

ALBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Albury Parish Council held on Monday 9th February 2009 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr N Wenman (in the chair), Cllrs J Brockwell, J Chapman,
J Croucher, R Hogben, G Robinson, P von Radowitz
The Mayor, Cllr Jennifer Jordan
County Cllr D Davis
Representative from Surrey Advertiser
21 members of the public

The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

Cllr Wenman welcomed the Mayor and invited her to say a few words. Cllr Jordan said that it had been a very good year and, as a result of her mayoral duties, she had found parts of Guildford that she did not know before. There had been 646 Mayors of Guildford; her late husband had been Mayor in 81/82 and they were the only Guildford born couple to both be Mayor. She had seen 25 nativity plays, attended three 100th birthday parties, and one 105th birthday party. The highlight of her year had been her visit to the Hedley Court Rehabilitation Centre, the worst had been an AGM that had lasted three hours. The Mayor entertained the audience with some amusing anecdotes and the Chairman thanked her for coming, and voiced his appreciation of the hard work she had put in over the last year, and the time taken to raise money for charities.

22/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllrs P Gellatly and D Nicholson.

23/09 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.

24/09 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MONDAY 5th JANUARY 2009: these were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

25/09 POLICE MATTERS

Due to the change in meeting date, caused by adverse weather conditions, there was no representation from the police.

Cllr Wenman advised that a meeting of the Safer Neighbourhood team was to take place on Monday 16th February, 7pm.

26/09 MATTERS ARISING

04/09:212/08: CPRE: The membership form had been completed and the fee on the cheque list for this meeting.

04/09:213/08: Free Zero Carbon Village Halls: Ecovision Systems have advised, following the receipt of data from the Clerk, that the hall's heating costs are too low to make it likely that a grant application for a renewable energy heating system would succeed.

04/09: Footpath behind hedge at Sherborne: the Clerk advised that Surrey Probation service believe it likely that they can deal with this when they come to Albury to work at the Heath.

04/09: Old Churchyard: Cllr Hogben reported that GBC had agreed to pay half the costs of maintaining the churchyard, and there was no further action for the Parish Council to take. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to GBC and the Trustees of the Old

Churchyard to confirm this.

04/09: *Recreation ground fencing:* this was not yet resolved. Progress to be reviewed at the March meeting.

04/09: *Dumping of rubbish between Westonfields and the Recreation ground.* The Clerk advised that the Rural Housing Association were aware of the situation and were working with residents to resolve it.

05/09d: *Royal Surrey Foundation Trust:* The Chief Executive had now organised two public meeting dates and had invited a representative from the parish council to attend. In addition, Normandy Parish Council arranged a consultation event, which took place on Thursday 29th January.

05/09e: *Emergency Planning by Parish Councils:* the Clerk advised that little had been put in place to date in other councils. She had asked for this to be an agenda item for the next Parish and Borough Council liaison meeting.

05/09f: *Visioning event:* this had now been re-scheduled to take place on Wednesday 18th February, at 7.30pm. All councillors were requested to attend.

27/09

CLERK'S MATTERS ARISING

a) *Review of the Rural Strategy:* Consultation in progress.

b) *Rural Access to Services Programme:* Grant aid for rural communities: The Clerk advised that this programme, facilitated by Surrey Community Action, offered grants for rural communities of between £5,000 and £20,000. The aim is to help people to access services in new and innovative ways. **Agenda item:** March meeting.

28/09

OPEN FORUM

1) *Westonfields Recreation Ground:* Matt Lethbridge presented a petition to the Chairman. He said that the parish is very lucky to have a recreation ground which is overlooked by the people who use it and one that most people don't know where it is. Peter Parfree (ex-chairman of the parish council) went to great lengths to secure the recreation ground for children in perpetuity. Mr Lethbridge said that he found it incredible that this parish council should consider removing it. 100 names already on petition against it

Mr Balcombe referred to the proposed low cost affordable housing and noted that the original questionnaire did not identify the site. Cllr Wenman replied that the parish council had not agreed a site at the time of the questionnaire.

