

ALBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Albury Parish Council held on Monday 2nd March 2009 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr N Wenman (in the chair), Cllrs J Croucher, P Gellatly, R Hogben, D Nicholson, G Robinson, P von Radowitz.
17 members of the public
PC N Sharpe
The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

49/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllrs J Brockwell and J Chapman

50/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All members declared an interest in **55/09: Community Enhancement Project**, as residents of Albury. Cllr Hogben declared a second interest in this agenda item, as a tenant of Albury Estate.

51/09 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MONDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2009 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

MINUTES OF THE CLOSED MEETING HELD MONDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2009 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

52/09 MATTERS ARISING

Rural Access to Services Programme: The Clerk explained that this is a grants programme set up by SEEDA and running for three years, with grants of between £5,000 and £20,000. The main aim is to help people living and working in rural areas to access services in new ways, particularly where they are not available at present.

Action: Cllr von Radowitz agreed to take this forward, Cllr Hogben would liaise with her regarding a possible application for the bus stop.

28/09c: August Lane: Possible Speed limit: Cllr Hogben advised that this would be taken forward by the Highways and Byways Committee.

28/09d: BOATs: A meeting would be set up with Mike Dawson, Countryside Manager, SCC, or one of his team, to explore the possibility of a Traffic Restriction Order on Ride Lane. Attendees: Cllr Brockwell, Cllr von Radwitz, the Clerk.

28/09e: Pavements: Cllr Wenman and Cllr Brockwell had walked the pavements reported by Mrs Mills, and had requested that the Clerk arranges for certain hedges and trees to be dealt with, together with part of the pavement.

37/09a: Rubbish: The Clerk had reported the dumped rubbish in New Road to the Borough Council. It had not yet been moved.

37/09e: Postmans Walk: the Clerk had reported the sand filled ditch to Rights of Way, but no action had yet been taken.

37/09f: Church Lane: The Clerk had reported the blocked drains to Highways, but no action had yet been taken.

53/09 CLERK'S MATTERS ARISING

- a) Letter of thanks:** The Mayor, Cllr Jennifer Jordan, had written to thank the Parish Council for its welcome and hospitality at the meeting on the 9th February. Her card was tabled at the meeting.
- b) Chimneys at The Old Pharmacy:** The Conservation Officer had written in reply to the Clerk's letter of the 4th December, and advised that a recent professional survey

had found the chimneys to be sound and in reasonable condition, but that the owner is aware that a closer inspection of the chimneys would be prudent and will undertake an assessment when possible. At this time the Conservation Dept at GBC will advise on the appropriateness of any works that might be required.

Action: The Clerk to advise Albury Trust, who had initially raised this concern.

c) **Gate Access to Farley Green:** Mrs Carlino had written, enclosing a letter from GBC which confirmed that the type of access across the ditch that she was considering was in order. She asked for parish council permission to use this access for horses, and for occasional farm vehicles to facilitate emptying the muckheap and general land maintenance. Cllr von Radowitz pointed out that this would inevitably lead to a track across the Green. Members were reminded that this permission was sought and refused previously.

Action: The Clerk to write to Mrs Carlino and advise that the Parish Council would not give permission, together with the reasons for the decision.

54/09 POLICE MATTERS

a) **PC Nick Sharpe:** was very pleased to have taken on the role as Community Officer for this area, and hoped that he would be in post for some while. He advised that a Panel meeting would take place on the 11th June, from 7.30 to 8.30pm, where the public were invited to come and give their views.

PC Sharpe said that he would find it helpful to know what those present were particularly concerned about in their parish, and was advised of the following:

a) *speeding:* He advised that Shalford parish were currently setting up a community speed watch, and he would put the Clerk in contact with the organisers with the possibility of joining forces and sharing the cost.

PC Sharpe had undertaken some speed enforcement between here and Chilworth and had prosecuted two drivers. He advised that 70% of the people caught during speed enforcement were local residents. He was aware that there was concern about this road, the one in Compton, the A25 and the road into Shalford, and he would be targeting those areas. Silent Pool was historically the worst accident spot, but it was hoped that the new layout would rectify this.

b) *cars parked on the corner of Church Lane:* Cllr Nicholson agreed to speak to Beacon Roofing, who were one of the main culprits.

Albury Report: There was currently a pattern of sheds and garages being broken into and tools being stolen. A number of cars had been broken into in rural car parks, and valuables, which had been hidden from view, being taken. It was possible that the perpetrator was observing the people leaving their cars.

PC Sharpe had written to all farms in the area as he would like more contact with farmers. It was agreed that he would make contact with Cllr Gellatly and Cllr von Radowitz, and would discuss how best he could help farmers.

