

# MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY 2024

Friday 10 May 2024, Village Hall 7.30pm

Present – Parish Councillors Alan Tyler (Chairman), Mark Gifford, Alison Mosson; Clerk Susan Turner; Guests County Councillor Juliet Henderson, BDBC Council Leader Paul Harvey, Ward Councillor Sheena Grassi; Members of the Public 35 including from Ellisfield

Apologies: Parish Councillors Dave Rudge, Bob Randall; Ward Cllr Onnalee Cubitt; PCSO Andy Jones.

**1 WELCOME** from Parish Council Chairman Alan Tyler

## **2 REPORTS TO THE MEETING**

**.1 Policing update** PCSO Andy Jones sent apologies and submitted his report **APPENDIX I**

Commenting on the report, the Chairman said that crime in Cliddesden currently very low; but requested all residents be vigilant and take the trouble to report to the Police any crime or suspicious behaviour they see. To stress the importance of reporting every incident, even if seems no action taken. Only if need is demonstrated will resources be allocated. We have requested PCSO Andy Jones to increasingly keep an eye on the school; he will do what he can but can't be everywhere and has a lot of area to cover.

**.2 County Councillor Juliet Henderson** thanked the Assembly for her invitation.

i To follow up the issues just raised, Rural crime is an increasing problem; looking to host a Round Table meeting on the subject.

Local byways (BOATs – byways open to all traffic) have become a magnet for criminal users (noting in particular Five Lanes End in Upton Grey, bordering with Mapledurwell; and in the Candovers) including trespass, criminal damage, poaching (hares killed with lead shot) all of which has a big impact on wildlife, landowners, police resources and on the condition of the byways and so on all other users.

Engaging with HCC Countryside Services – who are as it fortunately happens reviewing their Policies – to urgently request they rethink their strategy on seasonal (winter month) closures of the byways to motorised traffic.

ii Juliet is County Councillor for the Candover and Oakley Division; this a long narrow Division which covers four Parliamentary constituencies and some very stunning and beautiful countryside. 'We need to keep and protect our green spaces.'

Juliet sits on the Families Advisory Panel, and is vice chair for the Children and Young People Select Committee. She is also appointed as County representative to Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – Council of Partners.

iii Addressing Budget issues The County Council faces a £132M budget shortfall by April 2025. County is considering its response to the recent Future Services Consultation.

The extra £9M from Government to our roads is not enough – the impacts of climate changed and ever-increasing traffic take too much of a toll – our roads were built for different traffic and conditions.

County puts £1.2B to schools; of the remainder, 86% is spent on adult's and children's social services.

iv An increasing referral rate (25% increase) to children's services a very worrying trend. The Covid impact stay with us; a 20% increase in children missing schools; is reported that parents working from home are allowing children to stay at home; this will affect grades.

v Juliet is also passionate about improving road safety, and by reducing speeding where this can be done. There are locations where a 20mph limit will work. Due to County budgets, Parishes will have to fund this themselves, eg from developer contributions, and will need to show community support.

vi The new hospital has been signed off @£700 to £900M. One preferred location is at J7; will also be good to host a Community Round Table meeting for the hospital.

viii County Councillor devolved budget will be live for applications from the beginning of June. Please get in touch if you have a project you would like to be considered for funding.

viii Congratulations to Sheena on her election.

### **.3 Ward Councillor Sheena Grassi**

Sheena introduced herself as new Ward Councillor. The Grassi family have lived in Old Basing for 90 years; Sheena is also an Old Basing & Lychpit Parish Councillor.

She started the journey towards Borough Councillor four years ago when involved with a campaign to buy back an area of green space for the Lychpit Community **APPENDIX II**.

The parcel of land should have been transferred by developers to BDBC in the 1980s via a Section 52 agreement, but for some reason the transfer didn't take place. As such the land recently came up for sale, and Sheena was asked if she could lead the project to reclaim it. After several false starts it was realised the best option was to buy the land back and residents clubbed together with fundraising to raise £52K. The land is now registered as Local Greenspace, has TPO trees, and has been gifted to the Parish Council so its future is secured and the Parish Council will look after and maintain it.

Sheena is passionate about open space and the environment; about protecting greenspace which is so important for wildlife, from small pockets to larger areas.

Sheena thanked everyone for voting, and for her invitation to Cliddesden's lovely village and Village Hall.

*The Chairman thanked Juliet and Sheena; noting it is appreciated that all our Councillors work hard on residents' behalf.*

### **3 ELECTIONS AND LOCAL PLAN UPDATE Council Leader Cllr Paul Harvey**

Cllr Paul Harvey spoke of the past few months as a roller coaster. The change in BDBC's administration last May had been the first change in 15 years.

