

Ellisfield Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

Held on Friday 11th April 2025 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 R Holme	✓		
Cllr A Swanston	✓		

Also in attendance Julie Russell (Parish Clerk) and 21 members of the public

1. Introduction, Welcome

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

2. To receive apologies for absence

An apology for absence was received from PC Andy Jones

3. To sign the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 26th April 2024

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on the 26th April 2024 were approved as a correct record.

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

The Chairman gave the following report:

Thank you for coming this evening.

Firstly I would like to thank Gordon Dunse, who stood down as a Parish Councillor at the end of December 2024 having served on the EPC since 2019, for all his dedication, constructive challenge and hard work. I am delighted that Richard Holme volunteered to replace him and look forward to working with him. One meeting in, he has already made an impact!

I also want to thank Andy who has been a tower of strength as my Vice Chair, as well 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 our Clerks. Peter Baston stood in as our Locum for much of last year and was instrumental in recruiting Julie Russell who has already made a very positive contribution.

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 when needed for which we are truly grateful. They include Paul Brown for his help with the mole problem on lower common and the burial ground and Seamus Foster for how to prevent some of the flooding by managing water flowing off the fields which has been one of the main challenges once again and something we are going to have to live with in the future. There are a number of others who have given us vital input over the last year, not least the number of Planning Applications we have had to deal with this year, for which many thanks.

I also want to than the EVG for all the work they do to keep Ellisfield tidy! A particular thanks must go to Andy Webb who has chaired the EVG for the last three years. Having tried to replace him to no avail, the Parish Council is stepping in and Andy, as our liaison with the EPC will take over the role as the nominated Parish Councillor, supported by Julie as our Parish Clerk. This has been agreed by the Parish Council and at the EVG AGM.

Pot Holes have been a continued challenge in our lanes this year and, while the Parish Council has reported them, you also need to do the same as that seems to be the only way to get us to the top of the queue.

Andy and I have also met with Veolia and Herriard Bio Plant, both of whom are keen to support the village through a particular project including dealing with flooding. Amber Solar have also given us £5,000.

We have drawn up a list of projects (provisionally funded by Reserves) and Gifts from various local companies and councils of whom we have been engaging with over the last few months.

The current project list is:

1. Flood defences to improve flood resilience and avoid house floods
2. Village gates and signs to improve the image of the village
3. History of Ellisfield to provide identity for the village which is being prepared for publication

4. Replacement trees impacted by Ash dieback and storms to maintain the ecology of the village
5. Asset renewal. Provision for Ellisfield Volunteers machinery assets, village benches and other assets
6. Lower Common Playground replacement. Ongoing investment to ensure children have recreation activities around the village.

If residents have other ideas that they would like the council to consider please get in touch.

Lastly, 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.

5. To receive reports from local residents' groups and neighbourhood policing

The following reports were received:

i) Ellisfield Volunteers Group

EVG AGM Chairman's Report 21st March 2025

I am pleased to report that over the last year the group has continued minimal drama.

Mowing ran smoothly throughout the year with only a few volunteer swaps required. Whilst there was the occasional week when mowing was suspended due to dry conditions and low growth the wet summer meant that mowing happened most weeks.

By and large the machinery worked well once again, helped by Steve Gould's pre-season maintenance service. I have requested that the EPC arrange pre-season maintenance to be undertaken again this year.

Following discussions at last year's AGM, you will recall that it was agreed to trial taking the mower at the lower common out of service and use the strimmer and reassess this year. Chris has indicated that the trial was unsuccessful, and therefore committee have therefore put a request to the Parish Council for them to consider the purchase of a new mower for the Common.

The committee would like to thank Marcus & Lucinda Rule and Julian & Margaret Evans for continuing to house the burial ground and gravel pit mowing equipment respectively in their garages and also to Terry and Carly for their help accessing the

mower at the burial grounds. To say thank you, we have some small tokens of our appreciation for them.

I would like to say thank you to Chris and Seumas for acting as area coordinators and supporting me over the last year, and also to our Parish Clerks for their administrative support over the last year. I would also like to welcome Graham Simpson who will take over as co-ordinator for the Gravel Pits for the coming year. Finally, as I mentioned at last year's AGM, I will be stepping down as Chairman and Gravel Pit Coordinator at the end of this AGM. I would like to thank all the volunteers for your time and effort and support during my tenure in both roles.

Andy Webb

ii) Memorial hall

Memorial Hall update 2024

Main Highlights of the year

1. Financial – Xmas fayre, TCC, Yoga, Private Theatricals.
2. Social – Belles Concert, CPRE Supper, Harvest Supper, BBQ, Pig Racing, Wine walk
3. Village support – Defib training, Denis's Funeral, Nicki's Funeral, WIFI by the EPC
4. Fabric – Clean and Tidy, Garden, Hall redecorated, Flooding reported and accepted by Hampshire as 'work to be done'
5. Wider Community – ½ Marathon, Girl Guide cook-out, Kelly's Bike ride, Alton Walkers

Solvent! – 2024 figures:

<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
Hall Hire - £4,375	£10,141
Events - £7,630	
Total - £12,005	

