

**MINUTES OF THE 125<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING FOR  
THE PARISH OF EFFINGHAM**

**7.30PM TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021  
(virtual meeting)**

**Present:**

Parish Councillors Cornwall, Hackett, Hogger, Muscat, Palmer, Roscoe & Symes.  
County Councillor Iles  
Parish Clerk &  
20 local residents.

**Apologies:**

Received from Councillors Moss, Pindar & Thorne.

**Minutes:**

The minutes from the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2019  
(124<sup>th</sup>) Annual Meeting for the Parish of Effingham were approved.

**Chairman's report:**

See appendix 1

**Questions from residents:**

None.

**Effingham Climate Change Group – Chair report:**

Councillor Muscat gave an update on the groups most successful first year.  
He was delighted that the group had attracted 29 members so far, and that a specific climate change page had been created on the parish council's website.  
<https://www.effinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk/climate-change/>

A number of projects have already been agreed (20), of which 3 have been completed and 7 are all at different stages of implementation. An Environmental Survey is now available for local residents to complete, and biodiversity, terracycle, grass verges, cycle paths and pond projects were all discussed. The group has now attracted attention from other local parish councils, enabling a group of 9 other local parish councils to be formed which meet quarterly to discuss ideas, and speak as one voice on important matters when corresponding with higher authorities. The parish council will be declaring a Climate Change Emergency at the earliest opportunity, this has regrettably been delayed due to pandemic restrictions. Recognition of all those involved was given and acknowledged.

Link to Environmental Survey form - <https://effinghamresidents.org.uk/environmental-survey>

**Guest speaker – Henrietta Stock:**

Henrietta is a member of Guildford Environmental Forum's climate crisis group. She is an energy engineer and a Fellow of the Energy Institute, having worked in energy efficiency and low-carbon technologies throughout her career. She currently works for SES Water as Energy and Carbon Manager where she has been leading their net zero carbon strategy including renewables growth and fleet electrification.

In 2017 she trained as a Climate Reality Leader with Al Gore in the US and has since been engaging with different groups to talk about the climate crisis and the challenges the world faces

Effingham Parish Council were extremely grateful to Henrietta, for her presentation on: "How should Effingham react to the Climate Emergency".

Residents can find out more about climate change issues from the Guildford Environmental Forum website, which includes video presentations, newsletters and how to become a member.

<http://www.guildfordenvironment.org.uk/>



**Questions & Answers:**

Questions were asked relating to:

Carbon capture

Government initiatives to home owners &

Heathland fires

There was some sadness that developers active in Effingham were not prepared to exceed climate building regulations, only follow them.

**Henry Smith Charity:**

See appendix 2

**Chairman's Vote of Thanks:**

The last 12 months has been a very busy time for Effingham Parish Council. I would like to thank all parish councillors, and our Clerk Jon Short, for their continuing hard work during these difficult COVID times to represent and serve the residents of Effingham.

Signed



Date 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022

## **Appendix 1**

### **Welcome Cllr Jeremy Palmer**

We welcome Jeremy Palmer to Effingham Parish Council (EPC). Jeremy has already become involved in the Transport Work Group, the Climate Change Group and with planning matters. We wish him the very best in his new role. There is now a full complement of councillors, as listed at the end of this report.

### **2020/21 Activities**

The last 12 months have been a busy time for the EPC clerk and councillors. We have been working hard during these COVID times to represent the residents of Effingham in planning matters, especially with five proposed developments in the village. This year we have dealt with 95 planning applications in Effingham including some highly complex proposals from large developers.

Parish councillors have formed two Working Groups, on Climate Change, chaired by Cllr Jerome Muscat, and Transport, chaired by Cllr Bronwen Roscoe, which are actively working on several projects. In addition, EPC continues to use our Community Fund to support projects by local voluntary groups which benefit residents.

I hope residents will attend the **Annual Parish Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> April** to hear more about our work and ask questions about any issues of concern to Effingham.

### **The Community Fund**

EPC has used its Community Fund to help promote local initiatives. Along with Guildford Borough Council (GBC), EPC has match-funded improvements outside the shops with new trees, benches and planters (where we are still looking for sponsors to help with the maintenance). EPC and GBC also match-funded an initiative by the Revd Mandy MacVean and other volunteers, who organised and ran the temporary Community Store after the fire at the shops. It is great to see the Village Supermarket back again and better than ever, and we are looking forward to the return of Bevan's Butchers.

The Community Fund also provided a grant to EVRT, and match-funded their crowd-funding appeal, for a security perimeter at the King George V Hall car park so it could reopen. EPC has also secured from County Cllr Julie Iles a contribution from her Member's Allowance to help with the project.

During the year the Community Fund has provided grants to local organisations for security doors at the Scout headquarters, help with costs of the Effingham Volunteer Drivers, and contributions towards the Running Circuit project and a new defibrillator at the KGV.

