

# MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF

## Effingham Parish Council

Monday 15th November 2021, 8pm, The Village Room.

Statement by Cllr Symes (Chair):

*“Those attending will be encouraged to use hand sanitiser and wear a face covering. Both of which are available at the meeting room door. Please respect other attendees’ personal space by socially distancing.”*

**Present:**

Councillors: **Cornwell, Hackett, Hogger, Muscat, Palmer, Pindar & Symes** (Chairman).

**Also in attendance:**

Parish Clerk,  
5 local residents

**Apologies For Absence:**

SCC Cllr Cross, Cllrs **Roscoe, Moss & Thorne.**

Further statement by Cllr Symes (Chair):

This Extraordinary Meeting of Effingham Parish Council has been called to discuss how EPC can sustain and protect the KGV assets and the EVRT charity in the light of the recent resignations of three Managing Trustees. If no action is taken the Charity will be inquorate in a month’s time and so will not legally be able to make any decisions, so action must be taken quickly.

EPC, while supporting the principle of conversion to a CIO, has concerns about the draft Constitution and the security of the charity assets (particularly the KGV Fields) into the future, and the accountability to the residents of Effingham, who are the beneficiaries of the charity.

EVRT has a single remaining Managing Trustee, and EPC will discuss tonight how it can immediately support him and the Charity and enable it to become quorate and to function and take necessary decisions.

**BUSINESS DONE**

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| <p><b>EOM/01</b></p> | <p><b>Nominate and appoint 3 EPC Appointed Trustees to Effingham Village Recreation Trust:</b></p> <p><u>The following local residents were nominated by Cllr Pindar &amp; seconded by Cllr Muscat:</u></p> <p>Christopher Hogger<br/>Paula <b>Moss</b> (EPC Councillor)<br/>Charles <b>Thorne</b> (EPC Councillor)</p> <p>Cllr <b>Hogger</b> made a formal declaration that although her husband was one of the nominees, she was able to take an objective view as a parish councillor that the appointments were in the best interest of the EVRT charity and therefore was able to vote on the appointments.</p> <p>All Councillors voted in favour of the appointments for a term of 1 year.</p> <p>It was noted that the Parish Council had already carried out the necessary checks to ensure the candidates were not ineligible to be charity trustees, and therefore the appointments took immediate effect. EVRT would be notified of the appointments so that the new trustees could sign the Register of Trustees and make any necessary declarations of interest.</p> |
| <p><b>EOM/02</b></p> | <p><b>To Set up the EPC / EVRT Liaison Working Group:</b><br/>All Councillors agreed in principle for the setting up of an EPC/EVRT Working Liaison Group to encourage and facilitate a good working relationship between the 2 organisations.</p> <p>Cllr <b>Hogger</b> read out two paragraphs from the draft terms of reference which stated:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The purpose of the Liaison Group is to encourage and facilitate a good working relationship between parish councillors and EVRT's managing trustees.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Under charity law, EVRT trustees must act in the best interests of the charity and make their own decisions on charity matters without influence from non-trustees. The purpose of the Group is to allow discussion between, and provide information to, both EPC and the EVRT Board; the Group does not make decisions on behalf of either body.</p>  |

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|               | The exact remit for the Liaison Group, Terms of Reference & membership will be discussed and agreed at the next parish council meeting. (November 30 <sup>th</sup> )   |
| <b>EOM/03</b> | <b>To report on the Terms of Reference for the Liaison Group:</b><br>It was agreed to finalise and agree the draft Terms of Reference at the next parish council meeting. (November 30 <sup>th</sup> )   |
| <b>EOM/04</b> | <b>To agree to seek dispensation from GBC for those parish councilors' who have been appointed as trustees so that they can participate fully and vote on parish council decisions on all EVRT matters, on the grounds of no disclosable pecuniary interests and that serving as trustees at this time is in the public interest:</b><br>It was noted that a formal dispensation was not necessary since no disclosable pecuniary interests were involved.<br>It was agreed that Cllr <b>Hogger</b> would draft a declaration for the clerk to submit to Guildford Borough Council's Monitoring Officer for consideration and approval.<br>In the event of such a declaration not being acceptable to the Monitoring Officer, then Cllr <b>Moss</b> and Cllr <b>Thorne</b> may not be permitted to vote on parish council business involving the EVRT Charity. |
| <b>EOM/05</b> | <b>To consider any urgent EVRT matters and a draft response letter to EVRT Managing Trustees:</b><br>The draft reply letter, to the one received by the parish council on the 5 <sup>th</sup> of November & prepared by Cllr <b>Symes</b> , was considered and approved for sending to Howard Manton (Chairman, The Board of Managing Trustees Effingham Village Recreation Trust).  |

Following the meeting, Ian **Symes** Chairman of the Parish Council, made the following statement:

*"We very much regret the resignations, and I have thanked the departing trustees on behalf of the parish council for their hard work over several years. They have not only kept EVRT going through the difficult years of the pandemic, but also commenced the task of transforming the governance of the charity to ensure it has a sustainable future.*

*The new trustees have agreed to take up their voluntary roles for an interim period of up to one year, so that EVRT can continue its work to restructure the charity. The aim is to secure the future of the KGV Hall and Fields, and to ensure the residents of Effingham can continue to benefit from these wonderful facilities.*

*I am very grateful to Paula, Charles and Chris and for their willingness to take on this challenging task."*