

# ARTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at Mount Browne.

## Councillors Present:

Mr R Musson (*)	Mrs J Stanford (*)
Mr G Smith (*)	Mr S Kitson (*)
Mr A More Molyneux (*)	Mr R Bennett (*)
Mrs A Mayer (*)	

(\*) 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) and Chris Jackson (Surrey Police)  
Approximately 35 residents attended.

## 1. Apologies were received from:

Cllr George Johnson (SCC), Cllr Michael Illman (GBC), Cllr Mike Parsons (GBC). Laurence Hodge, Clive Grant, Jennie Wisher, Mike and Sarah More-Molyneux; Jacques Berthet, Mike Blackburn, John and Melanie Pratt and Mrs D Stewardson.

## 2. Chairman's Annual Report

*Cllr Musson* welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked Surrey Police, and in particular, Chris Jackson the estate manager, for the invitation to hold this meeting at Mount Browne. He also thanked the parish councillors who provided the refreshments.

### *Succession planning*

He reported that both he and Cllr Smith intend to leave the council this time next year and two new councillors would need to be found. The meeting attendees were asked to consider if they would volunteer or could recommend someone who might do so. After 25 years on the parish council, many of them as chairman, Cllr Musson has now stood down from that position. Cllr Smith has been on the council for 17 years. Two other members of the council had been asked if they would take on the position of chairman but they had declined. At the annual parish council meeting, that had been held the evening before, George Smith was elected as chairman and Richard Bennett as vice-chairman for the ensuing year.

### Cllr Musson outlined the main issues for the parish:

#### *Revised draft local plan*

Following the consultation on the Guildford Local Plan, a revised draft of the plan has been published with significant changes based on the responses to the public consultation. A six-week consultation period will commence in June, although this may start later as the SCC Transport and Infrastructure Plan has not yet been received from the county council. The parish council has started to formulate its response to this revised plan.

#### *Possible new housing*

Surrey Police have been discussing the possibility of moving from *Mount Browne* within the next ten years because it is no longer suitable for their purpose. In the revised Guildford plan, the area has been zoned for up to 116 houses and there is a possibility that it could be removed from the Green Belt. The playing fields have been removed from the housing zone proposed in the original local plan. Land belonging to the *University of Law* has also been zoned for possible student accommodation. With the possible future development of housing on the *Treetops* site (even though the recent application for 34 new houses has been refused) the number of dwellings in the parish could multiply threefold over the next few years.

### *Pot holes*

Pot holes in the minor roads of the parish are a perennial concern. Stakescorner Road, Littleton Lane and Sandy Lane is to be resurfaced in the 2017/18 year as a part of the county council's Project Horizon scheme.

### *New Pond Road railway bridge*

The bridge is over 160 years old and now carries over 5 million vehicles a year – an increase of 1m since the opening of the Hindhead Tunnel. It needs replacing and Network Rail are only obliged to provide a like-for-like replacement with no provision for pedestrians or cyclists. The parish council, in conjunction with other local councils and MPs, will continue to work for a more suitable replacement.

### *Pond Farm*

Unconsented waste continues to be deposited at Pond Farm and it is believed that the land is also being used for unauthorised residential use.

### *The “Green Lung”*

The rural parish of Artington is a valuable green space between Guildford and Godalming. The parish council will continue to fight to protect it from unsuitable development.

*Cllr Musson* thanked a number of Artington people for their contribution to parish life over the last year: *Cllr Sean Kitson* for organising litter-picks; *Cllrs Richard Bennett* and *Sean Kitson* for their work relating to the drainage and parking problems at The Ridges, for liaising with Mount Browne and for keeping the amenity triangle tidy; *Cllr George Smith* and *Guy Catchpole* for their Community Speed Watch and rat-run exercises; *Cllr Jacqui Stanford* and her team for organising the Big Lunch; the *More-Molyneux family* for organising the Queen's Birthday Beacon at Loseley, *Chris Jackson* of Surrey Police for his positive responses to the parish council's various problems, *Rob Craig* for his regular Riff Raff notes for the parish website and *Chloe Dancey* for her organisation of the annual carol service.

Following this report, *Cllr George Smith* paid tribute to the work, long service and abilities of *Cllr Musson* following his decision to stand down as chairman of the parish council.

### **3. Presentations:**

Robin Stannard, a heritage and conservation specialist, gave a very interesting talk on the wide variety of historic buildings in the parish and the architects and families who built some of them.

Julian Lyon, chairman of the Guildford Society, spoke about the draft Guildford Local Plan and the Town Centre Management Plan. His talk emphasised the obligation placed on GBC by central government to provide for a significant amount of new housing in an area that is very short of available space and also the problems likely to be caused by the inevitable increase in road traffic. He strongly advised that any attempt to remove Mount Browne and the University of Law land from the Green Belt should be resisted as the designation allows a greater degree of control over development.

*Cllr Musson* thanked the speakers for their excellent and thought-provoking presentations.

### **4. Questions and comments**

Various questions were made from the floor, all of which related to the two plans discussed by Mr Lyon. An email sent to the clerk by a resident who was unable to be at the meeting was read out and comments invited from the floor but none was made.

**These minutes remain draft until signed at the APC meeting on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016.**

**Artington Parish Council meets on the second Monday of alternate months at St Francis church in Littleton, beginning at 7.00pm.**

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