

Artington Parish Council

Minutes of the annual parish council meeting held on 13th September 2021 at St Francis Church, Littleton.

Councillors present: Cllr R Bennett, Cllr S Kitson, Cllr C Taft (vice-chair), Cllr A More Molyneux, Cllr J Wisher, Cllr C Blow (GBC) and Cllr R Nagaty (GBC).

In attendance: Philip Gorton (clerk).

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

1. **Apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from Cllr F Clayton, Cllr P Hutson and Cllr Furniss (SCC).
2. **Disclosure of interests**
Cllr More-Molyneux declared an interest in all matters relating to the Loseley estate.
3. **Election of chair**
No-one was elected and Cllr Taft chaired the meeting.
4. **Minutes**
The minutes of the meeting held on 19th July 2021 were signed as an accurate record.
5. **Matters arising**
There were no matters arising.
6. **Planning matters**
Recent and current planning applications:
St Catherine's Manor Care Home Tree work ref: 21/T/00219
South Lodge, Sandy Lane Tree work. ref: 21/T/00233.
Councillors had no objection and no comments to make about these two applications.
Planning enforcement:
Pond Farm
The clerk reported that no further news has been received from GBC or SCC about the progress of waste removal from the site. The grass is being kept short and the place looks tidy.
Treetops
The southernmost chimney stack still remains unprotected from the weather. The GBC historic buildings officer has been in touch with the developer and has been told that the stack is being left open to allow it to dry out. Cllr Nagaty said that he would continue to press for the open top of the stack to be covered.
Neighbourhood Plan
Cllr Clayton sent a report to say that, since the last meeting, a letter to all residents asking for volunteers to help develop a Neighbourhood Plan for Artington has brought forth 15 responses. It is intended to arrange a meeting in October to establish a working group and to discuss the way forward.
7. **Highways**
Drainage at The Ridges.
Cllr Kitson has emailed Cllr Furniss (SCC) about the continuing problem. The email has been acknowledged but Cllr Furniss has not yet replied.
Community Speed Watch
Cllr Wisher reported that the first CSW event since the start of the pandemic had taken place recently in Littleton. It was very quiet with just 18 cars passing through the village in 1hr 30min, two of which were speeding. One more event will take place in Littleton this year. Two new volunteers have been found to help with CSW events planned for the Old Portsmouth Road at Artington.

8. Treetops development and the proposed new bus shelter at Artington

Cllr Hutson sent a report to say that he has made contact with the solicitor for Southern Homes, the developer of the Treetops site. He hopes that the matter of the licence for the proposed new bus stop will now be arranged. In the meantime, the current shelter is in a very poor state of repair and requires remedial work. He has cleared vegetation from the shelter and cleaned inside. He will obtain some plywood to repair the roof and has suggested that small work party be arranged to undertake the work within the next few weeks.

9. Reports from county and borough councillors

Cllr Chris Blow

Cllr Blow said that the GBC planning department is under a great deal of pressure and it is difficult to contact officers. They are now working three days per week in the office. The department is struggling to keep up with the volume of work and there are delays of up to a year in determining applications. Plans for joint working with Waverley Borough Council are progressing and the two authorities are continuing to work towards amalgamation.

Parish councils have now been acknowledged by GBC as being statutory consultees and they are now able to speak about individual planning applications at planning committee meetings.

Cllr Ramsey Nagaty

Natural England continues to review the boundaries of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with the intention of extending its area. Cllr Nagaty said that parish councils are to be consulted although the nature of this consultation is not clear. He suggested that APC contacts Natural England directly if councillors have a view on the matter. The clerk said that, surprisingly, the River Wey meadows are not currently within the area and that councillors may wish to consider asking for the area to be included.

Cllr Nagaty told the meeting about plans for a new sewage system for the town that will serve the planned increase in the population. He also updated councillors about the Guildford – Godalming Greenway route and the controversy regarding the proposed surfacing and lighting of Dagley Lane in Shalford.

10. Loseley matters

Cllr More-Molyneux reported that there are no large events planned for the near future.

11. Financial matters

Payments made since the last meeting

BHIB Council Insurance	£373.58
Information Commissioner's Office	£35.00

Payment to Information Commissioner's Office

The clerk has set up a Direct Debit payment for payment of the mandatory annual fee that the parish council has to pay to the ICO. As well as making his workload a little lighter in future, adopting this method of payment has been reduced the fee by £5 to £35 p.a. The council ratified this action.

12. Other business

The clerk reported that the three APC notice boards are in a state of poor repair. The plastic uprights are sound but the plywood boards will need replacing in the near future.

**These minutes remain draft until signed at the next APC meeting
on Monday 8th November 2021 starting at 7.00pm at St Francis church, Littleton.**