

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EFFINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT 8pm ON TUESDAY 27 JULY 2010
AT KING GEORGE V HALL, BROWN'S LANE, EFFINGHAM**

PRESENT

Cllr Pindar in the Chair

Cllrs Clark, Crouch, Driscoll, Hogger, Jones, Lightfoot, Nicholls, Symes and Wetenhall

3 local government electors

94.10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Barker. Having had to miss one or two meetings recently, Cllr Barker was very anxious to reassure the Parish Council of his continued interest, but the date clashes with a different parish council meeting at where there would be debates on issues for which he needed to be present.

(Cllr Hogger arrived at 8.05 following another meeting.)

95.10 REGISTER OF INTERESTS AND DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

No changes to the Register or interests affecting items on this Agenda declared.

Parish Councillors signed to say that they had had the opportunity to look at the Register of Interests.

96.10 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 29 JUNE 2010

The Minutes were agreed to be a true record and signed.

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

Nothing raised.

98.10 PLANNING MATTERS

New applications

10/N/00028 Leebrook, Effingham Common Road

Minor external alterations to 02/P/00439 (Non material amendment). No comment.

10/P/01124 Land rear of Kerri, Ranmore, The Brambles and Snowfields, Forest Lane, East Horsley

Four detached 3 bedroom bungalows with detached garages and creation of new access off Forest Lane, following partial demolition of existing house.

Owing to the deadline for comments, the following had been submitted authorised by Cllrs Pindar, Lightfoot and Driscoll:

"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. The proposed plots are felt to be cramped and overintensive development in an area which is characterised by dwellings in spacious plots. If this application were to succeed the precedent would potentially affect many other properties in the same area. It is felt that the government's recent amendment to Planning Policy 3: Housing (PPS3) on 'garden grabbing', issued 9 June, which relates to the development of private residential gardens, is relevant here. If consent were to be given, TPOs should be placed on T1, G2, T3, T4, T5 and T9 which include indigenous mature oak and holly trees, and some hedge. The trees are visually beautiful in their own right and together with the hedge provide significant screening on the boundaries of adjacent residents. Residents report that some clearance of trees and hedge on the site and boundaries has already taken place.

The Parish Council also comments about the need to protect the natural environment in this location from further influx of people and especially domestic animals. It is recognised that the site is within the East Horsley settlement area. However, it is on the very edge of the Green Belt and an open field which, in a very short

distance, merges with Effingham Common. Effingham Common is an ecologically important, much valued area of open green space. It is inhabited by ground-nesting birds, including the nationally and internationally protected skylark. Guildford Borough Council Trees and Countryside Department is actively managing the Common to protect this species and improve its habitat. Introducing further dwellings and accompanying dogs / cats to this location would significantly harm the skylark's chances of survival. Current Special Protection Area policies on not allowing additional habitations within a specific exclusion zone for rare and protected ground-nesting birds should apply as elsewhere in the Borough.

Finally, with regard to the wider area, it is commented that four additional properties would make a significant increase to the number of vehicles attempting the difficult, almost blind, junction of Forest Lane and Forest Road which as it stands now presents dangers for both pedestrians on the footway and motorists.'

10/P/01137 Lawnview, Orestan Lane

Replacement four bed bungalow following demolition of existing bungalow. No comment.

10/P/01158 Stable Cottage, Crocknorth Road, East Horsley

Application to extend the time limit for the implementation of conversion of attached barn incorporating first floor accommodation with dormer windows to ancillary residential accommodation to Stable Cottage with addition of conservatory (revision to 06/P/0209 approved 03/03/06 – revised conservatory and changes to fenestration). No comment.

10/P/00183 Ladram, Links Way, Bookham

Certificate of Lawfulness to establish whether a single storey rear extension would constitute permitted development. No comment.

10/P/01218 St Teresa's School, Critten Lane

Demolition of the existing school sports hall and construction of a new sports hall building with additional teaching and support accommodation and associated landscaping works. It was agreed to comment that the proposed building would probably not be visible by neighbours so the strong design of the hall was a matter for the planners; also that if there was to be a further application to replace the tennis courts which would be lost, this should all be included at the current time.

There was discussion of the fact that the school had apparently not complied with Travel plan undertakings made at the time of the earlier consent. It was therefore further agreed to request that, in view of growing capacity for a larger school population and the built-up nature of the site, before this planning application was considered the Planning authority should ask for a Masterplan. This should make clear the impacts of, and consequences for, the school's continued development on the AONB and on the immediate neighbours both in the present and the longterm.

