

Ellington Parish Council

Minutes of Ellington Annual Parish Meeting
on **Wednesday 13th May 2024, 7.00 pm** at the Village Hall, Ellington.

Present: Councillors: Cllrs Lumbers (Chairman), Chapman, Crook, Schmidt, MacKenzie and Hinchliffe

Clerk Lisa Hazel
County / Disc Cllr Ian Gardener

Public: 5 members of the public were present.

1. Chairmans Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Approve minutes of meeting held on 17th May 2023

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed as a true record.

3. Annual Report of Ellington Parish Council by the Chairman:

Cllr Lumbers thanked all Parish Councillors and the Clerk for their hard work over the last year. Cllr Lumbers highlighted the sad loss of fellow Cllr Dave Porter who had served on the Council for a many number of years and will be sorely missed by all. Cllr Lumbers reported on the following:

- The recent LHI Bid for speed reduction Ellington Thorpe and the Parish Councils commitment to invest £8,000 into the scheme,
- Refurbishment of High Street and the A14 over bridge,
- Village Hall Refurbishment,
- Boost to Parish Councils finances with recent Community Infrastructure Levy payments,
- Planning and the current wait for the outcome of recent appeals,
- Visitation from Brampton Cross representatives and the potential for an opportunity for a dedicated Ellington to Brampton cycle-path,
- Footpath updates,
- Acknowledgment of the Parish Councils purchase of a village xmas tree,
- The formation of A14 Safety Advisory Group,
- Changes to Green Bin Service
- 2 new members to the Parish Council.

Cllr Lumbers went on to thank members of the public for attending meetings along with the District and County Councillors.

4. To invite the County Councillor to address the meeting

Cllr Ian Gardener gave a verbal report.

5. To invite the District Councillor to address the meeting.

Please see report attached Appendix: A

6. Receive Report from Ellington Village Hall Committee

Over the last year the village hall has been extensively refurbished including new decor, furniture and flooring. This has gone down extremely well with the village residents and local community groups.

This was all made possible by the previous Chair Bob Rice and his committee. In December Bob after 43 years stood down as chair and was succeeded by myself. It is now for the committee to strive forward and continue the work started by Bob.

The main focus of the committee at the moment is to reduce the Hall outgoings and increase and promote the usage of the hall. Work is under way driven by myself, Bob Lumbers and Richard Howells to reduce the insurance cost and if possible have the PC take on this expense. The hall funds currently are at a healthy level, however if the hall continues to pay out more than its current income this won't last long.

I would like to thank all the Hall management committee members for their continued dedication and hard work in keeping this community resource functioning

7. Receive Report from Ellington Church

All Saints Church in Ellington continues to benefit from two Sunday services each month and the support of a small band of regular worshippers from the village. Bolstering the numbers all our friends from Grafham and Brampton, together with occasional visitors from Easton and beyond. We also hold two services of Morning Prayer a month on a Wednesday. Average Sunday 9:30 services including the Rector and children is 17. Wednesday Morning Prayer attracts an average of 2, including the Rector. We had a successful flower festival over the weekend of the Ellington Village Gala, raising funds for various village organisations, including the Church. Ann Davies continues to muster various contributors to this, as well as making the church look beautiful to the congregation and visitors. The Gala weekend finished with a 'Songs of Praise' at the church, with 32 villagers in attendance.

A thoughtful compile was held during Holy Week Ellington. Good Friday saw the Townlands Charity distribute 100 packs of hot cross buns to villagers which was well received and promoted the newly installed book/swap food bank drop off point. With the Harvest Festival services now held in September, there was no Harvest Supper, due to term time bookings in the Village Hall. Christmas saw a successful Carol service supported by the choir (thanks to Kate for organising this) with an attendance including the choir of 89 and a Christmas Eve communion at 11:00 PM, attended by 29. Well-attended carols at The Mermaid returned after a few years in abeyance due to Covid.

The churchyard continues to be well maintained by Walter Howell, Dennis Jolley and the Parish Council. Additionally, the church continues to enjoy the hard work and attention of Rob Barker and volunteers from the village and beyond maintaining the building. This is very much appreciated. Additionally, prior to Remembrance Sunday villagers turned out to tidy up the churchyard in preparation for the Act of remembrance at 11:00 on the Sunday. This was attended by 31 from both Ellington and Grafham.

8. Receive Report from Ellington Playing Field Association

Ellington Playing Field Association reported they have a strong committee of 10 volunteers who meet monthly. They hold 2 popular events each year which are the annual Treasure Hunt and the Santa Sleigh. Residents were encouraged to take part in the annual Village Gala. The purchase of new cricket nets was noted along with a commitment to maintain and develop the playing field making it a safer and nicer area to play. A recent grant to Woolley Hill Wind Farm was successful along with a grant to purchase a new climbing wall. Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council for the support over the years.

9. Receive Report from Ellington Women's Institute (WI)

None Received.

10. Receive Report from Ellington Bowls Club

None Received

11. Receive Report from Osprey Judo Club

None Received

12. Receive Report from Ellington Village Club

None Received.

13. Parish Council Accounts 2023-2024 Audited (Lisa Hazel Clerk)

Noted it should state Parish Council Accounts for 2022 - 2023. The Clerk presented the audited accounts for 2022 - 2023. Copies of which can be found on the website.

14. For members of the public to present, discuss and resolve upon any other matters related to Ellington Parish.

A resident from Ellington Thorpe gave a passionate speech on the perils of living in Ellington Thorpe due to speeding vehicles. It was noted there have been several accidents along this stretch. The lack of maintenance of the grass verges and overgrown vegetation add to the dangers of the road. The lack of any apparent action taken is leading to frustration among many residents of Ellington Thorpe. Appreciation was given to the Parish Council for their recent LHI Bid to try and improve issues.

The recent break in at Buffaload was noted along with the theft cable.

A question was raised on the ownership of a culverts in the village.

15. Closure of Meeting

There being no further business the meeting was closed.