

ALBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Albury Parish Council held on Monday 1st December 2008 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Library

Present: Cllr N Wenman (in the chair), Cllrs J Brockwell, J Chapman,
J Croucher, R Hogben, P von Radowitz
Borough Cllr D Wright
County Cllr D Davis
PCSO Paul Hyde
Bruce Paterson, Rural Community Safety Officer
1 member of the public

The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

209/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Were received from Cllrs P Gellatly, D Nicholson and G Robinson

210/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1) Councillors were reminded that they must register an interest in any items on the agenda for this meeting, where appropriate, at the beginning of the meeting.
- 2) Councillors were further reminded that they must ensure that their register of interests is kept up to date and the Clerk advised of changes and additions.

211/08 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MONDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2008

Were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

212/08 MATTERS ARISING

191/08:173/08c: Community Gangs: The Clerk had met with Malcolm Howard on Albury Heath, where he expressed his interest in using his gang to undertake the work to and around the Memorial and to install the bins on the heath. This work had the advantage of being in a secure environment, with toilet and rest facilities in the cricket pavilion. He undertook, subject to Parish Council approval, to commence this work in March 2009. This proposal received Members' support and it was **agreed**

191/08:173/08d: Old Churchyard Maintenance: The Clerk was still seeking written confirmation from Keith Hendy, GBC Bereavement Services, that GBC would pay the Old Church Committee to have the grass cut once a year.

191/08: Recreation Ground fencing: Cllr Brockwell understood that the fencing bordering Albury House had been removed that day. He advised that a great deal of rubbish was being thrown into this area. It was agreed that removing the fencing might help this situation, as the fencing tended to mark the area out as "no-mans land".

Action: Clerk to write to English Rural Housing Association and ask them to speak to their residents about the dumping of rubbish in this area.

194/08: Plastic posts at Brook Lane: The Clerk had asked SCC Highways to remove these. As this had not yet happened, it was **agreed** to proceed with the work.

Action: Cllr Brockwell to arrange for the posts to be removed. The Clerk to advise Highways, SCC, that this had been done.

194/08: Temporary fence at Lampards: Cllr Croucher advised that the fence had been removed.

194/08: Cheynes: Members noted that the appeal was dismissed.

204/08a: Four by Fours on Farley Green: With reference to the BOAT closed at Shere: The Clerk had requested information from the Clerk at Shere but had not yet received this.

PCSO Paul Hyde advised that action was being taken to arrange a meeting between the police, Surrey Wildlife Trust, the National Trust and GBC to address the problem of BOATs. It was agreed that it would be helpful to have a parish council representative at the meeting, if possible, which Paul would try to arrange. Cllr von Radowitz was nominated as the representative.

Action: The Clerk to report on the Shere situation at the January meeting. Cllr von Radowitz to keep a log of 4 x 4s on the Green, take photographs and note numberplates where possible.

204/08d: CPRE: members considered the proposal that the decision not to join this organisation be overturned, following an apparently successful challenge to the validity of SCAP&TC's advice on this. It was **agreed** that the CPRE had been of enormous help and support to this council with the restoration of the landfill site, and Star Energy and the Chairman PROPOSED that the Council proceed with membership, subject to confirmation from SCAP&TC that this was legal. This was SECONDED by Cllr Hogben, with all in favour.

