

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF EFFINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT 8pm ON TUESDAY 30 JUNE 2009
AT KING GEORGE V HALL, BROWN'S LANE, EFFINGHAM**

PRESENT

Cllr Pindar, Chairman

Cllrs Clark, Crouch, Driscoll, Hogger (from 8.25), Jones, Lightfoot, Nicholls, Symes (from 9.00).

81.09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Wetenhall (away); Cllr Bill Barker – clash with another meeting.

82.09 REGISTER OF INTERESTS AND DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

The Register is brought to every meeting. Cllr Pindar referred councillors to the report of the internal auditor concerning their awareness of interests registered by each other. It was agreed they should sign once a year to show they have exercised the opportunity to do this; the Clerk to make this available at the next meeting.

SM

No interests relating to the present Agenda were declared at this time.

83.09 MINUTES OF THE MEETING 19 MAY 2009

Correction: The date should be 19th May, not 18th. At 67.09 it was James Wetenhall who undertook to find out about the subscription to the Open Spaces Society, not James Nicholls. With these corrections the Minutes were signed as a true record.

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

67.09 Individual membership of the Open Spaces Society is £40 and for parish councils it is £52. Cllr Wetenhall is happy to continue as a member.

69.09: Cllr Pindar will write the thank-you letters.

78.09 Cllr Pindar cannot now attend the St Teresa's Prizegiving.

85.09 POLICE AND SAFETY

PCSO's report

PCSO Culross reported 4 crimes for the preceding month: 2 thefts, 1 criminal damage at KGV, 1 burglary from a business premises. The issue identified at the Neighbourhood Panel meeting had been speeding on Orestan Lane. One vehicle had been taken without consent, and one had been seized for having no insurance.

An anti-social behaviour listing had been created for Effingham following incidents of egg-throwing, graffiti and other issues. There will be more patrols in the area and the KGV woods. The Clerk had reported vandalism in the Burial Ground.

Cllr Driscoll asked about the white lines on Effingham Common Road and when they will be re-painted so that the correct speed can be enforced, especially since there are so many accidents on this road; PCSO Culross will investigate with Highways. He has reported the recent outbreak of graffiti. Cllr Clark reported asking strangers who were eating fruit to leave the allotments.

There was discussion of the A246 speed limit; also the drainage works currently underway. The eating of a hat was promised if these turn out to be effective.

(Cllr Hogger arrived).

86.09 PLANNING MATTERS

New applications

09/P/00703 36 Norwood Road

Alterations to existing rear conservatory to include raising of roof and replacement of glass panels with brickwork. No comment.

09/P/00747 33 Orchard Gardens
Two storey front extension. No comment.

09/P/00780 Sorrel, Lower Farm Road
Two storey side and rear extension and single storey side extension. No comment.

09/P/00478 and 09/P/00854 24 Leewood Way
Retrospective application for single storey rear extension and porch. The first application for this development was refused. Present circumstances are not known. No comment.

09/P/00870 Hartland, Lower Farm Road
Erection of single storey rear extension. No comment.

09/T/00078 The Flint House, 36 Middle Farm Place
Remove cherry tree at front of house. No comment.

09/T/00096 Rookery Cottage, Church St
Remove overhanging branches back to suitable growth points 2m from boundary line and reduce top of tree by approximately 1-2m. No comment.

09/P/00933 Orchard End, Lower Farm Road
First floor / two storey side extension, incorporating new dormer window to front elevation. No comment.

09/P/00938 The Vineries, Lower Road
The retention and use of three demountable buildings for office and storage purposes ancillary to the nursery / garden centre use. Cllrs Hogger, Driscoll and Jones declared an interest, having a membership card. It was agreed that insufficient information was supplied, which was concerning given the history of retrospective applications and the HGV situation at this site. For instance there was no demonstration of clear need for the additional structures. The Clerk will ask for more information.