The new administration seized the opportunity; this has been our first test.

We are aware of your issues; also trying to shift the direction travel of the tanker which is the District Council. Have been recruiting officers to put back a full team into planning; also for the Green Team, biodiversity and grounds maintenance.

We have made gains in this election; our job focus is to carry on; have started something but have a lot to do, a lot of outcomes to push for. The next BDBC elections will be 2026.

With regards to Cliddesden's Neighbourhood Plan, that was signed off last week and is on its way to Referendum.

The BDBC Local Plan Update has gone through the Reg 18 consultation and moving towards Reg 19. Received c3K representations which a vast increase on previous; have to respond to all these.

There will be responses and we will be clear how we deal with the level of growth required, within the law as it stands. Have to have consistency in the planning process – stability to keep the agenda moving forward. This will be tested in Full Council on Thursday. What we don't want is not to have a Local Plan – that would be the worst of options.

We are also trying to change law – have put direct questions to housing ministry. Letter received said: 'You will determine your housing needs by the standard method.'

Manydown is moving forward, determined this will come through this year.

Question: When will the first houses be built on site?

A – still looking at start of 2025. It will be Infrastructure first, also the Country Park is being delivered – then providing parcels of land for developers. Not want conveyor belt development, looking for quality, and housing people can genuinely afford. The paperwork / exchange is 99% there.

Question: Re Upper Swallick?

A There will be changes on the back of the consultation, but 'neither Paul nor the Labour leader see this as their path'. There will be changes coming, and regarding how we can protect more, but Cliddesden won't be surprised by the Local Plan Reg 19 in this regard.

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**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN** *Mark Gifford report*

At a meeting like this in 2018, several people put their hand up. Now just about have a Plan. It took four year to get to our Reg 14 Draft Plan. During consultation, everyone had their say: had to analyse everything, to comment and make representation against every comment. The Reg 15 is the 'official' Draft Plan sent to BDBC. The Plan is then 'stress tested' to Reg 16 when we agreed to our plan being fine to go to the Examiner. Examiner Janet Cheesley went through every comment, policy wording, evidence documents, maps; and to test for legality and compliance with Local and National Policy.

No Neighbourhood Plans go through examination without some recommendations for change, ours no exception; but the Examiner has produced a report to say our Plan is acceptable, and she praised the Plan and the way it was done.

Yes, we took a hit on some things; if we did not agree to the changes it was back to the drawing board. So minor changes to Heritage, to Leisure, Wellbeing & Transport, mostly minor to Housing, all was within the spirit of what required. For Environmental polices, these always been the most difficult. The Local Gap policy a great success; the Local Greenspace also, some loss but mostly intact including Southlea Meadow. The hit we have taken is re ENV5, the Valued Landscape policy. This Policy has always been a challenge: BDBC have helped us through the process and advised, but didn't tell us they had commissioned a Valued Landscape study that conflicted with ours, leaving us no option to withdraw our Policy.

So heard just today the Plan has been accepted by BDBC, to Reg 18, and is now set to go to Referendum which we think will be in June. This will be a yes / no vote – need 50% in favour to be adopted – will be urging everyone to vote. We think we have captured the spirit of Cliddesden, think the Plan will make a difference.

What the NP can do: Influence housing mix, open spaces, renewable energy. Could have allocated sites for housing, chose not to do that. Can influence what is built.

What can't do is stop development. We have an allocation of 10 houses in this Loca Plan probably 20 in the Update up to 2040. We've built 22 houses during this Plan Period but housing policy says it has to be in groups of five or more to count to the allocation.

Another 'cannot', cannot go against Local and National Planning policy. Have to comply with national legislation.

To say massive thanks to all participants; that will be me, Alan Tyler, Alison Mosson did an incredible amount of work on environmental policies and all the maps that go with them; Dave Brown helped greatly with detail and IT; particular thanks to Brian Karley who organised and carried all. Su Turner helped with the initial set up and the finances.

The Chairman noted that once the Neighbourhood Plan and new Local Plan are in place will at least have much greater protection than had before, will be thankful for the work put in.

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**VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE** *New Chairman's address*

First to thank outgoing Chairman Greg Mendelsohn who for 18 years did an excellent job – to just look around at the hall and the good state it is in.

Going forward, the management team is looking to put together a business plan for the next five years. This is your amenity, for you to say what you would like to see. Looking for comments on the very smallest of issues to blue sky thinking, on what we have and what would make it more advantageous for the community and as a venue.

