

**MINUTES OF THE 122nd ANNUAL MEETING FOR
THE PARISH OF EFFINGHAM**

**KING GEORGE V HALL, BROWNS LANE
8.00PM TUESDAY 4TH APRIL 2017**

Present	Cllr Arnold Pindar, Chairman, Effingham Parish Council. 9 Effingham Parish Councillors 42 Registered Electors and the Parish Clerk
Apologies	SCC Cllr Bill Barker
Minutes	The minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting were approved as a true record and duly signed.
Chairman's Report	
ENP	<u>The Effingham Neighbourhood Plan</u> Cllr Moss (Chair of ENPAG) gave a presentation on the Effingham Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Consultation Survey. It was reported that the survey was conducted amongst all households and interested parties over a 6 week period in June / July 2016. A total of 739 forms were returned from 1054 households, which equated to an overall response rate of 54%. It was further reported that: All policies in the plan received high levels of agreement. Residents are supportive and appreciative of the detailed planning that has gone into both the survey and the plan. Environmental policies attracted the most overall support. Individual Site Allocation Policies were supported by 2/3rds of all respondents. It was confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan has now been formally submitted to Guildford Borough Council and entered Regulation 16 stage. Formal consultation within the Borough begun w/c 20th March 2017 and requests made for comments. It is hoped an examiner will be appointed early May 17, and that the review could be completed as early as mid May 17. Cllr Moss explained that as the Plan progresses it gains weight in planning matters, including the forthcoming BH / HofE Appeal. Cllr Pindar thanked everyone that had been involved with the Neighbourhood Plan, including Cllr Symes for his work on the Environmental Policy.

GBC LP

The Guildford Local Plan

Cllr Hogger reported on Guildford Borough Council's Local Plan:

GBC's Local Plan sets out the strategic planning policies used to decide planning applications, once Effingham's Neighbourhood Plan is adopted the two plans together will form 'The Development Plan' and both must be complied with.

Under planning law (the NPPF) GBC is obliged to set a housing target for the borough and allocate sufficient land for housing to meet that target.

GBC is attempting to prepare a new Local Plan.

Last year the Council consulted on a draft, which allocated land for 13,860 new homes by 2033, an average of 693 per year.

That draft proposed to inset Effingham Village, i.e. remove it from the Green Belt. The Parish Council was more or less content with this, however wanted to see a change within the inset boundary, so that Browns Field remained Green Belt.

The draft also proposed a new town of 2000 homes on the former Wisley Airfield.

GBC received over 30,000 comments on the draft, which they had to consider.

GBC have reviewed the housing target (the SHMA) and will propose some significant changes to the Local Plan. This means they will have to repeat the consultation exercise, but only on the changes.

The changed draft and new housing target will be published Monday (10 April) as part of the agenda for the Executive Advisory Board, which will then discuss the draft. If full Council agrees the new draft on the 16th May, there will be a 'targeted' consultation on the revised draft in June – July 2017.

It is hoped that there won't be any dramatic changes for Effingham.

Without an up-to-date Local Plan in place, and without being able to demonstrate there is a five-year land supply for housing in the borough, Effingham is vulnerable to speculative development proposals such as the Berkeley Homes / Howard application.

**BH HofE
Appeal**

The Berkeley Homes / Howard of Effingham Appeal

Cllr Hogger reported on the Berkeley Homes / HofE Appeal:

Berkeley Homes working with the Howard Partnership put in a planning application in 2014 to rebuild the Howard School on Effingham Lodge Farm, opposite the current site. They wanted to increase the size of the school from 1600 to 2000 pupils, and to pay for it by building 295 extra homes in the village: on the remainder of ELF, on the existing Howard site, and on Browns Field just across the lane from us here. This is all Green Belt land and Berkeley Homes would need to demonstrate very special circumstances for this to be allowable.

The Borough Council refused planning permission on 9 March last year, and Berkeley Homes have appealed against the refusal. So there will be a public inquiry in Guildford starting on 16 May, and lasting three weeks.

The Borough Council are working extremely hard to defend the refusal decision and have engaged a top planning QC, and the parish council will be working alongside the Borough Council with their own team.

Effingham Parish Council are a Rule 6 party to the Inquiry, which means the Parish Council has their own barrister speaking for us and cross examining witnesses at the Inquiry, and helping us to prepare our case.

