

ARTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on Wednesday 7th May 2014 at the University of Law, Braboeuf Manor.

Councillors Present:

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

(*) 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), Cllr George Johnson (SCC), Cllr James Palmer (GBC), Cllr Neil Ward (GBC), Sarah Pooley (University of Law, for items 1 & 2), Sgt Sam Barwood and Chris Jackson (both Surrey Police), Tim Harrold (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England). Approximately twenty residents attended.

1. Apologies were received from:

Zoe Brown, Guy Catchpole, Charles and Fiona Clayton, Paul Good and Clive Grant.

2. Sarah Pooley of the University of Law welcomed everyone to Braboeuf Manor and explained its work.

3. Chairman's Annual Report

Cllr Musson welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked the University of Law for the invitation to hold the annual meeting at Braboeuf Manor and for the guided tour of the old house. He also thanked the councillors who provided the refreshments. He recalled the memory of James More Molyneux, who had died during the past year, and who had been a past member of the parish council for over fifty years. Cllr Musson thanked Karen Curl, who is leaving the parish council, and the parish clerk for his work.

Finance

Annual parish income from the Council Tax is now £3036, an increase of 5%. The parish council's share of household council tax bills had not increased for some years.

Planning

The parish council has reviewed 23 planning applications over the last year. The parish council made comments about the Issues and Options document which preceded the Guildford Borough local plan. Its response is posted on the GBC and the parish websites.

Highways

The council continues to ask SCC to repair potholes and road edges. The highways department for the area has recently assessed the lanes through the parish. Arrangements are now in hand to have replacement posts installed along Stakescorner Road. APC continues to work with Surrey Police to try to resolve parking problems at The Ridges. Cllr Smith continues to organise rat-running and Community Speed Watch events.

Parish amenities

Litter picks have been organised by Cllr Curl. These take place periodically and volunteers are always welcome. GBC Cllr James Palmer was thanked for his part in securing the future of the Littleton polling station. SCC has provided a new salt bin in The Ridges, which was paid for by SCC Cllr Johnson from his councillor's allowance. Cllr Stanford and a sub-committee of the council are organising the Artington Big Lunch that will take place in Littleton on Sunday 25th May.

4. Police report

Sergeant Sam Barwood introduced herself. She and the local officers, PC Ryan Stephens and PCSO Damon Young, are based at the GBC offices. She reported that there has been little reported crime in Artington with only two reported incidents since the start of the year; the theft of york stone from a house in Sandy Lane and damage to a car. In the wider area, burglary, from both houses and outbuildings, is a significant problem. Sergeant Barwood told the meeting of www.immobilise.com, a secure website for registering property designed to help police return stolen goods to the rightful owner. In response to a question from Cllr More Molyneux (who said that poaching is particular problem on the Loseley estate) Sergeant Barwood said that there have been local instances of lamping and of fish being taken. She would report the Loseley poaching problem to PC Stephens who is a specialist rural crimes officer.

5. The Big Lunch

Liz Lambley told the meeting of the plans for the Big Lunch that is to take place on Sunday 25th May. It is to be a communal picnic with a lamb roast, a tug of war and musical entertainment. An invitation to the event has been sent to all households in the parish.

6. Report by Cllr George Johnson (SCC)

Pond Farm. An injunction was taken out against the occupier of the land in April, the terms of which forbid further importation of waste onto the land.

New Pond Road railway bridge. Network Rail is to rebuild the bridge in the autumn. The parish council has been lobbying for a footpath/cycleway to be added to the new bridge. Cllr Johnson said that Network Rail would not do this and SCC would not fix any structure to a bridge that it does not own. Consequently, there would be no facilities to allow pedestrian or cycle access to the bridge, although this does not rule out such a crossing at some future time.

7. Report by Cllr James Palmer (GBC)

Local Plan. Cllr Palmer talked about the Guildford Borough Local Plan, the draft version of which had been published earlier in the day. It is an attempt to balance the requirement to provide an extra 13,000 homes over the next twenty years with a desire to protect the countryside. At the same time it is planning for new infrastructure to support these homes and the expected increase in the number of employment opportunities. The plan concludes that taking some land out of the Green Belt will be necessary to achieve this. If the borough council does not provide the sites and refuses planning permission then the result will be “planning by appeal” with decisions being made by the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol. The draft will be open for public consultation for twelve weeks from 1st July.

Infrastructure. The Transport Minister, Robert Goodwill, has recently visited Guildford and experienced the difficulties of driving in the town at peak times. It is understood that improvements to the A3 have been made a top priority by the Highways Agency.

8. Report by Tim Harrold of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England

Mr Harrold talked about the work being done by the CPRE on the Local Plan. He believes that some of the assumptions and figures upon which the plan is based are incorrect. The CPRE looks for errors and inconsistencies in the Local Plan, seeking to work with GBC to provide evidence to convince central government that the proposed housing provision for the borough is wrong. He says that there is a case for re-designating Areas of Great Landscape Value as Areas of Outstanding Beauty, which would give these areas greater protection than a Green Belt designation alone.

9. Questions and comments

Various questions were asked from the floor: Teresa West asked if the cow parsley on the verge near her house in Littleton Lane could be cut to reduce the chances of a road accident, Malcolm Lambley talked about the need for a 20mph speed limit in Littleton and Andy Docherty asked about the part that the parish council played in the writing of the draft local plan.

These minutes remain draft until signed at the APC meeting on Monday 12th May 2014.

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.