Mr Balcombe requested site of the original title deeds for the Recreation Ground, which the Clerk would arrange.

Mrs Smith advised that the gateposts into recreation ground were broken by the contractors who had put down chippings under the climbing equipment. She stated that the grass cutting needs to be done more often. Cllr von Radowitz said that the Open Spaces committee would re-assess the timetable for grass cutting, as it might be necessary to ask the contractor to cut more often.

Cllr Wenman said that he would welcome a meeting to talk about how to improve facilities on the recreation ground. The Parish Council were prevented by owners of Albury House from using the footpath which we had installed, but agreement had now been reached with the owners to purchase the strip of land concerned so that the footpath could be reinstated. The Clerk would look into repairing the gate.

Cllr Robinson stated that the local community in Westonfields was not in support of using

recreation ground for affordable housing. Moving the settlement boundary will open the flood gates to everyone else who might be interested in developing. Cllr Wenman responded that the settlement boundary cannot be moved and the only justification for building outside the settlement boundary is for affordable housing or housing for key workers.

Referring to current plans for development, Cllr Wenman thought it would be helpful if he gave some background: The post office had been threatened with closure and, had it closed, the shop would not have been viable. This concerned both the Estate and the Parish Council, who opened up a dialogue, and other ideas for improvement to the village were considered at the same time. Cllr Wenman advised that details would be published to all households in the parish before the public meeting on the 28th February.

The Parish Council had decided to pursue these ideas with the Estate and GBC before they were made public, because they believed there was little point in making them public until it was established whether they were viable. This had taken longer than anticipated for a number of reasons. Cllr Wenman reassured those present that these were only ideas at present: planning permission had not been sought and there was no agreed time table. He pointed out that it was councillors' duty as elected members to pursue ideas, but they would be taken no further if a majority of the electorate were not in favour of them. Cllr Wenman asked that people wait until they had seen the ideas in their entirety. He advised that the plan at the public exhibition on the 28th was to circulate the proposed ideas beforehand, present the plans on the day, and then to assess the feedback from the public questionnaire. It would then be decided whether or not to pursue the scheme and/or whether changes needed to be made to it. Some closed confidential meetings of the Parish Council had taken place to discuss these matters. Minutes of confidential meetings would be made public as soon as the scheme is in the public forum.

2. *Farley Green*: Alex Duggan had contacted the council to advise that the refuse lorry had driven across Farley Green, causing a considerable amount of damage. Cllr Hogben advised that the Council had admitted liability and would reinstate the Green.

3. *August Lane*: Mr Duggan had been attempting to reduce the vehicle erosion of the green where it meets August Lane, by returfing the damaged areas and laying down logs to discourage driving on the green. He asked whether a speed limit could be imposed on August Lane. Cllr Davis advised that Surrey County Council would have to go through a legal process to do this, which would involve the police. They would almost certainly say that it would be impossible to enforce a speed limit as they could not police it. It was nonetheless agreed that Cllr Hogben would pursue this.

4. *Ride Lane*: Mr Duggan raised the problem of 4 x 4s accessing Ride Lane, and the damage this caused to the Lane and to the Green. Cllr Brockwell referred to a report to SCC Local Committee in November, which contained an analysis of BOATs in Surrey. It was now intended to meet with the person who had prepared this report to agree on what action should be taken in respect of Ride Lane. It was almost impossible to obtain complete closure of a BOAT, but a temporary closure might be possible because of the damage being caused to Farley Green. Cllr Davis considered that the policy on BOATs is not adequate, as it concentrates on the condition of the BOAT and the danger to the traffic using it, rather than the damage to the area around the BOAT. He requested to be involved in the proposed meeting.

5. *Pavements*: Cllr Wenman had received a letter from Mrs Mills of Weston Farm Cottages, complaining about the state of the pavements at the Chilworth end of Albury. He and Cllr Brockwell would investigate.

29/09

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Highways and Byways

a) *Report from meeting held Thursday 29th January*: Cllr Hogben tabled his report,

which was noted, as follows:

Traffic Calming : Yet another e-mail (the third) has been sent through to Derek Lake requesting a meeting but as yet no response had been forthcoming

Albury Bus-Stop : At the next Local Meeting in March this matter will be discussed and hopefully a decision will be made in favour of re-instating the Mill Bus-Stop.

