

Artington Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 18th May 2017 at Chestnut Lodge, Loseley.

Councillors present:

Mr G Smith (Chairman) (*)	Ms J Wisher (*)
Mr R Bennett (*)	Mr S Kitson (a)
Mr A More-Molyneux (*)	Mr P Hutson (*)
	Mrs A Mayer (a)

(*) 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 Matt Furniss (SCC and GBC), Clare Smith and Jane Terry representing Cala Homes. Approximately twenty five residents attended.

1. Apologies were received from:

Cllr Kitson, Cllr Mayer, Cllr Mike Parsons (GBC) and ten residents.

2. Chairman's Annual Report

Cllr Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked Cllr More-Molyneux for enabling the meeting to be held in Chestnut Lodge. He also thanked the parish councillors who provided the refreshments.

Succession planning

Cllr Smith introduced two new parish councillors: Jennie Wisher, who succeeded Jacquie Stanford, and Peter Hutson who has succeeded Roger Musson. He thanked the departing councillors for the work, in particular Roger Musson who had been on the council for 26 years. He said that, although he had intended to leave the council following this meeting, he had decided to continue for another six months to allow for a period of continuity while the new councillors to become used to their new roles.

Pot holes

The roads in the parish are in a poor state. Although the lanes had been included in the Project Horizon scheme for resurfacing, they have now been removed from the list and are now unlikely to be improved.

Drainage at The Ridges

The blocked culverts at Artington that cause flooding on the Old Portsmouth Road near The Ridges have still not been cleared.

Pond Farm

Unconsented waste has continued to be deposited at Pond Farm and it is believed that the land is also being used for unauthorised residential use. There are signs, however, that clearance of the waste has begun.

New Pond Road railway bridge

Network Rail were planning to replace the old New Pond Road railway bridge in 2014/15 but they have advised that, following substantial repairs and installation of condition monitoring devices, they are able to postpone its replacement until 2018/19. Unfortunately, due to lack of funds, the replacement will be on a like-for-like basis with no provision for cyclists or pedestrians.

Parish events

The carol service, organised by Chloe Dancey, and the Big Lunch organised by a committee led by Jacquie Stanford continue to provide residents with regular opportunities to meet.

Community Speedwatch

Cllr Wisher is now co-ordinating CSW for the parish and has found some new volunteers. APC has been in dialogue with Mount Browne about the anti-social behaviour of some people driving there via the parish lanes. The parish council continues to argue the case for a 30mph speed limit along Stakescorner Road.

War memorial

A service was held on 30th June to remember the nine men of the parish who died in the First World War. The parish council is now considering installing a memorial to honour them and the Plymouth Brethren have kindly offered to contribute towards the cost.

Guildford Local Plan

APC submitted its views on the second version of the local plan during the year. A third version will be out for consultation in June.

Planning applications

There are two significant applications: Pilgrim Wood Residential Home is planning to extend its building to accommodate the special requirements of dementia care and Cala Homes have applied for permission to develop Treetops Kennels and Loxhill Nursery in Artington for housing.

3. Presentation from representatives of Cala Homes

Clare Smith and Jane Terry of Cala Homes explained the plans for the development of Treetops and Loxhill Nursery and invited questions from the floor.

Residents expressed serious concern over the lack of provision for safe access to the site. It was thought that the road at the proposed entrance would be too narrow for the proposed 'ghost island'. Another major concern was the flooding of the A3100 after heavy rain caused by blocked drainage in The Ridges, which results in dangerous road conditions.

4. Presentation from Cllr Matt Furniss

Cllr Furniss answered a number of questions given in advance by the parish council:

New Pond Road railway bridge

Cllr Furniss has been in touch with Network Rail regarding the replacement bridge. They have confirmed that, unless there is any funding made available to replace it with a wider structure, the new bridge will be built to the same width as the present one.

Pond Farm

The County planning enforcement officers visited the site on 11th May to discover that work to clear the unconsented waste had begun. The officers will continue to monitor progress over the coming weeks.

Resurfacing of the parish lanes

Following an assessment of the local roads in the parish, SCC have concluded that they should not be prioritised for inclusion in the County's Project Horizon resurfacing scheme.

Backlog of highway problems

Cllr Furniss offered to organise a meeting between APC and the SCC Highways team to go through the list of problems.

Rural character

APC, along with neighbouring parishes and the Campaign to Protect Rural England, is anxious that the 'green lung' between Guildford and Godalming should be preserved as much as possible.

Cllr Furniss said that the Landscape Character Assessment would be taken into account as part of the normal planning application process.

Fly tipping, litter and dog fouling

In the absence of the borough council's Waste and Street Scenes Officer, Cllr Furniss reported that the borough council is increasing environmental enforcement to tackle these problems.

These minutes remain draft until signed at the APC meeting on Wednesday 12th July 2017.

Artington Parish Council usually, but not invariably, meets on the second Monday of alternate months at St Francis church in Littleton, beginning at 7.00pm.