

**26 April 2016****ELLINGHAM, HARBRIDGE & IBSLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Ibsley Village Hall on Tuesday 26 April 2016.

Members:

Cllr Burtenshaw (Chairman) (P)

Cllr Lane

Cllr Errington (P)

Cllr Spark (P)

Cllr Webster (P)

Cllr Shand (P)

Cllr Loader

Cllr Sampson (P)

Cllr Stainton-Burrell (P)

Cllr Trebilco

(P denotes present)

Others present:

County Councillor Heron

District Councillor Dow

John Hawkins, Guest Speaker

Natasha Mackenzie (Clerk)

Approx. 50 invited guests and residents

**1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – CLLR LINDSAY BURTENSHAW**

Good evening and a very warm welcome to you all! I am delighted this meeting is being held at Ibsley Village Hall, and to see so many of our invited representatives of many of our local organisations, others who help us during the year and our residents; your attendance this evening is most appreciated.

It is impossible to summarise in 10 minutes all the work covered by the Parish Council in the last year and to recognise and thank all the councillors for their continual dedication and commitment both during and outside the usual bi-monthly meetings. However, I can but try!

**The Parish Council**

We are fortunate to have a dedicated team of now 10 councillors, serving the Parish on a voluntary basis. John Stokes retired last May and I am particularly grateful to our 3 new members, Cllrs Sampson, Stainton-Burrell and Trebilco for their contributions during the year.

Natasha, our Parish Clerk, keeps us in order and fulfils all the necessary paperwork and behind the scenes. Our thanks, too, to Terry Mason for his hard work in many directions as the Parish Council's handyman.

**Planning**

The Planning Committee is an integral and prominent part of Council duties and considered 73 applications last year. We are also consulted about tree works and applications so I was delighted that John Stokes took on the role as Parish Tree Officer, in an unofficial capacity. In practice we tend to leave the decisions to the Planning Authorities Tree Officers who of course have the greater expertise in this area. Enforcement issues are also brought to the attention of the Council but again, it is left to the District or NPA officers to take the necessary appropriate action.

**Finance/Budget**

The Parish Council remains in good financial health with expenditure last year in accordance with budget. A summary of the accounts appear on the reverse of this report. I am delighted to report that last year's accounts were approved by the internal auditor last week and now await the formal

approval of the Council at their next meeting before external adjudication. Copies of payments and receipts is available from the Clerk.

### **Communication**

We circulate the Parish Newsletter 3 times a year and it seems to be well received. Thank you for your feedback! PLEASE continue to put forward your name for distribution by email to save postage. Our website is now fully operational (thanks to Cllr Loader). It provides all the latest news and information. Please bookmark the site and visit it regularly. The 5 Notice Boards are updated frequently and we hope there will be future improvements to them by liaison with the National Trust. I should add that the new Ibsley Village Hall notice board is wonderful and has greatly enhanced the amenity of the area. Our presence at Ellingham Show continues to be successful and we look forward to seeing you there again on 13th August (tbc). Thank you to all those who have helped in the past with our annual litter pick and ragwort pull which will next be held on Saturday 2nd July at 10am – meet at Cross Lanes green.

### **Current Issues**

#### **Ditching/Flooding**

Although we 'expect' a degree of flooding in our parish, particularly along the Gorley Road, we were fortunate that the problems were not prolonged last winter. We have cleared the main Gorley Road ditch on 2 occasions and this has helped relieve the pressure of rainwater coming off the Forest. Hampshire Highways have contributed hugely in helping to keep essential culverts clear but as ever, there is always more work to be done. Please continue to assist with ongoing maintenance to small ditches and pipes close to your own properties.

#### **Footpaths**

We are most grateful to RFFS (Kelvin Winch and his team) for their recent survey of the footpaths in our parish and also to Simon Richardson who has reviewed the survey and prioritised paths for maintenance and action - some of which can be done under the Lengthsman scheme. Sadly the HCC footpaths officer, John Cartwright has moved on but we hope his replacement will be as equally proactive and helpful in resolving problems.

#### **Parking**

My annual 'bête noir'! We want to dissuade people from parking on our verges but equally encourage residents and visitors to walk or ride out to enjoy the Forest open spaces; sadly there are extremely limited designated parking areas along the Escarpment - other than Rockford Sandpit. The National Trust have had to take action at the top end of Newtown Lane to install dragon's teeth to prevent abusing the use of this private lane. Ideas and suggestions for improvements in this area are most welcome.

#### **Parish Projects**

We are (maybe slowly but still effectively!) working through our 'Project List'. These are special matters requiring income or capital expenditure and to ensure we have plans to spend some of our capital reserves. Some may qualify for grant or be suitable for application to local mineral companies under their environmental schemes. We are currently looking at a project to submit for the Small Grants Scheme.

#### **Bus Shelters**

The Ibsley bus shelter has been given a new lease of life with new panels and a coat of paint. Unfortunately we must now turn our attention to the one close to Snails Lane, recently demolished by a careless motorist!

#### **Circular Walks**

Many of you will have found leaflets of 'interesting walks' perhaps when visiting other places in the country? We thought this would be an excellent idea in our parish which has a fascinating history and so many areas of natural beauty. Hopefully this project will be moved forward by some of our councillors - I think we've nominated Cllr Trebilco, (in her absence!) as leader.