213/08 CLERK'S MATTERS ARISING

- a) *Freedom of Information Act: Publication Scheme:* The Model Scheme had been circulated prior to the meeting. The list of information to be published as being available had been drawn up by the Clerk and was tabled for inspection. It was PROPOSED by Cllr von Radowitz that the Scheme be adopted. This was SECONDED by Cllr Chapman, with all in favour.
- b) *Public Footpath no 212:* A recent survey had shown this footpath to be off line. The owners of Edgeley Park wished to divert it onto the route walkers were using on the ground. The map showing the proposed diversion was tabled at the meeting. Members had no objection to this proposal, but agreed that it must be well signposted.
- c) *Free Zero Carbon Village Halls:* A company called EcoVision Systems had approached GBC offering to install renewable energy based heating systems for village halls at zero cost to the hall itself, achieved by taking advantage of two current grant sources, each of which will provide 50% of the cost. The Clerk had requested further information and advised the village hall committee. Members **agreed** that this should be pursued and that this should be placed on the **agenda** for the January meeting.
- d) *Middle Street and Gomshall Lane, Shere:* Members noted that a temporary prohibition of traffic order had been issued in order to enable contractors acting on behalf of the County Council to carry out essential drainage reports. The Order would come into force on the 17th November, for a period of 18 months, although it was anticipated that the work would be completed within 6 weeks and would be carried out between 8am and 6pm.
- e) *Bruce Paterson: Rural Community Safety Officer:* Bruce explained that this was a pilot post for a period of one year and was an initiative of GBC, with the aim of acting as a bridge between GBC and the community and working in liaison with agencies, including the police. His remit covered a wide area, including fly tipping and drinking in the recreation ground, and it was hoped to make the community 'safer, cleaner and greener'. Bruce advised that, if he was not able to deal with a problem, he would have the ability to direct the community to the right agency.
Action: Bruce would talk to Cllr Robinson about the current problems at Westonfields, and to Cllr Brockwell about the evidence of anti-social behaviour in the recreation ground.
It was hoped that Bruce would be able to either attend or send a report to future Parish Council meetings.

214/08 POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Paul Hyde confirmed that the only policing issue in the last month in Albury had been the ongoing situation at Westonfields. He advised that the perpetrator had recently been arrested, interviewed and bailed for racially abusive behaviour.

PCSO Paul Hyde confirmed that PC Nick Sharpe is due to start his posting on the 4th January, but as he was to get married at that time and to take his honeymoon, he would not actually take up his position until the end of January.

215/08 OPEN FORUM

- a) *Not the Old Pharmacy:* Mrs Grayburn, Albury Trust, requested that the Parish Council write to the new owners to ask them to address the state of repair of their chimneys. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should write to the Conservation Officer at GBC and ask her to investigate this.
- b) *Bench at Canadian War Memorial:* Mrs Grayburn advised that the Trust wished to pay for a new bench at the Canadian War Memorial, if the Parish Council were in agreement. This offer was gratefully received.
- c) *Village Entrance Improvement Scheme:* The Trust wished to contribute to the next phase of the Village Entrance improvement scheme, which was gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
- d) *Litter Dropping:* Mr David Small has given the Parish Council a copy of a letter he has sent to the Cleansing Dept, GBC, regarding litter dropped on New Road over a recent four day period. One piece of litter contained a debit card receipt, and Mr Small requested that GBC follow up the owner of the card and bring a prosecution for the dropping of litter.

216/08 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Highways and Byways

- a) *Minutes of the meeting held Wednesday 19th November:* the draft had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was **agreed** that Cllrs Hogben and Brockwell, together with Mr Chris Pollard, should meet to agree the revised drawings before they were sent to Derek Lake.
- b) *Parapet:* the work on this had been completed.
- c) *Bus stop at Old Mill:* The Parish Council had sent a written question to the Local Committee. Cllr Hogben had continued to liaise with Mark Eshelby, but this had not proved productive.
- d) *Maintenance Schedule:* The hedge along the Sherborne was looking very unkempt, and it was planned to cut this back shortly. The maintenance scheduled for 2009 was planned to go ahead. Next year it was intended that one further cut would be carried out.
- e) *Enhancement programme:*
 - *Posts at Village Gateway:* Cllr Hogben had spoken to Rob Fairbanks that morning. Rob had seen them after remedial work had been undertaken, so was relatively happy. A number of compliments had been received regarding this enhancement programme.
 - *Bridge at Sherborne:* Cllr Hogben would look at this. It appeared to have been cemented in the west corner at some stage.
 - There were still a number of items to complete the enhancement programme. Members noted that the company who had undertaken the post work had stated that they would do no further work for the parish council.
 - *Star Energy Community fund:* Cllr Hogben intended to put in a bid, to include the restoration of the bridge, a new bus stop for Boundary Cottages, and replacement railings.
 - *Stumps:* Cllr Hogben would speak to Michael Baxter about removing these, as they would otherwise grow back.
 - *Entry signs into the village:* Rob Fairbanks had undertaken to give a rough price, these would also be included with the Star Energy Community Fund application.

- f) *Railway embankment:* Cllr Croucher advised that Railtrack were now dealing with the pipe, which apparently had roots growing through it. They had advised him that they intended to jet it through.
- g) *Weight restriction on A248:* Cllr Wenman suggested seeking a weight restriction on this road, to protect the listed buildings. Cllr Wright advised that a width restriction might be more feasible.
- h) *No entry sign on village green:* As this was not recorded at SCC Highways, it was **agreed** that it should now be removed.