SM

Results / progress on previous applications

08/P/01748 Jophenia, Manor House Lane	Appeal allowed
09/P/00194 Simla, Orestan Lane	Approved
09/P/00415 Rowan Tree Cottage, Effingham Common Rd	Approved
09/P/00457 The Beeches, Beech Ave	Refused
09/P/00469 Meadows, Calvert Road	Approved
09/P/00478 24 Leewood Way	Refused
09/P/00565 Rustlings, Lower Farm Road	Approved
09/P/00601 The Orchard House, Beech Ave	Refused
09/P/00628 Smallburgh, Leewood Way	Approved
09/P/00633 Aldington, Effingham Common Rd	Approved
09/P/00653 Willow Cottage, Effingham Common	Approved
09/P/00678 The Granary, Orestan Lane	Approved
09/P/00715 Derwen, Heath View	Permitted Development. Given discrepancies about the consultation for this and Banks Cottages, Cllr Hogger will enquire about GBC's policy on publicising applications for Certificates of Lawfulness re. permitted development.

LH

Other Planning matters

Provision for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

The recommendations of this document submitted by the South East England Partnership Board to the Secretary of State were noted. Cllr Hogger reported that as GBC had challenged the South East Plan, the SHLAA will not now be completed until 2011, to everybody's disadvantage.

Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance Strategy 2009-2014

The arrival of the consultation document was noted. It is understood that Adam Owen is still in search of carpark spaces on the Common, including the pumping station. The Clerk will check whether this is on Common land.

SM

It now seemed as if developments of less than 10 houses would be permitted even if not in the SANG area, so possibly GBC can cope without the car park. It was agreed the Clerk will write. There was discussion of whether groups of councils were working together to solve the problem across boundaries. It was noted that the tariffs for developers were very high, with projected costs of over £1m to be raised for works on Effingham Common over 20 years.

SM

Reports and correspondence relating to other Planning matters:

Burial Ground

The Clerk showed photographs of the type of metal shed wanted by Gerald Houlton. She would investigate options and prices. A planning application would be needed, and a water supply.

SM

Dr Gosden and Cllr Symes arrived.

**The Agenda was suspended for a presentation by Dr Gosden
See the report at the end of these Minutes.**

GBC Challenge to the South East Plan

GBC had sent notification that they have challenged the yet higher housing allocation for Guildford allocated in the plan. This will have implications for the timetable of remaining stages of the Development Plan.

Grove House

Cllr Hogger had had discussions with the Planning Officer. Amended plans are expected. It has been agreed the Parish Council will have chance to comment on these.

Whistlers Farm

According to the GBC on-line planning site, consultation documents for the Grove House application were sent to 'mobile home, Whistler's Farm'.

Planning enforcement

The Clerk reported items on the recent list issued by Planning Enforcement. Cllr Hogger rightly pointed out that being on the list did not necessarily mean they were 'guilty'.

'Party tanks'

It was confirmed that this enterprise was now being commercially advertised for the Brick Kiln area.

Proposed oil exploration

The Clerk had been unable to follow this up further or submit comments.

Badgers' Farm

It was reported that another barn is being erected. Planning consent for this exists.

St Lawrence School caretakers' house

The work here is still not complete. The Clerk will investigate.

SM

87.09 VILLAGE GREEN SPACES AND AMENITIES

Current GSVa matters

Final comments on the draft Scheme for the KGV Playing Fields and Hall Charity

Cllr Nicholls pointed out that whereas it used to be possible to stand for election at the AGM, this would no longer be possible and he queried whether villagers would see the point of attending the AGM. It was agreed to suggest that the Scheme be amended to read that the Annual Report should show what issues villagers had brought up, and what action had been taken.

