

24 April 2018**ELLINGHAM, HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Notes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Ibsley Village Hall on Tuesday 24 April 2018.

Members:

Cllr Burtenshaw (Chairman) (P)	Cllr Errington (P)
Cllr Lane	Cllr Spark
Cllr Webster (P)	Cllr Shand (P)
Cllr Loader (P)	Cllr Sampson (P)
Cllr Stainton-Burrell	Cllr Trebilco (P)

(P denotes present)

Others present:

District Councillor Dow	Natasha Mackenzie (Clerk)
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Approx. 50 invited guests and residents

Cllr Burtenshaw warmly thanked everyone for attending, and welcomed representatives from 1st Poulner Scout Group who will be talking about their 2017 trip to Malawi.

1. EXPLORER SCOUTS AND LEADER FROM 1ST POULNER SCOUT GROUP

Two explorers shared details of their unique experience connecting with the Malawian people on their trip in 2017. 16 explorers had to fundraise their expenses and they travelled along with their leaders to Malawi to help with building a school. Part of the experience was living with a scout from a traditional Malawian family and absorbing themselves in their traditional, frugal life style. They commented that it is difficult to understand the meaning of the phrase 'Third World' until you actually experience it.

They thanked the Parish Council for supporting their trip with a grant back in 2016.

This trip has inspired one of the explorers to raise funds for a charity called Mango Tree.

The Explorer leader spoke about what an amazing experience it was for himself as well as the explorers, and

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – CLLR LINDSAY BURTENSHAW**The Parish Council**

What is the role of the Parish Council? Ideally, we are here to represent and balance all the interests of our residents and to improve the quality of local community life and the environment. We should be working as a team to help resolve issues and to achieve objectives. We have a dedicated team of 10 Councillors, the majority of which have been co-opted over the passage of time and they all contribute their time and efforts on a voluntary basis which is so appreciated. A special 'Thank You' to you all especially my Vice-Chairman, Cllr Roly Errington who is always on hand with his in-depth knowledge and advice in seemingly, any direction.

Sadly, but understandably, Cllr Ann Shand has decided to step down from her PC duties. We are sincerely grateful to Ann for her many years of dedication, representing the parish on numerous outside bodies and contributing her thoughts in a reasoned and balanced way. We wish you well in 'retirement' but hope we can continue to enlist your assistance, occasionally!

Our grateful thanks too to Natasha, our Parish Clerk, who keeps us in order and fulfils all the necessary paperwork and behind the scenes organisation. Sometimes a thankless task but Natasha always achieves a huge amount with, usually, a smiling face. Also to Terry Mason, our parish handyman - always 'there' when you need him! Terry does a wonderful job maintaining the bus stops and notice boards and helping to clear debris from culverts and ditches. Thank you everyone for your hard work in so many directions.

Meetings

Full Council meetings are held monthly on the 4th Tuesday in each month and planning committee meetings on the 2nd Tuesday in each month. Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings and

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bring their thoughts, concerns and comments to the Public Forum. All meetings start at 7.30pm Our Annual Meeting is on 22nd May when elections will be made to the respective roles.

Planning

The Planning Committee is an integral part of Council duties and it considered over 70 applications last year. We try to write to every applicant advising a Councillor will be coming to take photographs of the site and chat through the application. The assessing Councillor will then present the application at the planning meeting to help others understand the proposed plans and their context. It is always helpful if applicants are able to attend the meetings to assist in the explanation and reasoning behind their proposal. We do not issue consents but make a recommendation to the District Council or National Park Authority who make the final decisions. However, those authorities do value the views of the parish in coming to their decisions.

Enforcement matters are also brought to our attention but, in my view, many of these should be resolved by communication and discussion before formalities take over. However, if reported, the Parish Council rely on the relevant authorities to take appropriate action.

Tree applications are also considered but we are well advised by the Tree Officers who have greater expertise in this area.

I am most grateful to the Planning Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Cllr Jim Spark and Cllr Richard Loader respectively for leading that committee.

Members of the Parish Council sit on many Outside Bodies, far too many to list here and I would like to thank all the Councillors who play an active part as representatives, making sure that the views of the Council and therefore you, the electors, are heard. This work is time consuming but essential. Similarly the Parish Council gets involved in many local consultations. Each time a Councillor takes the lead in preparing a report for their colleagues to consider and this can take many hours of research. I thank my fellow members for their painstaking work.

Governance

The Parish obviously is in the County of Hampshire of which our area representative is Cllr Michael Thierry. Our involvement with the County Council is principally with the Highways department dealing with our roads and associated issues. It is with great regret that we learnt of the recent retirement of Bob Brown, our main point of contact for all road matters. We wish him well for the future but sincerely hope his replacement will be as proactive and assistive in dealing with our parish problems. HCC is also the Mineral Planning Authority and control and authorise the ongoing gravel extraction in the local area, now mainly at Blashford, Plumley and Hamer Warren. Hampshire County Council also acts as the Mineral Planning Authority so there are several ongoing matters relating to gravel extraction in the local area.