Grants are available from the Community Fund to help voluntary organisations in Effingham with projects that benefit the residents of the parish. For details of how to apply, see <https://www.effinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk/grants/community-fund/>.

## **Planning**

### **Millgate Homes, Church Street site**

The revised planning application for 17 dwellings on the Church Street field site (19/P/01726) has recently been refused by the GBC Planning Committee. At the meeting EPC provided advice from a planning barrister and along with inputs from the Effingham Residents Association we were able to defend key policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, which was under challenge by Millgate Homes.

Effingham's borough councillor Liz Hogger moved refusal of the planning application at committee, for reasons including over-development, harm to the character of the conservation area and non-compliant housing mix, and refusal was agreed by 8 votes to 4. The planning committee's refusal confirms the fact that the Neighbourhood Plan still has full weight when it comes to planning decisions, where there is no disparity with the policies of the more recently adopted Guildford Local Plan.

### **Berkeley Homes / Howard of Effingham School**

Berkeley Homes (BH) have recently come forward with proposals to build an additional 110 dwellings on Effingham Lodge Farm, claiming these are needed to off-set the increased cost of building the new Howard of Effingham School. This would take the total number of houses they want to build in Effingham from 295, which was allowed at appeal by the Secretary of State, to 405 dwellings.

The additional 110 are proposed for the north west of the site on an area of Lodge Farm recently purchased by BH. This new site borders the ancient woodland at Thornet Wood.

The Parish Council will comment on the planning application when it is submitted and will take planning and legal advice to ensure we fully understand all aspects of the proposals.

### **Orchard Walls**

This site on Beech Avenue is allocated for six homes in the Neighbourhood Plan. The developers have amended their original application (20/P/00737) and are now proposing 6 dwellings. EPC has continued to oppose the proposals on grounds of a non-compliant housing mix and an over-development of the site. We are expecting GBC to decide on this application soon.

### **Sir Douglas Haig**

A planning application was submitted in July by Chelsea Harbour Construction Ltd (20/P/01128) to refurbish the Sir Douglas Haig public house, convert the hotel rooms into short-let apartments, and construct one apartment and 6 houses in the current car park and

pub garden. EPC has objected to this application on grounds including over-development, not in character with the Conservation Area and lack of parking to serve the public house.

### **The Barn**

A planning application for 'The Barn', The Street, (21/P/00120) has been submitted. The application is for the proposed conversion of the existing dwelling into three apartments and building 12 new houses in the garden to the rear. The application includes garaging, access, and landscaping. EPC has objected to this application on the grounds of over-development, inadequate access and non-compliance with the Effingham Neighbourhood Plan.

### **Former Wisley Airfield**

Taylor Wimpey is preparing a planning application for a new town of 2,000 new homes on the former Wisley Airfield site, as allocated in the Guildford Local Plan. EPC and Effingham Residents Association (EFFRA) have set up a joint Work Group to join Taylor Wimpey's Wisley Liaison Group consisting of

parish councils and interest groups. The Work Group will monitor proposals and report back on matters of concern. Its members are Cllrs Cornwell, Palmer and Roscoe, and Ian Smith representing EFFRA.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Paula Moss is now heading up an initiative to revise and update the Effingham Neighbourhood Plan. One highlight in 2020 has been the growing impact of our Neighbourhood Plan policies. The Plan now formally sits alongside GBC's Local Plan and is applied by GBC planners to all planning applications within our parish.

EPC has applied policies within the Neighbourhood Plan to insist that developments such as those planned for Orchard Walls, the Church Street field and the Sir Douglas Haig must reflect the specific housing mix required by the Plan, increasing the availability of affordable housing and smaller units to meet the needs of local residents, and to ensure appropriate parking is built into housing schemes to lessen the impact of on-street parking around the village.

We are also using the environment policies of the Plan to influence design, to protect wildlife, maintain open views throughout the village and safeguard our highly cherished dark skies. Copies of the Plan are available to download from the Parish Council website.

### **Roundabout Effingham**

Roundabout Effingham, the local magazine delivered in the spring and autumn, initiated by EPC, is now produced by a Community Interest Company. It has maintained publication through this difficult time to the benefit of both our local groups and our local businesses, and has published regular Bulletins to provide news and updates during the coronavirus

emergency, available on the EPC website. It also presents an opportunity for the Parish Council and both our County and Borough Councillors to reach our residents and those in the immediate vicinity. Enquiries should be directed to Cliff Hackett on 01372 459113 or by email to [effinghameditor@gmail.com](mailto:effinghameditor@gmail.com).

