

ALBURY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of Albury Parish Council held on Monday 7th December
2009 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Library

Present: Cllr N Wenman (in the chair), Cllrs J Brockwell, J Chapman, J Croucher,
P Gellatly, R Hogben, G Robinson, P von Radowitz
County Cllr K Taylor
Borough Cllr D Wright
Mr John Rowland
4 members of the public

The Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

226/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: all members were present.

227/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
No interests were declared.

The Clerk asked all members to complete a new Register of Interests form and to return it to her at the January meeting. She reminded members that this is a requirement under the Local Government Act 2000.

228/09 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2009
These were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

229/09 CO-OPTION TO FILL COUNCILLOR VACANCY
One candidate put his name forward, Mr John Rowland. The Chairman invited him to speak to the Council.
Mr Rowland advised the meeting that he had lived in Albury for 20 years; it was a lovely place to be and there was a lot of work to be done to preserve it. He had become involved with the Residents Association earlier in the year, and chaired the committee which was working on a Parish Plan. There was a great deal of work to be done within the community: areas of concern had been identified such as social housing, traffic control, and the environment, he knew that there were a number of issues still to be addressed.
Cllr Wenman commented that it would be a benefit to have a councillor from the village, to replace Cllr Nicholson who was also from the village, to give a good representation of councillors across the parish. He invited members to ask questions.
Cllr Robinson asked if Mr Rowland believed it would be a benefit to be involved with the Residents Association as well as the Parish Plan, or whether it might be a conflict. Mr Rowland did not think it would be a conflict and believed that the Parish Council would feel strongly about the same issues as the residents of the parish.
Cllr Hogben asked if Mr Rowland was still working. Mr Rowland advised that he was a project manager in construction and worked mainly for large corporations.
Mr John Rowland's co-option to the Parish Council was PROPOSED by Cllr Wenman, SECONDED by Cllr Hogben, with all in favour.

230/09 MATTERS ARISING
186/09: BT payphones: The Clerk had spoken to GBC Planning Department, who advised that they had not yet resolved the issues with BT regarding adoption and sponsorship, and recommended that the Council continue to pay the sponsorship on the kiosk at Farley Green until such time as a resolution had been reached. At present it seemed likely that payphones would have to be sponsored if they were to remain in existence. The Clerk confirmed that she had again raised the issue of the painting of the box at Farley Green with BT, and was advised that there was still no telephone in the kiosk at Brook, despite GBC having ruled that this phone must remain as a service to the public.
Action: Clerk to advise GBC and BT of the continuing lack of telephone at Brook.

221/09:2: Power of Well Being Training: Cllr Hogben said that he believed the Council should aim towards achieving this power, although he was not sure how it would be used.

The Clerk believed that the training had been useful and had clarified this power; she would circulate a summary to all members and it was noted that it would be important for the Parish Plan committee to understand what the power involves.

Action: Clerk to circulate summary of the training.

221/09:4: Wooden posts at the bend in Little London: The Clerk had referred this to Highways.

221/09:5: Albury Heath: Tim Wall had confirmed that he had asked all football leaders to ensure that litter is cleared at the end of the morning.

231/09 CLERK'S MATTERS ARISING

- a) *Sustainable Communities Act: Amendment Bill:* Support of Parish Councils had been sought to ensure that this Bill became Law within the current Parliament. The Clerk was asked to consult with SCAP&TC on whether the Parish Council should support this.
- b) *Annual Assembly:* Members agreed that this meeting should be held on Monday 19th April 2010.
- c) *Mayor's visit:* Members noted that this had been arranged for Monday 1st February 2010

232/09 POLICE MATTERS

- a) *Countrywatch Liaison Officer:* Members noted that PC John Hockley, the recently appointed liaison officer, will attend the January meeting to give a presentation on his work. As a background to his current role, John has 28yrs service with Surrey Police mostly working in neighbourhoods and has been based in Cranleigh the past 25yrs. He is currently chair of the Surrey Gypsy Traveller Communities Relations Forum and chair of the Rural crime steering group that expects to roll out Country Watch across the County early next year. In 2005 he won a bursary to study Roma culture in Hungary when he was awarded National Community Police Officer of the year in London, largely due to his work in setting up two neighbourhood watches on Gypsy/Traveller sites.
- b) *Countrywatch sign:* Following Cllr Hogben's remarks concerning the absence of the GBC logo from the sign, PCSO Hyde had spoken to PC John Hockley, who had advised that funding had been a main obstacle to the scheme. Mole Valley had obtained some funding from the Crime Disorder Reduction Group and Waverley had provided some funding for their scheme. Because negotiations were still taking place with GBC regarding funding for their scheme, WBC had kindly given their signs to enable the scheme to go ahead. When funding becomes available in GBC, signs will be manufactured with the GBC logo.
- c) PC Sharpe had still not visited Cllr Chapman as promised. The Clerk would remind him.
- d) Cllr von Radowitz advised that one of the tractors that had been stolen recently from the parish had been discovered after a tip-off in a ship's container at the port. The container was, apparently, full of stolen tractors.