Poaching was taking place, using the "lamping" method. PC Sharpe was confident of success in catching the perpetrators.

PC Sharpe advised that he was aware of the problems that Cllr Chapman was experiencing at the Post Office with the tramp, but asked that any incidents should be reported to him.

PC Sharpe was thanked for attending and welcomed to the parish.

55/09 COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Cllr Hogben reported as follows:

An Information Brochure was sent out to all the residents at the beginning of last week. Following the open forum on Saturday, it was clear that whilst there is support for a number of the ideas, there are also some significant concerns, including the potential loss of the existing Recreation Ground and the increase in traffic along Church Lane.

The next stage in the consultation process would be to further assess public opinion by means of a questionnaire. It was intended that this would be published and distributed at the end of the week and it was hoped that a good response from residents will allow completion by the 20th March. The results will be made public and considered by the Parish Council to assess whether or not the

project should continue and if so in what form.

Subject to the positive outcome of the questionnaire, Cllr Hogben proposed that a working party should be set up to further develop the project, taking account of public views throughout all sections of the community. The working party should include representatives from the public (including Westonfields) as well as members of the Parish Council. Its objective would be to recommend to the Parish Council a commercially viable plan which would be likely to have the majority support of parishioners in Albury Village, as well as the parish as a whole. Albury Estates and GBC would be further consulted during this part of the process.

Cllr Hogben also proposed that before any plans were submitted to GBC, a full public meeting and consultation be held to present the findings of the working party and that this should be followed by a referendum which must have the majority support of the parishioners of Albury village, as well as the parish as a whole.

Cllr Nicholson believed that it was too soon to undertake the questionnaire: there was a great deal of strong feeling about the project, which should be considered before the Parish Council proceeds any further. She would prefer the working party to be involved in drawing up the questionnaire, as she did not want it to be ambiguous. Members **agreed** that this should be the way forward.

56/09 OPEN FORUM

Community Enhancement Project

Questions and comments were taken from the members of the public, as follows:

1. Geoff Needham: It had been good to see so many people at the public forum on Saturday, and taking an interest. He believed that the Parish Council would regain trust if they were absolutely open from this time. He agreed that the proposed working party was the right way forward, and offered his services. Cllr Wenman acknowledged that some aspects of the proposed ideas were unpopular and did not want to divide the community, but believed that it would not be right to abandon the whole scheme.
2. Resident: with hindsight, the way this had been dealt with had destroyed trust in the Parish Council. The Parish Council should have put ideas in the public forum a long time ago, and opened the debate. Cllr Wenman recognised that the delay in publishing ideas had caused some distrust, but this had not been what the Parish Council would have wanted to happen. The Parish Council had chosen to deal with the scheme in the way they had because they felt it important to present ideas to the community which stood some chance of moving forward. This depended on Albury Estate and Guildford Borough Council and whether the ideas were feasible from their point of view, but there was not and never had been any intention of reaching any agreements with the Estate and the Council before full public consultation. Cllr Nicholson explained that the original questionnaire was not seeking any particular answers, but sought to start a debate on what the village might want, such as affordable housing, a village shop, and protecting the green space in front of the church.
3. Cllr Croucher stated that if he had known how the project was to be handled, he would have voiced his opinion much earlier on.
4. A resident pointed out that Mrs Carlino's request had been dismissed very quickly, for a relatively small change, but the Parish Council was planning to change the face of the village. Cllr von Radowitz pointed out that the request had been made before, and had been refused after a detailed debate.
5. Resident: GBC has a housing problem, is this part of the solution. Cllr Wenman advised that this had no connection.
6. Cathy Goddard advised the meeting that she came to most Parish Council meetings and knew that the Council had worked very hard over the years on problems such as the landfill site. She had observed that hardly anyone else came to meetings to find out what was going on. She lived almost opposite the entrance to the Star Energy site, and had dealt with that since the first application, when very few other people had got involved. She acknowledged that the Parish Council had made a mistake, but to keep going over that was simply wasting time, and the Parish needed to move forward.
7. Affordable Housing: the opinion was expressed that people who needed affordable

housing should have applied for one of those built on the old Toppers Court site. Mrs Goddard pointed out that hardly anyone in the village had been allocated one, as priority had been given to GBC's list.

8. Matt Lethbridge asked if the Estate would own the village shop. Cllr Wenman advised that this had not been discussed. At present it was simply acknowledged that the plans would need funding.

Matt Lethbridge presented the Parish Council with 133 letters of objection to the proposed plans. This package was accepted by the Clerk.

Landfill site

Smell: very bad at present. The Environment Agency had been contacted, who had said that they had only received 6 complaints in the last month. Cllr Nicholson requested that people e-mailed her as well as contacting the Environment Agency. People without computers were asked to leave a note in the village shop. She asked that people record the date and time of the incident that they were complaining about.