SM

Procedure for appointing two Trustees for the KGV Playing Fields and Hall Charity under the new Scheme

It was agreed that an interview panel comprising Cllrs Hogger and Pindar and a representative from ERRA should be convened. A fair scheme for judging between candidates, and explaining to unsuccessful ones how the decision was arrived at, had to be devised. Parish Councillors suggested a list of desirable attributes and Cllr Hogger volunteered to draft questions which would allow candidates to demonstrate their capacity for each. Suggested qualities listed included: Integrity, commitment to the good of the people in the area of benefit, a team worker, evidence of previous community involvement, ability to cope with formal documentary material, willingness to learn, knowledge of what they are taking on, good communication skills,. The same questions will be asked of each candidate. It was agreed there will be no observers. At the next parish council meeting the panel will report in committee on the interviews and present their recommendations, but the full Parish Council will have the chance to discuss these and the appointment will be made by decision of the Parish Council, not the panel.

Parish Council exhibition at Village Day

Volunteers for the setting up team were Cllrs Crouch, Symes, Pindar and the Clerk. Taking down: Cllr Lightfoot and the Clerk.

With the agreement of the Chairman, a lightweight folding exhibition system had been bought for the Parish Council.

ALL

Reports and correspondence relating to GSVA matters

St Teresa's Travel Plan

The Bursar had not responded to the request for the information he had said he would supply.

Beech Avenue woodlands

A letter had been sent to SCC pointing out the very high stumps left after the recent felling, the cut wood left lying, and asking about the planting schedule.

88.09 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Invitation from East Horsley Parish Council for Effingham representatives on a new joint group to press for improvements to stations and public transport locally

Cllr Symes agreed to join but cannot attend too many more meetings. Cllr Clark will attend if it is made clear that he is specifically interested in public bus routes and timetabling.

SCC's policy for speed assessments

The Clerk reported on Guildford Highways' teams need for confirmation from SCC Executive about whether they were, or were not, expected to continue with the current speed management policy. The assessment for the A246 is said to be imminent.

Department for Transport's consultation *A Safer Way: Consultation on Making Britain's Roads the Safest in the World*

This was noted. It was agreed to suggest that Effingham would wish to be considered for a pilot scheme for a 20mph zone (residents' views of course to be taken when/if this became a potential project).

SM

Reports and correspondence relating to Highways matters

Public footpath beside The Lodge

Cllr Nicholls reported it was believed that the owner of The Lodge wished to close the adjacent footpath. It was agreed that if this were so the Parish Council would oppose it.

Overhanging wall, The Street

The back wall to Dormers had been reported to Highways who had inspected and asked for it to be made safe. As a 'curtilage structure' it is part of the Listed Building.

Flint walls: Burial Ground and Parish Room

A response from St Lawrence Church is awaited, so that an inspection by a qualified person can be organised.

Footpaths survey

This was now complete and had been sent to James Browne. Thanks to all especially Cllr Wetenhall.

89.09 REPORTS

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Schools

Cllr Pindar had visited the Science Gallery exhibition at the Howard School, which was very interesting. Mr Essex had invited Parish Councillors to name a date for a visit. It was agreed to ask for any morning on October 5, 6 or 7th. The Clerk will write.

SM

KGV

No more news.

Home Farm Estate

Cllr Nicholls reported residents fearing potentially serious trouble arising from conflict around the illegal incursion. Cllr Hogger reported that GBC was applying to the court for re-possession of 3 pieces of land on Chester Road. No land is for sale. GBC needs to understand the damage reckless suggestions of this sort can make.

Friends of Effingham Common

A Commoners' Day was planned for 19 September, but the Clerk apologised for not having progressed arrangements. Cllr Nicholls volunteered to help, having organised them before. Apparently GBC thinks it owns the lordships of both manors.

SM

Smith's Charity

Summer vouchers were being distributed.

Local Government / Admin matters

There was no further news from SCC about the Clerk's pension. The Chairman views this as very serious and will write.

AP

90.09 CORRESPONDENCE

Howard of Effingham School	Invitation to GCSE / A-level Art / Textiles exhibition Private View, Monday 6 July, 6-8.30
Methodist Church	Newsletter
Anglican Church	Newsletter
East Horsley Parish Council	Agenda & Minutes, 11 June 09 The East Horsley Directory
Cherry Trees	Charity Dinner at Wisley Golf Club, 12 November
GBC	Agenda & reports, meeting of 25 June Through the Looking Glass (arts update) Festival programme
CPRE	Fieldwork, June
Clerks and Councils Direct	May, June & July issues
NALC	Local Council Review
SLCC	The Clerk, May edition
NALC	DIS 708 – 711

91.09 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Current matters

Re-assessment of the Parish Council's insurance

The Clerk reported that during the internal audit it was discovered there were inconsistencies in the paperwork, which Zurich were investigating.

