

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EFFINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT 8pm ON TUESDAY 25 JANUARY 2011  
AT KING GEORGE V HALL, BROWN'S LANE, EFFINGHAM**

**PRESENT**

Cllr Symes in the Chair  
Cllrs Clark (after 9pm), Crouch, Driscoll, Hogger, Lightfoot, Nicholls, Wetenhall  
9 local government electors

**14.11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Pindar (away on business). Cllr Barker

**15.11 REGISTER OF INTERESTS AND DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

None declared at this time.

**16.11 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 4 JANUARY 2011**

There was discussion of whether the comment at 6.11 on 6&7 Effingham Place reflected the decision, and decided that it did so no alteration was needed.

With this the Minutes were signed as a true record.

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

No matters arising.

**18.11 MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

*Residents of the following roads had been invited:*

*The Crossroads, Guildford Road (east), Lindens Close, Links Way, Manor Gardens, Mount Pleasant, Orchard Gardens, Woodlands Road*

- Is there any further news about trimming the Beech Ave trees which overhang gardens of The Crossways? It was explained these are in a different category from those owned by the SCC Estates Dept further up Beech Ave. There is so far no advance on the position that SCC Highways judges the trees to be safe, so will not be reduced. This can however be added to the 'Sprucing up' project list. **LH**
- Is there any information about the flooding issue on Effingham Common Road? A resident present with information about the ditches and draining in the area will meet the Clerk to show on a plan how they used to work.
- Can anything be done about the flooding on the A246 near Tollgate Farm? This has been logged as a dangerous 'wet spot' for several years. The Clerk will report it again. **SM**
- Cllr Nicholls had heard that engineers working on the flooding on Orestan Lane needed to get access to the electricity sub-station, but this would not appear to help since this land was up-hill.
- There was discussion of the damaged pedestrian safety barrier on the A246, which has been hideous for about 3 years. The Clerk will check that SCC claimed from the motorist's insurance and ask why this money cannot be spent on repair. **SM**

**19.11 PLANNING MATTERS**

**New applications**

None! For the first time in 57 years as remembered by Cllr Crouch! This could be proof of the recession but probably because following recent changes GBC have rejected a great many applications as invalid.

**Results / progress on previous planning applications**

10/P/02007	Chalfont, Lower Farm Road	Approved
10/P/02074	Lawnview, Orestan Lane	Refused
10/P/02110	4 Middle Farm Place	Approved
10/P/02158	Orchard Cottage, The Street	Approved
10/P/02311	The Orchard House, Beech Ave	Withdrawn

**Decisions on major cases still outstanding:**

Grove House, Guildford Road	Recently approved with conditions, broadly in line with the 2008 existing consent.
Ranmore Manor	Still waiting for expert assessment by English Heritage of whether it fulfils the criteria for an enabling development
Richmond Horse Transport, Newmarsh Farm	Public Inquiry announced 2009; no further news

**Other planning matters**Offer of a parish 'housing need' survey

Mona Johannsson had confirmed she was independent of any developers or residents wishing to put land forward, and it made no difference to her work or advice if this was the case. It was agreed to invite her to make a presentation (30 mins max) on 1 March or 29 March.

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

Nothing further.

**20.11 VILLAGE GREEN SPACES AND AMENITIES****Current GSVA matters**Surrey County Council Fire and Rescue Authority's Draft Public Safety Plan

Cllr Lightfoot was volunteered to read this on the Parish Council's behalf (comments by 4 March)

**AL**Local Government and Boundary Commission for England consultation on the boundary review

Cllr Driscoll gave a very clear explanation of the process underway. It was agreed to write to other parish councils in the same division and, if they are planning to put forward any dramatic proposals, suggest a meeting.

**SM****Reports and correspondence relating to GSVA matters**Trees in property adjacent to Burial Ground

The GBC Tree specialist had visited but without entering on the land found it hard to comment and needs to see the trees again in April when in leaf. The Clerk reported no news from the owners. It was agreed to write again asking for information.

**SM**Comparison of Burial Ground fees with others locally

Cllr Lightfoot had shown that the fees are in line with other similar burial grounds locally. It was agreed she should find out about the charges at the large municipal cemetery, Randalls Road, Leatherhead.

**AL**Forward Planning meeting

Cllr Hogger reported that another meeting had taken place on 18 January and some useful ideas had come forward which she is writing up. However, it would be important to wait for an understanding of the effects of the Localism Bill, and to involve the new Parish Council which will convene after May.

Village Parking

Cllr Hogger and the Parish Council had been contacted by the Chairman of the Rugby minis after a misunderstanding about use of the cinder track (near the Scout Hut) for car parking. There was also an issue about hiring out use of the KGV carpark when other groups had booked the hall. Cllr Hogger had convened a meeting on parking to be held on 31 January, to which interested parties including the Police had been invited.

British Legion

It is the Legion's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration (nationally) on 10-12 June. They are holding a national 'Great Poppy Party Weekend' and have written asking generally for support. The local branch has undergone re-organisation recently. Cllr Nicholls will let them know that

the Parish Council will offer what support it can.

The Howard School consultation on moving to Academy status

Given that the consultation deadline was so tight, it was agreed to draft a comment that the Parish Council as a community partner would wish to have confirmation that the governors will remain local; also, to await further information from the consultation meeting and amend the comment in the light of this if necessary.

**SM**

**21.11 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**

**Current Highways and Transport matters**

Authorising for release the results of research into use of a path

This was agreed.

Surrey Police Casualty Reduction Officer's policy for parishes regarding Vehicle Activated Signs

It was agreed a sign would be much wanted and all costs should be investigated although this is beyond the present budget or the one for 2011-12; the Clerk to confirm whether she and Cllr Nicholls can go on the training.

