

**MINUTES OF THE 113<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF EFFINGHAM  
HELD AT THE KING GEORGE V HALL, BROWNS LANE  
AT 8PM ON WEDNESDAY 23 APRIL 2008**

- Present** Edward Crouch, Chairman of Effingham Parish Council, in the Chair  
19 Local government electors including Cllrs Driscoll, Lightfoot, Nicholls, Plindar, Symes & Wetenhall
- Apologies** Cllr Liz Hogger had sent apologies.
- Minutes** The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 April 2007 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. The following topics were raised for discussion:
- Burial Ground  
A resident asked about progress acquiring more land. It was explained that the private consortium who own it are aware of the Parish Council's interest but did not wish to enter into negotiations when last this was proposed.
- Newmarsh Farm  
A resident asked about the continued escalation of environmental damage, flouting planning constraints. It was explained that GBC is aware. Cllr Lightfoot mentioned the work of the joint group comprising the parish councils of Effingham, East Horsley, Ockham and the Cobham and Downside Residents group putting pressure on GBC and the Environment Agency, both their handling of specific instances and their operational systems.
- Calvert Road  
A resident asked about the objection to the inclusion of this in GBC's Site Allocations Plan. It was explained that this will be a very lengthy process. There will eventually be a response to the first consultation, but after that, additional sites which have come forward since the initial consultation will be circulated for comment.
- Beech Avenue  
A resident of The Crossroads whose property backs on to Beech Avenue spoke about the increasingly heavy levels of traffic, the size of the vehicles, and the worsening damage to the boundary wall and nearby trees. He was concerned that when Grove House pupils move to St Teresa's problems will escalate even further. Cllr Wetenhall spoke about the School's obligation, as part of the planning consent, to mitigate expansion of vehicle numbers, and the LORD campaign group's efforts to help by tackling satellite navigation systems. He also mentioned SCC's recent confirmation that the trees are regarded as safe, and their agreement to replace the fence next to the Golf Club. Cllr Lightfoot mentioned the incident report form available from LORD.
- Car park, Effingham Common  
Mr Helps asked about progress on whether GBC intended to site a car park on the Common. It was explained that this had gone quiet and there was little interest in stirring it up!
- Report on Henry Smith's Charity** On behalf of the four Trustees, Michael Bray gave an explanation of the origins of the Charity and its aims. The Trustees will treat all applications on their merits, in strictest confidence, and have been able to make several grants recently. The Trustees were thanked for this very valuable work on behalf of the village.
- Effingham Emergency Planning Group** Cllr Arnold Plindar gave an account of the progress about this Group which had begun its meetings in October last year – members drawn from a cross-section of villagers. Broadly, the Group is assessing the most likely risks to affect Effingham, and what might be done locally as an appropriate response (ie not trying to do the emergency services' job for them, but to dovetail with them). Various ideas were being pursued which would also increase 'community resilience' during non-emergency times as well. SCC's Head of Contingency Planning will visit the group shortly. Eventually the Group's findings will be publicised to residents.
- Friends of** Cllr Ian Symes is on the Committee of the Friends and gave an account of recent

**Effingham  
Common**

discussions. He explained how the Common is designated as a SANG (Suitable Alternative Natural Green space) for Ockham and Wisley Commons, which are part of the Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area. GBC had had to undertake a survey of flora, fauna and ecology and had come up with some interesting findings eg nesting skylarks (hence the need to keep dog-walkers on the rights of way), and that some ponds are unaccountably drying up whilst the overall Common is still boggy ('wet grassland'). Volunteer days are regularly organised to clear ragwort and encroaching scrub. Unfortunately the last Commons Day had to be cancelled as a result of Foot and Mouth restrictions. There was discussion from the floor about whether the public will ever feel that 'wet' Effingham Common is a viable walking alternative to the Heaths, and hence the need for the car park at all.

Recently the Parish Council has also reinstated discussion with the Cricket Club, which is on the whole thriving.

**Matters raised  
from the floor**

Telephone masts

A resident wanted to know whether there were currently any proposals to set up more telephone masts in Effingham. It transpired he was very weary of the poor reception and wanted to know who had blocked the installation of an additional mast at KGV. It was explained that the Parish Council was not against mobile phones and encouraged sharing of existing masts when possible. It did not authorise or block applications – it could only comment on things put forward by the companies themselves, but the proposed KGV mast had attracted much village opposition by its location and the size of the accompanying ancillary structures. Members of the audience suggested that changing network was a better option than more masts.

**Vote of thanks**

Mr Francis Helps proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the Parish Council for their work.

  
14.04.09.