



ALBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Serving Farley Green, Brook, Little London & Newlands Corner

PARISH OF ALBURY
NOTICE OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of a meeting of Albury Parish Council held on
Monday 9th January 2012 at 7.30pm

In the **Memorial Library** for the transaction of the under mentioned business.



Present: Cllr N Wenman (in the chair), Cllrs J Brockwell, J Chapman, P Gellatly, R Hogben,

A Kersake, K Kinnes, G Robinson, P von Radowitz
County Cllr K Taylor
Borough Cllr D Wright
PC N Sharpe
2 members of the public

In attendance: the Clerk, Mrs J Cadman

01/12 **Apologies for absence:** all members were present

01/12 **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Wenman declared a personal interest in agenda item 11/12 re: Albury House.

03/12 **Minutes of the Meeting held 5th December 2011:** were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman after the following amendment:
211/11 FWAG: Cllr Brockwell had advised that this organization had gone into administration with effect from 18th November 2011.

04/12 **Matters Arising**

199/11:183/11: Housing needs Survey: SCA have confirmed that the survey will be circulated under their name, but with a covering letter from Mr Moorwood, and have agreed to the change in questions where requested.

199/11:192/11c: Estate Trees on Church Lane: It was understood that some trees had been cut down but not taken away. Cllr Robinson would investigate

199/11:192/11d: Church Lane: Cllr Brockwell reported that James, Browne, SCC Rights of Way officer, had agreed to Albury Estate doing the necessary work to the ditch at the Warren. The cost of this would be met by the Parish Council, SCC would pay for the sleepers, which would deflect the water flow into the ditch and away from Church Lane.

199/11: dates of Parish Council meetings: it has been confirmed that these are included in the Parish Magazine. Cllr Brockwell requested that committee dates be included as well.

210/11a: Brook Hill: the Clerk has requested a grip at the bottom of the hill.

210/11b: Farley Green ditch: The Clerk has requested a written agreement from James Browne regarding the clearing of the top end of the ditch.

210/11d: Banners and advertising: the Council has received a further letter of complaint regarding these. Cllr Brockwell has removed the advertising that is not local.

210/11e: Parking in village hall car park: members are referred to: 08/12: Facilities committee.

Mobile Police station: Cllr Brockwell had noted that this was located in Shere on Fridays but was not manned by local people, so it was not possible to discuss local issues. PC Sharpe advised that resources made it difficult to always man the mobile stations with local people, but that PCSO Paul Hyde was in attendance as often as possible. In response to a request to locate the station in Albury car park on

occasion, PC Sharpe advised that it was located in Shere for geographical reasons, as it served a large area.

05/12 **Clerks Matters arising:** no additional matters were raised.

06/12 **Police matters**

- a) *Recent incident:* the police had been involved in the incident last week, part of which involved an audi parked in the entrance to Albury Estate yard and causing an obstruction to vehicles entering and leaving the yard. The police had fixed a notice to the car and had visited the registered keeper, who did not answer his door. He was advised by note that the car would be towed away if it was not moved, and it was moved two days later. The police had delivered a further letter advising that, if the car was parked in that location again, it would be towed away without notice.

Reports on the person involved were being shared with the appropriate social service departments and PC Sharpe asked that people continue to report problems.

One of the people who had been involved in the incidents of the past week had said that it seemed difficult to get incidents linked. PC Sharpe advised that the response officer who attended an incident might come from another area and so would not have any local knowledge, but that all reports are linked by the police computer and all reports are given a reference number. PC Sharpe requested that, when an incident is reported, it is requested that it is copied to him so that he can ensure that they are linked up.