Four parish councillors will be giving evidence – Paula Moss on the lack of need for school places, Keith Cornwell on the fact that the school buildings don't need replacing, plus on Browns Field, Cliff Hackett on the traffic implications, and Liz Hogger on planning policy. EPC have also instructed two expert witnesses – one on heritage (impact on Conservation Area and listed buildings) and one on ecology (impact on Thornet Wood and the wildlife corridor).

The Neighbourhood Plan will really help to strengthen our case, and carries some weight now it has been formally submitted.

The Secretary of State will make the final decision, as this has been 'called in'. So the Planning Inspector will set out the case for and against and make a recommendation to him.

This procedure is likely to take longer, and we may not get a decision until the end of this year.

Practical details: the public is welcome to attend. The first day and one other day will be at GLive, and the rest in the Council Chamber at Millmead. We'll put up the details on the EPC website once timings are confirmed, and I know the Residents Association hope to make sure we get good resident support throughout the three weeks.

<p>Precept</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>EPC's 2017/18 Precept</u></p> <p>Cllr Pindar reported on the increase of the Parish Council's precept for 2017/18. This increase was considered necessary for the replenishment of the Parish Council's Legal Contingency Fund, following Barrister & Expert Witness appointments for the Berkeley Homes / Howard of Effingham Appeal.</p>
<p>Community Fund</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Community Fund</u></p> <p>Cllr Pindar reported on projects and events that had been supported during the previous financial year. These included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) St.Lawrence Church, Queen's 90th birthday celebration 2) Effingham Residents Association Heritage Open Day 2016 3) Effingham Cricket Club - security bollards on approach road 4) EVRT / EPC notice boards 5) EVRT new sliding wall at KGV Hall 6) 1st Effingham Brownies transport costs to WWF Woking. <p>New requests have been received from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) St.Lawrence Effingham Volunteer Car Scheme 2) Effingham Cricket Club 3) St.Lawrence Church 4) 1st Effingham Scouts
<p>H S Charity</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Henry Smith Charity</u></p> <p>Michael Bray (Trustee) gave an update on the Henry Smith Charity:</p> <p>The Henry Smith Charity Effingham is a long-standing village charity that benefits from an annual grant from the national charity to be spent on people in need within the Effingham Parish boundary. It is part of the Effingham Parish Council activities but has been run by a group of four volunteer Trustees since March 2007.</p> <p>The account is valued at £1227.72 as at 4th April 2017.</p> <p>In 2016 the charity made 3 grants totally £761 and in addition handed out Christmas Vouchers 2016 to 10 households totaling £1421. (£140 for couples, £200 for families)</p> <p><u>Points to make:</u></p> <p>In the last two years the charity has been unable to receive a grant (annually £3500) from the Henry Smith Charity due to the inability to spend the grant. Each year the charity is required to only hold one years income.</p>

**Residents
Q&A**

The Charity is seeking:

More voucher recipients
More cases for making grants
And to undertake more promotion

For further details - please contact the Parish Clerk
(In confidence)
clerk2010@effinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Question by residents:

1) Royal British Legion

A resident requested an update on the now closed Royal British Legion Club.

The Clerk was able to confirm that he had spoken to David Arnold at the Royal British Legion's head office, and that:

- i) As the local arm of the charity wishes to continue to use the rear meeting room there, they have no immediate plans to sell the site to developers. They have received multiple developer approaches, and are aware of the Berkeley Homes / HofE Appeal.
- ii) They will try to be sensitive to community feeling regarding the site, but ultimately need to work in the best interests of the RBL Charity.
- iii) They will be looking to lease the front (old club house) part of the building & car-park to a new tenant, and will be testing the water in the near future via a local agent
- iv) There was no mention of the old club being resurrected.

2) Cars for sale on A246

A resident requested an update on the various vehicles for sale within the parish, to the side of the A246.

The Clerk was able to confirm that they had made contact with Trading Standards, Guildford Borough Council & Surrey Country Council regarding this, and was hoping that SCC Highways would take action soon. He also went on to report that the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environmental Act 2005 (c16) appeared not to have been contravened.

	<p>Cllr Pindar then closed the meeting after thanking his fellow Parish Councillors & local residents, for all their hard work regarding the Neighbourhood Plan & the BH / HofE Appeal. He concluded that the Parish Council intends to return to the Village Plan asap, to enhance resident's lives.</p>
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