233/09 OPEN FORUM

- a) *Landfill site:* Mr Gill understood that the site was now full and no more waste was being tipped. Cllr Brockwell advised that this was not the case, and that SITA had recently advised that the site had another 18 months of life.
- b) *Landfill site restoration:* Mr Balcombe understood that the original planning permission required the company to submit a restoration plan. Cllr Wenman advised that certain settlement percentages had been agreed at that time, but SITA had now

agreed revised settlement levels with the Environment Agency, which assumed that settlement would be greater than originally assumed. SCC had not yet approved this new settlement level, but it had been noted that the Environment Agency were SCC's main consultee in this instance.

- c) *Albury Estate*: Mr Lethbridge understood that the Estate intended to apply for planning permission for a development of some nature, and asked if the Parish Council had been involved in any discussions regarding this. Cllr Wenman advised that he had an informal discussion with Michael Baxter, who had advised him that the Estate was considering a proposal, and Cllr Wenman had advised Cllr Brockwell and John Rowland as Chairman of the Parish Plan committee. Cllr Wenman had advised Michael Baxter that the Parish Council would consider any proposals as and when they became available for the Parish Council to review. He advised that he knew nothing further, except that the plans were likely to be for some private housing in the area of Church Lane.

Cllr Croucher complained that he knew nothing of this, nor did other members of the council. He took the view that this was what had happened with the Grand Design Project, and then the whole council had been accused of being involved in the private discussions from the beginning, when some members knew nothing about them. Cllr Wenman objected to this statement from Cllr Croucher and advised that he had merely said to Michael Baxter that when the Parish Council was presented with plans they would look at them, but had expressed the personal view that this proposal would not get the support of the Parish Council or the local community. He continued by saying that Cllr Croucher was incorrect in his assertions concerning the Grand Designs project as the Parish Council had been advised of all discussions with Albury Estates at an early stage of the project and that decisions made at the time were unanimously agreed by all councillors present at the meetings when the project was discussed. (*circulated minutes from the extraordinary meetings 13th February 2008 and 18th August 2008 refer*)

234/09 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Highways and Byways

- a) Boundary Cottages bus shelter: this has now been commissioned and work is expected to start in the next month, once the road closure order had been agreed. It was hoped that work would be completed before Christmas. This project was a collaboration between the contractors, GBC, SCC and the Passenger Transport Group.
- b) Enhancement work to the Utility inspection covers had commenced.
- c) Cllr Hogben advised that he was awaiting quotations for the planned fencing.
- d) Mill Bus Stop: Cllr Hogben had happened upon a site visit the previous week between the people who had attended the original site visit, and they had confirmed that the bus stop should be on the original site and that the temporary location is unsuitable. The present owner of the Mill has now been involved and Cllr Hogben understands that the developers did not advise him of the situation. The owner is considering the legal issues at present.
- e) Traffic calming proposals: there had been no progress on this. Cllr von Radowitz pointed out that a lot of traffic calming measures had been put in place in Trodds Lane, without any lighting. Cllr Taylor recommended that the council seek unanimity from residents. He advised that Shere had experienced problems as they had not done so. Cllr Wright recommended vehicle activated signs, which could be put in place for a short time and then removed.
Action: Cllr Hogben to pursue the proposals with SCC before the next meeting and to arrange a public meeting to consult parishioners.

235/09 Community Development

- a) *Christmas Tree at Post Office*: Cllr Chapman is organising this, with Cllr Brockwell and Cllr Gellatly.
- b) *Christmas Carols*: Cllr Chapman had organised this, for which the Council was very

grateful. They would take place at the Drummond Arms on Monday 21st December, 6.30pm to 7.30pm, the Drummond Arms would provide mulled wine and mince pies. Rev'd Ken Hobbs would attend. The proceeds would be donated to the Friendship Club again this year.

236/09 Open Spaces, Recreation and the Environment

- a) *Farley Green Pond*: The Clerk advised that she had received a quotation from Land and Water, at a total cost of £6,800. They recommended digging the pond to a larger and more interesting shape, and also deeper, and not to put in a silt trap. Ed Hall had not sent a quotation. The Clerk would draw up a report for the January meeting, outlining the alternative recommendations and in the meantime would apply to Star Energy for a grant to make up the shortfall, if required from the £3,700 received from the COMMA fund.
Cllr von Radowitz wished it to be recorded and noted that all actions taken up to now regarding the pond were put before the council and a decision taken jointly by all members.
- b) *Greening Campaign*: Cllr Croucher advised that the campaign co-ordinators said that it was important to get local societies involved. The plan would be to hold a public meeting in February, and to launch the campaign in May or June. He and the Clerk would meet with the co-ordinator shortly and would prepare a report for the January meeting.