- b) *Police presence at Brook Farm:* PC Sharpe understood that this was in connection with hunt saboteurs.
- c) *York Stone theft:* PC Sharpe warned that this is a common crime at present, and asked those present to warn others. He advised that it can be marked and undertook to e-mail details of the service – Selecta DNA – to the Clerk for circulation.
- d) *Distraction Burglaries:* PC Sharpe warned that this is traditionally the worst time of the year for this crime. A short article would go into *Albury Matters* to warn elderly people in particular. It is important to check ID and, if in doubt, not to let people in.
- e) *Valuables in cars:* the police had introduced an initiative where, if they saw a valuable left on show in a car, they fixed a notice that looked like a parking ticket to the windscreen, to warn the owner of the danger of not hiding valuable items.
- f) *Countywatch:* Cllr Gellatly had recently reported a suspicious person and had found this service to be very good.

07/12 **Open Forum:** *members of the public are welcome to attend and to ask questions or make representations*

No matters were raised at this time.

08/12 **Committee reports:** *Facilities*

- a) Cllr Brockwell updated members on the items raised in the meeting held on the 12th December, the minutes of which had been circulated. The following was noted:

- i. *Code for lock on gate on Row Lane:* this had been requested. Cllr Gellatly plans to attend the countryside access forum and will raise this then.
- ii. *Recreation ground fencing:* one side has been completed.
- iii. *Tree work:* Albury House has received permission for all the tree work requested, and this now needed to be monitored. Cllr Wenman would meet with the architect shortly.
- iv. *Sherborne Hedge:* this had been cut by the Parish Council contractor, not by the Borough Council. Cllr Brockwell will advise Mr Wheeler that this is the case. Cllr Hogben suggested that the Parish Council submit a bill to the Borough Council for undertaking this work on their behalf, and

- this was **agreed**.
- v. *Snow Plough*: Cllr Brockwell reported that SCC's sub contractor seems to know nothing about the linkage needed for the snow plough. Cllr Taylor will investigate.
 - vi. The two grit bins have been filled. Cllr Kerslake reported that the grit bin at Westonfields had been removed. Cllr Taylor confirmed that this one is on the official list and will investigate.
 - vii. *Kissing gates*: Cllr Brockwell had arranged to meet with the new owners of Mardons.
- b) *Parking in Village Hall Car Park*: Members were referred to the minutes of the Facilities meeting and Cllr Brockwell advised that the outline proposal was that the Estate would issue a license for one car per residence to use the car park, in the far bay, but that this license would not guarantee a space. This would free up the remainder of the car park for users of the village hall. Cllr Wenman pointed out that it is not the responsibility of the Parish Council to resolve the Estate's car parking issues, but that the Parish Council could support the Estate's solution. Cllr Hogben believed that a note should be sent to all residents of the Street, advising them of the problem and the need for a solution. It was **agreed** that Cllr Wenman and Cllr Brockwell should meet with Michael Baxter to seek a solution that would meet the hall user's needs and an agreement on how it should be implemented. Members **agreed** that a licensing arrangement should be progressed by the Estate if this was agreed to be the right way forward.

09/12 **Committee reports:** *Community Development*

- a) Cllr Hogben reported as follows:
- i. *Albury Mill bus stop*: quotes are still awaited to reinstate the refuge. Once these are to hand the next step will be to seek grants and sponsorship. As permission from the EA is now reaching its three year limit, it is important to finalise this as soon as possible.
 - ii. *Village allotment scheme*: because of concern over the lack of vehicular access, this idea has not progressed. Consent from the Estate is in hand, together with a firm offer from Sita to do the civil work of installing water and terracing without any cost to the Parish. Cllr Hogben wishes to accept the peppercorn rental from the Estate, organise Sita and, once the allotments are up to standard, offer them to Albury residents.
 - iii. *Waterside garden and picnic area*: no further action has been taken on this idea, but Cllr Hogben envisages that this would be a valuable and innovative enhancement for the village and further investigation is still warranted. He stated that it is most important to keep improving the facilities within the village to help give residents a sense of well being and belonging.
 - iv. *Diamond Jubilee*: a publicity and fund raising Race Night will be held on Saturday 17th March.
 - v. *Albury Matters*: the next edition is planned for the end of January and Cllr Hogben requested copy by the 21st January.
- b) *Meeting*: the meeting scheduled for the 9th January was postponed to the 16th January, at 7pm.
- c) *Parish Council website*: Carole Robinson has viewed demonstrations of Content Management Systems, including e-mango, Drupal and Maratori. Mrs Robinson had received details from DNX on how to access the website host server, and it is hoped that Tom and Jade Book will be able to use this to update the current website in the short term.
- d) *Village Green*: The Duke has replied in support of the proposal that the field below the Church be designated as a permanent open space and suggested that the Council works with Michael Baxter in this respect. Cllr Hogben believes that, to achieve a satisfactory outcome, the Council will have to offer the Estate something substantial in return.

