

Artington Parish Council

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 13th July 2020 via video conferencing.

Councillors present: Cllr R Bennett, Cllr F Clayton, Cllr P Hutson (chairman), Cllr S Kitson, Cllr A More-Molyneux, Cllr C Taft and Cllr J Wisher.

In attendance: Philip Gorton (clerk), Cllr Chris Blow (GBC), Cllr Ramsey Nagaty (GBC) and Cllr Matt Furniss (SCC).

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

1. **Apologies for absence**

None.

2. **Disclosure of interests**

Cllr More-Molyneux for all matters relating to the Loseley estate.

3. **Election of chairman and vice-chair**

Cllr Hutson was elected as chair and Cllr Taft as vice-chair.

4. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2020 were signed as an accurate record.

5. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

6. **Planning matters**

Recent and current planning applications:

Rushy Platts Farm, Old Portsmouth Road – construction of tennis court

ref: 20/P/00880

Long Meadow, Littleton Lane – tree work

ref: 20/P/00151

Hollowfield, Littleton Lane – erection of single storey dwelling

ref: 20/P/00963

Councillors made no comment about these applications.

Planning enforcement:

Pond Farm

Mr Podger's son is continuing his work in clearing the fields of rubbish. Several large skips have been filled and removed from the site over the last few weeks.

Neighbourhood Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy

Cllr Hutson suggested that the parish council may wish to consider adopting a Neighbourhood Plan for Artington because it would give the council more influence over planning and the developments that will be happening in the parish over the next few years. He will research the matter and report back to councillors. Cllr Furniss said that, whilst adopting a Neighbourhood Plan would entail quite a lot of work, the expense involved would not have to be that great and there may be returns in the form of payments from the Community Infrastructure Levy. PH

7. **Highways**

Drainage at The Ridges and Sandy Lane

Cllr Bennett reported that recent heavy rain had lifted the tarmac surface in The Ridges. Cllr Hutson reported that whenever there is heavy rain, water and rubbish flows down Sandy Lane and finds its way into the gardens of the adjacent properties. Cllr Furniss said that he would ask the SCC Flood Team to investigate the site. MF

Speeding drivers

Cllr Kitson reported that, whilst drivers are not exceeding the 30mph speed limit in The Ridges, they frequently go too fast for the road. Cllr Furniss said that it would be possible to apply for a 20mph limit in the road and the parish council could send to him a request for a reduction in the limit.

Cllr Wisher said that the police had informed her that Community Speedwatch sessions could start again but, as there is not currently much traffic going through Littleton at the moment, there is little enthusiasm amongst the volunteers to resume activities in the near future.

Active travel

This is a government backed scheme to encourage walking and cycling rather than use private transport in the wake of the Covid 19 pandemic. SCC is seeking suggestions for the creation of cycle lanes, widened pavements and advisory 20mph speed limits, etc. Cllr Kitson said that any suggestions for Artington should be sent to him in time to collate in time for the next deadline which is during the first week of August. SK

8. **Proposed new bus shelter at Artington**

Before the last meeting of the council, the clerk applied to HM Land Registry for APC to be registered as owner of the bus shelter site. This has been done provisionally and the application will not be dealt with until the Registry's offices re-open. Since the last meeting, he has written for a second time to the solicitor acting for, Southern Home Ownership, the development company that owns the Treetops site informing them that the parish council believes it owns the bus shelter site and has a deed to that effect. He has not received a response to either of his two letters. Councillors considered that the parish council is being deliberately ignored. Cllr Hutson said that the original developer, Cala Homes, had sold the site to Southern Homes and that he would try to contact the firm to find more about their plans for the site. PH

9. **Report from county and borough councillors**

Cllr Furniss reported that SCC had made highways activities available on the council website via an interactive map. The map shows progress of the Project Horizon road improvement scheme and the LED streetlight conversions.

He also reported that the council is to make it easier for residents to do low-level highways work, such as verge cutting and road sign cleaning, without the need to obtain licences to do so.

The highways department continues to chase Network Rail about the poor surface on the New Pond Road railway bridge. When the work to rectify the problem takes place, it will require the closure of the bridge for up to three weeks. As before, the route through Littleton will be closed to through traffic.

Cllr Blow reported recent changes to the membership of the GBC committees and said that there was to be a change of leadership in the autumn as a part of the power sharing arrangement between the Liberal Democrats and residents' groups. The Development Management Policies part of the Local Plan is now out to public consultation and he invited the council to make comments, either as a body or as individuals.

Cllr Nagaty said that many of the GBC projects, such as the Guildford Museum extension and the repaving of the town centre streets, have been delayed because of the Covid 19 spending.

10 **Loseley matters**

Cllr More-Molyneux reported that the Loseley gardens are now open but the house will not be open this season. There are some events coming up:

17-19 July Decorative Home and Salvage Show

26-26 July Garden Show

18 Jul - 1 Aug Peachy Playhouse, drive through events including cinema.

The Nag's Stable renovation is nearly complete with a tenant to move in soon.

In response to questions about the clearance of footpaths, Cllr More-Molyneux said that Loseley has no scheme to systematically clear the rights of way but will do so if a particular problem is reported by SCC.

11 **Financial matters**

Annual Governance and Accountability Return:

The Annual Governance Statement 2018-20 was approved and is to be signed by the chairman.

The Accounting Statements 2018-19 were approved and are to be signed by the chairman.

Councillors expressed thanks to David Hunt of Compton who carried out the internal audit of the accounts at no cost to the parish council.

Payments made since the last meeting:

Loseley Christian Trust for the use of St Francis Church: £175.00

Surrey Association of Local Councils, annual subscription: £95.70

**These minutes remain draft until signed at the next APC meeting
on Monday 14th September 2020 starting at 7.00pm.**

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