

**MINUTES OF THE 121st ANNUAL MEETING FOR
THE PARISH OF EFFINGHAM**

**KING GEORGE V HALL, BROWNS LANE
8PM TUESDAY 12th APRIL 2016**

Present	<p>Cllr Arnold Pindar, Chairman, Effingham Parish Council. 8 Effingham Parish Councillors 9 Registered Electors and the Parish Clerk</p>
Apologies	<p>Cllr Lightfoot, Bill Barker (SCC County Cllr) and Mr. M.Bray (Smiths Charity)</p>
(1) Minutes	<p>The minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting were approved as a true record and duly signed.</p>
(2) Chairman's Report	<p>Cllr Pindar (Chairman of Effingham Parish Council) gave his annual report on the Parish Council, which included - Welcoming new Parish Councillor Cliff Hackett, and then welcoming back previous serving Parish Councillors Keith Cornwell and James Nicholls. He then went on to thank all the Parish Councillors for their hard work to date on the Neighbourhood Plan, and then gave a brief history and progress report regarding the plan, and how it should protect against future inappropriate housing development within the Parish. The refusal of Berkeley Homes planning application by Guildford Borough Council's planning department was considered a major victory for the residents of Effingham, and he gave thanks for Cllr Hogger and Cllr Cornwell for speaking against the proposal at the planning meeting on the 9th of March 2016. The new draft GBC Local Plan was also reported on, which is considered considerably more sympathetic to Effingham, compared to the earlier draft in 2014 where large areas of the Parish were to lose their Green Belt protection. The 2016/17 precept was then reported on, which has returned to more normal levels after a £30k development-fighting fund was funded in 2015/16. The Parish Council has "ring fenced" this fund, and will consult with local residents regarding its future should the perceived risks subside. Lastly there was a report on the Community Fund, where the Parish Council has supported local groups and organisation by giving grants for refurbishment work at the KGV Clubroom and for the St.Lawrence Church Hall Stage. There were grants</p>

