

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EFFINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT 8pm ON TUESDAY 4 JANUARY 2011  
AT KING GEORGE V HALL, BROWN'S LANE, EFFINGHAM**

**PRESENT**

Cllr Pindar in the Chair  
Cllrs Clark, Crouch, Hogger, Lightfoot, Nicholls, Symes, Wetenhall  
Cllr Barker  
3 local government electors

**1.11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Driscoll. PCSO Culross.

Cllr Pindar announced that Mark Jones had decided that the workload combining the role of Parish Councillor with Chairman of EVRT was too great, and had resigned in order to concentrate on the latter. The Chairman will write and thank him for the hard work and effort he had contributed.

A result of the resignation was to end the direct link between the Parish Council and its four nominated Trustees, but recently a suggestion had arisen from EVRT that an informal liaison sub-group between the two organisations might be a better way forward in the future, and this was felt to be a good idea.

It is not now possible to hold an election to fill the vacancy so close to the May elections. The Parish Council decided not to try to co-opt someone for the remaining few months. The Chairman suggested it was time to be looking out for suitable candidates. He also asked any Parish Councillors who had definitely decided they would stand down to let him know.

**2.11 REGISTER OF INTERESTS AND DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Pindar declared a personal interest in the Planning item on a telecom mast, by reason of it being close to where he lived and the poor reception he experienced.

Cllr Symes declared a personal interest in the Planning item on Spindle Wood, by reason of it being very close to where he lived.

Cllr Pindar declared a personal interest in the item on the allotments, as an allotment holder, and had arranged for that item to be chaired by the Vice-Chairman.

**3.11 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 7 DECEMBER 2010**

These were corrected at 149.10 FINANCIAL MATTERS by deletion of the phrase 'there was a fear that a high precept might be capped by GBC which is aiming for a 2.5%; EVRT's unrestricted balance was relatively healthy'. (Cllr Hogger explained that GBC is aiming for a zero increase, and this had been mentioned so EPC might be aware. If GBC achieve this, they will qualify for a government grant equivalent to 2.5%. The precepts set by the individual parishes do not form part of the calculation of the Borough's increase.) With this correction the Minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

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

No matters arising.

**5.11 MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

*None raised (no roads specifically invited on this occasion).*

**6.11 PLANNING MATTERS**

**New applications**

10/P/02212 The Coolins, Manor House Lane

Removal of existing conservatory and erection of orangery. No comment.

10/P/02239 Spindle Wood, 6 Heath View

Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of replacement dwelling. Cllr Symes conveyed some information given to him by neighbours then withdrew from the

discussion. It was decided not to comment but to ask whether the proposed balcony would create issues of privacy for neighbours. **SM**

6&7 Effingham Place

Internal alterations to return houses 6&7 Effingham Place into a single household. This was welcomed. It was decided not to comment but to ask that care is taken to ensure that none of the surviving historic fabric will be / could be damaged during the work. **SM**

10/P/02279 Boxwood House, Lower Farm Road

Retention of replacement gates and pillars. No comment.

10/P/02280 Lower Farm, Effingham Common Road

Retention of replacement gates and pillars. No comment.

10/P/02301 Manor Barn Farm, Browns Lane

Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing rear conservatory. No comment.

MO/2010/1557 Guildford Road, opposite Dagenham Garage

Proposed installation of 1 No. 11.8 metre high telecommunications pole with 1 No. equipment cabinet. Cllr Pindar withdrew from this discussion. Cllr Nicholls and others also admitted to a problem with reception at their own houses. EPC and nearby neighbours had not been formally consulted by Mole Valley DC. Cllr Hogger said she would ensure GBC was made aware and ask for formal consultation. It was decided to re-submit the comments made to the pre-application consultation, and point out that the applicant has not very accurately represented either EPC's or GBC's comment. The Clerk will also make a survey of what masts currently exist, for which operators.