217/08 Community Development
No report was tabled.

218/08 Open Spaces, Recreation and the Environment

- a) *Farley Green:* One more cut was planned before the winter. This should have been done before now, but was delayed because of the weather.

219/08 Village Hall

- a) *Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 18th November* had been circulated.
- b) *Albury Estate:* Cllr Brockwell had discussed the proposed plans for the hall with Michael Baxter. He was not opposed.
- c) *Sign outside the street door:* Michael Baxter suggested that this would be better placed pointing outwards that flat against the wall. The sign at the post office had cost in the region of £250.00.
- d) *Light above the street door:* this was an emergency light only, Michael Baxter had agreed to replace this with a light on a timer.
- e) *Light above the car park hall door:* Michael Baxter had advised that this was operated from a switch above the fuse board.
- f) *Outside play area:* a meeting with be arranged with Michael Baxter to discuss this in more detail.
- g) *Village Hall Rules:* a number of points had been raised concerning these and would be discussed with Doug Williams, SCA Village Halls Advisor, at the proposed meeting with him.
- h) *Income and Expenditure:* Cllr Brockwell intended to carry out an analysis of income and expenditure, and would report at the January meeting.
- i) *Toilets:* the cracked plaster in the female toilet had been cut out and the wall re-plastered. It was now being repainted. It was intended to put an application to the Star Energy Community Fund for refurbishment of the toilets, including disabled facilities, in 2009.

220/08 Planning
PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

08/P/01983 Kilnhanger, Farley Heath, Albury

Demolition of single storey extensions and replace with two storey side extension with single storey front extension and porch.

The planning committee had no objection to this application.

(08/P/1986 5 Mill Reach, Mill Lane, Albury

Erection of 1.2 metre high post and rail fencing)

Within the parish of St Martha – members noted.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED BY GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

08/P/1628 Land at Albury Landfill Site, Shere Road, Albury

Consultation from Surrey County Council for the siting of two low calorific gas flares and amended pipeline

No objection

08/P/1628 Land at Albury Landfill Site, Shere Road, Albury

Consultation from Surrey County Council for the siting of a modular steel building for use as a boardroom, re-siting of the existing control room and realignment of the site access and egress

No objection

08/P/1676 The Old Mill, The Street, Albury

Detached double garage to serve riverside houses A & B (development under construction) approved under 06/P/0171, approved 26/01/07 and 07/P/1210 approved 15/8/07

Refused

Appeal Decision: *Cheyne, Brook Lane, Albury:* Demolition of 3 timber sheds and construction of new summerhouse.

The appeal has been dismissed.

221/08 Star Energy

- a) *Star Energy's Community Fund:* It was agreed that, although it might still be necessary for the Parish Council to fight Star Energy's plans, there was no reason why it should not submit applications for funding for community projects. Cllr Brockwell advised that the Produce Association had put in an application for funding for two large marquees. Cllr Hogben advised that he had alerted St Peter and St Paul and the Saxon Church to this funding.
- b) *Meeting held Wednesday 26th November:* Cllr Wenman had been asked on behalf of the Parish Council what Albury considered the key issues to be. He had responded as follows:
 - The traffic on New Road. Cllr Wenman had suggested that Star Energy consider installing a footpath and bridleway on the side of New Road. Michael Baxter had asked him to provide an outline specification for the Trustees, which he had provided as follows: 600m long by 1.5m wide. Tarmac, with gravel on top, hedge and fence between footpath and field. Length: 600m. Trustees of the Estate had been advised that this had been raised with Star Energy, as the Parish Council were very concerned about the traffic. It would also serve as a connection to the village. Cllr Davis reminded the meeting that such a footpath could be a condition of any planning approval.
 - The remaining uncertainty about the site and the implications of Albury 2. Cllr Wenman had asked for assurances concerning this, which Star Energy would not give, only saying that they would not know until the appraisal was completed. The appraisal was due to be undertaken in March 2009, the rig to be installed in April 2009. The 4 wells for Albury I would be installed at the end of 2010.

Star Energy had proposed attending monthly parish council meetings in order to give an update. Whilst this was appreciated, it was agreed that it would be better to remain with separate meetings.

