

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EFFINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT 8pm ON TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2010
AT KING GEORGE V HALL, BROWN'S LANE, EFFINGHAM**

PRESENT

Cllr Pindar in the Chair
Cllrs Clark, Crouch, Hogger, Jones, Lightfoot, Nicholls, Symes and Wetenhall.
Cllr Bill Barker

25.10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Driscoll (vacation).

26.10 REGISTER OF INTERESTS AND DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Cllr Nicholls will provide further information for the Register of Interests as previously agreed.

JN

27.10 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 26 JANUARY 2010

These were agreed to be a true record and signed.

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

18.10 Bookham Fields The Staygreenspace committee had asked if they could quote the Parish Council's support and the Minute. This was agreed. It was agreed that given the tightness of the precept it was not possible to contribute campaign funds at this time but the Parish Council would wish to be kept informed of developments.

SM

29.10 POLICE AND SAFETY

PCSO's report

PCSO Culross reported two crimes for the preceding month: theft of lead from Grove House, and criminal damage to property. The next Neighbourhood Panel meeting will be on 9 March at 7.30, and will be attended by Casualty Reduction Officer Matt Redfern.

Cllr Lightfoot asked if the police were particularly aware of theft of road signage, (leaving the posts in place); he said this was not known to be a particular problem. She also asked if vehicles could be fined for driving over the 'low-rise' roundabouts such as at Lower Rd / The Street. Cllr Nicholls explained that these were designed so that they could be driven over if necessary.

With the agreement of all the following discussion item was moved up the agenda

33.10 REPORTS

Schools

Cllr Barker read out a letter from an SCC legal officer explaining forthcoming legal processes affecting land /assets currently owned by SCC but in the management of The Howard school. Cllr Hogger confirmed that the meeting between school representatives and Parish Councillors planned for earlier in the year would be re-scheduled for the second half of March. Cllr Nicholls read from DfES literature describing the stages going from local authority to Trust status. He was not confident these had been adhered to. He had spoken to several parents at random and as a result believed parents were unaware both of the change that had taken place, and of the public advertisement phase. Cllr Barker felt he had been misled about control of the admissions policy remaining with SCC, as this had now passed to the governors of the school. He was concerned that if there were any future variation to admissions policy, resulting in local children being displaced, the cost of this would fall to SCC. Cllr Hogger confirmed that planning applications by the school would in future be determined by GBC, not SCC. Cllr Crouch confirmed details of the purchase of Browns Field. It was agreed that it was still unclear how far the school had progressed to Trust status and further information would be useful.

30.10 PLANNING MATTERS

New applications

10/P/00088 The Beeches, Guildford Road

A resident had pointed out that this had already been much extended beyond the original.
No comment.

10/P/00124 9 Norwood Road

No comment.

10/P/00193 Hooke Field, Heathway

No comment.

10/P/00222 Downhills, Links Way

No comment

10/P/00234 Rose Acre

No comment

10/P/00256 Miles House

No comment.

Results / progress on previous planning applications

09/P/01755 The Long Barn, High Barn Road	Unanimous refusal by Planning Committee. Cllr Hogger thanked Cllr Wetenhall for research and support. The owner and agent have been advised to consult with Surrey Hills and GBC before putting in another application.
09/P/01843 Honeypots, Lower Farm Rd	Approved
09/P/01844 3 Mount Pleasant	Approved
09/P/01849 Faygate, Heath View	Approved
09/P/01933 Longmorn, Mount Pleasant	Approved
09/P/01972 Greenboughs, Heath View	Withdrawn
09/P/01978 Land adj. to 61 Calvert Road	Withdrawn
OK 1088543 Leewood Farmyard	The result of the Public Inquiry will be received in 28 days.

Other planning matters

Forthcoming planning enforcement in Chester Road

GBC Environmental Health Dept had written to residents of Chester and Calvert Roads stating that re-possession of land, and enforcement against other planning infringements, is underway and imminent. Heavy pressure had been applied to extract confirmation that the relevant steps were being taken by EHD; the Planning Dept however had reacted with alacrity.

South East Plan First Partial Review Examination in Public

Cllr Hogger reported that the Inspectors had a list of defined questions. In response to a question about whether there should be an upper limit to the number of pitches in any one area, she had said that a better way would be to think of integrating small sites for family units across the whole area, which would be run by Gypsies/Travellers themselves. This was supported by two representatives of G&T groups, and by Cllr John Garrett of Ripley.

Upper Leewood Farm

Following receipt of additional information from the Planning Officer, the following comment had been agreed and submitted since the last meeting:

'Effingham Parish Council has considered the proposals and objects on the grounds that the plans for the house and garage represent a significant increase on the existing house and garage: a proposed increase over the existing footprint of 62% approx, and a proposed increase over the existing floorspace of 58% approx. Furthermore, the current application is based on demolition of a group of structures (through which the applicant has arrived at a stated increase of only 31.92%). However, it is felt that some of the outbuildings which are part of this group should not qualify as associated domestic

structures. The Parish Council feels that no very special circumstances to justify this level of expansion in the Green Belt have been demonstrated.