237/09 Planning

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

09/P/1693 Parkside, Park Road, Albury

Listed building consent for the removal of internal wall between kitchen and dining room

No objection.

09/P/01718 Parkside, Park Road, Albury

Listed building consent to block up existing door to bathroom and create new doorway to master bedroom.

No objection

09/T/00217 Stable Lodge, Guildford Lane

Crown lift Oak T1 to right of entrance gate, removing lowest 4 small branches, reduce growth of oak T2 on road boundary to previous pruning points (1.5m) and reduce heavy lower limb of T3 on end of building by 3m.

Poor location plan, but no objection

09/P/01769 Jaquin Cottage, Little London

Front Conservatory

The Planning Committee had concerns about this application, voiced to GBC, but did not object.

09/T/00199 Millennium Cottages, The Street, Albury

Five Alder Trees - one to be felled, two to be reduced by 25% in height only, two to be reduced by 25% in height and sides reduced to balance and removal of 3-4 6" stems growing from the base of the trees. (Albury Conservation Area)

No objection

09/P/1876 Albury Park, New Road, Albury

Conversion of double garage/workshop adjacent to house 19 into a kitchen and dining room and Listed Building Consent for conversion of double garage/workshop adjacent to house 19 into a kitchen and dining room with links through to existing sitting room. New ogee shaped window to end wall to courtyard, glazed topflight flush with existing roof and extension of first floor window to create external door opening onto flat roof

No objection

PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED BY GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

238/09 Finance

- a) *Budget forecast and Precept request 2010/2011*: proposed budget and precept request had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Brockwell presented the budget and made the following comments:
- The additional mowing of the recreation ground had been a considerable expense the previous year. He proposed that the recreation ground be

- mowed every other week rather than every week, during the growing season.
- Section 137 and other grants should be reduced from £2,000 to £1,000
- The village hall, the parish council's greatest expense, ran at a loss of £7765 the previous year. The hall had always run at a deficit but this had been covered by reserves and by underspend in other areas in previous years. Now reserves were down to £2,500.
- Rates on the hall had increased from £1300 to £2600 due to the loss of transitional rate relief. Discussions would take place with GBC on whether there were other avenues for reducing this cost.
- A recent survey of the parish had established that those who had responded, approximately 10% of the households in the village, had been in favour of keeping the hall and of covering the deficit through the rates. There were various ideas for increasing the hall's income, but these could not be taken into account for next year's forecast.
- The matched funding needed for the GBC grant aided projects could be taken from capital reserves, and from other sources, such as S106.

The Proposed precept request, allowing for expenditure of £43375 and an income from the hall of £8,500, would be for £34,875, an increase of 11.24%. This reflected an increase in village hall expenditure of 14.76% and no draw down of reserves.

	Chq no	Amount	Exp power
b) The following were paid out of meeting:			
81) JS Construction re: bus shelter (10%)	365	£620.00	LGA '72
82) Albury Produce: grant for music festival	366	£250.00	
83) Inland Revenue	367	£269.50	
84) EDF	368	£104.10	
85) EDF	368	£128.84	
86) Cranleigh Parish Council: training	369	£10.00	
87) D Daniel	370	£1050.00	
88) NJM: newsletter	371	£217.35	
89) J Cadman: salary, November	372	£840.62	
90) J Cadman: village centre expenses	372	£115.66	
91) JS Construction (45%)	373	£2,700.00	
92) Guildford Borough Council	d/d	£263.00	
93) E Balshaw: wages, November	d/d	£523.00	
c) The following are presented for payment			
94) British Gas	374	£218.87	
95) Society of Local Council Clerks	375	£135.00	
96) Albury Estate rent: library	376	£86.25	
97) Albury Estate rent: hall	376	£1523.75	
98) Lloyds bank: share allocation	377	£57.25	
99) J Brockwell: footpath map	378	£8.31	

239/09 Quality Council

The Clerk reported that she had discussed the Parish Council's submission with Paul Hartley, from SCAP&TC, and they had agreed to meet shortly to go through the portfolio.

240/09 Star Energy

a) minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 10th November had been circulated.

b) Cllr Brockwell reported that drilling had stopped. When drilling had been slowed to try and reduce the noise nuisance the hole had been lost and so the drill had been withdrawn and the hole plugged. A specialised noise baffle had now been erected and it was anticipated that drilling would now be completed by March 2010. It was expected that SCC would be sympathetic to this extension of the drilling time.

