

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EFFINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT 8pm ON TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2011
AT KING GEORGE V HALL, BROWN'S LANE, EFFINGHAM**

PRESENT

Cllr Pindar in the Chair
Cllrs Bowerman, Hogger, Lightfoot, Peskett, Nicholls, Symes and Wetenhall
Cllr Barker and 2 local government electors

Before the meeting, the Clerk thanked all Councillors very warmly for arranging to cover her work between themselves during her extended sick leave, and for being so careful of ensuring that she could concentrate on getting well. This had helped the Clerk and her family enormously at a very difficult time.

148.11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Brazil.

149.11 REGISTER OF INTERESTS AND DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Cllr Nicholls reported a personal interest in the planning application for 26 Norwood Close: it is the road in which he lives, and the applicant is a relative.

150.11 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Having been co-opted by agreement of the Parish Council, Alyson Reay was warmly welcomed to the meeting and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

151.11 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 1 NOVEMBER 2011

Corrections:

Apologies for absence

Cllr Peskett wished it to be recorded that she had unavoidably been absent by reason of her recent bereavement, which councillors had fully understood.

142.11 Highways and Transport

Cllr Hogger proposed the following re-wording which was agreed:

Orestan Lane had been the subject of a recent closure notice, with a proposed diversion route which would have meant more vehicles using the dangerous exit from Dirtham Lane onto the A246. Cllr Hogger had pointed this out to SCC, which immediately withdrew the planned route.

With these amendments the Minutes were signed as a true record.

152.11 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (not elsewhere on the Agenda)

139.11 Matters raised by residents

A resident at the previous meeting had asked for clarification of whether the Parish Council as Custodian Trustee was a landlord of the EPFA. The Chairman reported that legal advice had subsequently been taken which confirmed that no Custodian Trustee can hold this responsibility or role. The landlord is the Board of EVRT Trustees.

153.11 MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

A resident asked about the road safety of elderly residents trying to cross The Street, and the possibility of a proper crossing point. Councillors recalled work done in the past to design build-out of the kerbs as part of the Bookham, Fetcham and Leatherhead Safety Study several years ago. This had all been agreed at the time but the money ran out before implementation. It was agreed to take another look and find out whether the plans could be resurrected.

157.11 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

By agreement this item was moved up the agenda in order to brief Cllr Barker before the forthcoming Local Committee meeting. The following were mentioned:

Grit bins

These are now in place on private land. GBC is again offering the scheme to other parishes, and a council from the Isle of Wight had been in touch to find out how the scheme had been implemented.

Damaged pedestrian railings, A246

The cost of repair is too great for Cllr Barker to pay for from his Community Pride. The Parish Council felt that SCC should have pursued the motorist that caused the damage for the cost and should not fund this from the precept. It was agreed that this is a safety matter and the Parish Council will write to John Hilder requesting the repair from Highways funds. Cllr Hogger will ask an informal question at the Local Committee meeting.

**SM
LH**

Minor improvements scheme – protected right turn into Beech Avenue

SCC Highways' estimated cost for this has now come down from over £100k to £60k. Parish Councillors reiterated their lack of faith in the estimated costings and were not willing to allow this item to drop off Highways' list.

Revised parking restrictions, Lower Road

These were to be discussed later in the meeting.

Alleged bridleway over Public Footpath 591

The Parish Council's formal objection had been noted.

Beech Avenue trees programme

Works scheduled for autumn have not taken place. Cllr Wetenhall expressed residents' continuing anxiety about the scope and performance of the programme generally.

Effingham Common Road repairs to footway

These were noted and much appreciated.

Reversion to published running order of Agenda

154.11 PLANNING MATTERS

New applications

11/P/01931 Oldlands Dene, Outdowns

Detached oak framed three bay garage with attached log store
This had already been approved.

11/P/01937 69 Norwood Road

Lawful Development Certificate to establish whether single storey rear extension following demolition of existing rear element constitutes permitted development
No comment.

11/P/02016 Verge on path to east of Sibleys Newsagents, 255 Guildford Road

Prior approval for the siting and design of one DSLAM equipment cabinet to provide high speed broadband
This appeared to be a re-run of one of three earlier applications already considered, and the difference was not clear. No comment.

11/P/02083 26 Norwood Close

Demolition of existing shed and erection of 2 storey extension
Cllr Nicholls declared an interest and took no part in the discussion of this item.
No comment.

11/P/02144 Summerdown Manor, Critten Lane

Formation of access drive
It was felt that the proposed new point of access was no safer than the current one, and the construction of a new road at such a green location in the AONB was extremely unwelcome. It was agreed to object.

SM

11/P/02145 14 Leewood Way

First floor extension

No comment.

11/T/00253 Rear of plots 13-18, The Grove, Guildford Rd

Application to trim face and reduce height of Leylandi to 4 metres

No comment.