The existing house is relatively well screened on the plot. The re-siting of the proposed larger structure on higher ground raised questions of whether it would become more visible and intrusive in this very rural area. If the proposal were to be given consent, the Parish Council requests that additional screening by addition of mature trees along the roadside should be required, to preserve the visual amenity of residents.

Given the size of the proposed expansion, if the application were to gain consent, the Parish Council suggests a condition to govern the use of the archway space and prevent it becoming part of the habitable accommodation. For instance, the archway should be left open, or have gates of an open railing style rather than the fully panelled / solid ones proposed.'

Reports and correspondence relating to other Planning matters:

Elmbridge Borough Council's Core Strategy – proposed submission to Secretary of State
Cllr Lightfoot will read this document to check for items of relevance to Effingham

AL

Secure implement shed for Burial Ground

Details had been circulated to neighbours of the Burial Ground for their comments before submitting the planning application.

Mole Valley Local Development Framework

ERRA had commented and urged the Parish Council to take note. It was agreed to put this on the Agenda for the next meeting with the relevant information.

SM

SPA Effingham Common

The Clerk had become aware that a paper representing conclusions from last year's consultation will go to GBC Executive on 25 February. It made no change to the position affecting Effingham Common, but the tariff will be £3000 per house and on developments of below 10 houses, the tariff collected could be spent anywhere in the Borough, It was noted in the report that the Trustees of the Charity managing the Cricket Ground land were not in favour of making car parking space available.

31.10 VILLAGE GREEN SPACES AND AMENITIES

Current GSVa matters

Future burial land space in the village

By agreement this was deferred to the end of the meeting and discussed in committee, since sensitive information relating to private property was involved.

Shere Parish Council's questionnaire on school place availability

It was felt to be very difficult to reply to this without knowing more about the circumstances which generated it. Effingham's position is not similar, in that there are schools here. It was decided to reply after the meeting with the Howard.

SM

Locations for extra salt/grit bins

Cllr Jones suggested this should be put to the village and fully researched. Various sites were put forward by councillors. The Clerk will collate available information.

SM

Reports on GSVa matters

Beech Avenue

Clearance of the verges has started, which is more radical than expected because tall 'loners' cannot be left. There is no sign of planting. It was agreed to ask Ian Cresswell to visit to see progress; also to discuss the bridlepath issue which is unresolved after almost two years. Cllr Barker would be willing to come. The Clerk to organise.

SM

Annual Parish Meeting

The Emergency officer from Cumbria cannot come. Another possibility, on a local history theme, had been suggested. Cllr Hogger also mentioned the excavations by a Southampton University archaeological students on land near Strathcona Avenue.

SM

Forward planning meeting

This had had to be postponed. A new date was set for Wednesday 28 April, 8pm, Parish Room. The Clerk will confirm. The Chairman will produce some 'warm-up' ideas to stimulate discussion.

ALL

32.10 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

Current Highways and Transport matters

SCC's proposed non-time-limit Traffic Regulation Order for BOAT 137

It was agreed that the Parish Council strongly supported this; indeed would go further and close it against all motorised vehicles if possible, given the effects on other uses and the destruction of ancient parish boundaries in that area.

SM

Parish Council policy on banner advertising on walls, fences etc

Signage on Highways street furniture will be removed by Highways officers. Signs on private property are more problematic. It was agreed that there was no mileage in trying to discriminate between 'charitable' and 'commercial' signage, or expecting the owner of the fence etc to act. It was agreed however that signs without a deadline (ie not an event for instance) should be reported to Guildford. Others might be tolerated.

Reports and correspondence relating to Highways matters

Forest Road bridge visit

Cllr Pindar had attended and had been impressed. The structure of the old bridge had caused admiration for the original builders. The project is the largest SCC Highways engineering project in Surrey at present.

St Teresa's Travel Plan

Efforts to extract the 'before' and 'after' survey results are continuing with a governor's help.

Footpath 75 Leatherhead

This short length of path joins Footpaths 118 & 119 (on the KGV Playing Fields) to the Lower Road. It crosses the Howard's school grounds. The School had wished to close it but objections were received by SCC suggested this was not viable. It would be difficult to find a diversion. The School may yet invoke some recent legislation relating specifically to security concerns of schools. It was felt to be another issue on which the School governors were misjudging residents' feelings. There was discussion about who owned the land bordering the footpath. The Clerk will research this.

SM

Orestan Lane / Calvert Rd junction

GBC's speed limit signage and white lining proposals have been agreed by SCC.

