

Artington Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 21st May 2019 at St Francis' church, Littleton.

Councillors present:

Mr R Bennett (*)	Ms J Wisher (*)
Mrs C Taft (*)	Mr S Kitson Chairman (*)
Mrs F Clayton(*)	Mr P Hutson (*)

(*) 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), Cllrs Ramsey Nagaty and Chris Blow (GBC), about 25 parish residents and others.

1. Apologies were received from:

Four parish residents.

2. Chairman's Annual Report

Cllr Sean Kitson welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked George and Christine Smith for the use of their garden for drinks before the meeting and the parish councillors who provided the refreshments.

War memorial

The memorial commemorating the men of Artington who died in both world wars has been completed. The parish council began the project as a result of an email sent to the clerk by a descendent of one of the men commemorated, Alfred White. The project was then taken on by the Loseley estate that planned and funded the memorial. The parish council would like to thank the More-Molyneux family for doing this.

Planning enforcement

Waste and old vehicles are still being deposited at Pond Farm and the parish council continues to press SCC and GBC to take action against the landowner.

The large advertising sign at the Guildway offices on the Old Portsmouth Road was erected with a time-limited permission in 2009. The permission has expired but the sign is still there.

The parish council will work with the new borough councillors in an attempt to resolve these two outstanding enforcement cases.

The Ridges

Drainage is still a problem at The Ridges. Heavy rain causes flooding on the Old Portsmouth Road which become dangerous in cold weather and which causes fixed potholes to reappear. SCC, the highway authority, promises to solve the problem yet little has been done. APC continues to press them to complete the work.

The salt bin at The Ridges was going to be removed by SCC but APC agreed to take it on and is now responsible for keeping it full.

Planning permission has been granted for 39 houses on the site of Treetops kennels and the market garden. It was granted on condition that the grade II listed farmhouse be retained and given a suitably sized plot. The developer has since applied to have the building delisted and APC has written to Historic England to object to the request. [Since this meeting, Historic England has decided that the building should retain its listed status.]

Mount Browne

Surrey Police has acquired land in Leatherhead for a new headquarters so they will be leaving Mount Browne at some time over the next few years. The land will be sold for building and APC will be keeping a close eye on what is proposed, especially as the site has been removed from the Green Belt as a part of the Guildford Local Plan.

Community Speed Watch and rat-running surveys

Four CSW events have taken place over the last few months, organised by Jennie Wisher. Twenty drivers were identified and reported to the police. More sessions are planned over the summer. Guy Catchpole has arranged a number of rat-running surveys to identify driver who use the access-only parish lanes as a through route. Repeat offenders may be visited by the police. Guy would like to organise some more sessions and is looking for some volunteers to help.

Litter pick

Cllr Fiona Clayton co-ordinated a litter pick in January. About twelve people spent a couple of hours collecting litter around the parish. They filled 28 large bin bags. It was a rewarding morning followed by a visit to the Ship. Again, volunteers are sought for future picks.

3. Big Lunch

Cllr Clemmie Taft, the Big Lunch co-ordinator, reported that everything is in place for the event on Sunday 23 June. Last year's Big Lunch donations more than the costs of the event and the surplus was used to buy a wreath for the new war memorial with the remaining money given to Shooting Star Chase.

4. Open discussion

Roger Musson reported that the family of Alfred White, whose contact with the parish council was the catalyst for the war memorial project, would be attending this year's Big Lunch.

5. Talk by Julian Lyon of the Guildford Vision Group

Julian gave an enlightening talk about the objectives and activities of the GVG, its alternative plans for Guildford town centre and its relationship with Guildford Borough Council. More information about the GVG can be found on its website: www.guildfordvisiongroup.com

These minutes remain draft until signed at the APC meeting in July 2018.

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