Maintenance Schedule : The hedge along Sherbourne up to the A25 has now been cut and in starts our new programme for this year. We have had a number of comments and complaints as regards the poor condition of some of our footpaths, this will be addressed during the coming months.

Capital Works Schedule : An application for sponsorship funding from the Star Energy Community Fund to complete our Village Enhancement Scheme was sent through at the end of December. A decision is to be made during March.

Bus Shelter, Boundary Cottages : We have had a note from a Dr. Gummer pointing out that the bus stop is set very close to the roadside and the time-table is facing outwards, therefore passengers have to almost stand in the road to read it! This information has been forwarded to Roy Varley, Passenger Transport Group SCC.

Safety Mirrors : A new mirror to replace the damaged one at Water Lane has now been installed, thanks to Cllr Brockwell's help. It is proposed that a replacement also be purchased for the dangerous junction of Brook Lane with Brook Hill. (Cost £70.00 max.).

Oak Posts : Part of the Enhancement Programme was to replace the odd assortment of metal, plastic and poor quality wooden posts with a standard 'Albury' oak post. As the result of an aborted order, we have the opportunity to obtain 60 x 100mm square oak posts at cost price of £10.00 each, but we would need to take the lot. (Honeysuckle Bottom price for the same spec. would be £15.00 each but we would be able to buy what we need).

30/09 Community Development

- a) *Albury Festival*: Cllr Brockwell advised that it had been suggested that there should be a music festival on the day after the Produce Show. He will represent the Parish Council together with Cllr Nicholson and present further details at a later date.
- b) *Community (Society) event*: to run in conjunction with Albury Produce Association Plant sale on 25th April
- c) . **Agenda item**: March meeting.

31/09 Open Spaces, Recreation and the Environment

No report was tabled.

32/09 Village Hall

- a) *Minutes of the meeting held 12th January*: were circulated. Cllr Brockwell clarified that the purpose of this sub-committee was to look at ways of promoting the use of the village hall and address the loss that the hall currently makes. The committee was working with Surrey Community Action.

33/09 Planning

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

08/P/2212 Albury Peace, The Street, Albury

Single storey and two storey extension to existing dwelling house and entrance porches.

08/P/2270 Meridian, Shophouse Lane, Farley Green

Rise existing roofline to provide enlarged accommodation at first floor incorporating dormer windows, single storey rear extension and front entrance porch following demolition of existing double garages and partial demolition of rear addition.

09/P/00041 The Old Mill, The Street, Albury

Detached double carport to provide one covered car parking space for each of the Riverside houses A and B and the removal of two existing car parking spaces (development under construction) approved under 06/P/2447 approved 26/1/07 and 07/P/1210 approved 15/8/07.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED BY GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

08/P/1983 Kilnhanger, Farley Heath, Albury

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

Refused

34/09 Star Energy

- a) *Minutes of November meeting:* had been circulated
- b) *Letter from Roger Pearson:* outlining SE's plans for Albury, had been circulated. Work was expected to start on appraisal drilling in March. The committee had now taken the view that, while it would continue to fight Star Energy's longer term plans for gas storage, it would also work with them to minimise the impact of the appraisal drilling. A liaison meeting had been arranged for the 26th February, to be followed by a meeting with Albury councillors. Cllr Wenman considered it very important that someone from the village should also be involved, preferably a resident from Albury Heath.
- c) *Meeting in Ripley:* Cllr Brockwell had attended.

35/09 Albury Landfill Site

Cllr Nicholson had reported that there was no more news on restoration plans for this since the last update. There had been a meeting with the relevant bodies in December to discuss the initial plans that SITA had submitted for restoration when they applied for the original planning permission, to restore the site to Forestry. The committee had been informed by SCC that SITA is under no obligation to restore the land to Forestry and that they simply have to put in an alternative plan which if SCC finds acceptable, will go ahead. Cllr Nicholson was disappointed that it had taken SCC over 3 years to let us know that this is the case as we believed that SITA were obliged to complete a restoration plan which was compliant with the granting of the original planning permission.