Seagulls: These had also increased; Cllr Nicholson was unsure whether the site still used hawks and would find out.

57/09 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Highways and Byways

Members received a report from Cllr Hogben;

The last Committee meeting was held 29 January. At present there was very little extra information over the last H& B Report for the PC Meeting in February.

The heavy snow and freezing conditions that brought everything to a standstill had also left its legacy of yet more problems with pot-holes. A recent e-mail from Stephen Child (Highways Group Manager, West Surrey) advised that an extra four gangs had been laid on to bring the total up to 15 to deal with the extra work load.

Traffic Calming : Yet another e-mail (the fourth) had been sent through to Derek Lake requesting a meeting.

Albury Bus-Stop : At the next Local Committee Meeting at Ash Manor School on 11th March.

The matter is on the Agenda and would be discussed, hopefully a decision will be made in favour of re-instanting the Mill Bus-Stop.

Maintenance Schedule & Capital Works Schedule : An application for sponsorship had been made to the Star Energy Community Fund. A decision would be made later this month and it was hoped that the Parish would be awarded sufficient to continue and perhaps complete this Enhancement programme.

Bus Shelter, Boundary Cottages: a response was still awaited from the Passenger Transport Group SCC.

Safety Mirrors : Cllr Hogben proposed that a mirror be purchased for the dangerous junction of Brook Lane with Brook Hill. (Cost £70.00 max.). As this amount is under the monthly committee allowance, this was **agreed**.

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, the Parish Council had the opportunity to obtain 60 x 100mm square oak posts at cost price of £10.00 each, if all 60 were purchased. (Honeysuckle Bottom price for the same spec. would be £15.00 each purchased as required.

Agenda item: April meeting.

58/09 Community Development

a) *Community (Society) event*: to run in conjunction with Albury Produce Association Plant sale on 25th April. Cllr Nicholson said that it was hoped that local societies and clubs would get involved again this year, and asked for anyone with ideas on this to contact her.

59/09 Open Spaces, Recreation and the Environment

- a) *Farley Green Pond*: work is due to commence in early Spring.
- b) *Work on Albury Heath by community gang*: this was due to commence in the next month.
- c) *Bins for Albury Heath*: delivery had been arranged for the next day.
- d) *Carbery Lodge*: the ditch in front was almost full of sand.

60/09 Village Hall
No report was received.

61/09 Planning

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

09/P/00179 The Old Rectory, The Street, Albury

Internal and external alterations and conversion of existing barn to residential annexe and erection of 3 bay garage and garden store and new entrance gates off The Street

09/P/00180 The Old Rectory

Listed building consent for the above

Cllr Gellatly advised that the Planning Committee had objected to this application, mainly because this proposal would create another dwelling. The three bay garage would be erected right on the corner and would spoil the view from the road.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED BY GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

08/P/02270 Meridian, Shophouse Lane, Farley Green

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

Approved with conditions

The Planning Committee had not objected to this application, but had listed a number of points in their response, which had not been taken into account by the officers at GBC.

62/09 Star Energy

- a) *Liaison meeting Thursday 26th February:* The minutes of this meeting will be circulated once approved.
- b) *Liaison Committee:* Cllr Wenman explained the background and make-up of this committee: Albury I had been in existence for many years now, but the gas had only fairly recently been used to create electricity. Albury II is another gas field, below Albury I. Star Energy proposes to develop Albury I and II into gas storage facilities after the gas has been extracted, and for a pipeline to be laid to access the gas main at Ripley. Save Blackheath Common and the Parish Council had fought Star Energy for some years now. Star Energy had agreed not to site the compressors at Albury Park but at Send, and not to erect wells on Blackheath Common, thus saving Sandy Lane. The plan was now to put additional wells on the existing site instead. The company had been successful in their application for appraisal drilling for Albury II, and the liaison committee had taken the view that whilst they would continue to fight Star Energy's plans for gas storage, as far as the appraisal drilling was concerned they would enter into a dialogue with Star Energy to ensure that this impacted on the community as little as possible.
- c) *Parish Council committee:* The Parish Council would now have a monthly meeting with Star Energy to discuss issues arising from this, traffic on New Road being one, with the possibility of up to 140 traffic movements a day. The Parish Council would also monitor noise levels, having gained some significant concessions from them which were reflected in the planning conditions. The committee would consist of Cllr Wenman, Cllr Gellatly (Chair of Planning), Cllr Brockwell, and Oliver Franks, who had volunteered as a representative of the public, together with Rob Kelly, both of whom lived near to the site.
 - Cllr Wenman confirmed that Star Energy had made a successful pre-application to the Secretary of State for storage, but did not intend to pursue this further until they had assessed Albury II.
 - Time scale: Site preparation in April, rig mobilisation in May, drilling May to October, test and flare November and December.
 - At the heart of this matter is the national need for gas storage against protection of the AONB.