## **Climate Change Group**

The Chairman of the Effingham Climate Change group, Cllr Jerome Muscat, reports that the Group was formed in June 2020, and currently has more than 20 volunteers from our local area participating. Without the volunteers nothing would change, and Jerome would personally like to thank all of them on the working group.

Information can be found at: <https://www.effinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk/climate-change/> where the Group has a dedicated webpage that shares details of meetings, actions and lists helpful websites to encourage even the smallest positive change from each of us. The Group plans to send a survey to every household in the village during 2021 and it hopes to see new initiatives come into play during 2021 with new electric car charging points in the village, new tree plantings, improved cycle paths, new LED street lighting, fixes to some parts of roads prone to flooding, increased biodiversity on our grass verges and new recycling facilities to deal with batteries, crisp packets and other challenging items that we need to recycle acceptably.

New residents from the village join regularly and there are 8 projects underway currently, with many more ideas coming forward each month. We have a Zoom meeting every month and if you would like to attend, please let Jerome or the Parish Clerk know, and we will welcome you.

## **Transport Group and ‘Adopt a Station’ Initiative**

The Transport Group, under chairman Cllr Bronwen Roscoe, has started four projects:

- 1) Road Calming in Lower Road, outside the Schools (now on SCC Highways priority list for 2021/22)
- 2) 20mph speed limits in Lower Road outside the schools
- 3) Weight limits and HGV enforcement
- 4) Improved accessibility in the village to the shops parade, with dropped kerbs.

The East Horsley, West Horsley and Effingham parish councils ‘adopt a station’ task group has now adopted Effingham Junction and Horsley stations. The group has been liaising with Network Rail to identify improvements at Effingham Junction station, such as tackling the flooding in the car park. The group is also looking at ways to prepare the station for the increase in passengers that will materialise

following any development at Wisley Airfield. Effingham's representative on the group is Vivien White.

### **2021/22 Precept**

Councillors have set the precept requirement at the same level as last year. The budget has been slightly increased, using reserves, to provide additional help from legal and planning professionals where development proposals and planning applications come forward that are complex and unacceptable.

### **Conservation Area Appraisal and Effingham Common LNR application**

The Conservation Area Appraisal and Effingham Common application to be a Local Nature Reserve are both on hold at the moment at GBC. There is currently a lack of staff availability to finalise and give the necessary permissions to these two initiatives because staff have been redeployed due to COVID.

### **Mole Valley Local Plan**

The Mole Valley Local Plan, which will affect planning decisions in Bookham and the green belt which borders Effingham, is expected to move to the Regulation 19 consultation stage this summer. It was delayed to allow consideration of responses to the previous consultation, including Green Belt concerns.

### **Tribute**



*Tony & Jessica Page*

It was with great sadness that we heard in August of the deaths of two former chairs of the parish council.

Jessica and Tony Page, who died within a few weeks of each other, both served as parish and borough councillors for Effingham Ward, and Tony was also the local county councillor for the Horsleys Division. They were both formidable fighters for Effingham and will be greatly missed.

## **Appendix 2**

### **Henry Smith Charity Report to EPC April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Update on the Henry Smith Charity given by : Brendan Kelly – Chair of Trustees

The Henry Smith Charity Effingham is a long-standing village charity that benefits from an annual grant from the national Henry Smith Charity to be spent on people in need specifically within the Effingham Parish boundary. It is part of the Effingham Parish Council activities but has been run by a group of four local volunteer Trustees since March 2007. (Presently Gill Walker, Terry Driscoll, James Brennan, Brendan Kelly)

In 2020 the charity made several direct grants totally £1,150 and in addition handed out Christmas 2019 Shopping Vouchers to 13 households totalling £2,215. With the onset of the COVID pandemic further funds were distributed via shopping vouchers to a total of £2,220. Thus a total of £5,585 funding to Households in Effingham over the year. All grants are made with the maximum privacy and discretion.

Although traditionally directed towards the needy of the older generation, we have found younger families as much in need lately. All cases of hardship can be considered. We work closely with the local schools and other local institutions to ensure families with young children also benefit where appropriate. The Pandemic over last year has been a new challenge for many and fortunately Henry Smith Charity was able to help.

In the last year we were able to receive a new grant (annually £3500) from the Henry Smith Charity as we had been successful in spending the previous grant. Rules state that each year the charity is required to only hold no more than one years income. Hence we are always keen to find genuine cases of hardship to support. We have been able to make additional grants to help with school trips and the like which is an area which may grow.

Looking forward the Charity is continually seeking:

- Deserving Christmas voucher recipients.
- Hardship cases for making grants.
- And to undertake more promotion – we are listed on several websites and try to promote through local agencies and newsletters. Most recommendations are by word of mouth.

For further details - please contact the Parish Clerk – Jon Short. (In confidence)  
Clerk2010@effinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Brendan Kelly  
Trustee – Henry Smith Charity Effingham.