

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF

Effingham Parish Council

Tuesday 9th January 2024, 8pm, The Barnes Wallis Hall.

Present:

Cllrs **Hackett, Hogger, Pindar** (Vice Chair), **Rehorst-Smith & Symes** (Chair),

Also in attendance:

Parish Clerk & 1 local resident.

BUSINESS DONE

001/24	Apologies For Absence: EPC Cllrs Moss, Trevor. SCC Cllr Booth.
002/24	Review The Register of Interests & Other Interests Affecting this Agenda: Cllr Hackett declared an interest as a director of Roundabout Facilities CIC (RFC), publisher of the Roundabout Effingham. Cllr Pindar declared an interest in planning application 23/P/02023.
003/24	Minutes: The Minutes of the previous meeting of December 5th, 2023 , were considered, approved, and signed by Cllr Symes. (Chairman)
004/24	Matters arising from the Minutes not otherwise on the agenda, along with noting decisions made between parish council meetings: The between meeting decision to update the preferred new street name, at the Church Street development from Lodge Gardens to Stovell Place was ratified.

23/P/01169	<p>An appeal has been made to the Secretary of States against GBC's decision for the proposed development below: Pinewood, Guildford Road, Effingham. KT24 5QF Erection of a detached garage (retrospective) Enforcement cases: (November 2023) Enforcement cases closed 3. Current enforcement cases 10 of which 6 are classified low priority & 4 are classified medium priority. The oldest case is dated Nov 2012 the latest Oct 2023.</p> <p>Enforcement cases: (December 2023) Enforcement cases closed 0. Current enforcement cases 11 of which 7 are classified low priority & 4 are classified medium priority. The oldest case is dated Nov 2012 the latest Dec 2023.</p>
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GENERAL PLANNING MATTERS

011/24	<p>Neighbourhood / Local Plans Reports on the Neighbourhood & Local Plans: None.</p>
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WORKING GROUPS

012/24	<p>Finance & General Purposes Working Group (F&GP): The clerk reported that the postponed December meeting would now be held in January, and that the following would be debated, and recommendations given at a future parish council meeting: Risk, Assets of Community Value, allotment & burial ground fees & actions from the latest audit.</p>
013/24	<p>Climate Change Working Group Updates: Cllr Rehorst-Smith reported on an upcoming Guildford Borough Council event on January the 24th named #CleanAirNight. This is in support of shining a light on the dangers of wood burning and how you can protect your family and your community's health. Cleanairhub.org.uk</p>
014/24	<p>Transport Group: Reports and recommendations from the Transport & Highways Working Group: Councillors sadly noted 2 recent road traffic accidents on the A246 Guildford Road. Councillors' thoughts are with the families affected.</p>

015/24	Berkeley Homes /Howard of Effingham Working Group Updates on the development: None.
016/24	Parish Councillor Co-Option Working Group Updates: Cllr Symes encouraged councillors to be on the lookout for possible candidates for the 3 remaining places on the parish council.

COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS

017/24	Countryside Access matters: Reports from Parish Councillors and any correspondence relating to Countryside matters: The request for support from members of the Climate Change Grp, wishing to see improvements to local paths and bridleways was considered. Cllr Symes agreed to add a final paragraph to the document for consideration by the group.
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SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR REPORT

018/24	Updates from SCC Councillor Dennis Booth: n/a
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FINANCIAL MATTERS

019/24	Council payments: Payments for the month of December 2023 were acknowledged.
020/24	Bank reconciliation: No updates.
021/24	Other Financial matters: Reports or correspondence relating to other finance matters: An update on the parish council’s Community Fund financial situation was received from the clerk. A transfer of £1k from the Electricity budget to the Community Fund budget was agreed.

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT

022/24	<p>Community Fund: Grant requests, if any:</p> <p>A request from a local resident to fund replacement fencing project on The Street, Effingham was considered. It was agreed to undertake further research and explore funding options.</p>
023/24	<p>Concurrent Functions Grant Aid (CFGGA) Updates on the following project:</p> <p>The clerk confirmed that a meeting had been booked for Thursday 18th Jan with Squiggle design, to discuss design options for the Heritage Trail info board.</p>
024/24	<p>Other Community Matters Reports from Parish Councillors and any correspondence relating to other community or environmental matters. None.</p>

