

**MINUTES OF THE 117th ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF EFFINGHAM
HELD AT THE KING GEORGE V HALL, BROWN'S LANE
AT 8PM ON TUESDAY 17 APRIL 2012**

- Present** Arnold Pindar, Chairman, Effingham Parish Council, in the Chair
30 registered electors and 2 non-residents
- Apologies** None.
- Report on Henry Smith's Charity** This item was reported first so Mr Bray could attend another meeting. He gave a brief description of how the charity was founded. The Effingham branch receives about £3,500 each year from the parent body for distribution. Applicants to the scheme today are met and helped wherever possible, if necessary also with claiming statutory benefits. Summer and winter vouchers are also provided.
- Minutes** Cllr Pindar thanked Cllrs Symes and Wetenhall for chairing and minuting last year's meeting. The Minutes were approved as a true record and signed.
- Matters Arising** There were no matters arising.
- Report by PCSO Culross** PCSO Culross reported that after 5 ½ years in Effingham he was still proud to be the officer here. The crime rate in the Guildford Borough area is very low but even so in Effingham has dropped during this time, which is down to joint effort and sharing of information, for which he thanked residents. He reports the crime statistics and is available to answer residents' questions at the Parish Council meeting every month. The statistics for the most recent month were 1 theft of a bike, 2 attempted burglaries, 2 incidents of attempted arson. He advised members of the public to be vigilant: not to leave on show the sort of implements that could be used to help break-ins, and to keep cars locked. Shortly there will be a different newsletter format. He is now on Facebook and Twitter so that the public can find out where he is. There is a new non-emergency number for contacting the police wherever you are: 101.
- Chairman's Report 2011-12** The Chairman talked through aspects of his report:
Precept – in the current climate it was decided this could not be raised. Having supported KGV / EVRT for many years, it had been decided to make some money available to other community groups and village functions as well.
Jubilee Day – this has been redesigned by a new village group aiming to help youth groups and the Parish Council hopes all will help to make it a success.
Grit bins – these had proved their worth and been used during the cold weather.
Commoners Day – would be Sunday 30 September. The Chairman recorded thanks to Adam Owen of GBC for his work maintaining and managing the Common.
Local History Group – this group was thanked for being part of the 'glue' that held the village together, with especial thanks to Chris Hogger.
Street furniture – this was inspected regularly by councillors, but reports of problems from residents were welcome. A plan for mending the railings opposite Sibleys had been drawn up.
Sprucing up the village – the footway along Effingham Common Road had at last been repaired. There would be tree-planting in November. The flint wall in The Street would be 'finished off' with section 106 money.
Home Farm Estate – it has finally got through to GBC that the residents' community here works together, and GBC is beginning to act to make improvements.
Planning applications – the Parish Council has scrutinized and commented on many applications. A particular problem had been the application for the re-build at The Long Barn on High Barn Road, where serious damage had been done to the hillside in the AONB; also to Critten Lane of which SCC Highways was aware. Planning enforcement officers were monitoring the site to ensure it was returned to the original contours and replanted. The application for a Care Home will be debated at the next Parish Council meeting. The application for moving the Catholic Church Hall was supported and will result in a better designed, better located, less obtrusive building.
The coming year – there had been one or two meetings about starting a Neighbourhood Plan and a Village Plan. This will have to have the full involvement of the residents; the Parish Council cannot do it alone.
Thanks – there are so many residents who help make the village what it is today, and a list recording these was in circulation.

Questions and comments on the Chairman's Report, from the floor

Neighbourhood Plan

A resident recognized this was a huge piece of work and would be slow, but urged the Parish Council to lead the way so the village was not at the mercy of developers. The Chairman acknowledged this, and stressed the importance of taking proper advice on the correct way to approach it. It will be a major piece of work taking months, but Effingham's contribution to the previous Local Plan was well worked out and clear so it can be done.

Planning app. for Care Home, Church Street

The Chairman explained that as the Parish Council was yet to debate this issue, he would not be answering any questions on it but was very keen to hear the views of Effingham residents. He encouraged residents also to send their comments to GBC, whether for or against.

Comments from the floor included the following:

- Not against a care-home per se, but, from a personal knowledge of having family in a home for dementia sufferers, against more than one storey; the design poorly thought out for those who will be in it; too many people.
- The number of rooms, and for what type of patient, had changed and was still not defined
- Dementia care and other nursing care cannot be mixed in the same facility
- The suggested number of staff for this number of rooms is misleading and wrong, with impact on the transport and parking problems this will cause.
- Staff will *have* to use cars; there is no viable alternative.
- Care homes which are too big go wrong, get bad names, become unviable and close down which is awful for vulnerable people. It is vital that all are clear this is a sound application before embarking on it.
- Electronic gates and a gated compound in this location are entirely inappropriate
- It is far too large for the site; there is no view for patients and nowhere to walk.
- Residents strongly reject any attempt by the applicants to portray them as opposing any care home; they just oppose this application as being so inappropriate and harmful to the village.
- Why is the issue of 5m radius significant? People don't expect to have hospitals as close as that to their homes in a hamlet such as this. Within 25m there are 79 homes already.
- The sequential study identifying this as the most relevant site was done after identifying this as the most suitable site, and the search parameters were drawn so closely as to inevitably end up with this as being the 'only' suitable site
- The so-called independent transport study does not mention the word 'school' or 'church' in 50 pages, despite these immensely important factors
- The surveys of public opinion by the applicant asked loaded questions
- Why had there been no pre-application discussions with GBC?
- Some interesting information had been provided by some of the specialist reports on the site, for instance archaeology, ecology, geology etc.

Cllr Hogger reiterated the encouragement to write, and explained that for such a large project the decision would be taken by the Planning Committee.

There being no further comments, the Chairman thanked the residents for attending and closed the meeting.