

ARTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting
held on 10th January 2011 at St Francis Church, Littleton.

Councillors present:

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

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

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

In attendance: Mrs A Mayer, Prof. J Pratt, Mrs M Pratt, Cllr Neil Ward (GBC), Phil Gorton (clerk).

Before the start of the parish council meeting, GBC and SCC councillor Tony Rooth took questions about a number of matters concerning the parish. He was not present for the meeting itself. See Appendix.

1. Apologies were received from:
 - Cllr Collingwood, Cllr Longstaff.
2. Disclosure of interest:
 - Cllr More Molyneux declared an interest regarding the development of Orange Court Farm.
3. Minutes:
 - The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 9th November 2010 were signed as an accurate record.
4. Matters arising:
 - There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.
5. Financial matters
 - No cheques have been signed since the last meeting.
 - The council resolved that the parish precept should remain unchanged at £2900 for the year 2011/2012.
 - It was resolved that the clerk's salary be raised to £2,100 per year.
6. Police report:
 - There was no police representative at the meeting, although PC Sharpe had sent some information about the Automatic Number Plate Recognition team. Cllr Bennett reported that he had agreed with the police for new Community Speed Watch (CSW) sites on the Old Portsmouth Road at the entrance to the property north of Tree Top Kennels (subject to the resident's agreement) for southbound traffic and at the entrance to Quadram Park, for northbound traffic.
7. Reports from Borough and County councillors:
 - Cllr Neil Ward had nothing of particular to note regarding the parish, although he did report that the bin-emptying schedule that had been seriously disrupted by the snow was now running normally. During their enforced lay-off, the bin men had been clearing snow from the pavements in Guildford.
8. Planning matters:
 - Cllr Musson is to write to GBC about the retail-use designation of the Artington Business Park.
Action: RM
 - Cllr Smith suggested a site visit to St Catherine's Hill to investigate reports of maintenance problems there.
 - Cllrs Longstaff and Docherty to arrange a meeting of representatives of the St Catherine's Village Association to discuss the positioning of the new 'Artington' sign, the proliferation of signs erected by SCC around Pew Corner and also the maintenance problems at St Catherine's Hill.
Action CL/AD

9. Loseley related activities (Cllr More Molyneux)

- Work has started at Orange Court Farm and it is hoped that the development will finished before October. Cllr More Molyneux explained that the proposed new trackway from Loseley to Orange Court Farm is to allow access to the farm buildings by agricultural vehicles without the need for them to drive past the new houses and offices. Trees and bushes will be planted to screen the new track.
- The clearing of ditches along Stakescorner Road will take place over the next month. The work will be done on a Sunday.
- The Guildford Parishes Working Group continues to liaise with GBC regarding retrospective planning applications for gypsy and traveller sites. The group is particularly concerned with the apparent lack of planning enforcement in relation to these sites.
- Cllr More-Molyneux said that Loseley would provide materials to build the proposed bench on the track between Littleton and Artington and that he would investigate possible contactors to do the work. **Action: MMM**
- He also repeated his offer of the use of Loseley Garden for a parish event.

10. Parish facilities

- Loseley East Lodge bus shelter is in a poor condition and is probably beyond repair. The clerk has contacted the bus companies who report that about 4 to 6 people board the bus in the Artington fare stage each day but this is inconclusive as the fare stage also includes The Ridges bus stop. Cllr Bennett said that most people from the area of this fare stage now go to catch the bus from the Park and Ride (where there is a shelter) to travel into town because it is cheaper than the service from Godalming to Guildford. The clerk is to investigate the possibilities of funding the construction of a new shelter or, alternatively, the possible removal of the existing one. He will also seek to discover how often the shelter is used. **Action: Clerk**

11. Highways and rights of way:

- The councillors decided that it is not appropriate to seek Quiet Lane status for Sandy Lane and Littleton as it would involve extra signs and clutter and it is unlikely to change the behaviour of the few inconsiderate drivers.
- Cllr Musson reported some success in prompting SCC Highways to correct various problems within the parish. Some still remain unresolved and the clerk will contact SCC about these. **Action: Clerk**
- Cllr Musson is to write to SCC Highways about the unwanted Artington Manor Farm Business Park signs. **Action : RM**
- [N.B. The CSW report is included under item 6, Police Report.]

12. Annual Assembly:

- Councillors resolved to hold the Annual Assembly on a different day to the annual parish council meeting. Cllr Musson and the clerk are to draft plans for the two events. **Action: RM, Clerk**

13. Other business:

- Cllr Docherty reported that a roof rack had been stolen from a vehicle in his neighbour's driveway. He warned everyone to be vigilant.
- Cllr Docherty suggested that the clerk contact the Surrey County Association of Parish and Town Councils for advice about the difficulties of dealing with three different authorities in relation to the dumping of waste at New Pond Road/Furze Lane. It was resolved that this should be done. **Action: Clerk**
- Cllr Docherty will explore whether independent legal advice could be sought to help resolve the waste-dumping problem at New Pond Road/Furze Lane. **Action: AD**

These minutes remain draft until signed at the next APC meeting.

**The next meeting of Artington Parish Council is on Monday 14th March 2011
at St Francis church in Littleton starting at 7.00pm.**

Appendix

Notes of an informal meeting that took place before the Artington Parish Council meeting on Monday 10th January 2011.

In attendance:

Mr R Bennett, Dr A Docherty, Mr G Smith, Mrs A Mayer, Mr M More Molyneux, Mr R Musson, Prof. J Pratt, Mrs M Pratt, Cllr Tony Rooth (GBC & SCC), Cllr Neil Ward (GBC), Phil Gorton (clerk).

Fields at Furze Lane / New Pond Road

Cllr Rooth was questioned at length about the actions of SCC and GBC regarding the waste dumped on fields at New Pond Road and Furze Lane. He said that he would endeavour to arrange a meeting between SCC and GBC officers and interested local residents to try to find a way of overcoming the problems.

Gritting of roads.

Cllr Rooth explained that SCC had a list of priorities for treating roads in the event of snow and ice. The county council will not provide a grit/salt bin anywhere along Sandy Lane or Littleton Lane because the roads do not meet the authority's criteria. If parish councils wish to have salt bins on non-priority roads then they will have to pay for them. If they wish, they can pay SCC to provide and maintain a bin at a cost of £2,500.

If Artington Parish Council wishes to have one or more bins, Cllr Rooth said that he would give £200 out of his councillor's allowance to help pay for them. He also said that he would investigate the possibility that GBC would provide grit at no charge for those parish councils that would like to collect it and fill their bins themselves.

Cllr Rooth also explained that gritting roads damages the surface and encourages the growth of potholes, particularly round reinstatements.

Mr More-Molyneux said that the owner of the Hampton estate had informed him that the county council had provided a snowplough for the estate to use for clearing local roads. He asked if this is a general offer and if a plough could be available for use by the Loseley estate for clearing roads around the parish. Cllr Rooth said that he would investigate.

Retrospective planning applications

Cllr Rooth was asked about retrospective planning applications for gypsy and traveller sites. He said that GBC tends to refuse them but they can be granted on appeal. There are no official sites in Guildford Borough and this could be the reason that appeals are frequently successful.

Cllr Rooth left before the parish council meeting began.