

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EFFINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT 8pm ON TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2012  
AT KING GEORGE V HALL, BROWN'S LANE, EFFINGHAM**

**PRESENT**

Cllr Pindar in the Chair  
Cllrs Bowerman, Hogger, Lightfoot, Nicholls, Peskett, Symes and Wetenhall  
Cllrs to be co-opted Bell and Moss  
13 local government electors

**129.12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Hogger unavoidably away owing to close family bereavement; PCSO Culross.

**130.12 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY PAULA MOSS**

Paula Moss was warmly welcomed as a Councillor and completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**131.12 CO-OPTION OF CHRIS BELL, and DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

The Chairman reported that the interviewing panel was very happy to recommend Chris Bell as a councillor. He was formally co-opted, welcomed as a Councillor and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**132.12 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

With regard to a forthcoming item on the Burial Ground, Cllr Nicholls noted that he held a contract for maintenance.

**133.12 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 28 AUGUST 2012**

Cllr Symes reported that the FSA had confirmed to him that a local authority is excluded from the bank compensation scheme (127.12). With this amendment the Minutes were signed.

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

124.12 The circulation of letters to groups about the Community Fund had taken place, but Cllr Hogger had sent her apologies about the unforeseen delay caused by the bereavement in her family.

**135.12 MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

A resident reported the extremely dangerous road conditions in Browns' Lane and Church Street the previous weekend caused by the obstructive parking of cars of people attending a rugby event. Cllr Pindar replied that he was aware of this and several meetings had been held in past years to try to prevent it happening. He had reported it to the Trustees of the Playing Fields at the recent AGM. A councillor commented that the Rugby Club had clearly made an attempt to do some marshalling, but it was not sustained or adequate; undertakings about a comprehensive scheme were regularly given, but then immediately forgotten or allowed to lapse. The Chairman of EVRT was in the audience and given the opportunity to respond. He confirmed that the Rugby Club had agreed they would tackle this problem and would be required to do so.

Referring to the same problem, another resident reported that dangerous parking had caused the junction of Browns Lane and Guildford Road to be gridlocked, causing 'chaos and anger'. He had requested more cones but none were forthcoming.

A resident commented on the danger being caused by cyclists ignoring the signals and crossing the traffic lights on red. It was agreed that there was little to be done about this.

A member of EPFA asked who the four EVRT Trustees nominated by the Parish Council are, and whether they are independent. The Chairman gave the names of the three in post

and confirmed it is intended they are independent. The gentleman asked why of the others, Simon Ralph, Brendan Kelly and Mark Jones had connections with the Rugby Club. He said he had been told that the two bars who both were tenants of EVRT were being treated the same, except that the rent of the Rugby Club was still being accepted and EPFA's was not; and EPFA had received a Section 25 notice whilst the Rugby Club had not. He referred to a previous Committee of Management in which Rugby Club members had held several posts, and as a result of being outvoted by a rival interest EPFA had lost its control of the alcohol licence and the charity had hence lost the income it should have had. It seemed to him that EPFA was again now battling against a loaded Board. He referred to an exchange of letters which had presented a dated ultimatum about signing, but sent with no time for EPFA to reply. He understood the Parish Council as Custodian Trustee still had a question outstanding about signatures, but EPFA was expected to sign nevertheless.

The Chairman explained that for most of these matters he would have to deal with the Trustees, but as for the signing, he had discussed this with Brendan Kelly and was waiting a copy; this issue has indeed dragged on. Mr Kelly could not explain the confusion over the dates of letters but would look into it. He was still waiting for advice on the issue of the signing.

## 136.12 PLANNING MATTERS

### New applications

12/P/01536 Cheyme Cottage, Manor House Lane

No comment.

12/P/01540 Honeypots, Lower Farm Road

Demolition and replacement of dwelling house. No comment.

12/T/00178 Browns, Browns Lane

Fell small Ginkgo, remove 2 bush stumps, crown reduce Yew by approximately 33%, remove crossing branch from Cherry, fell four Lawson Cypress, remove one branch and reshape lower crown from Lawson Cypress, reduce height of Leylandii by 33% and fell one Leylandii, reduce height of conifer by 33%, crown reduce five Limes by 25%, fell conifer on island near garage, crown lift cherry above garage by 0.5m to provide clearance to garage roof (Effingham Conservation Area). No comment.