Colin Fisher had experience of gas storage and offered his assistance, which was gratefully accepted.

63/09 Albury Landfill Site

Cllr Nicholson reported that a meeting had taken place with SITA and SCC. They were informed that, although the original plan had stipulated a return to forestry, if SITA now put forward a restoration plan that SCC found acceptable, the old plan would be superseded. A meeting had since been held with SITA's new Head of Planning for the South East, who had agreed to talk to the Forestry Commission and SCC's Heathland Officer. A new restoration plan will be developed by SITA with more forestry than the last plan, together with a time line of dates for the restoration. It was hoped to receive the latter within the next couple of weeks. Cllr Nicholson stated that if these promises were not kept the committee would go to the press, as this situation could not be tolerated any longer. However, she would prefer to work with SITA than against them, if possible.

64/09 Finance

a) Proposed grants to local organisations, as follows:

1. Citizens Advice Bureau	£150.00
2. Albury Churches	£500.00
3. Hurtwood Control	£500.00
4. Friendship Club	£150.00
5. Surrey Air Ambulance	£150.00
6. Surrey Mobile Physio	£150.00
Total:	£1850.00

It was **agreed** that the grant to Albury Church should be made with the specification that the condition of the churchyard is improved. Payment of the grants listed above was PROPOSED by Cllr Wenman, SECONDED by Cllr Nicholson, with all in favour.

		Chq no	Amount	Exp power
b) The following were paid out of meeting:				
123)	E Balshaw: January wages	D/d	£506.55	
124)	E Balshaw: February wages	D/d	£523.00	LGA '71
125)	AB Cleaning supplies	273	£69.59	
126)	Paul Stevens: handyman	274	£200.00	
127)	Performing Rights Society	275	£51.54	
128)	Spectrum Homes (materials for hall	276	£383.00	
repairs)		277	£79.12	
129)	Tubes for village hall	278	£1380.00	
130)	A Estate re village enhancement	279	£67.45	
work		280	£812.05	
131)	Mirror for Water Lane			
132)	J Cadman: salary, February			
c) The following are presented for payment:				
No further cheques were presented.				

65/09 Quality Council

- Current Status: The Clerk summarised this, and advised that there was little left to do before an application could be submitted. The main areas to complete were the Clerk's qualification and the Annual Report, which must include a summary of the accounts for the previous year.
- Training policy: Adoption of the policy drafted by the Clerk was PROPOSED Cllr Wenman, SECONDED by Cllr von Radowitz, with all in favour.

66/09 COUNCILLORS BUSINESS for noting or including on a future agenda,

- a) *Westonfields*: the railings marking the edge of the car parking area were having the effect that elderly people had to walk a distance to get round them and to their cars. They also affected ambulance patients, who had to be carried or wheeled that much further.
Action: Cllr Gellatly to investigate and report to the next meeting.
- b) *Park road bus stop*: Cllr Croucher reported that this was full of rubbish.
- c) *Post Box at Farley Green*: urgently in need of painting. The Clerk confirmed that she had again contacted BT the previous week.

67/09 OUTSTANDING ITEMS

The list had been circulated. Members were asked to contact the Clerk direct with any queries.

68/09 NEW CORRESPONDENCE

- a) *Greening Campaign*: Cllr Wenman explained that GBC had decided to sponsor a number of parishes to drive this initiative forward. Mrs Grayburn, on behalf of Albury Trust, had applied and had been accepted.
Action: Cllr Croucher and Cllr Wenman to pursue and report back at the next meeting.

Routine correspondence was distributed at the meeting

70/09 OPEN FORUM

- a) *Telegraph pole outside 10 Westonfields*: this had recently been replaced and a large hole had been left in the road beside it. The Clerk will investigate.
- b) *Affordable Housing*: Mr Balcombe asked if the Parish Council had approached Albury House, as he understood that the Surrey Structure plan would only allow affordable housing on the settlement boundary if there was no other site in the parish. Cllr Wenman advised that Albury House had not been contacted but that the Parish Council would have no objection to this if the working party decided this was appropriate.

71/09 DATES OF MEETINGS:

Full Council:	Monday 6 th April, 7.30pm
Annual Assembly:	Monday 20 th April, 7.00pm
Annual Meeting:	Monday 11 th May, 7.30pm: <i>Dates of future meetings will be Determined at this meeting.</i>

Planning:	The first and third Mondays of the month, at 7pm, if there are Plans to determine.
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There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.33pm.