<p>(3) Report on the Local Plan</p>	<p>awarded for the purchase of large display boards for use by local groups and organisations, along with Signage for KGV, notice boards for the Parish Councils Burial Ground and Allotment and a new Burial Ground bench.</p> <p>A full copy of the Chairman's report can be found in Appendix.</p> <p>Cllr Hogger gave a presentation on Guildford Borough Council's 2016 draft Local Plan, and explained that a Local Plan was the set of planning policies used by the Council to decide on all planning applications. It needs to be consistent with government planning law as set out by the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) and also needs to set housing targets for the borough and demonstrate there is enough land to meet the target. The previous draft 2014 GBC Local Plan included taking Effingham out of the Green Belt, a huge extension of the settlement area and a replacement for The Howard of Effingham School, all of which would be to the detriment of the village. This new Local Plan will need to go out to formal public consultation, to formal examination by a Planning Inspector and could be adopted as soon as end of 2017.</p> <p>The Land Availability Assessment (LAA) include the following sites within Effingham -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Church Street field, proposed for 22 homes 2) The Barn, proposed for 16 homes including potentially converting the barn into smaller family homes. 3) Orchard Walls, Beech Avenue, proposed for 6 homes (Net gain of 5) <p>The Local Plan expects at least 43 new homes to be built in Effingham in the next 17 years (until 2033), plus windfall sites and possibly limited development on Effingham Lodge Farm. Your Effingham Neighbourhood Plan will influence any future planning applications on Effingham Lodge Farm, where the need to protect green belt gap and the wildlife corridor is considered paramount.</p> <p>Proposed large-scale development at Wisley Airfield (2100 homes) and Gosden Hill (2000 homes) was also reported on, and the provision of Schools within the developments considered positive, as there is no longer the pressure to expand The Howard of Effingham School.</p> <p>Effingham's initial draft Neighbourhood Plan was then spoken on, and how it had really helped to change the minds of GBC planning policy officers and the Lead Councillor for Planning. As recently as September 2015 GBC considered Effingham Lodge Farm to be a strategic site for housing and a new expanded school. Cllr Hogger has spoken to every senior planning officer & Paul Spooner (now Council Leader) to point out that Effingham isn't a NIMBY community and to press that ELF was a vital green belt gap.</p>
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<p>(4) Report on The Village Plan</p>	<p>Cllr Hogger then paid tribute to all the hard work and determination of her parish council colleagues and volunteers who helped prepare the draft Neighbourhood Plan, ably and enthusiastically led by Cllr Paula Moss, and that it had at times been an uphill struggle but fully rewarded by the end result.</p> <p>Cllr Moss gave her report on Effingham's Village Plan, and how it had been "A Year of Great Progress".</p> <p>The first major public meeting on policy development for Effingham's Neighbourhood Plan was a year ago and 200 people packed in to place red and green smiley stickers on the various policies and to scribble sticky notes with their own ideas for the plan. This was followed up with further events at the Village Day and again in the Autumn with another packed meeting to share the first draft NP with residents. This first draft received substantive support from residents but was less popular with the examiner that gave it a health check. This high lighted inadequacies in the technical skills referencing the most appropriate strategic planning documents to support proposals. The plan was then redrafted and is now ready for the very important pre submission phase of the plan.</p> <p>In 2016 ENPAG (Effingham Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group) was launched formed of 12 members representing organisations, interest groups and all areas of the village. This group has helped shape the final draft that will be put before all residents in May 2016.</p> <p>Two Housing Workshops were held to evaluate a list of 20 proposed development site, and to obtain thoughts on housing policies - these included housing numbers, mix, density, styles and location. Thanks was given to the 40 residents that gave up their time to get to grips with lots of information and evaluate, fairly and objectively the merits and pitfalls of one site over another in order to finalise the shortlist of sites.</p> <p>Further "Drop in Sessions" for every other aspect of the plan have also been held, and thanks given for those who took part. It was reported that on the 11th April 2016 the ENPAG team meet to agree the final "preferred draft of the Effingham Neighbourhood Plan" that will be presented to Effingham Parish Council on the 19th April 2016. The now much reduced risk of the settlement area being doubled from a year ago should allow the Plan to deliver smaller more affordable homes that people need, in the style and location that best suit our village, whilst safeguarding local character and heritage. Cllr Moss then went on to thank the Team for their commitment, enthusiasm and hard work.</p>
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**(5)
Henry
Smiths
Charity**

Report of the Trustees, Henry Smith Charity, Effingham.

Henry Smith Charity Effingham

(Charity No 237703)

The account is valued at £3792 as at 4 April 16

In 2015 the charity made 5 grants totaling £1558 and in addition handed out Christmas Vouchers 2015 to 9 households totaling £1617

(Vouchers total per house - £140 for couples and £200 for families)

Points to make:

We are seeking more voucher recipients

We are seeking more cases for making grants

The boundary for the Charity's work is the Parish boundary of Effingham only.

We are aiming to do more promotion.

Rev Andrew Mackenzie left Effingham and his place on the Henry Smith Charity Effingham Board has been taken by Mr. James Brennan a Church Warden at St Lawrence's Church Effingham.

Michael Bray
Trustee
Henry Smith Charity Effingham

6th April 2016

**(6)
Items
raised by
residents**

James Nicholls (Parish Councillor) voiced concerns regarding a possible negative affect on the Village Plan should Berkeley Homes appeal the Planning Application refusal decision, and then went on to comment that the green belt land (70 acres) at Effingham Lodge Farm might be difficult to manage. He also made comment on the 2014 GBC Local Plan and how it was impossible to read.

Cllr Hogger replied to the Berkeley Homes planning refusal concerns by assuring that GBC's draft Local Plan will continue

to carry more weight as time goes on, and that the required "special circumstances" for building on Green Belt land had not been previously proved by Berkeley Homes.

Due to strength of opposition at the Planning Meeting for the Berkeley Homes application, it is considered highly unlikely that there will be an appeal.