11/T/00256 The Old Vicarage, Church Street

Reduce lateral growth of one Mulberry tree in the centre of the drive by one metre

No comment.

Results / progress on previous planning applications

11/P/00148 St Lawrence House, Effingham Place

Appeal dismissed

11/P/00658 Inglehurst, Outdowns

Appeal allowed. Cllr Hogger explained this meant there had been a better outcome than what could have been built under permitted development.

11/P/01299 Our Lady of Sorrows church hall

Approved

11/P/01408 6 Leewood Way

Approved

11/P/01416 Orestan House, Orestan Lane

Refused

11/P/01494 Torluish, Effingham Common Road

Approved

11/P/01570 7 Norwood Road

Approved

11/P/01631 & 2 St Lawrence House, Effingham Place

Approved

11/P/01651 11 Beech Close

Approved

11/P/01724 Effingham Golf Club

Approved

11/P/01749 7 Strathcona Ave

Approved

11/P/01751 The Garn, Lower Farm Road

Approved

11/P/01797 Pen-y-bryn, Dirtham Lane

Approved

11/P/01931 Oldlands Dene, Outdowns

Approved

Spindlehurst, Heath View

Cllr Symes asked what the decision had been.

Training on planning

Cllr Hogger will suggest some possible dates for a training session on planning for parish councillors

LH

The Long Barn, High Barn Road

There was discussion about the severe damage to the area beyond the construction area, to hedgerows, and to excessive mud on the road; a lorry wheel-wash is needed. GBC Enforcement is to issue a stop notice.

Other planning matters

None.

Reports and correspondence relating to other Planning matters:

Text of comments on planning applications authorised and submitted since the previous meeting

11/P/01142, APP/Y3615/D/11/2162760 Burnside, Heath View, East Horsley, KT24 5EA

Effingham Parish Council objected to the original planning application (11/P/01142) and sustains its objections now at appeal.

No indication has been given of the intended use of, or need for, a barn on a residential plot. There is concern that the proposed structure is clearly taller than a one storey building, with roof-lights, yet no information provided about the internal structure at first floor. There was concern about potential harm to the adjacent mature beech tree because the root area of beech is particularly shallow and resents any disturbance.

Residents have suggested that when built the barn / store might turn out to be considerably higher in comparison to the dwelling than suggested by the plans, because

the ground level on the plot has been changed during the recent building works, and it no longer slopes down so much as shown on the drawings.

11/P/01884 Land rear of Kerri, The Brambles and Snow fields, Forest Lane, East Horsley, KT24 5HU

Effingham Parish Council has studied this application which is immediately adjacent to the boundaries of three properties within the Parish of Effingham.

The Parish Council objects to the proposals. We recognize that this application appears to be a less cramped and over-intensive development than the previous application (10/P/01124). However, if the application were to succeed the precedent would potentially affect other properties in the same area. We consider that the government's amendment to Planning Policy 3: Housing (PPS3) on 'garden grabbing' issued 9 June 2010 which relates to the development of private residential gardens is relevant here.

We note the intention to keep T1, G2, T3, T4, T5 and T9 but ask that TPOs are placed on them to ensure their continued maintenance, as they include indigenous mature oak and holly trees and some hedge.

11/P/01839 11/P/01839 Effingham Junction Station

Details of this application only arrived in the Effingham Parish Office on 8th November 2011, the closing date for objections/comments. However, the Effingham Parish Council has today studied this application which, although it is formally just outside the Parish, has implications for the many Effingham residents that use the station.

Although the plans are more in keeping with the rural area which we appreciate, the Parish Council objects to these proposals on the following grounds:

The placement of the new ticket office building in the car park unacceptably reduces the number of parking places taking account of current maximum and foreseeable increased needs in the coming years. Indeed, before the recession there were occasions when the car park was full, following the morning rush. This is likely to become a real problem as there are no alternative parking possibilities in the area.

No disabled access is planned for the London-bound platform which means that the ramp on the Guildford side has little utility. A further ramp is required on the London bound side. In addition, the number of disabled parking spaces has been reduced and there is no indication of whether they will be replaced and if so where. If ramps to the platforms are provided then further disabled parking spaces may be needed.

It is proposed to provide bicycle racks along the side of the new ticket office and it appears from the plans that the current racks may be removed. We do not consider that this will provide adequate parking for bicycles and are also concerned about the appearance of the side of the new ticket office if cycle racks are placed there. Perhaps under-cover seating could be provided under the new ticket office roof and The current cycle racks are full a fourth is required. There is room for another in the original location.

The accompanying letter dated 13th October 2011 indicates that the station car park will "also be reconfigured to allow for drop off area at the front of the station". What does this mean? - no details are given. Whilst in principle, an improved drop-off area is to be welcomed, the Parish Council is concerned about the implications for further reduced parking and exactly how this is planned to be achieved, which is not subject to this planning application.