**SM**

Response to the SCC Draft Environmental Report unit of the Surrey Transport Plan (into effect April 2011)

Responses needed by 1 February. Cllr Wetenhall agreed to read it and suggest comments, if any.

**JW**

**Reports and correspondence relating to Highways matters**

Railways Group

Cllr Clark reported that the group was very focussed and useful. In March, about 1000 passengers who use the railway daily will be given flyers asking for their comments on the station and the service. A Rail Users Forum will be set up by mid March, and Parish Councils will probably be approached for support. East Horsley Parish Council is funding this initial stage. Cllr Lightfoot reported that the 'changes' predicted for January had been new benches and some new bushes.

Flooding and accidents on Effingham Common Road / Orestan Lane

The combination of heavy rain and damaged surface has led to extreme conditions. Cllrs Driscoll, Lightfoot and the Clerk have tried to tackle various aspects of this.

**SM**

- The manholes raised by flooding have not been re-set properly. The Clerk to report.
- There was a query about whether the cats' eyes will be replaced after the surface dressing. It was suggested that residents take record photographs of the road in its present state in case there are subsequently issues over what has been replaced (eg which white line).

**22.11 REPORTS**

Police and safety community issues

PCSO Culross apologised for having to miss the previous meeting. He reported the arrival of PC Karen Page, the new Neighbourhood Constable and hoped to introduce her soon. There had been five crimes in the past month, all burglaries, and all present were reminded to pay attention to security of property. Cold-calling also merited caution. Having said this, crime in the area had dropped and it was a very safe area. Episodes of anti-social behaviour are being targeted, but are at a very low level. The Neighbourhood Team are still on their 'Street a Week' project visiting all homes, to make contact with those who can't come to panel meetings.

Residents asked what areas experienced anti-social behaviour (shops, KGV and Orestan Lane), and whether they were residents or outsiders (both). If alarmed by cold-callers, the advice is to dial 999 for a quick response or 112 on a mobile in which case your location can be pinpointed. Utility companies and parcel delivery services should issue identification for their workforce, not the police.

### Allotments

Cllr Clark had circulated his report as agreed. It was agreed that his proposal for a further increase should be on the next Agenda. A meeting will be convened to discuss large trees overhanging the allotments.

SM

### Schools

Despite a polite reminder The Howard School had still not come back with suggested dates for the liaison meeting they had postponed. It was agreed the Clerk should write suggesting the Parish Council would be grateful if they would communicate.

SM

### EVRT

A meeting had been held with two Trustees about conflict of interests. EVRT's suggestion of formal liaison meetings had been welcomed and it was hoped EVRT would suggest how this could work. There had been no response to the Parish Council's letter explaining the precept discussion. This was disappointing as there were urgent matters to sort out. It was agreed that Cllrs Pindar, Hogger and Nicholls with the Clerk would meet to consider the draft Service Level Agreement document put forward by the Trustees. It was agreed that when this was done, the sub-group had the Parish Council's authority to seek a further meeting.

### Home Farm Estate

Cllr Nicholls reported on the willingness and supportiveness of the residents of Calvert and Chester Roads for involvement in village matters. PHFCC has had another meeting. Residents are understandably frustrated by failure to see visible action on road surface, environment and enforcement activities. Cllr Hogger will ask GBC's Head of Economic Development to name the date he will visit the residents.

LH

### Friends of Effingham Common

The AGM of The Friends will be held at the Catholic Hall on Wednesday 30 March. There will be a work party on Sunday 30 January. The Steering Group for Commoners Day 2011 has met.

### Smith's Charity

All the vouchers have been gathered in and the shops reimbursed. The distribution had been very well received. The Trustees will meet next month.

### Effingham Local History Group

Work has been progressing fast. Bryan Sherwood, writer of an important document on the history / ecology of the Common had given a talk. There will be a talk from and about the Group at the ERRA Public Meeting on Thursday 10 February.

### Local government / admin matters / website

The wonderful new computer had been installed, with very grateful thanks to Liz and Chris Hogger who had spent a gruelling day completing the transfer. GBC is providing a contour map, which may show how high Effingham is compared to other parishes. Residents are discussing a contingency plan for if subsidence causes traffic disruption again. The planning application for the Burial Ground shed is in difficulties over whether an application is needed or not.

23.11

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

Effingham & Little Bookham churches	Parish magazine, January and February 2011
Guildford Borough Council	Agenda and papers for Standards and Audit Committee, 19 January; Planning Committee 1 February
St John Ambulance	Surrey News, Winter 2010
Surrey Community Action	News letter, Winter 2010
SLCC	The Clerk, January 2011
Census 2011 team	Reminder: Census Day is Sunday 27 March 2011
Clerks & Councils Direct	November and January editions
NALC	DIS no 750

**24.11 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

To note the results of Surrey County Council's review of its pension fund  
A deficit of about £60 would be payable for the past year of contributions. This could be paid in instalments, but it was agreed to pay it in one go.

**SM**

To consider amendments to Effingham Parish Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

A date has been set for Cllr Crouch and the Clerk to meet – 7 February.

**Cheques for approval and signature**

The following cheques were authorised and signed:

		<b>Authority to pay</b>
Cllr Liz Hogger (reimbursement of cost of additional program for computer transfer)	24.24	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
EDF Electricity	165.36	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Phone Coop	31.56	Local Govt Act 1972 s111

**Reports and correspondence relating to Finance matters**

Nothing further.

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

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 1 March 2011.

**Provisionally** the following dates were set for future meetings, to be confirmed at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May:

Tuesday 21 June, 19 July, 30 August, 27 September, 25 October, 6 December 2011