

ARTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting
held on 9th January 2012 at St Francis Church, Littleton.

Councillors present:

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

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

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

In attendance: Phil Gorton (clerk), James Palmer (GBC councillor), Neil Ward (GBC councillor), Jacqui Stanford and PCSO Fiona Fyfe.

1. Apologies

- Apologies were received from Cllr More Molyneux, PC Nick Sharpe and Simon Gimson (SCC councillor).

2. Disclosure of interest:

- Cllr Longstaff declared an interest in Item 11 regarding Mount Browne access.

3. Minutes:

- The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 14th November 2011 were signed as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising

- There has been no further progress regarding the encroachments onto St Catherine's Common.

5. Financial matters

- *Cheques written since last meeting*
Annual subscription to Surrey Hills Society: £15
- *Precept for 2012/13*

It was resolved that the precept should remain unchanged at £2,900.

- *Ratification of contribution to First Aid course*

It was resolved that the council would contribute £20 towards the cost of heating St Francis church for the forthcoming First Aid course.

- *Clerk's salary*

It was resolved that the clerk's salary would be raised by 5%.

6. Police report on current issues

PCSO Fyfe reported on a number of local problems:

- *Distraction burglaries*

This kind of burglary always peaks in January and there have been a number of instances in the area recently, including one in Compton.

- *Theft of York stone*

There has been an increase in the theft of this type of stone recently, including some from Watts Gallery in Compton and from Albury. PCSO Fyfe said that it is possible to mark the stone to make it easier to establish ownership in the event of theft.

- *Shed burglaries*

There have also been burglaries from garden sheds involving the theft of expensive garden equipment. PCSO Fyfe recommended looking at the Surrey Police website for advice on home security: www.surrey.police.uk/safety/home_safety.asp

7. **Report from James Palmer, Guildford Borough councillor**

- *Polling station*

GBC has looked again at the use of St Francis church as a polling station. It will not be used for the forthcoming Police Commissioner election in November but it will continue to be used for local and national elections.

- *Retail activity at Quadrum and Artington business parks*

Cllr Palmer has received a reply from the planning department that answers APC's concerns about retail activity in the business parks. The enforcement officer has visited the parks and considers that, although some businesses have retail activity, it is not the main part of their business and does not breach their planning conditions.

- *Guildford Town Centre Master Plan*

The council is consulting on the town plan and is inviting the public to express their views on the proposals. Closing date for comments is 23rd January 2012.

8. **Planning matters:**

- *Planning application ref: 11/T/01709. Change of use to provide space for mobile coffee van at Artington Park & Ride.*

The application has been refused by GBC.

- *Planning application ref: 11/P/02134. Extension at Toad Hall, Littleton Lane.*

Councillors made no comment.

9. **Loseley related activities**

Cllr More Molyneux was not present at the meeting but he sent a written report.

- *Orange Court*

Dancey's Barn has been let and the new tenants are now in occupation. The three dwellings are also let and the tenants will move in during the middle of January. The Tithe Barn is not yet let. It is anticipated that work on the site will be completed in March but it is dependent on weather conditions.

- *Hedges in Littleton Lane*

The hedges are to be replanted in Littleton Lane between the old school and Orange Court entrance and between Long Meadow and the gate opposite Orange Court.

10. **Parish facilities**

- *Website circulation list*

The clerk reported that the Information Commissioner's Office has written to say that there is no objection under the Data Protection Act to him keeping an email circulation list for the purpose of informing interested parties of changes to the parish website. Invitations to people asking if they wish to be included could be sent with the notice of the annual parish meeting.

11. **Highways and rights of way:**

- *Community Speed Watch*

Cllr Smith reported that there has been no CSW exercise since the last meeting.

- *Highway problems*

Surrey councillor Simon Gimson has asked the highway authority to start work on clearing on clearing the footway along the Old Portsmouth Road. Other problems identified by the parish council have yet to be dealt with.

- *Roadside verges*

The clerk has received no response from SCC to his letter asking about the highway authority's policy on the cutting of roadside verges.

- *Mount Browne access*

Cllr Longstaff reported that up to 230 vehicles enter Mount Browne between 7.40 and 8.00 each morning and leave during a similar period every evening. Councillors consider that this is far more than the narrow access roads at The Ridges and Sandy Lane can comfortably accommodate. Cllr Longstaff is to draft a letter to the Chief Constable asking that solutions be sought to what is a growing problem. **Action: CL**

12. **Arrangements for the Annual Assembly**

- Cllr Musson is seeking a venue for the annual assembly.

Action: RM

14. **Diamond Jubilee celebration June 2012**

- The organiser of the Artington Diamond Jubilee celebration, Jacqui Stanford, informed the meeting that she has written to all households in the parish inviting people to a meeting to be held on Thursday 12th January. The date for the proposed celebration is Sunday 3rd June and she outlined her various ideas for event.

Action: JS

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

The next meeting of Artington Parish Council will be held on Monday 12th March 2012 at St Francis church in Littleton, starting at 7.00pm.