

ARTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the parish council meeting
held on 11th March 2013 at St Francis Church, Littleton.

Councillors present:

Mr R Musson (Chairman) (*)	Mr S Kitson (*)
Mr G Smith (Vice Chairman) (*)	Mr R Bennett (*)
Mr M More Molyneux (*)	Mrs J Stanford (*)
Mrs K Curl (*)	

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

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

In attendance: Chris Jackson (Mount Brown facilities manager) who left the meeting after item 4 and James Palmer (GBC councillor). Phil Gorton (clerk).

1. Apologies

Received from PC Matt Taylor and PCSO Fiona Fyfe.

2. Disclosure of interest:

None was declared.

3. Minutes:

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 14th January 2013 were signed as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising

• Pond Farm, Furze Lane and New Pond Road

Enforcement action by SCC and the Environment Agency is continuing.

• Old Portsmouth Road footway

Cllrs Bennett and Kitson reported that the clearance of the footway between The Ridges and St Catherine's Hill, whilst not perfect, has been done to a satisfactory standard.

• Mount Browne

Chris Jackson has offered facilities at Mount Browne for the parish Annual Assembly.

He reported that the new regime designed to reduce parking problems at Mount Browne and in the surrounding roads is now in place. Amongst other things, visitors and employees have been asked not to park in The Ridges and the number of buses serving Mount Browne from the town has been increased. The councillors expressed their appreciation for the help and support that Mr Jackson has given to the parish and the council since he was appointed as facilities manager at Mount Browne.

5. Caleb Lovejoy charity – appointment of trustees

APC is responsible for appointing four trustees to the board of trustees. There are currently two vacancies. Cllr Musson was re-appointed as a trustee and councillors were asked if they knew of anyone who might be willing to serve.

6. Financial matters

• There has been no cheque written since the last meeting.

• Due to the changed arrangements for Council Tax Benefit, a part of the council's income for 2013/14 will be in the form of a grant rather than being derived from the precept. As a consequence, council tax on Artington properties will be lower, with those in council tax D band being reduced by 1.39%.

• Grant aid is still available from GBC for providing seats and benches in the parish. Cllr More Molyneux will ask Alan Frost if would be able to build some benches whilst Cllr Stanford will identify suitable sites.

• Councillors approved a 5% rise in the salary of the parish clerk.

• It was resolved that a donation of £150 be paid to the Loseley Christian Trust for the use of St Francis Church.

7. **Police matters**

There was no police representative present but PC Matt Taylor sent a report. However, there is nothing in the report relating specifically to Artington.

8. **Report from GBC councillor, James Palmer**

- *Council tax*

GBC will be raising its share of the council tax for 2013/14. However, the council is continually improving the way that it works to produce efficiency savings. The changing of recycling collections later this year, for instance, will produce savings of £0.5m. The council has also been investing in commercial property in the town to provide income.

- *Local Plan*

GBC has produced a draft Local Plan that will be going out to consultation in the spring as a part of the National Planning Policy Framework. Cllr Palmer urged that APC puts forward its views.

- *GBC planning enforcement*

The way that GBC deals with planning enforcement is changing and will continue to do so over the coming months. More resources have been allocated to the service.

- *Highways*

In the absence of Simon Gimson (SCC councillor), Cllr Palmer reported that it is anticipated that the Local Committee would approve work on Stakescorner Road to take place in 2014. It is hoped that the SCC local works team would install the wooden stakes that are to be provided from Cllr Gimson's personal allocation.

9. **Loseley related activities**

- Cllr More Molyneux said that the roadside verge opposite Orange Court Farm has been cleared of rubble and that a covering of topsoil would be added in the near future.
- He has asked for the automatic bird scarer to be turned off on Sundays.
- In common with other visitor attractions, visitor numbers for Loseley in 2012 were down 20% compared to the previous year because of the poor weather.

10. **Planning matters**

There are no current planning applications.

11. **Parish facilities**

- *Polling station*

Cllr Palmer assured the meeting that the future of the Littleton polling station is now secure.

- *Grit bins*

When APC bought three grit bins recently, GBC promised that it would be possible to collect replacement grit from the Woking Road depot at £1 per bag. The clerk has since been told that this is no longer possible. The alternative would be to buy grit from a commercial firm but this would be difficult because the council would have to buy a large quantity, which would cost more than it anticipated having to spend, and because there is nowhere to store it. Cllr Palmer said that he would see if the arrangement could be reinstated.

- *Broadband*

Cllr Bennett reported that SCC is aiming for there to be virtually 100% availability of high-speed broadband throughout the county within 20 months. The new broadband cabinet at St Catherine's is now ready to provide broadband throughout the parish within a few weeks.

12. **Highways and rights of way**

- *Roadside verges*

The clerk has written to GBC to ask when the verges along Stakescorner Road and Sandy Lane would be cut this year but has received no response. Cllr Palmer will follow up the enquiry.

13. **Arrangements for Annual Assembly:**
The annual assembly will be held on Monday 20th May at Mount Browne. Invitations will be sent to all households in the parish.
14. **Mayor's visit**
The visit from the mayor of Guildford Borough will take place on Tuesday 23 April.
14. **Other matters**
- Cllr Curl is to organise another parish litter-pick on 6th – 7th April.
 - Cllr Stanford hopes to organise a parish event on Big Lunch Day, Sunday 2nd June.

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

Meetings of Artington Parish Council are held on the second Monday of alternate months at St Francis church in Littleton, starting at 7.00pm.