**Affordable Housing**

As I said earlier in the year, we as a Parish are very keen to meet what we perceive as an essential need in our area for some lower cost housing so as to keep both our younger and elderly residents within the community. We need appropriate land on which to build but perhaps more importantly we need your positive support. It can and I'm sure will be achieved.

**Ibsley Service Station**

After considerable pressure from many local residents I am pleased to say that both Natural England and the Highways Authority have agreed to works to reinstate the verge opposite the Service Station and provide limited lorry parking. We hope to embark on this project over the summer.

**Future Issues****Forest Speed Limits**

We are trying to address with the Highways Authority, the National Park and the Forestry Commission the problems associated with speed and using our forest roads as a short cut especially in the area of Linwood.

**Sat Nav Problems**

As you know there are continuing issues about directing vehicles down inappropriate lanes via modern technology. This is very apparent in the case of Toms Lane in order to access the High Corner Inn. Discussions about improved signage are ongoing.

**Cycling Groups**

Events throughout the area continue to be closely monitored. The Charter and Code of Conduct has not been signed by all organisers of these events but hopefully concerns about the speed and number of cyclists taking part are being addressed. Please continue to give feedback to NFDC if these events affect you.... or not! <http://www.newforest.gov.uk/article/15466/Public-Events-and-the-Safety-Advisory-Group>

**Forthcoming Events**

A reminder of a few event sin the pars:-

The Somerley Sound Clash this coming Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May;

The Somerley Tea Party on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> June;

RAF Ibsley Historical Group's 'Ibsley – Past and Present' on 6/7 August.

Potentially, the Parish Council is exploring hosting a cream tea and/or a circular walk in June. Details to follow in due course.

**Police Report**

Unfortunately no one was available to attend this evening for the local policing team, however copies of their crime report are available here tonight and on our website.

Finally, I would like to extend my grateful thanks to all of the Councillors – to Cllr Emma Lane as my Vice Chairman, to Cllr Jim Spark and Cllr Roly Errington as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee, which can be an unenviable task. To Cllrs. Patrick, Ann, Richard, Barbara, Laura and Michele for their dedication in attending meetings and consultations over the past year and contributing to the life of the Parish Council in so many ways.

Last but by no means least, I am continually grateful to our clerk Natasha. Although now familiar with all our nuances and bad habits, she is kind enough not to hold it against us! But on a personal note, Natasha is invaluable in making my task much less challenging. A heartfelt thank you!

Thank you too to all of you for your support and constructive criticism.

I should now like to welcome and hand over to our expert Better Broadband campaigners, Cllr Roly Errington and Mark Bloor.

## 2. PRESENTATION REGARDING BETTER BROADBAND PROJECT BY CLLR ROLY ERRINGTON

Cllr Errington detailed the hard work and success of the Hyde Community Project

([www.hydecommunityprojects.org.uk](http://www.hydecommunityprojects.org.uk)) which has just signed a contract securing its' own broadband supply in Hyde, along with and a few properties in South Gorley and Godshill parish.

He explained this started way back in 2011, when it became apparent the rural broadband forecasts for Ellingham, Harbridge and Ibsley and Hyde parishes were dire. Several passionate members of the community have come together and worked tirelessly to prove to Hampshire County Council that the speeds they forecast were wildly optimistic, due to the siting of broadband cabinets.

Pledges have been made by the community to fund Hyde's own broadband solution, and in order to secure an acceptable broadband supply in the future, Ellingham Harbridge and Ibsley (EHI) will need to consider a similar solution.

The parish of Hyde was tackled first, as it was more straightforward due to the settlement being compact. In EHI it is anticipated over 11km of cable will be needed to reach all the homes in our disparate parish, with a mixture of technologies being required with some external funding.

Updates will be provided by the Parish Council in due course.

Should you require any further information on this project, please contact Cllr Roly Errington [roly.errington@ehipc.co.uk](mailto:roly.errington@ehipc.co.uk).

The Chairman thanked Cllr Roly Errington and Mark Bloor for their insightful presentation, and welcomed local historian John Hawkins.

## 3. GUEST SPEAKER – JOHN HAWKINS

John Hawkins is an archivist at the Meeting House in Ringwood Town Centre, where over 260 files have been created and are kept for public viewing. He encouraged all residents to visit the Meeting House.

To support with his talk, John had specially prepared a very interesting set of display boards, detailing some of the parish's fascinating history. He has condensed all the documents into a file, one copy will be held at the Meeting House archives for public viewing, and the other held by the Parish Council.

The Chairman warmly thanked John for his remarkable talk on the parish.

## 4. OPEN FORUM

Due to the time, the meeting was concluded to allow time for refreshments and informal networking. No questions were raised but a resident expressed sincere thanks for all the hard work of the members.

The Chairman concluded the meeting at 9.25pm and thanked everyone for attending. She invited them to enjoy the refreshments and to continue asking questions of the councillors and the guest speakers.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

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

**Annual Meeting**  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2015

**Planning Committee**  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2015  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2015