To comment, one option is to go to home page of the Village Hall website. At the bottom of the page you will see a form to fill in and submit – or an email address [suggestions@cliddesdenhall.org.uk](mailto:suggestions@cliddesdenhall.org.uk) which will come to me. Alternatively there is a secure 'suggestions box' in the Village Hall.

Also wish to say how much appreciate Council Leader Cllr Paul Harvey and his team spending time to come out and engage with the local community. To encourage us all to be working together, and so the Village Hall and Parish Council coming together.

6

**COSMIC ROOTS**

Thank you for having us here to speak. Good to see all here, and Ellisfield and Winslade as well; know you all have questions.

Want to make sure I am a point of contact for all; to show have taken responsible measures, to promote safety, and that this can work for the local community.

Understand two main areas of concern are noise and traffic from the event.

Re noise we have been working with BDBC Environmental Health; and they have also been working independently of us. Background noise studies have been taken all this month at all times of day and night and over weekends.

Not yet received the Noise Plan; this is with BDBC who are still working on it.

Will be noise monitors around, throughout the area. Can facilitate noise readers in your property. Can request a live data feed; this will be monitored and goes directly to Licensing to ensure levels kept within the requirements of the Licence.

Traffic – have spent the last few months working with our consultant and with HCC Highways and with the school.

To run through our Traffic Management Plan; then any questions or suggestions, we will be pleased to have a look at them.

- Private cars To come over the M3 on Garlic Lane then, via the Farleigh Wallop estate, enter a one way system which will be in force over the weekend 10am to 10pm.
- For ingress to the event, this will run on Friday and Saturday eastbound; for Sunday and Monday egress, the traffic will switch around and go the other way.

Coaches and shuttle vehicles will come through Cliddesden and will come past the school. Ingress and egress will take the same route. Will be two coaches from London arriving at midday, one on Thursday and one on Friday. Will be minimum disruption to the school.

We know there is traffic along the lane and that cars park there. For shuttle buses coming from Basingstoke train station; we need to forecast exactly what is coming through Cliddesden at a certain time.

To open floor to question

1. 'All private traffic will come via Garlic Lane.' How do you ensure this? Will there be stewards on A339? How will you stop people taking their own route? If type into google maps or sat nav, will take you through Cliddesden.  
A: We don't publish the location, the festival is advertised as in Hampshire. Traffic is directed to J7 and to then follow signs. Looking to put stewards at both ends of the one way system and on the crossroads. We are working hard to get this right. Appreciate needs to work well in order for licence to continue for future years.
2. Agreement at Licencing meeting that route for all traffic via Garlic Lane. No way will it work for shuttle buses to go up Church Lane without danger. Questioning if Licence allows this.  
A: Very happy for you to take this up with Licensing.
3. From your point of view, you need to make this work for residents.
4. Don't understand how a one way system will work when people will be coming and going.  
A: This is why it is great to have a conversation to talk through issues. Have arranged other events. Experience tells that people come for the weekend and don't leave the site
5. How will you regulate drugs on site?  
A: Drugs are illegal. We hire security for the event, will be 30-40 security officers on site.
6. Question re lighting – relevant in particularity to Ellisfield.
7. None of your plans are finalised. This will affect all road users in the area. All these routes are effectively single carriageway to start with; nothing over 20ft will get round the corner [access to the site] Better to consider a direct route across the Estate.  
A: Had planned to use the Estate route but received push-back from Portsmouth Estate. We are doing our best to find the best options. We have a one-year contract to show you and estate we have done everything have been asked to do.
8. You have run festivals before. What were the issues you previously encountered?  
A: At one, an issue with noise; that was when we brought in a team to independently run our Noise Mangement. Traffic management wasn't an issue at previous venue as access straight off a large main road. Landowners there wanted a much larger event, 10K people.

For signature (p4 of 5) .....



