

# Artington Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at St Francis church, Littleton.

**Councillors present:** Cllr B Beabey (Chair), Cllr, F Clayton, Cllr, H Farrant (Vice-chair), Cllr S Kitson, Cllr A More-Molyneux and Cllr J Wisher.

**In attendance:** Philip Gorton (Clerk) and about 35 members of the public.

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

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Matt Furniss (SCC), Cllr Catherine Houston (GBC) and Cllr Dominique Williams (GBC).

2. **Chairman's annual report**

Drainage problems at The Ridges

There is a continuing problem that has been on the SCC Highways 'to do' list for a long time. It has changed position on the list according to other priorities of SCC but it has never found its way to the top. The drain is still blocked and we still wait for work to be done to solve the problem – it has been promised this year.

Flooding in Stakescorner Road

Flooding at Stakescorner Cottage has been a long-standing problem because the culvert under the road was too small to cope with the water during heavy rain. Following further flooding early this year, the parish clerk was approached by the house occupier to ask if SCC could be asked to install a larger culvert under the road as a part of the resurfacing work that was happening at that time. Matt Furniss, as the local councillor and SCC lead on highways matters, was asked if this were possible at such short notice and a new culvert was installed within days. The new culvert has successfully dealt with the recent heavy downpours and the water flowed away into Old Claypits Wood.

Reflector posts in Stakescorner Road

The Highway Authority (SCC) has installed reflective posts along the western side of Stakescorner Road between the carriageway and the ditch. Some have been put into place but the work has ceased and is incomplete. It is understood that more posts were ordered earlier this year and we are waiting for them to be installed. It has been reported to the clerk that, in the absence of the posts, vehicles are driving onto the roadside verge reducing them to mud.

Resurfacing of Stakescorner Road

APC can take no credit for this but we are pleased that it has been done: the section between the Loseley entrance and Stakescorner Cottage was particularly bad where the old surface was buckling and breaking up.

Treetops development

Thanks to former councillor, Peter Hutson, APC has received a fee of £10k from the owner and developer of the site, Southern Homes. They have provided a new bus shelter on the Guildford bound side of the road as a condition of their planning permission, as well as paying all the associated legal fees. Peter negotiated a licence fee of £10,000 payable to APC for permission to build the shelter on its land. APC is no longer responsible for the shelter; it is to be maintained by SCC.

### APC notice boards

The new notice boards have been made by Cleveland Joinery in Farncombe and they really are a craftsman's job. They will soon be placed onto the existing posts. Thanks are due to Cllr Matt Furniss who provided a grant from his councillor's allowance that paid for the new boards.

### Resignation of Peter Hutson as parish councillor

Peter was a parish councillor for 6½ years, including a stint as chairman. He was an able and effective member and chair of the council. It was he that negotiated the £10k licence fee from Southern Homes. We would like to thank Peter for his contributions to the work of the parish council and to the life of the parish.

### Neighbourhood Plan

The initial enthusiasm to create a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish has evaporated, perhaps because of the size of the task. Artington has a very tiny population and the burden would have inevitably fallen on a very few residents so it is, perhaps, not surprising that it has drifted into the background.

### Littleton village 20mph speed limit.

Residents asked APC before the last annual meeting if it would approach the highways authority (SCC) to consider reducing the speed limit through the village to 20mph and along Stakescorner Road to 30mph. A traffic survey was undertaken through the village and was followed by a public consultation. It is understood that the 20mph limit will be put in place during the current financial year. When it is adopted, speed limit 'gates' will be installed at the southern end of the village.

### Community Speed Watch

There has been little CSW activity recently, largely because there has not been a great deal of traffic through Littleton. No CSW events are planned in the near future. Thank Jennie for her work in organising CSW.

### Coronation Lunch

The Big Lunch to celebrate the King's coronation was a joint affair with Compton, taking place on the Compton recreation ground. APC donated £320 towards the cost of staging the event. It took place on a dry, sunny afternoon and a good time was had by all.

### Braboeuf Manor development

A formal planning application has been submitted by Elysian Homes. APC has made an in-depth response to the various aspects of the proposals that would have negative impacts on the parish and its residents.

### 3. **Mount Browne development**

A representative of Surrey Police gave a presentation about the proposed development of the police headquarters and its associated dog training school. It was followed by a question and answer session.