over the coming months.

6. To receive reports from Local resident groups

Ellisfield Volunteer Group

Following the change of administration agreed at last year's AGM, the group continued operations during 2023 with very little noticeable difference.

Mowing at all three sites was suspended for a couple of weeks during the spring due to dry conditions and low growth rate, but then continued throughout the rest of the year despite the wet summer.

Whilst the EVG recruited some new members during the year, more members have unfortunately either left the village, or have been unable to join in activities for personal reasons. This means that the total number of volunteers has dropped slightly, and therefore volunteers are being asked to cover more

sessions. In some cases, the number of times members have been asked to help has increased to four.

By and large the machinery worked well once again helped by Steve Gould's pre-season maintenance service. I am happy to say that pre-season maintenance will be undertaken again this year.

The two mowers at the burial grounds came to the end of their life so the Parish Council financed the purchase of two new mowers, which were put into service just before the end of the year. These new mowers are therefore now available for volunteers and should provide many years of service.

To finish the year's activities, a good number of volunteers once again turned out on a choice of two December mornings to help with the end of year clear ups. This left all 3 areas looking neat and tidy for the winter.

The mower at the lower common has also been showing signs of wear and tear, therefore at the AGM on 8th March this year, it was agreed by the volunteers present that this mower would now be taken out of service and not replaced. Volunteers would continue to tend to the areas around the edges of the common, where the ride on mower cannot reach, by using the strimmer that is already available.

The Belles of St Martins

Following on from the Festival of Choirs Concert at the Anvil in March, the Belles spent most of the year preparing for the Bradley concert, which took place in December at Bradley Church. It raised £980 for the charity The Beacon and the same for All Saints church itself.

The choir then repeated two of the carols that we performed at Bradley at the Ellisfield Nine Lessons and Carols service.

Earlier this year, we said goodbye to David Chattel and the choir sang at his last service at Ellisfield in February.

Rehearsals start after Easter for "The Best of The Belles" concert that will take place for two nights in October at the Ellisfield Memorial Hall. Details will be available nearer the time.

Memorial Hall – Chairman’s report – March 2024

Bookings – comparing 2022 to 2023...2024

2022		2023		2024	
Church usage					
Panto		Choir		Concert October	
Jubilee		King’s Coronation			
Dambusters					
Harvest Supper		Pig Racing Last Night of the Proms Pudding Night NY Eve party		Pig Racing Quiz Night Harvest Supper Village BBQ	
Private Party	7	Private Party	4	Private Party	6
TCC n Yoga		TCC n Yoga n Thespians		Ditto	

Car Park usage – seems to be on the increase, we will invite non-residents to donate

Defibrillator training – A Saturday in June – 20 students to be advertised

Broadband – funded by the Parish Council 2023 to continue to 2024 in conjunction with Solar Farm