A local resident then spoke of concerns regarding secondary school place needs, and the possibility of this giving strength for the expansion of the Howard of Effingham School.

Cllr Hogger replied saying there was no evidence that there was a need for additional school places and that Supplementary Planning Documents were not in the GBC Local Plan.

David Martland (Parish Councillor) spoke regarding large-scale development within the Borough. It was confirmed that GBC's Local Plan should identify possible sites for development, however it is up to developers not GBC to actually build houses.

Cliff Hackett (Parish Councillor) made note that the Wisley Airfield Planning Application had been turned down recently but still appeared as a possible site with GBC's Local Plan. The refusal appears to be down to details within the application including local road structure and the A3.

Chris Dick (EffRA Chair) proposed thanks be given to ex-Parish Councillor Perry Stock for all his hard work regarding the HofE / Berkeley Homes planning application challenge.

James Nicholls (Parish Councillor) suggested that it would be better not to finalise proposed house numbers on the previously developed land at Effingham Lodge Farm (within the Village Plan) until after the village wide consultation and that agricultural buildings and glass houses should be cleared as part of any new development.

There was also a request to clarify what is considered previously developed on this site, and that the gap with Little Bookham and Wildlife corridor be retained.

Arnold Pindar (EPC Chair) commented that there should be a plan for the type and quantity of proposed development on this site, to ensure there is the provision of 1 & 2 bedroom houses.

A local resident then spoke on site selection within GBC's Local Plan. Cllr Hogger confirmed the GBC will have already spoken to land owners as part of the Local Plan process, and that the owners of these sites would like to see development at their sites within 5, 10 or 15 years subject to the normal planning permission process.

Lyons Field was then discussed, as it is no longer part of Effingham's Village Plan for development. The reasons for this are that it has been highlighted as a highly sensitive green belt area in GBC's Local Plan and that the site is cut through by Special Protected Area (SPA) status.

Ian Symes (Parish Councillor) suggested that ENPAG should write to developers soon regarding Effingham's Village Plan as advised by Dan Knowles from GBC.

A local resident spoke regarding the protection of the parade of shops off The Street Effingham. They wanted to see the old Post Office site protected against residential development, and proper marketing employed for its continued use as a local shop or business.

Appendix

Effingham Parish Council



Chairman's Report 2015 – 2016

EFFINGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday 12th April, 8 pm

King George V Hall, Browns Lane, Effingham

Open to all village residents

www.effinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

This has been another very busy year for your Parish Council with further progress made on the development of our Neighbourhood Plan, and a recent decision on the planning application submitted by Berkeley Homes/Howard of Effingham School, along with our many regular activities. I sincerely thank all Councillors and those villagers that have worked so hard with us during the year, ensuring that all matters have been fully investigated and decisions taken on sound evidence. Thanks also to everyone who has responded to our informal consultations and meetings on the Neighbourhood Plan. In the coming year you will be formally asked to comment on our emerging Neighbourhood Plan and also on a revised Guildford Borough Local Plan. **Please give time to respond to both consultations.** We need your views in order to make sure both plans meet the needs of Effingham residents.

Council Election

Council elections took place in May 2015. We welcomed Cliff Hackett to the Council and the return of Keith Cornwell and James Nicholls. I am delighted that we have a very strong, committed and diverse Effingham Parish Council to work for the village for the next four years. (For the full list of Councillors see over-page.)

Neighbourhood Plan

I am delighted to report great progress on the development of our Neighbourhood Plan. We began the year by hosting a series of public meetings and events to give every resident the opportunity to input to the development of the plan. By late summer, following events in March, May, and June the key elements began to emerge. You told us that you want smaller, more affordable homes in the village, but not so many that it would endanger the unique and beautiful character of our environment. We have worked hard in consultation with residents to identify potential sites for residential development that balance the need for those homes with the heartfelt desire and commitment to safeguard our heritage.