12/T/00148 Home Farm House, The Street

Works to trees: Yew (A) – Remove dead branch. Elder (B) – Fell. Hawthorn and Hazel (C) – Cut ivy-clad branches. Hazel (D) – Fell (Effingham Conservation Area). No comment.

### Results / progress on previous planning applications

11/P/02268 The Long Barn	Appeal dismissed
12/P/01221 Homedale, Orestan Lane	Approved
12/P/01259 Lawn View, Orestan Lane	Refused
12/P/01338 Winrush, Heathway	Withdrawn

### Other planning matters

None.

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

None.

A resident asked about how far a structure with planning consent had to be under construction before the consent was deemed to have expired. GBC Planning Admin. can advise.

## 137.12 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

### Current Highways and Transport matters

Contribution to cost of repairing flint wall in The Street

A report on a shortfall between s106 money available from the Grove House development

and the cost of this project had been circulated by Cllr Hogger. Councillors debated whether they would support the proposal that the Parish Council should fund all, some or none of this.

It was put to the vote whether the Council was prepared to pay £980. This was agreed 8 in favour and one against.

It was put to the vote whether the Council was prepared to pay UP TO £2,500, if the need was proven. This was agreed 8 in favour and one against. It was agreed that any invoice for expenditure arising would be carefully scrutinised, and no contingency would be paid as a matter of course – only actual costs. The Clerk was instructed to ask the GBC Officer if this will be project-managed by anyone.

SM

### **Reports and correspondence relating to Highways matters**

#### A246 resurfacing and other works

This had now been completed – railings and lay-byes completed! There was considerable pleasure all round.

#### Flytipping near the pumping station, Effingham Common Road

This is on the utility's land, but needs reporting in case they need access.

SM

#### Alleged bridleway FP591

Cllr Wetenhall reported that the statement of case had been received; it was a long document and he could e-mail it to any councillor who requested it.

SM

#### Parking on Effingham Common Road

Parking on the roadside opposite the station is now more frequent, and a danger to visibility. It was agreed the Clerk will contact Highways to ask for more reflector posts.

SM

#### Flooding, Effingham Common Road

A resident complained about flooding of the road. This is a longstanding problem, a combination of drainage channels too small, openings being blocked by sweeper lorries, and ditches not kept clear.

#### Traffic lights, A246

Cllr Wetenhall asked whether the timer for the traffic lights had inadvertently been re-set during the recent work, and could the original programme be reinstated.

SM

## **138.12 GREEN SPACE AND VILLAGE AMENITIES *continued***

### **Current GSVa matters**

#### Proposals for improvements to the Burial Ground

Cllr Nicholls repeated his disclosure of pecuniary interest before reporting to the Council his ideas for improvements. These included clearance of moss and reseeding in some areas, a rubbish bin (that he would empty), waste collection bags for green waste, a sign to show ownership by the Parish Council, a sign to prohibit alcohol on the site. Parish Councillors greatly approved all of the above. A report will therefore be prepared and costed up, for future consideration.

JN

Cllr Bell reported that on several occasions lately large groups of sixth formers at lunch times had gathered in the site and behaviour had included swearing, shouting, dancing, spitting, leaving cans and other rubbish. A resident reported that St Lawrence Church suffered similar problems particularly in the porch. It was agreed the Clerk would contact the school. A notice showing 'no right of way' may be appropriate.

SM

#### Neighbourhood Plan

A list of possible aspects to this had been circulated to promote discussion, and the Chairman had asked Cllr Bell to think about how to take forward a study of the Social, Sports and Leisure aspect. A village meeting on this subject would be taking place soon and it might help EVRT. Cllr Bell is keen to do this and has ideas about methodology. Cllr Moss also made suggestions. It was agreed that a working group comprising Cllrs Bell, Moss, Bowerman, Symes, Pindar, Lightfoot and Peskett would meet.

AP  
CB  
et al

#### EVRT grants, progress and AGM

Subjects for possible projects to be funded by the Community Fund had been circulated for information and would be discussed at the next meeting.