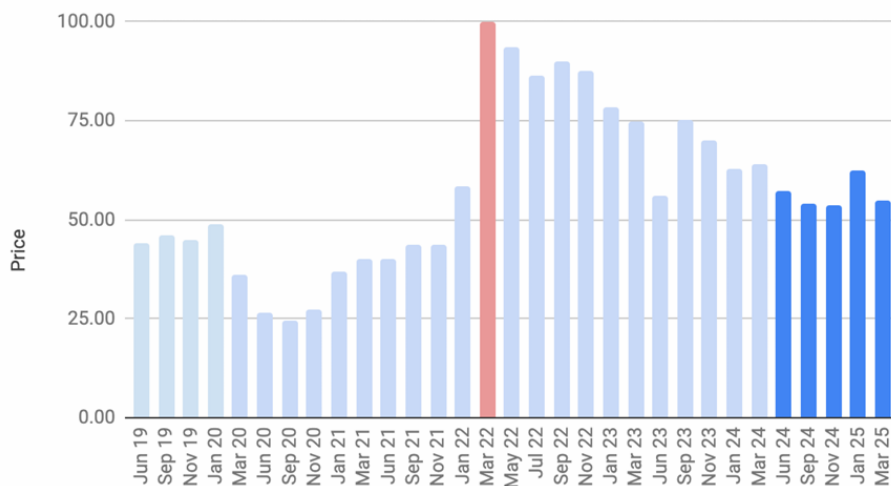
iii) Oil Syndicate Report

During the last 12 months (Apr '24 - Mar '25) we returned to the usual 5 orders for the year during a very stable time in the oil market.

Prices have actually declined slightly over the period starting at 57.45 ppl and finishing at 54.95 ppl with an average price of 56.5 ppl.

The graph below shows the trend over the last few years with the oil price spike in Mar '22.

Price per Litre (p)



Since the last report for 2024 the syndicate has gained a couple of new members and the email list now stands at 55.

The syndicate has ordered over 79,000 litres this year. This is again slightly lower than last year and perhaps a continued reflection of the milder weather.

The group saved over £3,000 against the prices quoted by alternative suppliers at the start of the ordering month.

We did try a new supplier, CPS fuels, for the June delivery as Rawlings were not able to provide the most competitive price. Since then, we have continued to use Rawlings.

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

iv) Belles of St Martins

Belles of St Martin's Year 2024.

The choir started rehearsals in April for their concert The Best of The Belles performed at the Memorial Hall. The concert was reasonably well supported and the choir raised enough money for their chosen charities, the hall and the choir.

In September, they were invited to sing at Nicky Palmer's Thanksgiving Service at St Martin's Church, and in November the Choir sang at The Remembrance service at All Saint's Dummer, and later in the month for The Ivy Club in Old Basing.

The Choir finished the year off with the Nine Lessons and Carols at St Martin's Church.

The Choir meets at the Church or The Hall on the first Wednesday of every month starting at 7.30pm.

Theresa Webb - Former Chairman.

v) Police Report (PC Andrew Jones)

Two road related incidents have been reported.

14th Feb a local resident called in suspicion of wildlife crime on Axford road. Police attended and as it transpired the car in question had a tyre that blew out and was awaiting assistance to have it fixed.

29th Nov 24 a driver crashed their car on Green Lane no other reports known by the Police

Two suspicious incidents

On the 24th Nov a Report was received stating two males were poaching in the area. Police made contact it appeared that they were looking at pheasants in the field but did not make any attempt to kill the birds and no catapult was seen, it's just been suspected that this is what they were up to.

13th Nov persons were seen using catapults on College Lane targeting pheasants. A vehicle was spotted and an index was obtained and a thorough search was conducted by attending Officers, unfortunately this vehicle was not seen again. There were no ANPR activations and the RO address is out of county, hence no door knock was conducted. There are no descriptions of the persons involved. Intelligence was added to the Police system in relation to this vehicle.

Three assaults

Two of these reports involved same persons. There was a time delay in reporting these and all lines of enquiry had expired for Police to progress.

Alert

Rural housing that is undergoing renovation is currently being targeted for theft of metal both from outside of the property and inside. So far reports have been mainly from the eastern half of Hampshire.

Offenders are identifying remote empty properties and then returning in the early hours and breaking in to remove copper piping and boilers. As well as the theft this is causing thousands of pounds worth of damage.

The only link so far is that each property had metal fittings left outside and were clearly not being lived in at the time.

If you currently have an empty property or have one undergoing renovations then please consider where fittings that have been removed, or are waiting to be fitted, are left. Ensure that they are not obvious to passers-by or to persons calling at the address.

If you see anything suspicious please report it. If it is a crime in progress please call 999 and if not report it on 101 / online.

vi) Ellisfield Village Association Report

EVA itself has not been active this year – I have been on the STaNHd committee with Gordon and Marcus Rule so any planning issues have been discussed there with Cliddesden and Winslade representatives. These would mainly be the Upper Swallick development threat and MOTO but also more recently plans for converting Hackwood House and estate into a hotel.

I don't think there is anything to report under the EVA banner this time which doesn't mean that we wouldn't re-form if there was a large planning threat within Ellisfield.

STaNHd exists to help Cliddesden and Winslade fight the 2,500 houses proposed by Lord Lymington of Portsmouth Estates on the chalk downland between Ellisfield and Cliddesden.

Last week STaNHd met with the Leader of Basingstoke and Deane Council, Paul Harvey with Cllr Onnalee Cubitt. The Labour Government has upped the housing numbers for nearly all Boroughs in Hampshire and as a result, Basingstoke has had to go back to the drawing board with their Local Plan process.

We were assured by Paul Harvey and Onnalee Cubitt that Basingstoke Council elected members and the planning dept are very much against any development south of the motorway. The main reason for this is that this development would be on top of the chalk aquifer which supplies water to the area and the River Lodden. However, they must find 1127 new houses per year and this number may increase by 20%. Thames Water cannot handle the current level of sewage and an extra 4000 cars would snarl up the roads so infrastructure is a major argument against development at Upper Swallick.

They will be concentrating new housing in the A34 corridor and Popham will inevitably be back into the plan.

Devolution is a big issue that will affect Basingstoke. Paul Harvey is fighting to create a 'North Hampshire' authority which would merge Basingstoke with Hart and Rushmoor. Economically, this would focus on aerospace and computer/AI tech.

Dee Haas