Should these plans be accepted, the Parish Council would welcome a more satisfactory pedestrian entrance direct to the new ticket office from the bus lay-by thus stopping a dangerous and often flooded walk up a narrow path to the bridge. There is room if a pathway and gateway were installed between the current bike sheds.

We would also request improvements to the footway on the bridge which is currently too narrow, and would be safer with railings.

The planned 1.5M high galvanized bow top fence along Howard Road behind the ticket office is out of keeping with this rural setting.

Councillors commented that in spite of the overhang of the roofs of the new ticket office they considered that inadequate shelter was to be provided to passengers in this rather exposed area. Currently, passengers, especially older people, whenever possible shelter inside the ticket office under the heater until trains are due. This is exasperated by the lack of sufficient shelter on the station since the original buildings were removed.

Councillors are also concerned about the demolition of the historic fabric of the old ticket hall. We consider that the views of GBC's Conservation Design Officers should urgently be sought to evaluate this.

11/P/01839 Effingham Junction Station

GBC Conservation Officers were interested to know whether local residents would support a move to have the ticket office added to the Local List (ie of historic importance locally; the next step down from being Listed by English Heritage). Copies had been received of objections to the proposal by CPRE and a resident. Cllr Hogger reported that demolition of the ticket office appeared to be possible under permitted development.

Care home - Former St Lawrence Playing Field

Residents had been invited to an exhibition of the proposals on 7 December.

GBC Planning Enforcement Scrutiny Task Group

EPC has been invited to complete a questionnaire commenting on experience of contacting the Planning Enforcement teams; responses by 27 January. Cllr Symes volunteered to draw up a proposed response for comment.

IS

Wisley Airfield

Wisley Airfield Action Group (WAAG) and the RHS had sent a copy of their joint letter objecting to the recent planning application to relax conditions relating to the Ripley junction. Given the strength of their objections, it was agreed to find out whether EPC had been sent the correct plans.

SM

155.11 PRECEPT 2012-13

It was agreed that the documents supplied by EVRT supporting their request for funds lacked sufficient information. It was agreed that the level of detail on which final agreement for the current year's grant was achieved in June should be repeated, for instance the projected income from the users itemised separately, and how much is contributed by other groups who impact on the grounds/buildings. The Clerk to write and ask for this in time for the next meeting. It was unclear whether EVRT was seeing its bid for Concurrent Grant Aid funding as part of, or additional to, this funding request to the Parish Council.

SM

The Clerk had circulated a draft budget. There was extensive discussion of whether an increase on last year's precept could or could not be justified. The desirability of improved youth facilities (to be discussed as a separate item later on the Agenda) was frequently referred to. It was agreed that the decision taken by the Council a year ago to extend the Clerk's hours from 24 to 28 per week still stood. It was agreed to ask for the table of figures to be presented in a different layout at the next meeting, with calculations to show the impact of a 0% increase, and a 2 ½% increase created by adding £3k to the Projects fund.

SM

156.11 GREEN SPACE AND VILLAGE AMENITIES

Current GSVA matters

HM Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The joint plan for a beacon with West and East Horsley was not viable. It was decided to aim for a street party. Cllr Nicholls will find out if Village Day next year is being planned to coincide with the Jubilee.

JN

Proposal for a youth centre in Effingham

This idea was warmly welcomed but the question of location was much discussed. It was

felt that the KGV had to be the best option. It was agreed that the Chairman will write to the proposers Jon Faragher and Sarah Montgomery confirming the Parish Council's interest and support. He will also convene a joint meeting between them and EPC, EVRT Trustees, EPFA and ELRFC at which these ideas can be presented and more fully explored, and aim for a successful collaborative effort.

AP

Reports and correspondence relating to GSVA matters

None.

157.11 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

Current Highways and Transport matters

Parking proposals for Lower Road

Cllr Reay declared a personal interest as a resident of Effingham Place which is affected by these proposals.

Cllr Hogger explained that the proposals as shown do not remove any on-street parking; they will just make it more possible to enforce against inappropriate parking. It was agreed to support the proposals as far as they go but ask for the Highways Officer to consult with residents on further improvements.

SM

Speed limits on the A246

Cllr Hogger will again address the Local Committee and speak against the Officer's recommendation to reject the two requests. The repeated vacillation on this issue, which has been discussed by the Local Committee several times since 2007, was deplored.

LH

Guildford bus station and bus terminal points

It was agreed to write to GBC's Leader of the Council and copy to the Chief Executive requesting that no decision to alter the terminal points of various bus services is taken by the Council until full research of the implications and a consultation on the findings is complete. Cllr Barker volunteered to report this concern to the Local Committee.

SM

Bridleway Modification Order, Beech Avenue

The text of EPC's objection had been circulated and formally submitted.