It was agreed to send a copy of this letter to the Chairman of the Governors.

SM

10/P/01244 Wiltshire House, Effingham Hill

Refurbishment to include increase in roof height, two storey extensions to front and rear and infill extension between house and garage with accommodation over, repositioning of chimney and changes to exterior. No comment.

10/P/01253 Kirkland, High Barn Road

Erection of a 6 bedroom two storey detached house with accommodation in roof, integral garage and the provision of a new access onto Critten Lane, following demolition of existing dwelling and swimming pool. No comment.

10/P/01279 The Long Barn, High Barn Road

Detached two storey six bedroom dwelling with detached single storey garage and staff accommodation following demolition of existing dwelling and outbuilding. It was noted that the building was further away from the access than the present, and smaller than the previous application, but the main façade was longer. It was

considerably larger than the original residence on the site. It was felt that, in the absence of the appeal decision, the Parish Council would maintain its existing objections - expansion in the Green Belt and the AONB without exceptional reason having been shown.

10/P/1280 3 Mount Pleasant

Single storey rear extension. No comment.

10/P/01282 6 Effingham Place

Listed building consent for erection of summer house (retrospective application). No comment.

10/P/01310 St Lawrence House, 5 Effingham Place

Elevation of existing roof of detached garage and the addition of a small bay projection to east elevation to accommodate a one-bedroom staff apartment at first floor. A resident was present and explained their concerns. It was agreed to object that this proposal represented a loss of privacy to a neighbour; also, that the original design for the site had been carefully drawn up and any expansion of the residential provision threatened the original concept so should be resisted.

SM

10/T/00117 The Flint House, Middle Farm Place

Cherry (T1) crown reduce by 15% (Effingham Conservation Area). No comment.

Results / progress on previous planning applications

10/P/00699 Lyndhurst, Links Way	Approved
10/P/00784 Wiltshire House, Effingham Hill	Withdrawn
10/P/00799 Rydons Mead, Lower Farm Road	Approved
10/P/00805 Charon, Lower Farm Road	Withdrawn
10/P/00823 Inglehurst, Outdowns (CLEUD)	Approved
10/P/00937 Oldlands Dene, Outdowns	Approved
10/P/00942 6 Manor Gardens	Refused
10/P/00956 and 957 5 Church Cottages	Approved
10/P/01030 Runfold, 37 Woodlands Rd (Mole Valley)	Objection
EL/10/0537 Land at Chasemore Farm, Bookham Road	Refused. (Elmbridge application, determined by SCC Planning Committee) Swayfields has been discovered to be in administration. The Clerk reported on the unsupervised access for traffic into Clackett's Lane motorway service area. This was said to be also the situation at Heston (M4).
OK 1090363 Tim Todd Surfacing and OK1089558 The Baleman Services Ltd (Newmarsh Farm)	Decision by the Traffic Commissioner, imposing conditions which will both help GBC Planning Enforcement, and road safety, and protect the interests of an Effingham resident

Other planning matters

No items for debate.

Reports and correspondence relating to other Planning matters:

Leewood Farmyard

There was no further news on progress of the CLEUD.

Joint parishes group: planning applications by Gypsies and Travellers

Cllrs Hogger reported that the Group had written to seek a meeting with the Leader of the Council, other elected members, the Chief Executive at GBC and senior officers. If this

is set up it could be very helpful. The Group was questioning standards of enforcement and why parishes were not being consulted about provision. It was very helpful to have so many parishes involved in the group.

Affordable housing – government initiative

A plan whereby in principle it appeared residents could vote for the provision of housing apparently outside the control of planning policy had been announced, but there were no details.

88.10 VILLAGE GREEN SPACES AND AMENITIES

Current GSV A matters

Discussions with the Neighbourhood Police about joint communication with residents

Dates had been sent to Steve Hill asking for a follow-up meeting after the last discussion; this was still to be set. Cllr Nicholls had proposed inviting the residents of individual roads to the pre-meeting PCSO report; this was agreed to be a very useful way forward and could co-ordinate with the Police's 'Streetwatch' programme.

SM

Report by the Trustees of Effingham Village Recreational Trust

Owing to the sensitive nature of this discussion it was moved to take this in committee at the end of the Agenda, and agreed.

Parish Council web-site

The Clerk thanked web-masters Chris Hogger and Terry Driscoll for their tremendous help and support bringing this to fruition. Cllr Hogger passed on Chris Hogger's request that the Clerk also be thanked. It was confirmed that there is a plan for keeping the material up to date; that local groups listed on the site will be able to use it too; that the 'launch' will be a combination of letters and news in the next Chairman's report. Cllr Hogger suggested a link on Facebook. Cllr Symes asked that the Planning section include information on valid grounds for comments on neighbours' planning applications.