Report of the internal auditor

In view of the lateness of the hour it was agreed to carry discussion to the next Agenda.

SM

Risk reporting

Three but not all had been completed. The remainder should be in as of now.

Cheques for approval and signature

The following cheques were authorised and signed:

	£	Authority to pay
Mr Houlton, fee & reimbursement	591.27	Local Govt Act 1972 s.214
BT	125.87	Local Govt Act 1972 s.211
	(+ £70.63 credit note)	
BTS	56.93	Local Govt Act 1972 s.211
Surrey Litho	181.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s.211
KGV Playing Fields	5000.00	Local Govt (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19(3)

92.09 PARISH BUSINESS FOR THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 28 July.

(Cllr Pindar thought he would be away and Cllr Jones would chair, but it later transpired this is not the case).

The Clerk will be on leave 1-15 August. The Parish Room will be closed.

Cllr Lightfoot gave apologies for the next meeting.

Presentation by Dr Cliff Gosden, Horsley Medical Centre

In a letter to the Parish Council during the recent consultation over the future of the Effingham surgery, Dr Gosden had kindly offered to visit the Parish Council to explain matters further. This offer had been taken up (as Dr Gosden said, the first joint meeting in 25 years!). Below is a précis of points he made.

1. Dr Gosden is the Managing Partner for the practice. There is also a Practice Manager. There are 5 full time doctors, 3 part time and several nurses and non-clinical staff. He provided copies of the practice leaflet. He pointed out the difficulty of managing when everyone who has any experience of being seen by a doctor (including the present Minister for Health) feels they know what the health service needs.
2. The practice has about 10,000 patients; of which about 6,500 approx are in the Horsleys, 1200 in Effingham, 200 in Bookham (people who have moved away but stayed with the practice) and the rest in the Clandons and other Guildford postcodes.
3. The age distribution is worthy of note – Dr Gosden showed a diagram – there are relatively few very young patients, some teenagers, and a huge bulge (over 75%) for the 50+ age group reflecting the fact that many people move to this area when more established in their careers rather than early on. This is very unusual compared to other practices but it guides the services the practice must provide for the majority.
4. The practice is responsible for an annual budget of £5-7.5m, of which £1.2m approx is spending on prescriptions. The total number of consultations last year was 44,000 for which the appointments system needs to cope. 84,000 items were prescribed ie a large number of interactions and administrative systems are in play at any one time and must be prevented from failing.
5. Complaints are reviewed. Many of the problems experienced come from the prescribed systems not being followed.
6. The appointments system always disadvantages someone! But patients can always be seen on the day and there is a staggered release system so that they cannot all be taken first thing in the morning. The practice has to work at 105% capacity which reduces flexibility.

Questions from Parish Councillors included:

How do the doctors think Effingham patients will cope with closure of the surgery?

CG: Today everyone either drives or relies on lifts, and this is no different

Why does the practice want to close the surgery?

CG: Difficulties for doctors included the unsuitability of the building, security of lone workers, issues of privacy and chaperoning

Who owns the surgery premises?

CG: Effingham Housing Association.

Are you saying Effingham no longer deserves the friendly and convenient service it enjoyed?

CG: West Horsley patients didn't see why they couldn't have a similar surgery, which we could not provide. Also, 10,000 patients is small for a practice and it feels at risk from government pressure to amalgamate into larger units, which we do not want.

When does the three-month trial of a drop-in surgery at East Horsley start?

CG Tomorrow. Notices will go up in the surgery and on the web-site. There will not be letters to either the Effingham residents or the whole practice. People will be told when they phone in.