

Artington Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26th April 2022 at the Tithe Barn, Loseley.

Councillors present: Cllr B Beabey, Cllr, F Clayton, Cllr P Hutson, Cllr S Kitson, Cllr A More-Molyneux, Cllr C Taft (Chair) and Cllr J Wisher.

In attendance: Twenty-two parish residents and Philip Gorton (clerk).

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

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Blow, Cllr Nagaty (both GBC) and five Artington residents.

2. Chairman's annual report

Cllr Taft thanked the More-Molyneux family for allowing use of the Tithe Barn for the annual meeting. She gave a summary of the matters that have been covered by the council during the last year:

Pond Farm

This has been a regular item on the APC agenda for many years. It is understood that the occupier of the site, Percy Podger, is now in care and that the land is now being looked after by his son. Some of the unauthorised waste that had accumulated over many years has been removed and the site is being kept relatively tidy. There has been little activity during the last year but we continue to monitor.

Drainage problems at The Ridges

This 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. It is hoped that the work will be done to solve the problem this year.

Flooding in Stakescorner Road

Heavy rain in November caused flooding at Stakescorner Cottage because a culvert under the road was too small to take the flow of water. SCC has put the matter onto its high priority list because the property is at risk of flooding.

Reflector posts in Stakescorner Road

After representations from APC the Highway Authority (SCC) has begun to install reflective posts along the western side of Stakescorner Road between the carriageway and the ditch. The work has not yet been completed.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty consultation

Natural England has been consulting on the possibility of enlarging the Surrey Hills AONB. Surprisingly, the River Wey meadows have never been included in the area, despite the scenic qualities and environmental importance. APC has put forward a case to have them included in the area. Cllr Taft thanked Cllr Kitson for his work in writing the parish council's response.

Litter picking mornings

Due to COVID this was something the parish council was not able to organise group litter picks but thanks are due to individuals, particularly Sarah More-Molyneux, who regularly take action. However, at the beginning of March, Fiona Clayton organised a team parish litter pick. Another is planned for the Autumn.

Treetops development

Thanks are due to Peter Hutson for liaising with the owner and developer of the site, Southern Homes, regarding APC's ownership of the bus shelter on the Guildford-bound side of the road. As part of a condition of their planning permission, they are required to provide and new shelter and pay all the associated legal fees. We are waiting to hear further details. In the meantime, thanks are also due to Cllr More-Molyneux who arranged a repair to the existing shelter, which was in a poor condition with a leaking roof, at no cost to APC.

Community Speed Watch

There has been little CSW activity recently, largely because there has not been much traffic going through Littleton. The organiser, Cllr Wisher, is planning an afternoon session ,if she can get sufficient volunteers, so as not to lose the status of the approved CSW site. Thanks are due to her and her team of volunteers.

APC notice boards

The boards are approaching the end of their days, although they have at least a year left in them. The clerk is looking for replacements and, hopefully, some grant funding to help pay for their replacements.

Changes on the parish council

Richard Bennett was on the council for many years until his recent resignation. He worked particularly on planning matters and the APC response to the Guildford Borough Plan. The council and parish would like to thank him for his contributions to the work of the parish council over so many years.

Cllr Taft welcomed a new councillor, Ben Beabey, a Sandy Lane resident, who has not only joined as parish councillor but also agreed to be Vice-Chairman.

Neighbourhood Plan

Perhaps the most significant event of the year for APC is the parish council's decision to work towards adopting a Neighbourhood Plan for Artington parish. The idea was initially prompted by the proposed move of the police from Mount Browne, concerns that the University of Law may move from Braboeuf Manor and what may result from both of these events. With the police now remaining at Mount Browne, we continue to watch developments and hope, through the plan, to engage with all future action for the benefit of the parish. The parish has now been officially defined as a Neighbourhood Area, with the parish council as the lead on neighbourhood planning, and a committee has been established to work on the plan.

Jubilee celebrations

Cllr Taft expressed the hope that as many residents as possible can join in the parish Jubilee picnic on the Triangle Field in Littleton Lane.

3. **The Neighbourhood Plan**

A member of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee, Matt Mansell of Sandy Lane, gave an excellent presentation outlining the current position of the Plan and its objectives. There was an enthusiastic response to his talk and it is hoped that people, other than those on the committee, will make their contributions to the plan.

The activities of the committee will be published periodically on the parish council website.