9. Here have likelihood of articulated lorry or tractor in the wrong place, people will not be stopping working for the whole weekend; reversing miles up the lane will be difficult.
10. Wished to make the point, as BDBC Councillors present, that believe BDBC Licensing was wrong to give the Licence in the first place. No consideration of damage inflicted on the site's natural environment, ancient woodland, and wildlife.
11. Why did you choose this site?  
A: This was not the first, looked at lots of site. When looked at this site, could see a festival happening here. And this area is close to where grew up.
12. What exactly is this festival about?  
A: Music and art festival, music very varied.
13. Is the site fenced off?  
A: Yes
14. How do you know how many will be attending  
A: Planning for how many think we want – 1,800 to 2K. Definitely won't reach 5K
15. How do you plan for this number  
A: All via online ticket sales. [First release sold out.] However, if people arrive without a ticket they will be issued a ticket on the gate. Main consideration to avoid issues related to turning people away. Locals are very welcome. It is in our plan for account for every potential increase in numbers.
16. What happens with your one way system if local people around need emergency services? At your event what happens if people need emergency services.  
A: Working with council on this – this a matter for the Safety Advisory Group which includes Fire and Police. [Statutory consultees for Licensing include Local Authority Licensing, Environmental Health, Public Health; Ambulance Service, Hants Fire and Rescue, Hants Highways, Hants Constabulary (Licensing & Strategic Planning).]  
On site we have our own medical facility.
17. What happens with your one way system for those living and working very close to the event?  
A: When the one way system is in place, everyone will need to go around it. Understand it's not the ideal scenario for everyone and affects everyone.  
We don't know if people are likely to turn up on bikes as not done this venue before.  
No we didn't know that Chinooks practice low over the field.
18. Wishing you good luck. But apart from here have heard very little about this. Ideally need a news drop telling us this is plan you have in place rather than us coming to you.  
A: We have been in contact with parishes, and businesses, we can take contact details. For last venue in Norfolk we sent out information via the Parish Councils, also leafletting directly. Also as part of the Noise Management Plan, the noise management team will send out a letter to everyone including contact numbers for all hours of the day. There will be information send out once we receive the Noise Management Plan.
19. What happens if none of this works to plan? Outside of local people recognising issues and reporting, who is to monitor?  
A: My understanding is that representations will be made to the Council and they will take into consideration. As have said, noise levels are monitored constantly.
20. When will you finalise the Plan  
A: Lots of different parts to the Plan, and up to the Safety Advisory Group to agree. Our final plan won't be published – confidential – our data. But also a working document and constantly updated.
21. The requirement is for Plans to be in place a month before event.  
A: It will be.
22. Do you have map of the effect this will have on the woodland  
A: No, we haven't been asked for one.  
You have now. This is Ancient Woodland – there will be detrimental effects. Also, you have tree surgeons working, are you clearing trees?  
A: No. The work is to make trees safe.
23. Not comfortable with this, you can see the push-back you are receiving.
24. Will be a lot of disturbance to wildlife, will move animals without a doubt, then onto roads.
25. Final comment – The more information you can give us the better.

*The Chairman thanked Cosmic Roots for attending, appreciate they faced a challenging situation.*

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

*Thanks to all for attending and contributing*

For signature (p5 of 5) ..... Date .....

**APPENDIX I POLICE REPORT FOR CLIDDESSEN**

Cliddesden AGM POLICE report 08 MAY 2024

2023-24

**ARSON**

Overnight in 25th – 26th January 24 persons unknown have placed face masks through a letter box of a business having set fire to them. No damage has been caused and there are no lines of enquiry for Police to follow up on.

**ASB COMMUNITY X 2**

22nd September a report was received of a Motorcycle tearing up a bridleway in Cliddesden. Nothing seen as to the description of the bike.

1st Feb a report was received that 7 – 10 cars were gathering under the Motorway Bridge on Woods Lane.

**ASSAULT WITHOUT INJURY**

14th April early evening Inft reporting that someone has stolen his VRN plate from his vehicle and then jumped in a car and drove off. In the process the owner of the VRN has returned and had to jump out of the way of the vehicle thought to be involved. The wing mirror has struck him upon his arm exiting the car park. (Ongoing investigation)

**CRIMINAL DAMAGE X 2**

22nd December overnight, unknown person has fired ball bearing at the aggds car causing damage. (No lines of Enquiry)

Similar incident reported on the same road later that day on Hackwood Lane. (Linked incident)

**DANGEROUS DRIVING X 1**

On the 22nd May around 10pm Police received a report that a six vehicles were doing doughnuts in the car park of Cliddesden School. Last seen heading off towards the village.

**HARASSMENT X 1**

Dispute between what appears to be family members

**HARE COURSING**

18th Jan 23 0630hrs Inft reporting he can see 2 groups of people with torches in the field by Cliddesden School. Limited details as he is quite far away.

**ROAD TRAFFIC INCIDENTS X2****SUSPICIOUS INCIDENTS X 4****THEFT FROM VEHICLE / CRIMINAL DAMAGE X 1**

17th Sept 23 between 1330 & 2000hrs a car parked on the rd (Northgate Lane) has had its windows smashed and scratches etched in the body work inc the words (HA-HA)

**APPENDIX II NOT LOST THE PLOT - MAIL ONLINE**

*Ref Sheena Grassi campaign for village green space*

A community raised £45,000 to buy its own village green space back after a council blunder 40 years ago saw the land being sold to a developer for a 'pittance'.