REPORTS

025/24	<p>To RECEIVE reports on:</p> <p><u>Police and community issues</u> - Appendix 2 October 2023</p> <p><u>Allotments</u></p> <p><u>Burial Ground</u></p> <p>Councillors discussed the accuracy of the current S106 Land Transfer documents and agreed that there were certain discrepancies that would need addressing before the transfer could be signed off. Cllr Hogger agreed to draft a letter to the parish council's solicitor, for sending by the clerk.</p> <p><u>KGV Hall and Fields</u></p> <p><u>Home Farm West - Calvert and Chester Roads</u></p> <p><u>Effingham Common</u></p> <p><u>Parish Room</u></p> <p><u>Shop Parade</u></p>
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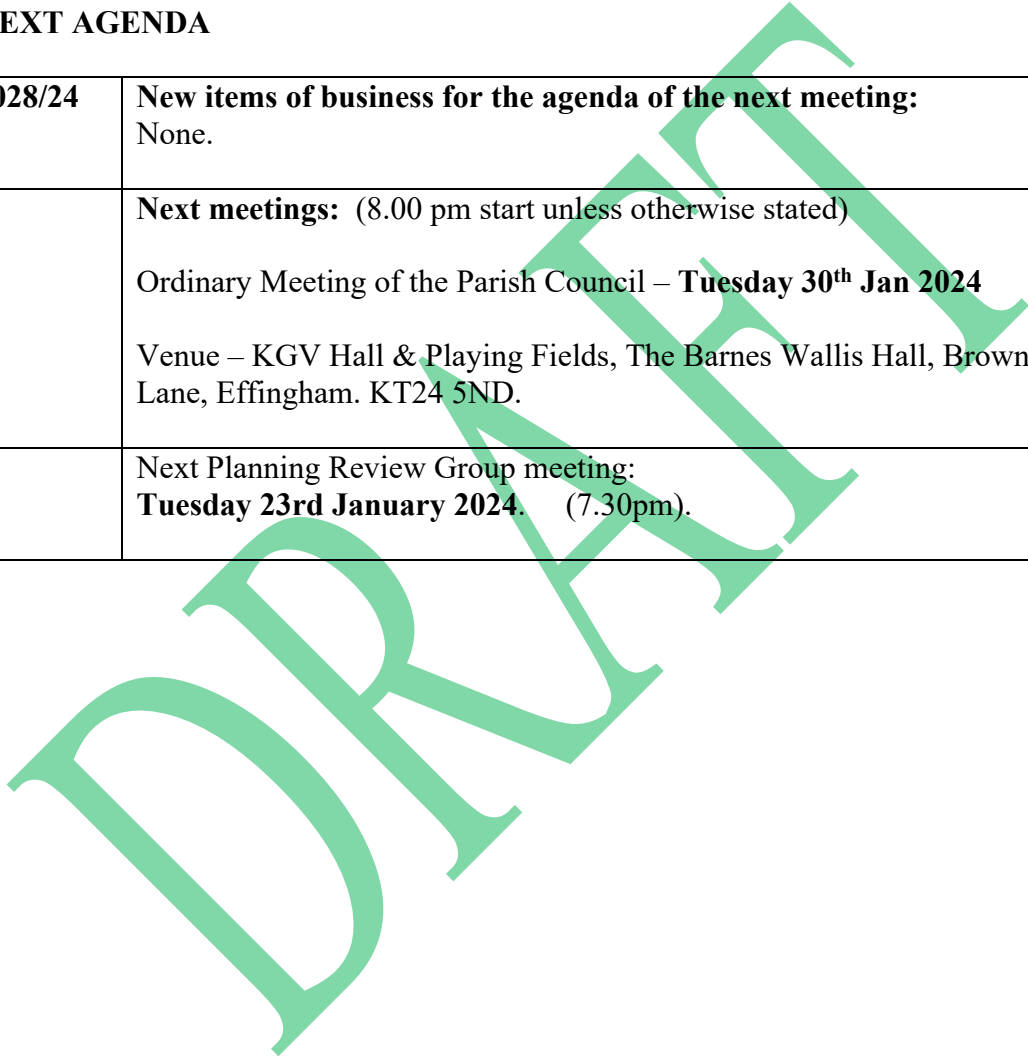
026/24	Other Parish Matters: Reports from Parish Councillors and any correspondence relating to other parish matters.
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CORRESPONDENCE

027/24	Any Other Correspondence: None.
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NEXT AGENDA

028/24	New items of business for the agenda of the next meeting: None.
	Next meetings: (8.00 pm start unless otherwise stated) Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council – Tuesday 30th Jan 2024 Venue – KGV Hall & Playing Fields, The Barnes Wallis Hall, Browns Lane, Effingham. KT24 5ND.
	Next Planning Review Group meeting: Tuesday 23rd January 2024. (7.30pm).