33.10 REPORTS

Allotments

There had been an issue about the narrow access preventing vehicles getting to the allotments. Cllrs Clark and Jones felt the issue should be discussed at the allotment holders' meeting in May.

Schools

Cllr Hogger will ask Gill Walker if she would be willing to provide updates. It was agreed that Cllr Pindar would write advising caution in a double-hatted role. Cllr Jones explained that declaration of interests was standard procedure in EVRT meetings.

LH
AP

EVRT

Cllr Jones reported that 80 responses to the questionnaire had been received; they are hoping for 100. The prospective new Trustee had decided not to take on the role because it was too big a commitment for him; it meant day-to-day, week-to-week commitment. Cllr Hogger asked whether it was necessary for a Trustee to do book-keeping aspects as Trustee was meant to be a strategic role. Cllr Nicholls mentioned that the current manager is a trained accountant. Cllr Jones felt that the manager would have to become fulltime to take on this work as well, or someone else would have to be employed. It was essential

some progress was made in a tight timescale because the Trustees are likely to lose Terry Driscoll after the next audit. It was agreed to include information with the Chairman's report to be delivered by Parish Councillors. Cllr Jones will liaise with the Clerk.

MJ
SM

Cllr Pindar asked whether he should encourage village use / support of EPFA in the Chairman's report, and it was agreed he should mention this.

The Cricket Club had requested a history of works on the site, following objections by The Open Spaces Society to the CC's application to the Secretary of State for permission to erect nets on common land. The Clerk had provided it.

Home Farm Estate

Cllr Nicholls was shocked at the state of the road, and of the recent repairs which had probably made things worse. It was agreed that the Chairman will write formally on behalf of EPC to GBC's Cliff Bell, copied to Sue Sturgeon, Gary Durrant and Sam Hutchison.

SM
AP

Friends of Effingham Common

Cllr Symes reported that Adam Owen has located some money to spend on the Common and wants to upgrade the paths. One option is a bridleway the whole way round. A large area of damage had been caused, possibly by local racehorses who use the area for gallops when their own property was too wet. Dates for volunteer work parties have been set.

Adam Owen had raised a query over whether there was a s.193 deed of declaration over Effingham Common – SCC Rights of Way had said there was. The effect of such a deed would be that not only pedestrians would have the right to roam anywhere for air and exercise, so would horse-riders (ie, they would not have to stick to the bridle paths or permissive paths). This would have consequences for management of the Common. The Clerk had contacted the Commons Registration officer and the National Archive at Kew, and thus established that there is no s.193 deed.

Smith's Charity

No further news. The Horsleys Community Bus might apply to them for funding.

Local Government / Admin matters

The Clerk's appraisal had been completed. She thanked councillors for their complimentary comments.

Quotations for the Parish Room flint wall repairs have been sought; also repairs for various highways-type repairs in the village. The Parish Room computer now has a portable hard-drive so the whole system prompts itself for a back-up, which is a basic precaution. A PAT test (Portable electronic appliances, essential under national H&S legislation) has been costed and commissioned. The VAT return has been submitted. The Chairman's report will be ready for printing and delivery soon. New cloth for the council meeting tables has been purchased and is being hemmed. The Clerk has less access to a car than previously, so may have to work at home more.

34.10

CORRESPONDENCE

Effingham and Little Bookham churches	Parish magazine The Horsley Directory
GBC	Agenda and reports for Council meeting, 11 February Surrey Youth Games, 19 & 20 June
SCC	Agenda and papers for meeting, 9 February
Surrey County Playing Fields Ass.	The Playing Field (winter newsletter)
Surrey Community Action	Newsletter

35.10 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Current matters

Request for funding from the Horsleys Community Bus Association

It was agreed that a contribution was not possible. However, they had been encouraged to apply to Smith's Charity which had funded them before.

Cheques for approval and signature

The following cheques were authorised and signed:

		Authority to pay
Phone Co-op	26.99	Local Govt Act 1972 s.111
R&J Mason	399.50	Local Govt Act 1972 s.214
James Ottey	319.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s.133

Reports on Finance matters

Steps, Burial Ground

These need repair and have been identified as a relatively high risk. The Chairman reported that the cost for repair had been quoted at £295 and he had authorised this under the financial provisions for emergency expenditure.

31.10 IN COMMITTEE

Future burial land space in the village

Cllr Nicholls reported on various possibilities and scenarios. Cllr Hogger advised on the need to involve GBC planners well before any suggestions were pursued. All development was agreed to be very complex given the competing pressures of planning policy initiatives and the aspirations of private individuals and organisations. It was agreed to be essential and urgent that the Parish Council formulates and states its considered view of future developments before attempting discussion with other interested groups.

36.10 PARISH BUSINESS FOR THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING

Response to Mole Valley Local Development Framework

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 23 March.