Residents decided to take action after discovering a clerical mishap by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council in Hampshire, meant the area's tree-fringed green space, had been sold off for a fraction of its value at auction. Despite being worth an estimated £300,000 the land was sold multiple times at auctions for as little as £8,000 - with the council having overlooked several opportunities to purchase the plot back for just £1.

But locals rallied together to raise funds - with donations, bike rides and a 'Junemas' event - to save the green area where children learn to ride their first bicycles and residents enjoy picnics.

The clerical mishap by the council, when the Lychpit housing estate was first built in 1980, meant the transfer of the green space to the local authority never took place.

As a result it came as a shock to locals - and the council - when a resident suddenly spotted the Broadhurst Grove village green advertised for sale on the property site Rightmove last year.

Residents raised £45,000 to buy its own village green space back a clerical mishap by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Hampshire

The clerical mishap by the council, when the Lychpit housing estate was first built in 1980, meant the transfer of the green space to the local authority never took place

The council dissuaded residents from purchasing the green in the belief an agreement signed with the original owner of the land but the 'section 52 agreement' was deemed not 'robust' enough, and failed, leaving the land in the hands of developers

The council then dissuaded residents from purchasing the green when it went up for auction in the belief an agreement signed with the original owner of the land, Davis Estates Southern Limited, meant it should have been transferred to them.

But the 'section 52 agreement' was deemed not 'robust' enough, and failed, leaving the land in the hands of developers.

Now the villagers' purchase of the green, which was completed earlier this month, means the land's future is finally secured.

Sheena Grassi, a local resident and member of Old Basing and Lychpit Parish Council, says it is an enormous relief.

The mother-of-two said: 'It has been a rollercoaster since May 2020 when the land was first bought for a pittance, but we are absolutely delighted now the green is secure.

'We found out from the council in March that the section 52 failed - though it remains a mystery why that is.

'We started a Go Fund Me page, hosted a Junemas event where we sold mince pies and other treats, and one resident, Neil Armstrong, embarked on a charity cycle ride to raise funds.

'The majority of the funds came from a residents' fund which families living around the green contributed to.

'But it is a bit sad we have had to do this, really.'

Until the land was auctioned, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council thought it owned the land, and had even maintained the area for four decades.

Sheena Grassi

Jan Hall

Sheena Grassi (left), a local resident and member of Old Basing and Lychpit Parish Council, said it was 'an enormous relief' to have the land back while Jan Hall (right) said the open space serves as the heart of the community

Locals rallied together to raise funds and save the tree-fringed green in the area - which Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council mistakenly thought they owned. Pictured: Residents Sheena Grassi, Gill Moore and Jan and Tony Hall

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The villagers' purchase of the green, which was completed earlier this month, means its future is finally secured.

**APPENDIX II NOT LOST THE PLOT - MAIL ONLINE**

Continued....

The villagers' purchase of the green, which was completed earlier this month, means its future is finally secured

Mrs Grassi added: 'We had multiple opportunities to buy it - but we were assured by the council that the section 52 agreement meant the buyers would have to give the land over to them, and anyone could buy the land for just £1.

'They thought it was still their land and they could simply claim it back.'

The group raised more than £55,000 in total, the remainder of which will go towards future costs for the green.

They are now hoping to secure 'village green' status - which would safeguard the space from becoming anything other than an open area even if it were re-sold.

Mrs Grassi, 63, who has lived opposite the green with husband Lloyd, 64, for nearly 19 years, added: 'Our grandchildren have grown up on the green, playing with other children from families here.

'The area is very attractive for young families because the green is a nice, safe area for children to play in.

'It's also an area of great biodiversity: we have deers, foxes and badgers all visit the green. It's a unique and tranquil patch of land.

'It's lovely to see people enjoying the green again.

'Even when things were difficult, that is what spurred us on - I wanted new generations of children to enjoy it as well.'

Jan Hall and her husband Tony moved onto the estate when it was first built 41 years ago.

The retired retail worker says the open space, which her house looks out onto, serves as the heart of the community.

She said: 'It's a great relief to have secured the green - we are all delighted we were able to save it.

'Our daughter Sarah was born here and grew up playing on the green and learning to ride her bike on it, along with lots of other children.

'She was horrified when I told her it could go. It was an absolute bolt from the blue.

'Sarah and her son were both so pleased when we told them it had been saved.

'The sale upset a lot of people - it was like somebody invading your garden.. It would have been devastating if houses were built there and would have completely ruined the area.

'It's worth every penny to secure - but it still never should have happened.

'Especially during the pandemic we have all realised how precious an area like this is. We took it for granted because it had always been there, but now we realise its value.'