APPENDIX 1

Planning Results

008/24

December decisions:

- 23/P/01290** **Aurora Poppyfield School**, Lower Road, Effingham. KT24 5JP
Retention of anti-climb fencing to existing frontage of site.
Refused.
- 23/P/01536** **White Lodge**, Effingham Hill, Dorking. RH5 6ST
Two-storey side extension following demolition of the existing external staircase, formulation of new flat roof and installation of solar panels.
Approved.
- 23/P/01732** **The Beeches**, Guildford Road, Effingham. KT24 5QL
Erection of rear conservatory, infill rear extension, new 1.7m high front boundary wall and metal gates.
Refused.
- 23/P/01752** **Meadow View**, Orestan Lane, Effingham. KT24 5SN
Proposed replacement front porch and single storey rear extension.
Approved.
- 23/P/01869** **25 Orchard Gardens**, Effingham, Leatherhead. KT24 5NR
Single storey rear extension.
Approved.
- 23/P/01904** **East Court**, Beech Avenue, Effingham. KT24 5PN
Construction of a greenhouse.
Refused.

APPENDIX 2

Crime figures (x8)

025/24

October 2023

A246 Guildford Road	Other theft
Barnes Wallis Close	Anti-social behaviour
Barnes Wallis Close	Violence and sexual offences
Chester Road	Possession of weapons
Chester Road	Violence and sexual offences
Church Street	Anti-social behaviour
Links Way	Violence and sexual offences
Outdowns	Vehicle crime

23/P/01592 Land to the east of Chester Farm, Chester Road, Eff. KT24 5SQ
Change of use of the land for residential occupation and siting of one static mobile home (retrospective) - provision of hardstanding, erection of a brick built stable and utility block for use as travellers' site and equestrian use: erection of close board fencing within the site.

Objection on the principle that this is technically an incursion into the green belt and no special circumstances for development in the green belt are shown, apart from vague and unspecified 'family needs', which are not described. Allowing this planning application would set a dangerous precedent in Effingham as other travellers could claim the same 'family needs', which are not specified nor transparent.

Having said that - if the personal reasons are such that the family is in some danger if they move and the personal reasons are acceptable to GBC and would not create a precedent, then EPC would be willing to accept GBC's judgement regarding the planning application. However, if permission is given, it should be a personal permission restricted to the use of the named family occupying the development.

23/P/02028 Tollgate Farm, Guildford Road, Effingham. KT24 5QL
Erection of a forestry barn and hardstanding.

Objection

Effingham Parish Council (EPC) objects to this planning application. It is inappropriate development in the Green Belt:

The Planning Statement for the planning application, on behalf of the applicant, argues that all buildings for agricultural and forestry should be allowed by the local authority in the green belt no matter how intrusive the development is into the openness of the green belt, nor how unsightly.

Paragraph 149(a) of the Framework states that a local planning authority should regard the construction of new buildings as inappropriate in the Green Belt, but that an exception to this is buildings for agriculture and forestry. The Oxford English Dictionary defines "forestry" as "the science or practice of planting, managing, and caring for forests", and the Government definition adds the role of: "forestry workers who plant, manage and harvest trees and care for the environment in forests and woodland". For EPC the applicant's claim that this application is for forestry is too narrow, and the applicant is defining a building used for light woodcutting, rather than the wider definition of forestry used by the Government.

NPPF para 149 lists forestry buildings as being exceptions to the rules about being inappropriate development in the green belt. However, this is a very large building for forestry processing, proposed on land, which is not itself forested, rather it is proposed to import around 600-800 tonnes of timber onto the site. This is in fact a light industrial unit for processing imported forestry products rather than a forestry building needed for forestry purposes within woodland, so that para 149 does not apply.

The building is 36 metres long by 15 metres wide, on an open field where there is no building at present. This will have a very detrimental effect on the openness of the green belt and the character of the countryside and should be refused under policies P2 of the Local Plan, ENP-G1 and ENP-G2 of the Neighbourhood Plan, and para 147 and 148 of the NPPF 2023.

