

PARISH COUNCIL OF ABBOTTS ANN**MINUTES**

OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 5th DECEMBER 2013
IN THE JUBILEE ROOM

Present: Cllr. B. Griffiths, Chairman Cllr. G. Whyte, Vice-Chairman
Cllr. S. Oram Cllr. D. Paffett
Cllr. B. Sims Cllr. P. Wilkins

In Attendance:

Mr. A. Stokes, Clerk; Cllr. A. Gibson, HCC; Cllr. M. Flood, TVBC;
Mrs. R. Groves, Press; 5 members of the public.

The meeting opened at 6.37 p.m.

13/111. Apologies. Apologies were recorded from Cllr. G. Stallard TVBC; Cllr. R. Bone; Mr. T. Tayler, Archivist; Mr. P. Kelly, Footpaths Officer; Mr. R. Lucas, AAA.

13/112. Manor Close Field. The Chairman reported that the 99-year Lease whereby the Manor Close Field was to be let to the Parish Council by Hampshire County Council was to hand; the Clerk summarised the clauses relating to the use of the property. It was explained that the signature of the County Council was conditional upon the receipt of a letter confirming the withdrawal of the application for registration of the property as a Village Green. Under suspension of Standing Orders (*Pro SO Sec PW*) the Manor Close residents present undertook to provide this confirmation.

The Chairman also explained that the County Council had asked for a letter of confirmation that the Parish Council would use its best endeavours to provide affordable housing in due course.

It was resolved to authorise the Chairman and Clerk to sign and seal the Lease forthwith. They proceeded to do so immediately. The Chairman undertook to deliver the document to the Castle, Winchester, together with the two letters of confirmation detailed above.

Pro SO Sec PW

13/113. Minutes. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th November 2013 were confirmed and signed.

Pro SO Sec PW

13/114. Matters arising.

a. Roadside stakes. The Clerk was continuing to press for clarification, particularly of the question of liability in case such stakes were involved in injury or damage. TVBC were continuing their investigations. *Attention Clerk*

b. Burial Ground. The Clerk had received assurance that the empty area of the Burial Ground close to the Old Manor wall had not been consecrated. The Chairman was to investigate the possibility of arranging for the consecration of the area; if this remained unconsecrated there would soon be a need to take over part of the ground currently kept as a Wildflower Garden.

At present there was no Parish organisation involved in the management of the Wild Garden. The Clerk was asked to see whether an organisation or individual could be found to take over the management.

Action

Clerk

c. Brown Traffic Sign. The Clerk had informed the Village Shop Association about the offer of part funding for the project and was awaiting developments.

d. 20 mph speed limits. The Clerk had assured Chilbolton Parish Council of this Council's support of the proposals for 20 mph speed limits in villages and was awaiting developments

e. Overflow. It was reported that the manhole close to the Village School was still overflowing spasmodically. The Clerk was instructed to contact Southern Water requesting a permanent solution, and asking for a map of the sewage system throughout the village.

Action Clerk

13/115. Planning.

a. **It was resolved** to register No Objection to the following application:
TV No 13/02635/FULLN: Liebenthal, Salisbury Road. Front extension.

Pro SO Sec BS

b. Note was taken of delegated responses and decisions of the Planning Service.

13/116. Organisations.

a. HCC Councillor. Cllr A. Gibson reported that he had heard of a possible site for affordable housing within, or close to, the Parish boundary. Details were not available.

He was well aware of the problems arising from the current closure of Church Road. It was not easy to apportion blame for incompetence.

He had joined the Board of HALC; it was hoped that there would be an improvement in communications and co-operation between HALC and HCC.

He was aware of the need for some more grit-bins. These were not currently in stock and would have to be ordered. He asked the Clerk to provide details. *Action Clerk*

b. TVBC Councillor. Cllr M. Flood reported that the final draft of the Local Plan was shortly to be discussed by Cabinet, and was due to go before the full Council early in the New Year. A 6-week consultation period would follow.

Cllr Flood commented on the parking voucher scheme, the move of the Registry Office to Beech Hurst and the introduction of the Community Asset Fund, which was to offer matching grants of up to £25,000 for local projects.

c. Archivist. In an emailed report, Mr. T. Tayler outlined plans for an exhibition and activities to commemorate the outbreak of WWI, to be mounted at the War Memorial Hall, the Village School, the Fete, and possibly at the Museum of Army flying. He was being assisted by nine people investigating various aspects.

He had, with Mr. D. Downey, attended two valuable workshops at the County Records Office, and had applied to HCC for a grant of £575.

d. Burghclere Down. The problem of the faulty street-light at Berry Way was still unsolved. Since the light was on private ground and was strictly the responsibility of a private individual, Councillors questioned the legality of any action by this Council. The Clerk would endeavour to check this question.

Action Clerk

e. Footpaths. The question of ownership of the trees at Webbs Lane was still unresolved. The Footpaths Officer and the Clerk were continuing their enquiries.

It had been reported that there was some evidence that the suspicious activities previously observed in the Church Road car park had been transferred to the Old Coach Road.

f. Nursery School. The Council had no objection to the display of a banner attached to the railings, provided it was only displayed when the Hall was actually in use by the Nursery School.

g. Village Shop. The Committee was appealing to HCC for funds towards a refurbishment programme, and the Clerk was instructed to write a letter confirming this Council's support.

Action Clerk

13/117. Finance.

a. **It was resolved** to approve the following payments: *Pro GW Sec PW*

Cheque No	790	Playdale Ltd.	£516.20
"	791	Administration	£767.14
"	792	SLCC: Sub	£129.00
"	793	Enham	£ 99.01
"	794	P.O.Ltd. PAYE & NI	£329.00

b. HM Revenue was claiming £329.00 (Cheque 794) because of alleged underpayment under the new "Real Time" reporting system. Despite lengthy telephone calls, the Clerk had not been able to obtain a postponement of the payment.

b. It was noted that the payments made in the current year by TVBC to compensate Parishes for the changes to the Council Tax Support Grant system would not be offered for the year 2014-15. The Clerk would seek advice on any necessary action.

Action Clerk

c. Legislation was being introduced to enable Parish Councils to pay bills electronically. It was considered advisable to continue with the current system of paying by cheque for the time being.

13/118. Other Business.

a. Recreation Ground. The Clerk had asked for an inspection by RoSPA early in the New Year. There were still some installations to be completed, including the re-conversion of the apple press to a swing.

The Chairman was to arrange the installation of a sign at the northern entrance.

Action Chairman

b. WWI Commemoration. The Chairman was to call a meeting of interested parties early in the New Year. It was noted that if the Village School were to be involved in any ceremony this should take place in term-time.

Action Chairman

c. "Five Parishes". The Chairman of Monxton Parish Council was convening a meeting for Chairmen of neighbouring parishes at Quarley on 11th December to discuss matters of common interest. No Councillors were able to attend. The Clerk was to express support for the idea.

Action Clerk

d. Cllr Sims reported that the new grain drier at Eastover Farm had been in operation, but no dust or excessive noise had been observed.

13/119. Next Meeting. The next meeting would be at 6.30 p.m. on 2nd January 2014 in the War Memorial Hall. There would be no reports from Parish Organisations.

The Meeting closed at 8.56 p.m.

Signed Date