

**MINUTES OF THE 120th ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF EFFINGHAM
KING GEORGE V HALL, BROWN'S LANE
8PM TUESDAY 21st APRIL 2015**

Present	Cllr Arnold Pindar, Chairman, Effingham Parish Council in the Chair 25 registered electors and Clerk
Apologies	M.Bray - Smith's Charity
Minutes	The Minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting were approved as a true record and signed.
Matters Arising	The Chairman was delighted to report that Critten Lane has now been resurfaced.
Chairman's Report 2014-15	<p>The Chairman gave thanks to the outgoing Councillors: James Wetenhall after many years service, Perry Stock after a recent cooption and Gill Bowerman who resigned earlier in the year. Further thanks was given to Clare Richie the outgoing Parish Clerk and an introduction given to Jon Short new Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.</p> <p><u>Parish Council Precept</u> The Parish Council will receive £89,642 in precept from Guildford Borough Council for 2015-16.</p> <p><u>Nominations for Effingham Parish Councillors 2015-19</u> The Chairman confirmed that there would not be an election as only the required number of applications were received (10). The new Councillors will take office at the Annual PC Meeting on the 18th of May 2015.</p> <p><u>Thanks to Parish Councillors</u> The Chairman gave thanks to all the Councillors for their outstanding contributions over what had been an exceptional year, with extraordinary workload. The new challenges had been over and above their normal activities of scrutinising other planning applications, dealing with highway matters any many more local interests.</p> <p><u>Threats and Opportunities</u></p> <p><u>Threats</u> The Chairman reported on last years GBC Draft Local Plan meeting with Council Leader Cllr Mansbridge and Cllr Monica Juneja - and although the discussions appeared fair, the resulting Draft Local Plan bore no resemblance to the plans Cllr Mansbridge proposed to both Ian Symes and himself. Following thousands of objections, the GBC Local Plan is currently on hold, with new consultations expected towards the end of 2015. The Chairman has no reason to expect better treatment for Effingham regarding the next Draft Plan if Cllr Mansbridge remains in post.</p> <p>The Chairman made the following statements on behalf of the Parish Council regarding the Berkeley Homes proposal to build 295 new homes on the current HoE site, and move the HoE to the Effingham Lodge Farm site.</p> <p>1) That the Parish Council wanted to support the school and see it thrive, but this must be balanced against the effects the plans would</p>

<p>Progress Report on The Village Plan</p>	<p>have on the village of Effingham, and that there must be other more agreeable options.</p> <p>2) That the Parish Council had worked with Berkeley Homes and the School - without prejudice - to consider planning gain money that would come to Effingham should their plans be successful. There would be a minimum claim of £2 million to support the village.</p> <p>3) That the Parish Council had carefully examined the evidence on which the planning application was based, and had consulted widely with villagers and village organisations especially with EFFRA.</p> <p>4) The Parish Council has concluded that they had to object to the planning application, and give substantive reasons for these objections. (please see the EPC website for further detail).</p> <p>5) The Berkeley Homes planning application has now been deferred until after the May 7th elections, and most likely until Autumn 2015.</p> <p><u>Opportunities</u></p> <p>The one over-riding opportunity is the Village/Neighborhood Plan. The Chairman stated it was vital that the Effingham Plan be properly prepared and agreed as soon as possible so as to both influence the GBC Draft Local Plan and manage future developments.</p> <p><u>Finances</u></p> <p>The Chairman noted the Draft Local Plan threat. with Cllr Mansfield trying to override Effingham's needs. This threat may necessitate expert legal advice to examine evidence.</p> <p>The Chairman noted the Berkeley Home Planning Application where GBC/ SCC Councillors and officers may have pre-judged the application. If the application is approved expert legal advise may be needed on how best appeal any decision. If GBC vote against the application, it may still be necessary to seek legal advise on how best to support GBC in any Berkeley Homes appeal.</p> <p>The Chairman explained the one off increase in 2015/16 precept of £30k (which equates to an increase of £24.10 per annum for a Band D property) as being essential to fund any necessary legal support. It was also stated that the aim was to return former precept levels in 2016/17.</p> <p><u>Thanks</u></p> <p>Thanks was given to all villagers who had contributed input to our activities, especially regarding the Berkeley Homes/HoE issues, and the emerging Village Plan.</p> <p>Special thanks was given to EFFRA, for their support.</p> <p>Thanks was given to all that had helped distributing reports and notices, and a request made for further volunteers.</p> <p>Further thanks was given to the Foot Paths Team, and a request was made for further volunteers.</p> <p>Cllr Paula Moss gave an update on the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Cllr Moss reported on the status of the plan and on the feedback received from the Public Meeting held in March.</p>
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<p>Report of the Trustee's, Henry Smith Charity, Effingham</p>	<p>The account is valued at £7348 as of 1st March 2015, which includes an annual grant of £3500 from the main Henry Smith Charity.</p> <p>In 2014 the charity made 3 grants totally £784 plus Christmas Vouchers to 7 households totaling £920. (Vouchers total per house £140 for couples and £200 for families)</p> <p><u>Points made :</u></p> <p>The Charity are seeking more voucher recipients</p> <p>The Charity are seeking more cases for making grants</p> <p>That the boundary for the charity's work is the Parish Boundary of Effingham</p> <p>That the charity is aiming to do more promotion</p>
<p>Items raised by Residents</p>	<p>The question of our ability to trust GBC was raised by a resident and reassurance given by the Chairman.</p> <p>A resident raised the issue of whether or not the HoE had followed due legal process. It was suggested that a letter to SCC from the resident might be helpful.</p> <p>The question of pre-determination was raised by a resident regarding the HoE application. The Chairman said there were a number of factors that pointed in this direction, which is why Effingham Parish Council had increased the 2015/16 precept to allow for a legal challenge should one be required.</p> <p>Mr Chris Dick from EFFRA raised the issue of The Village Plan suggesting the process had not been transparent. Cllr Paula Moss replied on behalf of the Chairman - that the lack of transparency may rather have been a lack of activity in the first part of last year, as EPC were busy with Local Plan issues and the HoE application.</p> <p>Mr Andy Bedford who is representing a consortium that includes the Lyons Field site made himself known to the meeting.</p> <p>A resident raised the issue of a recent Home Farm / Capita meeting held in the Parish Rooms, and that he was dismayed that there were no Parish Councillors present. Liz Hogger replied on behalf of the Chairman reporting that as this was a private meeting Parish Councillors had not been invited.</p> <p>A resident objected to any involvement of Parish Councillors in talks with developers. The meeting was informed that this was a statutory requirement for neighbourhood planning.</p> <p>A resident made the point that there had been a lack of viable alternative planning sites being brought forward by those objecting to the current ones proposed.</p>