

**MINUTES OF THE 114th ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF EFFINGHAM
HELD AT THE KING GEORGE V HALL, BROWN'S LANE
AT 8PM ON TUESDAY 14th APRIL 2009**

- Present** Edward Crouch, Chairman of Effingham Parish Council, in the chair
6 local government electors including Cllrs Pindar and Symes
- Apologies** Cllrs Hogger and Wetenhall, and Mr and Mrs Page, had sent apologies
- Minutes** The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2008 were approved and signed.
- Matters Arising** Newmarsh Farm
A resident asked whether there had been any progress on restricting non-agricultural activity. It was explained that the Joint Communities Group (parishes of Effingham, East Horsley, Ockham and Residents Asscn of Cobham & Downside) were continuing to collect information and help the relevant enforcing authorities get to grips with concerns. There had been enforcement activity recently.
- Burial Ground
A resident pointed out that the former St Lawrence School Field had been used as overflow parking for a Rugby Club event – was there any progress on the extension for the Burial Ground? There had been no progress. The relevant area was the rough patch at one end, not the flat ground.
- Chairman's report 2008-9** This had been circulated throughout the village and was presented to the meeting. A copy is attached to these Minutes. The following topics were raised for discussion:
- St Teresa's
A resident asked whether the school had implemented the undertaking to arrange shared transport? 50-seater coaches still go up Beech Avenue. Cllr Crouch explained that the Parish Council was continuing to press for this information.
- Alleged bridleway, Beech Avenue
A resident asked whether SCC had decided this issue yet. Cllr Crouch explained it was still under investigation.
- Community e-mail
The contacts list attached to the report includes details of the community e-mail which village groups can use to advertise their activities to residents.
- Report on Henry Smith's Charity** On behalf of the four Trustees, Michael Bray explained that the Charity was continuing with its Christmas and summer voucher schemes for 14 recipients, and had made seven other larger grants during 2008. The balance of funds was steady. If a request arrived for a larger amount than the fund itself could manage, it was felt the parent charity would be keen to help. It was confirmed that there is no means test. Two Trustees visit each applicant and make a decision based on their understanding of the situation and compliance with the charity's stated aims.
- Effingham Emergency Planning Group** Cllr Pindar reported that officers from SCC and GBC contingency planning had attended a meeting to explain their roles. There was concern that Surrey's reception of calls / information during an emergency had not been thought through. One idea was to ask for a designated number, to help them prioritise calls. The recent episode of heavy snow had made clear how parishes could be thrown back on their own resources. In SCC Contingency Plan, it is not a question of *if* there will be a pandemic, but *when*.
- Friends of Effingham Common** Cllr Symes reported there had been another intense year of clearing and improvements by 8 volunteer work parties. A misunderstanding by a resident about ownership of an area of the Common seemed to have been resolved. The skylarks were breeding again and GBC had put up notices to help protect them. There are plans for a Commoners' Day in September. The Cricket Club had had a good year.
- Matters raised from the floor** Chairmanship of Parish Council
After 56 years as Clerk and councillor, Cllr Crouch announced his intention to stand down as Chairman at the next Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (but he intends to serve as parish councillor until the end of the term of office in 2011). Residents expressed their great gratitude for this, and their regret at 'losing' him.
- Vote of thanks** On behalf of not only the assembled company but also the village, Michael Bray expressed the huge debt of gratitude owed to Cllr Crouch, and proposed the vote of thanks which was unanimously supported.