SM

Update of A Reference Book for Effingham (Parish Council centenary publication, 1994)

It was agreed that Cllr Crouch and Tony Page would be asked to work with Chris Hogger on updating the material from 1994 to produce a modern version that could go on the web-site.

CEWC

Permission for Effingham Local History Group to use images from *The History of Effingham* (copyright owned by Parish Council) on their area of the website

It was agreed that this could be done and a letter of authority will be written. It should be made clear on or alongside the images that copyright is the property of the Parish Council, the permission extended only to this use, and the Parish Council retained the copyright.

SM

'Forward Thinking' plans

Cllr Pindar reported on ideas for the four main projects which had evolved, as on the paper he had circulated following the recent meeting:

1. Village care / environment : (a) tidy up of scruffy village areas, (b) publicity for local walks and footpaths
2. Village Plan: develop policies and actions to consider needs and opportunities for affordable housing; Gypsy provisions; business development including farming; allotments and cemetery
3. Autumn newsletter: in addition to Chairman's report, to include this year a survey on 'village care' issues and requests for help in realising planned activities
4. Social 'committee': to consider ways of drawing together Effingham communities; to link with all existing Effingham community groups; to assist in co-ordinating community activities and possibly running some community events.

It was agreed the Clerk should confirm the autumn newsletter could be afforded; there was a warning that Village plans had to be viewed with caution. The recommendations were accepted by all. Two working groups will take this forward:
Village Care - Cllrs Clark, Hogger, Nicholls and Pindar; first meeting to be set for September.

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Village Plan - Cllrs Hogger, Pindar Symes and Wetenhall; first meeting to be in November or the New Year.

JW
SM

Reports and correspondence relating to GSVA matters

Litter pick

Cllr Hogger reported this had gone well and 14 bin bags of litter had been collected.

100.10 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

Current Highways and Transport matters

No current items for debate

Reports and correspondence relating to Highways matters

Closure of Beech Avenue for BT works

Cllr Wetenhall asked the Clerk to find out whether the entire road was to be closed, and why there could not be traffic lights; whether the residents would receive an explanatory letter.

SM

BOAT 137

The Local Committee had approved the decision to limit the width to vehicles of 7ft.

Forest Road Bridge

This was now open and a CD described the work; Cllr Pindar had attended the launch.

Annual Rights of Way survey

Cllr Wetenhall reported three sets of reports in; the rest now due (including his own!)

ALL

101.10 REPORTS

Police and Community Safety

This is PCSO Culross's report to the audience of councillors and public, presented immediately before the Parish Council meeting.

PCSO Culross reported that, using the voting system, the recent Panel meeting had identified speeding on Orestan Lane, Woodlands Road and Effingham Common Road as the target areas. This would be tackled with covert as well as open checks. It was hoped that Matt Redfern, Casualty Reduction Officer, would come to the November Panel meeting, to talk about driver education and the Roadsmart programme.

The crime report for the previous month was: 8 crimes, comprising 1 burglary to a business, 2 incidents of criminal damage (garage and vegetable plot), 2 thefts from vehicles, 1 interference with a vehicle, 1 theft of a purse. A recent episode involving a taxidriver was non-violent, despite rumours.

Cllr Clark asked about damage / pilfering from the Grove House site mentioned to him by the contractors; PCSO had been advising them and was shocked that if they were experiencing this, they were not reporting it. Cllr Jones mentioned that there was a recurrence of anti-social behaviour / people drinking, on the path next to the butcher's. Cllr Nicholls asked about thefts of bikes from the Howard school; this was during the night and was a Guildford-wide recent episode. There was discussion about improving anti-speeding signage along Effingham Common Road, and speeding on Beech Avenue. PCSO Culross was puzzled by residents' failure to take up the Speedwatch opportunity to tackle this. It was confirmed that someone had been convicted following last year's arson attack. Members of the audience confirmed their appreciation of the PCSOs.

Allotments

There have been further reports of damage to crops, and a sighting of young people doing the damage.

Schools

The meeting set up to discuss the footpath across the grounds of the Howard School hadn't taken place. The school is still very keen to close, divert or gate FP75. It was felt the permissive path on the western boundary (with Effingham Place / The Lodge) could

only be a feasible diversion if it became a proper dedicated Right of Way. It was confirmed that the view of the Parish Council had not been committed at the meeting.