The District authorities are twofold - the New Forest District Council and the New Forest National Park Authority, both dealing with respective planning applications amongst a wide variety of other duties and commitments. We are immensely grateful to the professionals within all these authorities for the guidance and clarification on numerous issues that they are able to offer us. Our representative from the NF District Council is DCllr Bill Dow who is a regular attendee of our Council meetings and we appreciate his input and advice.

Finance

The Parish Council remains in good financial health with expenditure last year broadly in accordance with budget. A summary of the accounts appear on the reverse of this report. Formal approval will be obtained at the next meeting prior to external adjudication. If you require a copy of the payments and receipts, please enquire form the Clerk.

Communication

The Parish Newsletter is circulated 3 times a year and seems to be well received. Cllr Richard Loader has taken on the task of designing both this and the Parish Website which together provide an excellent way of distributing news and information plus links to other organisations.

I would like to say a sincere and heartfelt Thank You to Richard who quietly but efficiently completes this wonderful Newsletter despite receiving material for it at the 11th hour! We are so grateful.

Chairman

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There are 5 Notice Boards around the parish updated regularly. We have also produced a Resident's Welcome Pack for newcomers to the area so do let us know if you have a new neighbour? We have agreed to continue our presence at Ellingham Show in August and thanks to those who have contributed prizes and helped on the Stand. Not least, please join us for the Annual Ragwort Pull and Litter Pick on Saturday 7th July – meet at 10am at Cross Lanes.

There are a number of local groups, societies and professional bodies who help and guide us and are assistive in their particular spheres and specialities. These include the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society, the Ibsley Village Hall Management Committee, the National Trust and the Hampshire Wildlife Trust to name but a few and several of their representatives are with us this evening.

Our local Police Community Support officer is hoping to join us this evening. Local crime reports and other necessary contact details can be found on their website - www.police.uk/hampshire/1NW01 I believe we should all be grateful to live in such a beautiful area and are fortunate to have a committed council who want to preserve the best of it whilst also adapting to changing perceptions and demands.

Thank you to you ALL and our residents for your attendance and for giving us your support and appreciation.

Here endeth my written report!

3. INFORMAL DISCUSSION

The following was discussed:-

Parish Council positive outcomes

- The defibrillator sited in the red kiosk on the corner of New Road and Gorley Road.
- The Dodington Charity is receiving an annual boost from Away Reports (Sandy Balls) to support children and young people with costs for education and apprenticeships, including tools and books.
- EHI News – good feedback has been received from a number of residents.
- The Great British Spring Clean was a chilly success, and another event is planned for the August Bank Holiday.

Highways

Concerns were noted on:-

- Issues on the Alderholt Road with the large lorries visiting the Hamer Warren site which is resulting in severe road erosion and dangerous driving situations. The planning permissions will expire in December 2018 and the Parish Council is determined to get a dialogue going to ensure there is responsibility for the vehicle movements.
- Bob Brown has now retired, and a replacement is being sought. He is very missed for his proactive approach!
- Road from South Gorley green up to Furzehill: passing places are needed.
- Verge protection from continued parking: to protect the Small Fleabane and reinstate lost grazing.
- Linwood: where is this hamlet? Village gateway or similar needed.

Parish Events

- Great British Spring Clean was a success in March – despite the weather! Next one planned for August Bank Holiday weekend.
- Ragwort Pull & Litter Pick on 7 July: all welcome to meet at Cross Lanes green at 10am.

- Cycling sportives are a common event: check out the NFDC Safety Advisory Group's list of events at www.newforest.gov.uk/article/15466/Public-Events-and-the-Safety-Advisory-Group
- Somerley Estate will be hosting the Focus religious festival between 26-31 July.
- RAF Ibsley Past & Present will not be taking place this year – any willing volunteers to get involved?
- Ellingham & Ringwood Agricultural Show is on 11 August – come along and support this amazing local event.

Thank you!

Everyone on the council plays their valued part, however particular thanks are extended to Roly Errington as Vice Chair, and Jim Spark and Richard Loader for heading up the planning committee, and also Richard's input to the EHI Newsletter and website are invaluable. Sincere thanks were expressed to Barbara, Emma, Laura, Michela and Patrick for their contribution throughout the year. Also to the clerk, Natasha, for trying to keep everyone on the right track! Ann Shand has resigned but her involvement over the last decade was noted.

4. POLICE REPORT

PCSO Stephen May introduced himself, advising he was stepping in for PCSO Lauran Willder who covers our parish. He provided additional information on the local crime figures; 56 recorded occurrences in 12 months in the parish.

All non-urgent enquiries can be emailed to lauran.willder@hampshire.pnn.police.uk or call 101. Any urgent matters call 999.

Please can residents report any issues encountered when using the 101 service to PCSO Willder.

The meeting was concluded to allow time for refreshments and informal networking. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, inviting them to enjoy the refreshments and to ask questions of the councillors and any broadband enquiries to be directed to Cllr Roly Errington.

She also mentioned there will be a vacancy on the Parish Council, if anyone is interested please contact the clerk.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Dates of forthcoming meetings to be held at Ellingham Church Hall at 7.30pm:-

Annual Meeting

Tuesday 22nd May 2018

Planning Committee

Tuesday 12th June 2018