



ALBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Serving Farley Green, Brook, Little London & Newlands Corner

PARISH OF ALBURY

NOTICE OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Local Government Act 1972

The minutes of Albury Parish Council meeting held on

Monday 7th October, 2024 at 19:30 in the village hall

for the transaction of the under mentioned business.

There will be an informal question time of up to fifteen minutes during which members of the public, who live or work in the Parish, may ask questions relevant to the work of the Council. The Council meeting will start immediately following public question time or at 7.45pm, whichever is the earlier.

MINUTES

Present: The Clerk, Cj Bishop-Wright

In attendance: Cllrs G. Baker, S. Bevan, P. Gellatly, N. Edwards, A. McCann, and G. Robinson

Borough and County Cllr R. Hughes

Members of the public: Mr. A. Pearson

Apologies for absence:

Borough Cllr D. Newson

163/24 **Open Forum**

Mr Pearson, the former Vicar for Albury Parish Churches, was invited to the meeting to discuss the implications of his retirement, and to help Council understand any support that can be offered through the transition. Mr Pearson explained that his replacement is yet to be organised, and advised that this could take up to 12 months to be finalised – as Albury is part of a uNited Benefice, local vicars will be supporting church workings in Albury until the replacement happens. Mr Pearson explained that the Guildford churches are funded through what is raised through parishes. Churches do get some funding from the Church Commissioners, but this is just for special projects and charity purposes.

Cllr Dennis asked for clarity on the maintenance the church is involved with, specifically the churchyard. Mr Pearson advised that yearly maintenance costs the churches are responsible for total around £70,000, and the churchyard alone can cost up to £4,000 per year.

Mr Pearson advised Council that the individuals involved in producing the parish magazine are looking to pass responsibility for this on.

Cllr Dennis asked Mr Pearson what support Council could offer to the church. Mr Pearson noted thanks to Council for the yearly section 137 grants awarded to the Churches.

164/24 **Declarations of interest:**

None received.

165/24 **Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd September; Annex 1**

Cllr Dennis suggested some amendments to the minutes. Clerk to amend and recirculate for approval at November's meeting.

CJ

166/24 **Actions Update; Annex 2**

a) er the current equipment is ne

BH

NE

SB

167/24 **Brief Report from Borough Councillors**

a) *Edgeley Park update*

Cllr Hughes advised he has had reports that Haulfryn are selling the Edgeley Park site.

168/24 **Brief report from County Councillors**

a) *Update on the communication from SCC regarding dates for the closure of The Street and the reinstatement of the central white lines*

Cllr Gellatly advised that some of the road closure signs are still up after the works have been completed. Clerk to report this. **CJ**

b) *Update on the pile of earth on the verges of New Road and Sherbourne Road*

Cllr Hughes advised that the response from SCC on this was that this was fly-tipping and not SCC contractors. Cllr Hughes to clarify report and chase resolution. **BH**

c) *General update*

SCC finances are generally under control. There have been lots of changes with the start of the new Chief Executive.

d) *Guildford Lane and Chilworth Road junction*

Cllr Bevan advised that a resident has requested a mirror to be put at the junction of Guildford Lane and Chilworth Road as this is a dangerous junction. Cllr Hughes to look into this. **BH**

e) *Space between Mill Lane and Water Lane*

Cllr Bevan raised to Cllr Hughes that houses between Mill Lane and Water Lane are usually left out of roadworks that happen in the area, including resurfacing. Cllr Hughes to raise this.

169/24 **Matters arising**

a) *Invite the new rector of the churches*

Cllr McCann advised that the interim rector for the churches has not yet been invited to a meeting. Cllr Bevan to send invite. **SB**

170/24 **Clerks matters arising**

a) *Utility quotes 2025; Annex 4*

Cllr Bevan proposed selecting Octopus as the energy provider, with Cllr Baker seconding the motion. Cllr Gellatly inquired about potential cancellation fees. The Clerk confirmed that cancellation is free within the first 49 days and during the final 60 days of the contract. The Clerk will verify whether these periods start from the sign-up date or the contract start date. The proposal was approved unanimously. **CJ**

Cllr McCann requested that the Council develop a decision-making plan that includes setting future priorities.

b) *Invite North Downs Line to a meeting*

CJ

Clerk advised that North Downs Line asked if we wanted them to attend a meeting. No need for this. Cllr Bevan to stay as the representative.