O-licence application:

TT Trading, 19, Bookers Close, Ashted, 1 vehicle and 0 trailers, to be sited at Newmarsh Farm

Repeat advert. This is a repeat of an earlier one incorrectly expressed in the official notice in *Surrey Advertiser*. It was agreed the Parish Council will ask VOSA to require a site-specific location and repeat the condition about the legal access onto Horsley Road. **SM**

**Results / progress on previous planning applications**

10/P/01965 & 66 Middle Farm, The Street	Approved
10/P/01974 Woodstock, Orestan Lane	Approved

**Other planning matters**

Offer of a parish 'housing need' survey

A letter had been received from the Surrey Community Action Rural Housing Enabler offering this. Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would find out if she had a specific site in mind or just being encouraging, and report back at that point. **SM**

**Reports and correspondence relating to other Planning matters:**

Motorway Service Area

Acknowledgements had been received from Anne Milton MP, Sir Paul Beresford MP, Parliamentary Ombudsman and Minister for Transport. The Parish Council thanked Cllr Barker for his help with this.

Effingham Forward Plan

Parish Councillors will meet at the Parish Room on 18 January to discuss this. In discussion comments included:

- the need to avoid producing something which could be used against the village
- the potential effect of the Localism Bill
- the need to guard against local interests distorting decisions on development;
- awareness of East Horsley's recently-completed plan.

**7.11 VILLAGE GREEN SPACES AND AMENITIES**  
**Current GSVAs matters**

No issues.

**Reports and correspondence relating to GSVAs matters**

Sprucing up the village

Another meeting will be held on 8 February. Cllr Hogger is co-ordinator. The Clerk had been investigating some of the practicalities (liabilities etc).

Cllr Clark remarked on how smart the area near the Post Office looks now.

Beech Avenue verges

Cllr Barker confirmed he has not forgotten that he would contact John Igglesden.

**8.11**

**HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**

**Current Highways and Transport matters**

No issues.

**Reports and correspondence relating to Highways matters**

Effingham Common Road white line

Cllr Barker has spoken with SCC Highways and they have confirmed they will do this repair.

Snow issues

Salt / grit bins are on order. It was agreed the Clerk will circulate the list of the ten locations again. SCC is funding providing some farmers with snow ploughs to fit onto their tractors so that they can help clear snow on roads. Cllr Barker had funded a snow plough for the use of the Horsleys, to be kept at a local farm. It was agreed the Clerk will investigate further, and examine if Effingham's topography brings it a higher risk of snow than other parishes in Guildford Borough.

**SM**

Cllr Nicholls felt that a large stock of salt / grit should be stored somewhere in Effingham in case none will be supplied by the Borough, and this should be considered within the Emergency Plan. Cllr Pindar felt the footways were as important to tackle as the side roads, and it was agreed residents should be encouraged to clear in front of their properties.

**10.11**

**REPORTS**

Police and safety community issues

Nothing to report.

Allotments

Nothing beyond the Agenda item to follow.

Schools

It was agreed now to be urgent that the date for the meeting with The Howard is re-arranged. The Clerk to approach them again.

St Lawrence Primary School had invited all Parish Councillors to the Carol Service but this had been cancelled (snow). The school has an e-mail group for information on events.

EVRT

Cllr Hogger reported that the Trustees and Liaison Group were hoping to move ahead on the Service Level Agreement – another round of talks is needed. It was agreed the idea of a 'standing' liaison group was a good idea, and the Parish Council will write formally to EVRT welcoming this as a new approach to working together.

Home Farm Estate

No further news.

Friends of Effingham Common

The AGM of The Friends will be held at the Catholic Hall on Wednesday 30 March.

Smith's Charity  
No further news.

Effingham Local History Group

Research into names of the fallen from three Effingham World War I memorials is continuing; there is now an enormous quantity of information on the web-site. Does anybody know where 'the rainbow field' was?

Local government / admin matters / website

No further news.

**11.11 CORRESPONDENCE**

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

St Lawrence Primary School	Invitation to Carol Concert; circulation list for other events
East Horsley PC	Agenda and papers for meeting of 6 & 13 December
Horsley Countryside Preservation Soc.	<i>Around &amp; About Horsley</i> Winter issue
SCC Guildford Local Committee	Minutes of meeting of 7 December
Surrey County Council	Info about farmers helping to clear snow
Surrey Hills Society	Winter newsletter
Family Line Surrey	Info about the service
Cherry Trees	News, Winter
NALC	DIS no 749

**12.11 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Proposed budget for 2011-12

The Clerk had circulated figures showing decisions made at the last meeting and had written to the EVRT Trustees as agreed. Cllrs Pindar and Hogger had met with the Trustees in order to find out more about the figures which had been submitted, and to explain further how / why it would not be possible to fund that bid in full. They were very grateful to EVRT Trustees for giving up their time and it was clear a great deal of work had been involved.

