

ARTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Assembly
held on 4th May 2011 at the Tithe Barn, Loseley.

Councillors Present:

Mr R Musson (Chairman) (*)	Mrs C Longstaff (*)
Mr G Smith (Vice Chairman) (*)	Mr R Bennett (*)
Mr M More Molyneux (*)	
Dr A Docherty (*)	

(*) denotes present, (a) denotes absent with apology.

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

In attendance: Phil Gorton (parish clerk), PCSO Fiona Fyfe, GBC & SCC councillor Tony Rooth and GBC Cllr Neil Ward. Approximately fifty parishioners attended.

1. Apologies were received from:

PC Nick Sharpe.

2. Minutes:

The minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 11th March 2010 were signed as an accurate record.

3. Chairman's Annual Report:

Planning

The council has reviewed seventeen planning applications over the last year, it has lobbied SCC and GBC about the deposition of waste on fields south of New Pond Road and about the proliferation of signs at Pew Corner.

Highways

APC has pursued SCC Highway department with a list of work required in the parish that has achieved partial success and it has been in correspondence with the estates office of Mount Browne about the repair of the fallen wall that is blocking the footway on the Old Portsmouth Road. The chairman thanked Cllr More Molyneux for arranging the clearing of the ditches along Stakescorner Road.

Parish amenities

Two benches are to be installed on the path between Littleton and Artington and funding has been received for the purchased of two grit bins for which the chairman thanked Cllr Rooth.

Bridging gaps with our neighbours

There has been an improving dialogue with the Saint Catherine's Village Association and thanks were given to PCSO Fyfe for her help in arranging a future parish visit to the Mount Browne police museum.

In a brief outline of the council's financial position, Cllr Musson emphasised the importance of volunteer work put in by many parishioners giving as examples the two litter picks that had taken place during the year, the repair of the Loseley East Lodge bus shelter roof by Richard Collingwood and the community speed watch events undertaken by Cllr Smith and his team of helpers.

Retiring councillors

Cllr Musson reported that Andrew Docherty, a former chairman, and Richard Collingwood were standing down. He expressed thanks and appreciation on behalf of the council for their many years of service to the parish.

Thanks and acknowledgements

Cllr Musson expressed thanks to all the councillors, residents and others who had contributed the venue, refreshments and music, all of which has made this Annual Assembly a successful event.

4. Presentation by Phil Gorton on the historical origins of parish councils

The clerk gave a very brief outline of the changing nature of parish administration over the last thousand years.

5. Presentation from Michael More Molyneux on Loseley related matters

Orange Court Farm

Work is under way and, despite a recent setback, it is anticipated that it will be complete by October 2011. Cllr More Molyneux thanked the residents of Littleton for their patient during the demolition and building works.

Mellersh Farm

Thirty buffalo have now arrived at Mellersh Farm and more will be following later. Cllr More Molyneux assured the meeting that they will not be kept in fields that have rights of way running through them.

Rights of Way

MMM said that there is an increasing problem of people straying from rights of way and damaging crops. These are mostly visitors to the area rather than locals but he asked if people could please keep to footpaths to avoid damage.

6. Discussion

There followed a general discussion about parish matters that was principally concerned with road safety matters. Much concern was expressed about fast and inconsiderate driving through Littleton, particularly by employees of Mount Browne. In response, Cllr Musson said that the council had recently written to the Chief Constable about the problem and PCSO Fyfe reported that a general email had been sent to all employees about the need for consideration when driving through the narrow lanes of the parish. Cllr Smith said that Community Speed Watch events were continuing. Opinions were expressed that the speed limits through Littleton are too high and that they need to be reduced by 10mph.

In response to questions, Cllr More Molyneux reported that the changes near the entrance to Loseley were being done to tidy the area and to make access safer, particularly for larger vehicles. It was suggested that signs could be erected directing drivers of large vehicles to leave Loseley via Stakescorner Road. It was also suggested that a Stop sign could be put up at the end of the Loseley drive to indicate to those who do not know the exit that they are approaching a main road.

Concern was expressed about the growing number of unofficial passing places in Stakescorner Road.

It was suggested that the parish could organise an event to celebrate the Queen's diamond jubilee in 2012. The assembly enthusiastically supported this but organisers and a venue would be necessary for an event to take place.

These minutes remain draft until signed at the next APC Annual Assembly in May 2012.

Artington Parish Council meets on the second Monday of alternate months at St Francis church in Littleton starting at 7.00pm. All are welcome to attend.

Meetings for 2011:

Monday 11th July

Monday 12th September

Monday 14th November