

**MINUTES OF THE 118<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF EFFINGHAM  
KING GEORGE V HALL, BROWN'S LANE  
8.00PM, TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2013**

**Present** Arnold Pindar, Chairman, Effingham Parish Council in the Chair  
54 registered electors, 3 non-residents

**Apologies** None

**Minutes** The Minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting were approved as a true record and signed

**Matters Arising** There were no matters arising

**Chairman's Report 2012-13** The Chairman thanked those Parish Councillors who had resigned over the course of the year, Hilda Brazil, James Nicholls and Sarah Peskett, and welcomed Cllrs Dr Chris Bell and Paula Moss to the Parish Council. Sue Morris was thanked for her work as Parish Clerk and Clare Ritchie welcomed as the New Parish Clerk.

Successes – The Chairman reported significant Parish successes over the year.

Highways issues include the installation of railings at the A246 pedestrian crossing, the reduction of the speed limits from 40mph to 30 mph on the A246 Guildford Road, and reported that the grit bins had been refilled, ready for next winter.

The Sprucing up the Village project has seen trees planted on the island of the layby on the A246 near the golf club, the repair of the flint wall at the A246/The Street junction and the planting of a Jubilee oak on the KGV field.

2012 Commoners Day was a highly successful event with 400+ attendees and the Parish Council are working with Guildford Borough Council to schedule the next Commoners event.

Community Fund – The Chairman reported on the organisations and projects supported by the Community Fund over the last year. Funding was provided for cooking equipment for the Brownies, building materials for the Cricket Club storage shed, to ICE to support the Village Day 2012, purchase of the Jubilee oak, to EVRT and to the Effingham Local History Group for the purchase of storage equipment and a projector. The Chairman reported that the projector would be held by the History Group but was available as a village resource for all groups to use.

Planning – The Chairman gave an overview of the Parish Council's consultee role in the planning application process and a commitment to continued vigilance to protect the nature of the village. He reported that the care home application plans had now been rejected twice but that there may well be an appeal. As planning procedures are subject to change, the Chairman emphasized the importance of the Village Plan process as a management tool for the future of the village.

EVRT – With the recent resignation of 5 of the previous trustees, the Chairman welcomed Liz Hogger as a new trustee who joins remaining trustees, Dr Chris Bell and Gill Bowerman. The Chairman thanked the former trustees, John Blackburn, Mark Jones, Brendan Kelly, Simon Ralph and Gill Walker for their time and hard work on behalf of EVRT. An overview was given on the Parish Council's two roles with regard to EVRT for which the Council is both a Custodian Trustee to ensure the safety of the assets and financial security, and to have a general interest in EVRT success and provide support funding. EVRT currently have vacancies for 4 trustees and hope to fill these shortly.

Village Plan – With a presentation to follow on the Village Plan, The Chairman thanked the team responsible and reported that Guildford Borough Council had given the go ahead for the Effingham Neighbourhood Area on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April. The coming year will see the start of a process that will build a village plan owned by the community of Effingham and the Chairman invited all residents to be involved.

### **Vote of Thanks**

The Chairman ended his report by thanking all Parish Councillors, past and present, for all they have achieved during this demanding year. An invitation was issued to anybody interested in becoming a Parish Councillor to discuss this with the Chairman or any other Parish Councillor. The Parish Council currently has two vacancies for Councillors. The Chairman also thanked the many village residents and organisations who contribute to making the village what it is today.

### **Report of the Trustees, Henry Smith Charity Effingham**

Michael Bray gave a report of the activities of the Henry Smith Charity Effingham. The trust receives an annual grant from the main Henry Smith Charity and the account stands at £2830.95 as at 1/3/13. In 2012 the charity made 4 grants totalling £1123 and distributed Christmas vouchers totalling £1180 to nine households. The trustees have taken a decision not to distribute Summer vouchers in order to retain a small amount available for specific needs. The trust encourages those in need to apply to the fund. In response to a question from the floor, the trust is able to accept donations and fundraising from the local community to increase the account funds and welcomed any potential fundraising.

### **Village Plan**

Cllrs Paula Moss welcomed residents to the presentation on the Village Plan and introduced the rest of the team Cllrs Liz Hogger and Dr Chris Bell. An overview was given of the Localism Act, the planning framework and the Local Plan for boroughs all of which are likely to have impacts on local communities and provide guidance on how to balance sustainable development with protecting local environments. With Guildford Borough Council consulting this year on its Local Plan, including a Green Belt Review, the Parish Council decided to develop not only a Neighbourhood plan, to allow input into planning and development for Effingham, but also a Village Plan, to pull together a vision of what residents would like to see happen for the village and allow the community to shape its own future. Effingham is the first

Parish in the Borough to do this. This will ultimately lead to a village referendum to decide if the community would like to adopt this approach.

The Village Plan will have three elements; people, open spaces and neighbourhood planning and there will be working groups set up to look at each of these areas.

All residents are invited to be involved in this process and all help is welcomed. There will shortly be a Village Plan website available and residents can look at ways to be involved.

One of the first actions will be community consultation and this meeting was the start of this process. The meeting then broke into discussion groups to identify and prioritise the elements and issues that residents consider most important to the village and the community.

The Village Plan team thanked the community for their interest and input.