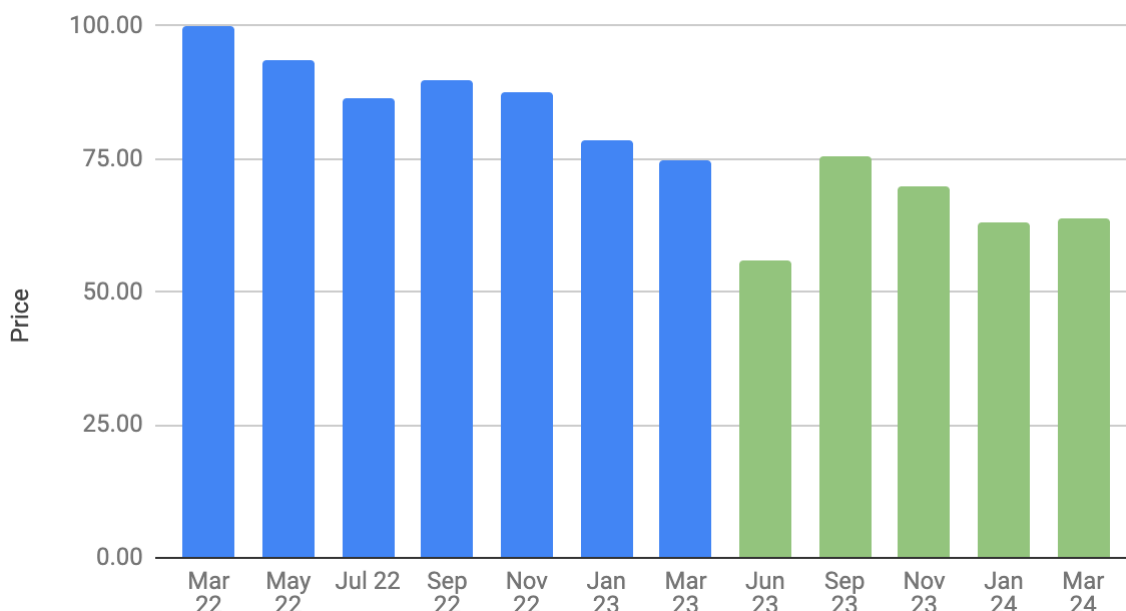
APM 2024 – Ellisfield Oil Syndicate

During the last 12 months (Apr '23 – Mar '24) we returned to the usual 5 orders for the year as oil supply stability returned to the market.

Although it may not always feel like it, the price has been trending downwards since the high in March 2022 of £1.00 per litre.

The graph below shows the trend in delivery prices since March 22 and this year's low of 56ppl that we paid in June 23.

Price per Litre (p)



Since the last report for 2023 the syndicate has gained a couple of new members and a couple of members have moved out of the village. One member has converted to a heat pump – great for them and the environment, less so for the membership which stands at 51.

The syndicate has ordered over 83,000 litres this year. This looks to be slightly lower than a “normal” year and probably a reflection of the milder weather this winter.

The group saved over £2,400 against the prices quoted by alternative suppliers at the start of the ordering month.

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.

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

ELLISFIELD EDUCATIONAL TRUST

The Trust gave out grants to five individuals resident in the village during the year.

The maximum grant was £900. Total donations amounted to £3,000 (2022 – £1,420). The income from the capital of the Trust was £3,145.35 (2022–£2964.54)

As of 31st December 2023, the Bank Balance was £9,426.18 and the total capital was £60,970.66 (2022–£61,982.64).

The annual report was submitted to the Charity Commission on 9th February 2024.

The Trustees (Bernard Cazenove and Christopher Allen) met on several occasions during the year to review the accounts and consider applications . We look forward to more applications for grants in this current year.

PARISH OF FARLEIGH PCC

The PCC is chaired by the Rector of the Benefice , the Rev David Chattell. Members are the Church Wardens of the four churches in the Parish, elected members from the three District Church Councils, the Treasurer and the PCC Secretary.

The PCC met four times in the year and for the Annual Meeting in April. Eamonn Harding who had been the Treasurer for eight years stepped down at the start of the year and this position was taken by Hannah Houstin-Lacey . Eamonn will continue as Gift Aid Secretary. The PCC Secretary is Debbie Scholey .

The PCC is very grateful for the hard work done by these individuals. Peter Raine took over as Church Warden of St Leonard's, Cliddesden from Lynda Plenty during the year.

The Bishop of Basingstoke attended the PCC meeting in June to provide some feedback on the House for Duty post that had been advertised but attracted little interest. Discussions around the payment of the Common Mission Fund (CMF) also took place at that meeting as it was likely that this Parish would not be able to pay the amount requested by the Diocese (£64,000).

As far as St Martin's, Ellisfield was concerned there were no major works done and Tony Matthews continues to do a monthly inspection of the building and Church Yard. He submits a formal report to the District Church Council at their meetings. All the lights were changed to LED in October.

Attendance at regular Church Services and the major Christian Festivals was like previous years.

The Rev Ian Thacker, a retired Vicar who lives in Basingstoke, kindly agreed to help the Rev David Chattell take services in the Parish of Farleigh during the year. In early 2024, David Chattell decided to move on from the Benefice and Ian Thacker was appointed a temporary Associate Minister.

The Benefice is currently in an interregnum.

EVA report

EVA was set up to tackle large planning threats to the village but with the advent of Upper Swallick, Ellisfield has joined forces with Cliddesdon and Winslade to form STaNHd. Gordon Dunse, Dee Haas and Marcus Rule have been attending on Ellisfield's behalf and STaNHd have successfully prevented Upper Swallick from being included in the current Local Plan.

Gordon and Dee hope to continue to work on highlighting the special qualities of the North Hampshire Downs, working with the many Parish Councils in the area between the North Wessex Downs AONB (now 'National Landscape') and the South Downs National Park. Our HCC councillor, Juliet Henderson has been supportive.

7. Questions at the meeting from Parishioners/Electorate

Questions were raised on the following topics

- Cosmic Roots festival and the arrangements
- Noise and traffic at the festival site
- SIDS Indicator placement in the village and data from the device
- Trees taken down by land owner
- Defibrillator Training date on the 6th July. Councillor Dunse has the details

8. Chairman's closure of meeting

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20.15