222/08 Albury Landfill Site

The Committee was very unhappy that no progress had been made. Cllr Nicholson was currently setting up a meeting with SCC officers and Cllr Davis to move this forward. She was also trying to contact Eric Clapton, who had expressed an interest, to ascertain whether he could help.

223/08 Finance

Budget and Precept request for 2009/10: The budget recommended by the finance committee had been circulated and was discussed. Cllr Brockwell suggested that the Council should consider a 0% increase in the precept, although this might mean a reduction in some service levels. Cllr Wenman queried whether we should reduce the level of service provided if the increase could be kept within inflation and no more than the increase last year of 3.9%.

Cllr Hogben would like a clearer breakdown statement of where expenses are incurred.

Cllr Brockwell undertook to do an analysis of the costings and income of the village hall, to make its costs clearer, so that a specific budget for the Village Hall could be agreed.

The following was **agreed**, for consideration and approval at the January meeting:

- An inflationary increase of 2% to 2.5%.
- No cut in the level of services offered at present
- A review of the village hall revenue targets.

- a) *Clerk's salary*: Members agreed to approve a move to Spinal point 27, as contracted, and a 2.45% inflation increase, as recommended by NALC, back-dated to April 2008. This agreement was PROPOSED by Cllr Brockwell, SECONDED by Cllr von Radowitz, with all in favour.

	Chq no	Amount	Exp power
b) The following were paid out of meeting:			
79) GBC rates: December	D/d	£131.00	LGA '72
80) E Balshaw: wages: November	D/d	£506.55	
81) Inland Revenue: Tax and NIC for November	238	£290.70	
82) Society Local Council Clerks: membership	239	£133.00	
83) BDO Stoy Hayward: external audit	240	£364.25	
84) NJM : printing of housing leaflet and reports	241	£410.08	
85) EDF	242	£106.07	
86) Surrey County Playing Fields Association	243	£10.00	
87) J Cadman: November salary	244	£762.99	
88) Spectrum Homes	245	£277.50	
89) DNX	246	£277.30	
90) Postmen re delivery	247	£30	
d) the following are presented for payment:			
91) SLCC: ½ cost of conference (shared with Womersley)	248	£26.44	
92) CiLCA registration fee (shared with Womersley)	249	£75.00	

224/08 Quality Council

- a) *Quality Status*: Check list of criteria and target dates to achieve them had been circulated. Members noted that the new criteria included
- accountability: the External Auditor's report must have no qualifying comments, and
 - democracy and citizenship: Cllr Wenman and the Clerk would meet to discuss the criteria and how it should be met.
 - training policy: the Clerk would write a paper
- b) *New assessment point for CiLCA Qualification*: A new criteria, the power of well-being, has been added. The Clerk had requested and received the new portfolio requirements and confirmed that she was currently on target to complete the portfolio by the end of December.

225/08 COUNCILLORS BUSINESS for noting or including on a future agenda:

- a) *Christmas Tree*: a 12' tree had been sourced, would need a bigger base and more lights. It was **agreed** to fund a bigger base, and lights as necessary. (The Clerk had some outside lights which she was happy to loan).
- b) *Notice Board*: Members noted that there was a notice board in reserve, ordered last year for Little London. It would be placed outside Lampards, as originally agreed, subject to Cllr Croucher confirming this with Lampards. Cllr Brockwell would arrange for it to be installed.

226/08 OUTSTANDING ITEMS

The list had been circulated.

227/08 NEW CORRESPONDENCE

- a) *South West Surrey mobile physiotherapy service:* Had written, enclosing their latest report and accounts, requesting that the Parish Council reinstated its funding of this charity. The Clerk reminded members that one donation had been made, some three years ago. It was agreed that a donation would be considered when all grants were agreed, near the end of the financial year.

Routine correspondence was distributed at the meeting

228/08 OPEN FORUM

229/08 DATES OF MEETINGS:

Full Council:

Monday 5th January, 7.30pm
Monday 2nd February, 7pm for 7.30pm (Mayors Visit)
Monday 2nd March, 7.30pm
Monday 6th April 7pm for 7.30pm (Annual Assembly)
Monday 11th May 7.30pm (AGM)

Planning:

First and Third Mondays of the month, 7pm, if there are
Plans to determine

The Chairman gave his apologies for the January meeting, which would be chaired by Cllr Brockwell.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.48pm.