Cllr Hogger had subsequently re-structured the same figures, but divided up between regular maintenance and 'one-off' projects. The Trustees had made no comment on this version. It had been circulated to Councillors. It was regretted that Mark Jones was not present at the Parish Council to answer any further questions Councillors might have, although entirely understandable under the circumstances. Cllr Hogger had also circulated in advance some calculations showing what the total precept would be on different percentage increases, and the wording of a proposed motion concerning a grant to EVRT.

After detailed discussion it was proposed by Cllr Crouch, seconded by Cllr Wetenhall, that the total precept should be set at £55,300 (representing an increase of 2.5%). This was agreed unanimously.

The following motion was proposed by Cllr Hogger, seconded by Cllr Crouch and agreed unanimously:

'EPC agrees to make available £15, 340 for potential use by EVRT during 2011/12 with conditions as follows.

The funding will be available as two components:

**Service level agreement funding for 2011/12**, being the first-year payment of a proposed three year agreement which contributes to the maintenance of amenity space and woodland.

- i. This funding is conditional on an SLA being agreed between EPC and EVRT before the beginning of the 2011/12 financial year.

- ii. The level of funding in the second and third years will be subject to the terms of the agreement, and may differ from the funding made available for the first year.

**Specific 'one-off' funding** available for projects such as essential tree work and playground equipment maintenance, comprising the remainder of the £15,340.

- i. Any expenditure from this fund must be agreed in advance by the Parish Council, who may require documentation such as the RoSPA survey for the playgrounds, a tree survey and/or arboriculturist's report and confirmation that the needs of wildlife, e.g. bats, have been taken into account when proposing any woodland work.
- ii. This funding is conditional on EVRT providing EPC with a forward plan of investment during the next three years, with an indication where possible of the grants sought or already available, including proposals for GBC concurrent function funding bids. (Bids for concurrent function funding must be made via EPC by September of the previous financial year.)
- iii. Any 'one-off' funding unspent by the end of 2011/12 will not be carried over to future years unless specifically agreed by the Parish Council.

EVRT is asked to note that the Parish Council does not accept that Effingham council taxpayers should be responsible for funding all or part of the maintenance of the amenity space and woodland in perpetuity. The SLA is offered as an assurance of funding for three years (subject to local authority funding constraints) to give time to enable the EVRT Trustees to complete their restructuring of the Trust's finances. EPC believes that the user groups, particularly the Howard School and the Effingham & Leatherhead Rugby Club who include many users from outside the village, also have an impact on the amenity space and woodland, and it is expected that they will be charged an appropriate rate for the use of the KGV land which will include a contribution to the maintenance costs of the amenity space and woodland.'

It was agreed the Clerk should write to the Trustees informing them as soon as possible.

**SM**

Unequal rent rise applied to different sizes of allotment plot  
*Cllr Pindar vacated the Chair and this item was chaired by Cllr Symes.*

This had been deferred from the previous meeting. An allotment holder had written to ask for an explanation of why a half plot was being charged proportionately more than a full plot. The Clerk explained out that she had queried this at the time.

Councillors decided that a half plot cost £15 which was made up of £10 plus #5 administrative charge. A full plot was £25, comprising £20 plus £5 administrative charge. The Clerk noted that the concept of an administrative charge had not been discussed at the time. It was agreed that a letter should be written apologising for the confusion.

**SM**

It was agreed there needed to be another review comparing allotment rents to others locally, and Cllr Clark will undertake this. Cllr Lightfoot will investigate Burial charges.

**AC  
AL**

Amendments to Effingham Parish Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

This again had to be deferred. Cllr Crouch and the Clerk explained that it was not urgent but it would be fairly time-consuming, and so far a sufficient time-slot had not been available owing to pressure of more urgent work.

**SM  
CEWC**

**Cheques for approval and signature**

The following cheques were authorised and signed:

		<b>Authority to pay</b>
Phone Coop	31.56	Local Govt Act 1972 s111

**Reports and correspondence relating to Finance matters**

Nothing further.

**13.11 PARISH BUSINESS FOR THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 25 January 2011. Cllr Pindar gave apologies.