

**MINUTES OF THE 112th ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF EFFINGHAM
HELD AT THE KING GEORGE V HALL, BROWNS LANE
AT 8PM ON TUESDAY 10 APRIL 2007**

- Present Edward Crouch, Chairman of Effingham Parish Council, in the Chair
54 Local government electors including Cllrs Driscoll, Hogger and Nicholls
- Apologies Cllr James Wetenhall had sent apologies.
- Minutes The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16 April 2006 were approved and signed.
- Chairman's Report 06-07 This had been circulated throughout the village and was presented to the meeting, A copy is attached to these Minutes. It was noted that Jessica Page had also been a Borough Councillor.
- Matters raised from the floor Minutes of the Meeting of 2006
There was discussion concerning progress on items mentioned in the previous Minutes:
- Meetings convened by the Police Community Support Officers and the Parish Council to address the parking problems caused by sports events at KGV appeared to have been successful, and the latter had now appreciably eased;
- Cracking of the footway along some sections of Effingham Common Road was no better;
- There was no further information about improvement of the electricity supply;
- The Task Group was continuing its discussions on traffic calming;
- Completion of the cycle route between Effingham and East Horsley is well under way;
- Difficulties caused by horse-riders using public footpaths were being addressed, for instance there was a reminder to all residents in the current Chairman's Report. This problem was agreed to be made worse by the attitude of some horse-riders who would not accept that they did not have the right to use the footpaths.
- Cllr Nicholls regretted that questions on Calvert Road had been given insufficient consideration.
- Effingham Common - SPA
Mr Symes requested an update on the Borough's plans to site a car-park on Effingham Common. It was explained that the issue arises out of GBC's adoption of Natural England's policies for Special Protection Areas, and officers would present the Borough's current thinking about the car-park (and other management issues for the Common) at the next Parish Council meeting. It had been very difficult to get GBC to grasp the concept of the Effingham commoners' rights. Mr Helps asked whether GBC's policy, which is raising objections at sites across the Borough, is likely to continue unchanged. It was explained that the policy goes forward for review as part of the South East plan. Cllr Hogger wished to have it minuted that she opposed the policy from the outset as unsound and feels that her views and those of residents have been ignored.
- Effingham Common – accessibility
Cllr Nicholls described the difficulty and exhaustion awaiting anyone trying to use footpaths or walk generally on the Common. The Clerk explained that one of the obstacles to improvement was that the SCC Rights of Way Officer believed horses had the right to go anywhere on a Common, but this would be researched and if possible challenged. Mr Symes wondered how it could be allocated as open access land if you can't walk on it. It was suggested that after the forthcoming election the new Parish Council visits the Common to take a view of its condition. Mr Wallis felt that both GBC and the public in general found it difficult to understand the concept of a private common in public ownership.
- St Lawrence Primary School Playing Field
Mr Helps asked about the land-swap and the prospects of acquiring additional burial ground land. Cllr Crouch confirmed that the new owners are aware of the Parish Council's interest.
- Traffic lights and Highways issues
Mr Helps asked why the timing/sequencing had changed for the worse. Cllr Crouch confirmed that attempts were being made to have this improved, and to keep the issue of a right turn filter 'live'. Mr Page felt that 'a bomb should be placed under Highways' because they do NOT respond to problems reported. This was agreed and felt variously to have a) not changed for 30 years; b) have got worse recently. The Highways Dept is extremely short-staffed at present. Cllr Barker is waging an unrelenting battle to achieve improvement.
- Hospital closure programme
Cllr Nicholls raised the question of proposed hospital closure (Royal Surrey) but also whether, given Effingham's location, more should be done to watch progress at Epsom and St Helier; also to support the paramedics.
- St Teresa's School development
Mr Symes asked whether there was any progress on this. Cllr Crouch explained that no planning application had arrived yet.
- Vote of thanks Mr Francis Helps proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the meeting closed at 8.32pm.