171/24 **Police matters**

- a) *Link to crime statistics* - <https://www.police.uk/your-area/surrey-police/albury-shalford-compton-holy-trinity-shere-gomshall-peaslake-and-farley-green/>

Committee reports:

172/24 **Highways, Byways, and Traffic & Open Spaces and Maintenance: Cllr Edwards**

- a) *Proposal to join the GBC bin emptying schedule for once per week emptying of Westonfields Recreation Ground bin and Riverside Amenity Area bin for the total cost of £680 per year*

Cllr Bevan proposed. Cllr Baker seconded. All in favour.

- b) *Troughs at back end of the village*

Cllr Edwards proposed that the Council take responsibility for maintaining the troughs, as suggested by Mr. Hogben during the open forum. However, he noted that the troughs need to be replaced first. In the meantime, Cllr McCann recommended filling the existing troughs. Cllr Gellatly suggested planting more permanent flowers or plants. Cllr Edwards will investigate these options.

NE

173/24 **Planning and environment: Cllr Gellatly**

- a) *Green waste left on Westonfields Recreation Ground*

Clerk advised that the waste left here has been reported as in conservation area, and a planning enforcement has been opened. Enforcement number EN/24/00341.

174/24 **Environmental projects: Cllr McCann**

- a) *Update*

Cllr McCann advised that some outdated text was on the website under environmental issues. This has now been resolved.

175/24 **Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Dennis**

- a) *Proposal to accept the Housing Needs Survey report; Annex 5*

Cllr Bevan proposed. Cllr Edwards seconded. All in favour.

- b) *Proposal to accept invoice for Housing Needs Survey of £936.59; Annex 6*

Cllr Bevan proposed. Cllr Edwards seconded. All in favour.

176/24 **Finance and Village Hall: Cllr Bevan**

The following to be approved and signed, where necessary:

- a) *Bank reconciliation end of July; Annex 7*

Approved and signed against the July bank statement.

- b) *Bank reconciliation end of August; Annex 8*

Approved and signed against the August bank statement.

- c) *Invoice list end of July; Annex 9*

Approved and signed against the July bank statement.

- d) *Invoice list end of August; Annex 10*

Approved and signed against the August bank statement.

- e) *Bank statement end of July; Annex 11*

- f) *Bank statement end of August; Annex 12*

- g) *Proposal to move to a paid village hall booking platform as current free version is not working properly. Options are £120 per year for Hall Booking Online; £265 for Hallmaster; or £240 per year for Scribe*

Clerk suggested the cheapest option. Cllr Bevan proposed. Cllr McCann seconded. All in favour.

- h) *Village hall review*

Cllr Gellatly advised that the hall has not made a profit for a few years. The lease is up for renewal in December – the Albury Estate have confirmed a 35% rent increase. Cllr Bevan proposed to go back to the Albury Estate Baxter and say we're currently struggling to make a profit from the hall, and an increase of that rate is not viable. All in favour of this. Cllr Bevan to draft letter and circulate for all approval.

i) *Albury Café*

Cllr Bevan discussed that the free period for the Albury café in the hall is coming to an end. Date to be confirmed when review of village hall is complete.

177/24 **Councillor's business:** *for noting or including on a future agenda*
Nothing to report.

178/24 **New Correspondence**

179/24 **Dates of meetings**

Full council: 7th October, 4th November

Planning: 23rd September, 14th October

180/24 **Open Forum**

Meeting closed: 20:51

Dated this:

3rd September

Signed: CJ Bishop-Wright
Parish Clerk