Reports and correspondence relating to Highways matters

Lower Road trees

A resident has complained about the state of the trees on the verge opposite the Howard. The Clerk will look into ownership of the trees.

SM

158.11 REPORTS

Police and safety community issues (report of session before the start of the present Agenda)

PCSO Culross reported 9 crimes for the month of November, some of which were interconnected and not all separate incidents: 2 burglaries to businesses, 2 criminal damage to businesses and 5 thefts – to a business, to 2 vehicles, a dwelling and a building site. He also reported on the recent Road Safety week which had been very successful and alerted many residents to speeding. A Road enforcement day had been held (one vehicle seized) and another enforcement day is planned. Talks had been given to Scouts and Brownies. The anti-burglary campaign Operation Candlelight was underway (make properties look occupied and don't leave items about which could be used to help with a break-in). At the Neighbourhood Panel meeting the issue of a traffic island on The Street had been discussed.

A resident asked about enforcing against heavy lorries using Effingham Common and The Street. PC Karen Page thought that a multi-agency day in partnership with VOSA could be set up to tackle this.

A resident asked about preventing parking on the footway near the station. No offence against which the police could take action is being committed. It was agreed to ask Highways for their help.

Allotments

No further news.

Schools

Cllr Hogger is liaising with the Howard over a date for the next joint meeting. St Lawrence Primary School is looking for another governor.

EVRT

Cllr Pindar had written to the Trustees announcing the nomination of Cllr Bowerman by the Parish Council and requesting a suggested date for the next liaison meeting but there had been no response. He will write again suggesting dates as early in the New Year as possible.

AP

Home Farm Estate

Sue Sturgeon, Strategic Director at GBC had offered dates for a meeting with residents of Calvert and Chester Roads to discuss flytipping, the barrier and the layby. The Protection of Home Farm Co-ordinating Committee had written to Carole Humphrey, Head of Planning, and others, in connection with GBC's 'scoping report' on the Home Farm Estate.

Friends of Effingham Common

Significant work has been done hedging and ditching and clearing the ponds.

Smith's Charity

No further news.

Effingham Local History Group

A book recording the recent exhibition on Effingham in Wartime is in production and numbers printed will be against orders received.

Local government / admin matters / website

Nothing further.

159.11 CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence which had been received since the last meeting was noted:

Effingham & Little Bookham churches	Parish magazine
Horsley Countryside Preserv'n Soc.	Around & About Horsley, Winter 2011/12
Guildford Borough Council	Agenda and reports for Standards & Audit Committee, 16 November Agenda for Special meeting of the Council meeting, 22 November Agenda and reports for Council meeting, 8 December Agenda and reports for Planning Committee, 8 November & 29 November
SCC Guildford Local Committee	Minutes of meeting of 22 September
Surrey County Council	Agenda and reports for meeting of 13 December
Cherry Trees	News, Winter 2011
Nat Asscn of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners	Journal, Issue 4 2011
CPRE	Countryside Voice, Winter 2011
NALC	Direct Information Service 771 & 772
SLCC	The Clerk - November 2011
Came & Co.	Winter newsletter

160.11 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Independent Review Panel's recommendations for parish councils in Guildford Borough on members' allowances

It was agreed to continue existing practice and accept the Independent Panel's

recommendation that no allowances are payable to Effingham Parish Councillors.

SCC's public consultation on financial challenges facing the council

This was noted. Councillors and residents can submit individual responses.

Draft Anti-bribery policy for the parish council

Cllr Symes had circulated a draft adapting GBC's version to Effingham's situation. It was agreed to formally adopt this draft as policy. It was also agreed to bring forward for consideration in due course the suite of accompanying policies which includes whistle-blowing, acceptance of gifts etc.

IS

Changes to GBC's Concurrent Functions Grant Aid scheme from April 2012

Councillors noted that a much greater level of supporting detail would be needed for future bids, and these would need to be in much earlier. There was debate about the fact that no contractor would hold a tender figure for 12 months, and whether GBC had considered this. The Clerk to ask.

SM

Completion of the third quarter risk inspection sheets

Councillors were reminded that completed forms must be handed in before the next meeting. The Clerk will send a reminder e-mail.

SM

Cheques for approval and signature

The following cheques were authorised and signed:

		<i>Authority to pay</i>
Inland Revenue PAYE	1328.32	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Surrey County Council	559.40	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
The Phone Coop	20.18	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
SLCC	157.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s143
CPRE	29.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s143
Shaw & Sons Ltd	24.54	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
BTS	59.40	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Mole Valley Printing Soc.	59.70	Local Govt Act 1972 s111

Reports and correspondence relating to Finance matters

The Chairman was complimented on the recent half-year report.

161.11 PARISH BUSINESS FOR THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 3 January 2012.