By consent of the Chairman there then followed discussion between Councillors and the Chairman of EVRT who was present in the audience. Cllr Nicholls referred to the recent AGM, and EVRT's progress over three years as discussed there. He had found the AGM to be unpleasant and hoped lessons could be learned so the experience would never be repeated. He felt that the Trustees must be much more open to communication and should have achieved more in the three years; he had left the meeting none the wiser about progress or plans. He felt there was nothing 'to sign up to', and that willing volunteers were excluded. Cllr Pindar endorsed this, with sadness and frustration. His statements at the AGM made on behalf of the Parish Council had been necessary to bring things to a head and to try to make things change, following mounting frustration. Councillors fully understood that some negotiations had to be confidential, but transparency about finances was essential and expected nowadays. A councillor asked about whether the Trustees were aware of how much, for instance, the Rugby Club bar was taking, and where did this money go? The reply was that it was a private members club. Councillors believed there should be a bigger plan for the charity as a whole than just settling the leases.

The Chairman of EVRT explained that if the Trustees are not in command of the assets, 'everything else is just dreams'. The leases affect the financial viability and the Trustees have no time to devote to anything else 'not even a flowerbed'. This had been a long road, but the right road, and he too is keen to close the gap between the Trust and the Council.

#### Appointment of interviewing panel for EVRT Trustee nomination

It was agreed this would be Cllrs Pindar, Symes and Wetenhall.

AP  
IS  
JW

#### **Reports and correspondence relating to GSVA matters**

None,

#### **139.12 REPORTS**

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

PCSO Culross was unable to attend. The Clerk was asked to find out again why a substitute could not be sent. Cllr Nicholls pointed out that the invitation to residents of specific roads was not just to meet the Police, it was to see the council in action.

##### Allotments

Rents are due.

##### Schools

No date yet for a meeting with The Howard. Cllr Symes had attended a very pleasant meeting.

##### EVRT

Nothing further at this point in the meeting.

##### Home Farm Estate

The road re-surfacing will begin on 1 October.

##### Friends of Effingham Common

The Clerk will confirm the time to attend to help put up tents for Commoners Day. Cllr Wetenhall gave apologies for not being able to attend.

SM

##### Smith's Charity

No further news.

Effingham Local History Group

No further news.

Local government / admin matters / website

The Clerk reported on the recent Clerks Liaison meeting at GBC. An effect of the imminent reforms of council tax relief will inevitably have an impact on how the precept is set. The Clerk had asked GBC to send information on how many households this would affect, to have some idea of gauging the likely impact.

**140.12 CORRESPONDENCE**

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

Horsley Countryside Preservation Soc GBC	Around & About Horsley  Agenda and reports, meeting of Planning Committee, 25 September
Guildford Environmental Forum Surrey County Council	Newsletter, Sept – Nov 2012 Agenda and reports for meeting of the Local Committee, 12 September
Surrey Community Action CPRE	AGM, Tuesday 9 October, Betchworth Surrey Newsletter, late Summer; <i>Fieldwork</i> Autumn 2012
St John Ambulance NALC	News, Spring 2012 DIS no 791 & 792

**141.12 FINANCIAL & ADMIN MATTERS**

Report on Village Day and claim for reimbursement

The report was not in time for circulation before the meeting, so will be deferred for discussion to the next

Report of the External Auditor

This had been signed off but had not been posted by BDO in time for the meeting, so will not be completed by 30 September.

Risk inspection report

Cllr Bowerman reported that all forms were complete except one, which she would attend to. She gave out further forms for return to her by 15 October.

**ALL**

**Cheques for approval and signature**

The following cheques were authorised and signed:

Phone Coop	31.15	Local Govt Act 1972 s.111
BTS Ltd	£59.40	Local Govt Act 1972 s.111
Surrey Hills Society	20.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s.111
CPRE	29.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s.111
*Cornwell Home Barn Properties	300.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s.111
Hattie Hyder	55.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s.145
**ICE	1,741.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s.145
Gill Bowerman	£16.98	Local Govt Act 1972 s.111
James Nicholls	260.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s.214
HMRC	29.56	Local Govt Act 1972 s.112
S. Morris	34.26	Local Govt Act 1972 s.112
HMRC	1,512.15	Local Govt Act 1972 s.112
Surrey County Council	21.10	Local Govt Act 1972 s.112
S. Morris	786.56	Local Govt Act 1972 s.112

\*The Clerk was instructed to seek more information about what improvements the increase here related to, and when the courtyard exit lights would be repaired, before this invoice could be paid.

**SM**

\*\* The invoices have been checked but the cheque will not be handed over until the report has been received and discussed (next meeting).

**Reports and correspondence relating to Finance & Admin matters**

Nothing further.

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

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 30 October 2012.