10/12 **Committee reports:** *Village Hall:*

- a) *Shere Parish Magazine*: an advertisement has been placed for 12 months, commencing January 2012.
- b) A meeting of the village hall committee has been arranged for Tuesday 17th January.

11/12 **Committee reports: Planning and Environment**

Planning: *Planning applications received and planning applications determined by Guildford Borough Council*

Applications received: Members to note that minutes from planning meetings and responses to GBC are filed in the planning file, tabled at the meeting.

11/P/02191 land adjacent to Albury House

Construction of two 3 bedroom semi-detached dwellings and associated amenity, landscaping, storage, parking and access arrangements.

Cllr Gellatly reported that the planning committee had objected to this application, on the grounds of the style of the new dwellings being out of keeping with the original listed building in the same curtilage, and to the lack of parking, which would encourage overflow parking in the village hall car park.

Cllr Brockwell voiced his wish to meet with planners to explore why so many local applications with potential to create employment had been withdrawn. He believed that the planners did not appreciate that, whilst this is an AONB, there is a need to keep the village alive and vibrant. Cllr Wenman agreed that it would be helpful to have a better relationship with Borough Council planners, which becomes more relevant with the Localism Act. Cllr Taylor undertook to speak to Tim Dawes and Richard Billington, and advised that Cllr Billington would progress this.

Applications determined by Guildford Borough Council

12/12 **Finance**

- a) *Precept for 2012/13:* Following the decision agreed at the December meeting to set the budget at an estimated expenditure of £47,885 for the year to come, a precept request of £38,515 has been submitted to the Borough Council. This represents an increase of 6.01% on the previous year's precept of £36,330.
- b) Receipts and payments statement to 30/12/11 was tabled at the meeting. Cllr Brockwell drew members' attention to the fact that the Council is currently underspent on the budget. It is hoped that village hall income will improve as this is currently below target.
- c) *Cheque list:* the list of invoices approved and cheques drawn from 1/12/11 was circulated prior to the meeting and was noted and approved.

13/12 **Star Energy**

1. *Star Energy:* The Clerk had received a letter from Steve Croft, Project Manager, apologizing that the gas flow testing, which the Council had been advised about at the recent meeting, did not go to plan. The lorries that were needed for the test arrived together in convoy rather than separately as had been intended. It was also necessary to flare gas at night time, which had not been anticipated. Mr Croft assured the Parish Council that Star would re-double its efforts to minimise the impact of the work that will be necessary if the LNG project received planning permission.

The well test preliminary results indicate that the gas is suitable for LNG production.

Mr Croft also apologized that it had not been possible to undertake personal visits to neighbouring properties and asked for contact details so that individual contact can be made over the months to come, which Cllr Brockwell had undertaken to do.

Mr Croft advised that it was hoped that the planning application would be submitted in February, at which time he planned to contact Cllr Brockwell to undertake personal visits to the neighbours. It is hoped that the work will be undertaken in August/September and the plant will be operational in December. There are currently no plans to carry out any further site activities

until August.

