

# ARTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting  
held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at St Francis Church, Littleton.

## Councillors present:

Mr R Musson (Chairman) (*)	Mrs C Longstaff (*)
Mr G Smith (Vice Chairman) (*)	Mr S Kitson (*)
Mr M More Molyneux (a)	Mr R Bennett (*)
Mrs K Curl (*)	

(\*) denotes present, (a) denotes absent.

APC = Artington Parish Council, GBC = Guildford Borough Council, SCC = Surrey County Council.

**In attendance:** Phil Gorton (clerk), James Palmer (GBC councillor), Neil Ward (GBC councillor), PCSO Fiona Fyfe and Nicky Timperley of the Surrey Police contact centre.

## 1. Apologies

- Cllr More-Molyneux sent his apologies.

## 2. Disclosure of interest:

- No interests were declared.

## 3. Minutes:

- The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2011 were signed as an accurate record.

## 4. Matters arising

- Cllr Smith reported that a band of volunteers demolished the old bus shelter at Loseley East Lodge on 16<sup>th</sup> July and took away the remains. The council recorded its thanks to GBC who supplied the replacement shelter at no cost to the parish council.
- Cllr Smith has reported to SCC the existence of an exceptionally deep hole on the edge of the lane opposite number 8 Littleton Lane. The authority has acknowledged the report but the hole has not yet been repaired. Councillors asked the police representatives if there was anyone at Mount Browne, as the biggest generator of traffic, who could contact SCC to add weight to APC requests for repairs to the parish roads.

## 5. Financial matters

- *Cheques written since last meeting*

£80.00 Alan Frost for building two benches by the footpath between Littleton and Artington.

£60.00 BDO, their fee for auditing the APC accounts.

£292.68 Came and C<sup>o</sup>., for the council's annual insurance premium.

- *Payment for the use of St Francis church*

The council resolved to pay £150 to the Loseley Christian Trust for the use of the church for parish council meetings.

- *Grant Aid application*

The clerk reported that he had applied for grant aid from GBC to install a finger post at Littleton Cross and to pay for the clearance of the footways alongside the Old Portsmouth Road. Cllr Palmer reported that he had been informed by Cllr Gimson (SCC) that he was trying to find funding for clearance of the footway.

7. **Police matters:**

- Nicky Timperley talked about the work of the Surrey Police contact centre that now takes all the force's telephone calls. The new national telephone number (101) for non-emergency calls is now in use by Surrey Police, which is one of the first forces to adopt the new system. Councillors thanked her for taking the trouble to attend the meeting.

- PCSO Fyfe reported that the local constable, PC Nick Sharpe, is now away on a three-month secondment with the CID. He can still be contacted in the normal way but other officers will be covering his work during his absence. Before he left, PC Sharpe was involved in an Automatic Number Plate Recognition exercise in Artington, Compton and Shalford during which three vehicles were seized. In addition, fifty-six vehicles were identified as being connected with crimes currently under investigation.

- Cllr Kitson informed PCSO Fyfe that there were frequent instances of Mount Browne traffic travelling too fast through The Ridges.

- Councillors expressed concern about the lack of progress with rebuilding of the wall by the Old Portsmouth Road. The clerk was asked to contact the new estate manager at Mount Browne about the matter.

**Action: Clerk**

8. **Report from GBC councillor, James Palmer**

- *Traffic*

Cllr Palmer is to table a question to the SCC local committee about the signs on the A3 that currently direct heavy goods vehicles to Godalming via Compton Street and New Pond Road (B3000). He considers that they should be directed along alternative A roads instead. He hopes that SCC will take up the matter with the Department of Transport who have the power to change the signs, thus reducing the use of the road by HGVs.

- *G-Live*

The new entertainment complex is to open next week.

- *Gypsy and traveller sites*

A report is to be sent to the next executive committee meeting of GBC proposing possible site for gypsies and travellers. There is a legal obligation on the council to provide sufficient sites.