EVRT

The AGM had attracted 3 members in the audience. The prize for the logo competition had been awarded. Draft accounts had been presented. Cllr Pindar asked why audited accounts were not available. This was partly owing to the hand-over within the Trustees but would always be difficult if the AGM was held at its more appropriate time in May. Cllr Pindar was disappointed by the late and minimal publicity for the event. It was felt that next year ERRA's help could / should be asked to alert all residents in good time. Cllr Hogger hoped the Trustees would not only advertise better next time but also positively encourage residents to come – for instance, to see / hear the results of the survey.

Cllr Hogger mentioned the unsuccessful attempt by the working group to set up a meeting with Trustees, and the now very pressing need to progress discussions towards the Service Level Agreement. It was agreed that Cllr Hogger would draft something and the working group would aim for a joint meeting in September. Meanwhile, it was agreed that the Chairman should write to the Trustees alerting them to the auditor's report and explaining that discussions on the SLA would necessitate the Trustees accepting the level and type of information which would be needed by the Parish Council.

LH

AP

Home Farm Estate

There had been an extremely positive meeting between residents of Calvert Road and the Head of GBC Cleansing. He had promised a better service and apologised for past deficiencies. Residents had asked for a further meeting on grazing licences and other leases to be set up.

SM

Friends of Effingham Common

There has been another meeting to plan for Commoners Day.

Smith's Charity

The summer distribution of vouchers has been completed.

Local Govt admin. matters

The Clerk has submitted the Annual Return to the external auditor.

102.10 CORRESPONDENCE

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

Effingham & Little Bookham	Parish magazine, June
Malcolm Ash	Thanks for endorsement of First Responders nomination for Award
East Horsley Parish Council	Agenda and Minutes, meeting of 26 July
Dyer and Butler (contractors for Forest Road bridge works)	CD recording the project, collected by Arnold at the opening
GBC	Agenda and reports for Standards and Audit Committee meeting 21 July; Agenda and reports for Planning Committee 12 July
Elmbridge Borough Council	Consultation on the Draft Addendum to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Interim Mitigation Strategy for Elmbridge: Addition of tariff for Strategic Access Management and Monitoring
SCC Guildford Local Committee	Minutes of meeting of 23 June
Surrey County Council	Agenda & reports for Council meeting of 20 July Surrey Minerals Plan: Submission to the Secretary of State for independent examination; Consultation from 25 June to 6 August on the revised environmental report

Royal Surrey County Hospital	Consultation on 'transforming outpatients service' – Roadshow 21 July
Surrey Community Action	Newsletter, Summer 2010
Surrey Hills Society	Newsletter, Summer 2010
Crimestoppers	Information and request for funding
SLCC	Journal July 2010
Fullers	Surrey Village of the Year competition
Clerks and Councils Direct	Newsletter
NALC	DIS 737 – 738

103.10 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Current matters

Report of the internal auditor for 2009-10

Cllr Driscoll said it was a tribute to the Clerk that there was so little in the report that needed addressing; however he was disappointed by the quality of the comments, for instance about the powers of charities to reclaim VAT, and that the accounts of the Charity are not clear. Cllr Jones as Chairman of EVRT pointed out that this has been changed during the current year and the way the Parish Council contribution is being used will be separated out. There were aspects the auditor could not be expected to know about currently under discussion. The Parish Council does not 'own' the freehold, it 'holds' the freehold as custodian trustee.

It was agreed the comment about insurance and the age of councillors should be addressed.

Amendments to Effingham Parish Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
This was again deferred to the next Agenda.

SM

CEWC

SM

Expenditure for a new Parish Council computer

Reserves available for this were discussed and it was agreed expenditure up to £1,500 was authorised without further decision needed.

Quarterly bank reconciliation

This was approved.

Cheques for approval and signature

The following cheques were authorised and signed:

		Authority to pay
EDF	£201.98	Local Govt Act 1972 s.111
Phone Coop	41.32	Local Govt Act 1972 s.111

88.10 Taken in committee

Report by the Trustees of Effingham Village Recreational Trust

Mark Jones declared an interest and took part in the discussion as Chairman of EVRT.

The Chairman of EVRT had circulated a report on aspects of current leases and licences. EVRT sought Parish Council advice / comment on this. The Chairman explained the report in detail. Members of the Parish Council asked questions and contributed their views. On behalf of the Parish Council Cllr Pindar thanked the Trustees for making this information and opportunity available – the update was very much appreciated.

104.10 PARISH BUSINESS FOR THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 31 August.