There will also be a negative effect on residential amenity. The proposed building will be close enough to existing homes on Calvert Road, Chester Road, Dirtham Lane and Salmons Road, neighbouring roads, to cause considerable noise nuisance from the operation of heavy machinery used for the sawmill and log-cleaning equipment that will be present on site. Sound carries very clearly across the open fields around this site. The applicant has not provided any accurate noise analysis to demonstrate that the noise of this machinery will not damage the amenity of the residential properties. The application should therefore be refused under policy D11 of the Local Plan.

Additionally, the Transport Assessment document is missing as pointed out by Surrey County Council's Transport Development Dept.

APPENDIX 4 Council payments for December**019/24****Standing Orders & Direct Debits Currently in Force**
(approved May 16th, 2023, 165/23)

DATE	To	Description	£	Authority
		STANDING ORDERS		
02.01.2024	advansys	Website hosting and support (monthly)	00,090.00	LGA 1972 s.111
01.07.2023 01.10.2023 02.01.2024 01.04.2024	EVRT	EVRT Funding Agreement (paid quarterly)	15,000.00	The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 section 19 (1) (3) Expires 01.07.2023
29.12.2023	HMRC	Clerk TAX/NI (Quarterly)	xxxxxx	LGA 1972 s.112
20.12.2023	Jon Short	Clerk Salary (Monthly)	xxxxxx	LGA 1972 s.112
20.12.2023	The Surrey Pension Fund	Clerk / Employer Pension Payments (Monthly)	xxxxxx	LGA 1972 s.112
14.09.2023	Beekley Garden Services	PC Burial Ground Mnee (Mar - Oct)	0250.00	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10.
		DIRECT DEBITS		
29.12.2023	1&1 Ionos Ltd	pc emails	0008.40	LGA 1972 s.111
29.12.2023	1&1 Ionos Ltd	pc emails	0030.00	LGA 1972 s.111
29.12.2023	1&1 Ionos Ltd	pc emails	0030.00	LGA 1972 s.111
27.12.2023	Octopus Energy (Bulb)	PR Electricity	0001.00	LGA 1972 s.133 Payments 23 rd of month
08.12.2023	Information Commissioners Office	Data protection registration	0035.00	LGA 1972 s.111 <i>Payments to be taken annually on the 8th December</i>
22.12.2023	SES Business Water	PR Water - supply	0012.00	LGA 1972 s.133 <i>Payments to be taken on 22nd of the month</i>
22.12.2023	SES Business Water	Allotment Water - supply	0039.00	Small Holdings & Allotment Act 1908, ss.23, 25 & 42 <i>Payments to be taken 22nd of the month</i>
28.12.2023	The Phone Co-op	Parish room broadband & phone	0026.34	LGA 1972 s.111

Previously agreed payments:

	<u>To</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Authority / Notes</u>
01.12.23	Surrey ALC	Attend conference	0024.00	LGA 1972 s.111
01.12.23	Fitzpatrick Woolmer	Noticeboard project	0885.00	LGA 1972 s.111
14.12.23	J. Short	Allotment Xmas party	0136.68	LGA 1972 s.111
14.12.23	Mulberry & Co.	Interim Audit	0157.56	LGA 1972 s.111
14.12.23	Cathryn Hossack	IT Support	0034.00	LGA 1972 s.111

Purchases using pre-charged debit-card:

<u>Date</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Authority</u>
		Balance brought forward 17.11.2023		0084.67	
14.12.23		Payment in	0250.00	0334.67	
29.11.23	Amazon	Printer cartridge	0038.99	0295.68	LGA 1972 s.111
01.12.23	Zoom	Video Conf	0015.59	0133.15	LGA 1972 s.111
07.12.23	Amazon	Laminating pouches	0008.99	0271.10	LGA 1972 s.111
15.12.23	Microsoft	Office 365	0005.99	0265.11	LGA 1972 s.111
		Balance at 17.12.2023		0265.11	

Monies received:

<u>Date</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Authority</u>
04.12.23	Allotment holder	Plot rental	0050.00	
05.12.23	Allotment holder	Plot rental	0025.00	
11.12.23	Allotment holder	Plot rental	0025.00	
14.12.23	Allotment holder	Plot rental	0025.00	
		Total	0517.00	
31.12.23	Savings acct interest		0718.82	

Transfers between Unity Trust Accounts:

<u>Date</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Reason</u>
22.12.23	Savings acct	Current acct	15,000.00	For EVRT funding agreement
		Total		

**Total expenditure for 2023/24 on LGA 1972 s.137 = £040.00 (excl vat)
Section s.137 limits - £9.93 (2023/24) per elector.**