Cllr Wenman noted that the anticipated traffic nuisance had not been an issue, but that noise had become a serious one and a lot of residents had been inconvenienced. Save Blackheath Common had funds to pay for an independent noise consultant, and this option had been discussed with Star Energy.

Cllr Taylor, who does not sit on the County Planning Committee, said that he would go to the relevant meeting if the Council wished him to.

It was noted that Jonathan Lord had resigned as Chairman of the inter-parish Star Liaison Committee, due to other commitments.

241/09 Albury Landfill site

The Open Day had been well attended, with over 50 people coming to the exhibition and more than 35 of them attending the site visit.

If the Environmental Impact Assessment was approved, SITA aimed to cap 1/3rd of the site by the end of this year.

A meeting of the landfill liaison committee would be arranged for January.

242/09 Village Hall

- a) *Conflict of Bookings:* Members were pleased to note that the History Society had agreed to move their start time to 8.30pm, thus enabling the Pilates class to take place on the same night.
- b) *Response to questionnaire:* There had been around 40 respondents, almost all of whom had been in favour of keeping the village hall, which lost about £7,800 in the last financial year. Most of that 40 were also happy to pay around £10 a year on their rates to keep the hall.

The hall needs a management group which would drive forward initiatives to increase the use and income of the hall and, if possible, to reduce the outgoings. The target at present was to reduce the deficit of £7,800 to £5,000 in the next financial year. Cllr Wenman and Cllr Brockwell were to meet Surrey Community Action shortly to discuss the options available to move the hall towards trust status, which would mean a reduction in rates and possible access to grants.

15 people had said they were prepared to help. One of the problems in the past was that there had not been a driving force for the village hall and it might be that amongst those 15 people there were some who were prepared to work on this. Cllr Wenman asked members to suggest anyone they knew who they thought might be interested in driving plans forward to firstly get a management committee up and running and secondly to assess the viability of a trust. Cllr Wenman, Cllr Brockwell and Cllr Chapman would form the nucleus of the committee. Members **agreed** that this should be pursued as outlined.

It was noted that information delivered by the postman, such as parish questionnaires and the newsletter, did not reach Newlands Corner or Boundary Cottages. The Clerk proposed to post information to them in future.

243/09 Parish Plan

Members to receive an update at the January meeting.

- 244/09 COUNCILLORS BUSINESS for noting or including on a future agenda,**
- a) *Trees at Silent Pool:* had been cut down. It was suggested that this might have been done by Surrey Wildlife Trust. The Clerk would investigate.
 - b) *Path along Sherbourne to A25:* is in very bad condition. Cllr Taylor confirmed that this was on the list for the community gang.
 - c) *Pavement along wall by Weston House:* a diversion sign had been placed across the pavement.
 - d) *Potholes:* potholes were reported at the bottom of New Road and also along Guildford Lane. It was agreed that the pothole hotline number should be included in the next edition of the newsletter.
 - e) *Gate behind bus shelter at Farley Green:* this had not been removed. Cllr Brockwell would remind Philip Goddard.
 - f) *Childrens Christmas Party:* Cllr Chapman advised that this would be held on the 9th January 2010. She had appreciated being contacted by the caretaker, who was concerned that availability was rapidly being taken.

245/09 OUTSTANDING ITEMS

Members noted the list, which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

246/09 NEW CORRESPONDENCE

- a) *Surrey Community Action:* had written to thank the Parish Council for allowing them to hold the Village Hall Management Committee area meeting in the hall and for providing refreshments. The meeting was one of the largest held in recent years and the talk by Chris Woodhatch was very well received.
- b) *English Rural Housing Trust:* shared ownership re-sale at Westonfields. EHRA had been advised that the owners of 35a wish to move and they are now looking for a new purchaser, who will hold a 40% equity in the property for a purchase price of £62,500. They have asked for the Parish Council's assistance in ensuring that applicants have a local connection to the parish.
- c) *Mobile Physio:* had written to request a grant towards their work. This would be considered in February, with all other grant requests. Members noted that the charity is also without a village representative for Albury.

Routine correspondence was distributed at the meeting

247/09 OPEN FORUM

- a) *English Rural Housing Trust:* Mr Balcombe stated that ERHA had offered the property in question to someone with an income in excess of £50,000. He considered that a person with that income should not be considered for subsidised housing.
Action: Clerk to ask ERHA for a list of their rules, and a list of applicants.

248/09 DATES OF MEETINGS:

Full Council:

Monday 4th January 7.30pm **Presentation from PC John Hockley, FarmWatch liaison officer**
Monday 1st February 7.00pm **Mayor's visit**
Monday 1st March
Monday 5th April
Annual Assembly: *date to be agreed*
Monday 10th May: **Annual Meeting**

Planning:

First and third Mondays of the month, at 7pm, if there are plans to be decided

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.55pm