A meeting had been arranged with SITA's new planning officer. The site had two years to run as far as infill was concerned, but there was a belief that the company was in breach of their planning conditions.

A member of the public advised that smell from the site had been very bad the previous week. She had contacted the Environment Agency, and commented that they were increasingly difficult to get through to.

Cllr Brockwell advised that the previous week the planning committee had considered an application from Gasrec. As a result, he had raised the issue that GBC is not using the LNG produced from the site.

36/09 Finance

- a) *Precept Request:* This has been submitted to GBC, at £31,350, an increase of 2.45% on 2008/09. This equates to a council tax of £51.72 for a Band D property.
- b) *Caretakers annual inflation linked wage increase:* The percentage rate used for the increase in Ellen's pay in 2007 was the Consumers Prices Index figure for December 2007. The equivalent figure for December 2008 is 3.1%, equating to £547.12 per month (ie 3.1% on £ 530.67. Members **approved** an increase of £16.45 per month, £197.40 per annum.
- c) *Quarterly audit:* Cllr Brockwell confirmed that the books were in order.

		Chq no	Amount	Exp power
d) The following were paid out of meeting:				
108)	Albury Estate: legal costs re lease	261	£522.10	
109)	SCC re village gateway	262	£5,000.00	LGA

110)	J Tremaine, childrens party	263	£110.00	1971
entertainer		d/d	£506.55	
111)	E Balshaw: wages : December	d/d	£131.00	
112)	GBC: rates, January	264	£575.00	
113)	BT Payphones re: Farley Green	265	£544.11	
kiosk		266	£733.20	
114)	Albury Estate: Service charge	267	£86.27	
115)	John Carter re marquee for APA	267	£433.18	
116)	EDF: library	268	£70.00	
117)	EDF: hall £433.18 (inc arrears)			
118)	P Goddard: flail hedge	269	£812.05	
e)	The following are presented for payment:	270	£345.55	
119)	J Cadman, salary: January	271	£32.00	
120)	Inland Revenue: Tax and NIC	272	£86.02	
121)	CPRE membership			
122)	E Balshaw: December and January underpayment £32.90. Underpayment for year (change in tax code) £53.12			

Quality Council Status

- a) *Training policy*: This paper had been circulated. Members **agreed** to defer discussion on this and current status until the March meeting

37/09

COUNCILLORS BUSINESS for noting or including on a future agenda,

- a) *Rubbish*: Cllr Croucher reported that rubbish had been dumped at the top of New Road, near the entrance to Old School.
- b) *Gasrec*: Cllr Brockwell requested this as an agenda item for the March meeting.
- c) *Lorries on Rural Roads*: Cllr Chapman reported that large lorries were using Guildford Lane as a short cut. The Clerk advised that LORD (Lorries off Rural Detours) had been advised of this problem.
- d) *Tramp*: Cllr Chapman advised that she was still having problems with the tramp mentioned at the previous meeting, who was also pestering members of the public. The Clerk would advise PC Sharpe.
- e) *Postman's Walk*: Cllr Robinson advised that the ditch is full of sand.
- f) *Church Lane*: Cllr Robinson advised that the drains in Church Lane are blocked.
- g) *Grit Bins*: Cllr Robinson advised that these are empty, and that he had requested that they be re-filled.

38/09

OUTSTANDING ITEMS

The list had been circulated with the agenda.

39/09

NEW CORRESPONDENCE

No new correspondence has been received.

Routine correspondence was distributed at the meeting

40/09

OPEN FORUM

- a) *Piano*: Cathy Goddard, Chairman, Albury Friendship Club, requested that the hall piano be tuned.

41/09

DATES OF MEETINGS:

Full Council:

Monday 2nd March
Monday 6th April
Monday 11th May *Annual Meeting*
Dates of future meetings will be determined at this meeting.

Annual Assembly:

Monday 20th April 2009

Planning:

First and Third Mondays of the month, at 7pm,
if there are plans to determine.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm