

**MINUTES OF THE 116th ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF EFFINGHAM
HELD AT THE KING GEORGE V HALL, BROWN'S LANE
AT 8PM ON TUESDAY 4 APRIL 2011**

Present	Ian Symes, Vice-Chairman of Effingham Parish Council, in the chair Cllrs Hogger, Nicholls, Wetenhall and 9 local government electors
Apologies	Cllrs Eddie Crouch, Anthony Clark, Terry Driscoll, Andrea Lightfoot and Bill Barker
Minutes	The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2010 were approved and signed.
Matters Arising	There were no Matters Arising.
Chairman's report 2010-11	<p>This had been circulated throughout the village and was presented to the meeting. A copy is attached to these Minutes. The Chairman drew attention to the following:</p> <p>It had been an eventful and busy year. Four councillors were not standing for re-election. Their contribution was much appreciated, and particular honour was paid to Eddie Crouch whose service as Clerk, Chairman and Councillor extended over 60 years.</p> <p>The initiative of inviting the residents of a group of roads to Council meetings to give special attention to their interests had been well supported.</p> <p>Particular attention is being paid to the future of the village in community care and planning. Issues arising included:</p> <p><i>Footpaths</i> – volunteers were being recruited to act as wardens for selected paths <i>Fly-tipping</i> – is an on-going nuisance; residents should report details if possible <i>Damage to street furniture and safety railings</i> – if particulars are known of accidents, it may be possible to recover costs from insurers. County Councillor Bill Barker has offered to help provide funding from his discretionary allocation <i>Salt Bins</i> – some teething problems about locating these on SCC land, and it may require re-positioning of some bins with the help of land-owners. It was suggested that the problem of residents helping themselves from the bins to clear their own driveways could be alleviated by padlocking them with an adjacent resident having the keys for opening when a need arises.</p> <p>The Parish web-site is growing rapidly and containing a wealth of useful and historical data about the village.</p> <p>The Friends of Effingham Common have been very active. This year to re-establish Commoners' Rights an open day had been held in September on the Common, and was attended by over 300 people. Plans have been made for a repeat on 25 September 2011.</p> <p>The Parish Council reviews every planning application made in the village, and when appropriate also from neighbouring districts, especially Mole Valley. The Council considers whether these accord with planning policies and whether it believes that each application is suitable for the village's surroundings. A particularly important application in the last year has been Grove House and its site, which after the Council's objections upheld at appeal had led to a reasonably satisfactory outcome.</p> <p>The Chairman's annual report had been re-designed and expanded. It had been widely praised by residents</p>
Questions and comments on the Chairman's Report, from the floor	<p><u>Road conditions</u> Potholes and flooding in Orestan Lane needed proper resolution. The water-pipe laying in Effingham Common Road and the resultant traffic light problems were roundly condemned following the recent re-surfacing of much of the road. A resident mentioned that from experience of dealing with similar issues elsewhere, it was very important to log any complaints with SCC's Highways department about the quality of repairs quickly and this was much more likely to ensure further action later on if problems recur or develop later. Flooding in Effingham Common Road was an on-going problem, and although being investigated had yet to achieve a permanent solution.</p>
Emergency Plan	Nothing yet to report, but a working group is still assessing.
Report on Henry Smith's Charity	Mr Michael Bray explained the source of the Charity's funds which it disperses to help families in need of support. It has about £3,300 to be spent in local shops through a voucher scheme. For 2011, it would not be distributing vouchers in the summer, but would concentrate its resources on the Christmas season.
Matters raised from the floor	None. The meeting closed at 8.46pm