We set up the Effingham Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group (ENPAG), a team of parish councillors and volunteers chaired by Paula Moss, to direct the Neighbourhood Plan process, and working groups have developed policies covering Housing, the Environment, Heritage and Village Character, Landscape, Community facilities, Roads and cycle ways, and the Local Economy. These ideas have been open for consideration by all residents in a series of Workshops and 'Drop in' sessions held over the last few weeks.

We have also consulted extensively to ensure that the draft Neighbourhood Plan will meet the very strict criteria required for a legitimate Plan in a Green Belt area. Meetings with the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, Natural England, and the Planning Team at Guildford Borough Council, as well as a 'health check' by an expert Examiner, have all helped to shape and improve the draft Plan.

Following publication of the new draft Guildford Local Plan, we will review the draft Neighbourhood Plan before launching a final version for consultation with every household in Effingham. This is YOUR plan, and we hope everyone will take the opportunity to tell us if we are getting it right. We absolutely guarantee that NO plan will go forward without the support of residents. We want to deliver the best possible Neighbourhood Plan for the village, for all residents both now and in the future.



Berkeley Homes / Howard of Effingham

On 9th March 2016 Guildford Borough Council's Planning Committee refused the controversial Berkeley Homes planning application for 295 homes plus a replacement secondary school for the Howard of Effingham. The application was refused for an almost unprecedented eleven planning reasons. Members from Effingham Parish Council, ENPAG and EFFRA all spoke on behalf of residents to oppose the application. Effingham's Borough



Councillor, Liz Hogger, spoke with great skill to summarise why the application should be refused, winning the support of fellow planning councillors who voted unanimously (with one abstention) to reject the proposals.

The Howard of Effingham School has been part of our village for over 75 years, and we are pleased that it is an outstanding school. We want to be able to support it. An application to improve the school facilities on an appropriate site, with some extra houses to meet the needs of our community, would probably receive local support. Unfortunately that wasn't on offer. For further information go to www.effinghamvillageplan.com.

Guildford Borough Council Local Plan

At time of writing we are expecting a first sight of the "substantially revised" draft Guildford Local Plan in early April. A public consultation on the Plan is expected in June/July. We are optimistic that we shall receive nothing like the shock we had when the previous Local Plan was published in 2014. Only time will tell but it appears that the Borough Council has listened to the representations made by the villages and that a more reasonable draft will be proposed. Your Parish Council will scrutinise the new draft Local Plan very carefully, and will ensure that you are made aware of our opinions before the consultation deadline.

Financial

Households will recently have received details of payments required for Council Tax 2016-2017. Looking at the detail you will see a substantial reduction in the percentage of tax that will go to Effingham Parish Council (the Precept). You may remember that last year we made a substantial increase in the Precept to create a fund that is ring-fenced for any legal or technical actions that could be required due to the Berkeley Homes planning application and/or the Guildford Local Plan. That fund is being held in case it is still needed, but there was no reason to maintain the Precept at this exceptional level for a further year. Hence, it has been brought back to be more in line with the previous year's Precept, allowing for a small increase in costs.

Community Fund

We are pleased to report that during the year funds have been provided for audio/visual equipment at the King George V Hall, to refurbish the KGV clubroom and for St Lawrence Church Hall. Display boards were provided to the Effingham Local History Group, new notice boards provided for the burial ground and allotments, and signage at KGV. In addition a new burial ground bench and salt bins have been purchased. Effingham organisations can apply at any time for support from the Community Fund. Further information is available on the website www.effinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk/community-fund/ or from the Parish Clerk.

Arnold Pindar
Chairman, Effingham Parish Council

Parish Councillors

Arnold Pindar, Chairman	Liz Hogger
Ian Symes, Vice-Chairman	Andrea Lightfoot
Hilda Brazil	David Martland
Keith Cornwell	Paula Moss
Cliff Hackett	James Nicholls

Effingham Common

Commoners' Day will be held
on Sunday 2 October 2016.
All are welcome to enjoy the
fun on the common!

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