14/12 **Albury Landfill site**

1. *Site visit:* the landfill liaison committee had been given a tour of the site by Steve Horton and had viewed the current position regarding landfill and restoration. It was noted that landfill would definitely end by the 31st March this year.
2. *Rubbish:* Cllr Hogben complained about the layers of rubbish that can be seen from the road. The Clerk would ask Steve Horton if there was any reason why this could not be covered. It was also noted that the machinery which should have been taken away was still in situ.
3. *Minutes of the meeting held 15th December:* these had been circulated prior to the meeting.
4. *Gasrec:* Cllr Wenman had met with Satish Keir to discuss lighting and noise issues. New equipment had been installed which was designed to reduce the noise volume, members agreed to monitor this.

15/12 **Councillors business:** *for noting or including on a future agenda*

1. *Ride Lane:* Cllr von Radowitz reported that the signpost to Ride Lane had been knocked over by lorry.
2. *Tree on Farley Green:* this needs to be crown lifted in order for the bench underneath to be useable. Cllr von Radowitz would ask Mr Daniel to undertake this work.
3. *Potholes:* Cllr Kerslake asked if the advertised telephone number is the only way to report potholes and was directed to the on-line reporting mechanism on the SCC website, where it is also possible to pinpoint the pothole on the SCC county map.
4. *Children's party:* Cllr Chapman reported that this had taken place the previous day, with 25 children and their parents. It had been a great success. Cllr Chapman asked the Council to pay for the entertainer, £120, and it was agreed that this would be paid after this meeting if, as was thought to be the case, she had asked for approval of this expenditure earlier in the year.
5. *CPRE:* Cllr Hogben reported that this organization had asked for a number of copies of *Albury Matters* for their meeting this coming Saturday, which he had arranged.
6. *Bus Station:* Cllr Brockwell had been asked by Mrs Goddard to ask the Parish Council to object to the proposed move of the bus station in Guildford. It was **agreed** that the Council should object to the proposed location in Bedford Road on the grounds of the inevitable traffic problems and because elderly people would have to walk further to access the shops.
7. *Mrs Goddard:* has been very unwell and it was **agreed** to send her flowers as a stalwart supporter of the Parish Council.
8. *Parish Plan:* the Parish Plan committee had asked Cllr Wenman to send out a letter, probably via *Albury Matters*, updating residents on the progress of the Parish Plan. This would be in conjunction with the Parish Plan's letter regarding the Housing Needs Survey, which would go out shortly. Cllr Wenman said that, as his letter would go out in the name of the Parish Council, he would circulate it for comments before publication.
9. *Accident in The Street along Mill Race:* Cllr Wenman reported that a car had over-turned in the water, having broken through the wooden posts at the edge of the road. When these posts were installed, advice had been sought from SCC, but he considered that, since there had now been a serious accident, further advice should be taken. Cllr Brockwell undertook to speak to PC Matt Redfern, Accident Reduction Officer.

16/12 **New Correspondence**

- a) *Broadband connection:* members received correspondence from Walter Wilcox on broadband in this area. The SCC superfast broadband project required evidence of interest in an area, and residents of Albury should be encouraged to register an interest. This would be advertised in *Albury Matters*.

17/12 **Open Forum**

1. *Village Green*: Mr Lethbridge asked for more information. Cllr Wenman explained that an informal meeting had been held with Michael Baxter, and that the Estate are willing to open a dialogue with the Parish Council, but have made it clear that they will not give the piece of land in question to the Parish Council. The Estate, who are a commercial organization, have valued the field at over and above the normal agricultural rate as they are looking at the long term and recognize that it may well have value as building land, although they have no plans in that direction. However, that makes it even more important that that the Parish Council secure the field and protect it for the future.
2. *St Martha*: Cllr Wright advised that St Martha has a new Parish Clerk.

18/12 **Dates of meetings**

Full Council: 6th February at 7.30pm. **Mayors visit** 5th March, at 7pm

Facilities: 12th March

Community Development: 16th January

Village Hall: 17th January 2012

Planning and Environment: 30th January, 20th February, 12th March

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.50pm.