- *Council Tax*

GBC intends not to increase its portion of the Council Tax over the next few years.

9. **Loseley related activities**

- Cllr More Molyneux was absent from the meeting but sent a short report.

He apologised for the disruption caused by the closure of the road through Littleton. This was the fault of the electrical contactors working at Orange Court Farm who did not communicate their intentions. He fears that there may be similar disruption when water is laid to the site in the near future.

By way of a warning to others, Cllr More Molyneux reported that there had been an attempted theft from the mower shed at Loseley. The lock was smashed and the alarm was set off but, fortunately, the miscreants departed without stealing anything.

Loseley will host the Surrey County Agricultural Society country fair on 25<sup>th</sup> September. The ploughing match will take place at Eashing Park because of problems of rotation.

Work will begin on the tithe barn at Orange Court Farm this week.

- Councillors were concerned about the lack of notice of the road closure given by SCC and the poor organisation of the necessary traffic diversion. Cllr Palmer said that he would take up the matter with the county council's local committee.

**Action: Cllr Palmer**

- Cllr Longstaff reported that St Catherine's Village Association were unhappy that the unofficial footpath running past the along the eastern edge of the downs had been removed because the field has been ploughed up to the boundary of the houses in Guildown Road and Woodcote.

9. **Planning matters:**

- *De-cluttering and retail activities at Artington Business Park and Quadrum Park*

Cllr Musson said that he has received no response to his letter to GBC about the problems of excessive signage and retail activities at Artington Business Park. The clerk is to write to GBC about the increasing use of premises for retail use both there and at Quadrum Park. **Action: Clerk**

- *Planning application ref: 11/P/01568, extension of time limit for extant planning permission, Brickfields Farm*

Councillors made no comment.

- *Planning application ref: 11/P/01617, Advertisement consent for two illuminated signs at Honey Brothers, New Pond Road.*

Councillors were concerned about the use of illuminated signs in a rural area. The clerk was asked to respond to the planning application expressing their concerns. **Action: Clerk**

- *St Catherine's Common*

Cllr Longstaff reported that a recent planning application to replant a garden hedge on the edge of St Catherine's Common had given rise to an objection by the Open Spaces Society. The society claims that the long-established gardens opposite the cottages at St Catherine's Hill are a part of the common and should, therefore, be removed. A meeting is shortly to be held between the interested parties and Cllr Longstaff will keep the councillors informed of the outcome. **Action: CL**

10. **Governance and Management risk assessment**

- The risk assessment was reviewed, amended and approved.

11. **Data Protection Act registration:**

- It was resolved that the clerk should register with the Information Commissioner as the data controller for APC. There is an annual registration fee of £35. **Action: Clerk**

12. **Electoral Review:**

- The council made no comment about the proposals.

13. **Highways and rights of way:**

- *Community Speed Watch*

Cllr Smith reported that on 23<sup>rd</sup> August a CSW exercise took place between 6.00am and 8.15am at Orange Court Farm in Littleton. Twelve speeding vehicles were identified and the police have written to the registered owners.

- *Old Portsmouth Road footway and other highway matters*

The path has become narrow because of soil creeping over its surface and is now badly obstructed in places. The clerk reported that he had written to SCC highways about this and other highway problems but, yet again, there has been no response. Cllr Palmer said that he knew that Cllr Gimson (SCC) was dealing with the problem and that he was trying to have some of his councillor's personal allowance allocated to the task of clearing the footway

- *Grit bins*

The clerk reported that he had reached an agreement with the estates manager at Mount Browne to have an APC grit bin placed near the junction with Sandy Lane, the exact site to be decided. He is currently investigating the cost of buying and filling the bins. **Action: Clerk**

**These minutes remain draft until signed at the next APC meeting.**

**The next meeting of Artington Parish Council will be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at St Francis church in Littleton, starting at 7.00pm.**