

PARISH COUNCIL OF ABBOTTS ANN
MINUTES
OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 1st MAY 2014 AT 6.30 p.m.
in the Jubilee Room

Present: Cllr. B. Griffiths, Chairman (*from 6.38 p.m.*) Cllr. G. Whyte, Vice Chairman
Cllr. R. Bone; Cllr. D. Paffett; Cllr. B. Sims; Cllr. P. Wilkins

In Attendance: Cllr. A. Gibson, HCC; Miss R. Groves, Press and Minutes; Mr. P. Wood.
Footpaths.

The meeting opened at 6.32 p.m. The Vice-Chairman took the Chair for the first Item.

14/43 Elections.

- a. Chairman.** Cllr. B. Griffiths was unanimously elected as Chairman. *Pro PW Sec DP*
b. Vice-Chairman. Cllr. G. Whyte was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman.

Pro PW Sec RB

14/44. Apologies. Mr. A. Stokes, Clerk; Cllr. S. Oram; Cllr. G. Stallard, TVBC; Cllr. M. Flood, TVBC; Mr. R. Lucas, AAA/AAV.

14/45. Vote of Confidence. The Vice-Chairman proposed that, in view of recent critical correspondence from a member of the public, the Council should record its confidence in the Clerk. **A Vote of Confidence** in the Clerk was passed unanimously *Pro GW Sec PW*

14/46. Lease of Manor Close Playing Field.

The final version of the lease of the Manor Close Playing Field had been received from the lessors, Hampshire County Council. **It was resolved** to authorise the Chairman and Clerk to sign and seal the document on behalf of the Parish Council. *Pro PW Sec RB*

The Chairman wished to record the appreciation of the whole community for the help of Cllr. Gibson in completing the final stages of this complex negotiation and for the co-operation of the members and staff of HCC.

14/47. Appointment of Council Officers.

On the resignation of Mr. Paul Kelly as Footpaths Officer **it was resolved** to appoint Mr. Philip Wood to the post and to renew the appointment of the remaining Representatives and Officers without change. *Pro GW Sec DP*

14/48. Regulations.

The following current Regulations having been duly reviewed by the whole Council **it was resolved** that they be confirmed as adopted and continuing in force:

- (a) Standing Orders
- (b) Code of Conduct
- (c) Financial Regulations

Pro BS Sec PW

14/49. Audit.

- (a) The whole Council having reviewed the following:
 - i. The final accounts for 2013-2014
 - ii Effectiveness of this Council's financial procedures
 - iii Insurance cover, including Risk Assessments and Asset Register
 - iv. Standing Orders on the Bank Account
 - v. Contracts
 - vi. Fees and Charges

It was resolved (i) to adopt the final accounts for 2013-2014
(ii) to confirm that insurance cover be renewed as currently arranged.
(iii) to confirm that no changes be made to items covered under iv, v and vi above.
(iv) to authorise the Chairman and Clerk to make the appropriate entries on, and to sign, the Audit Commission's form, Sections 1 and 2. *Pro BS Sec GW*

(b) Note was taken of the letter dated 16th April 2014 from Mr. John Murray, Internal Auditor. The required reviews had been carried out as minuted above; the Clerk undertook to carry out the procedures requested. *Action Clerk*

14/50. Minutes. The Minutes of the meeting of April 3rd were approved and signed.

Pro PW Sec GW

14/51. Matters Arising.

a. Maintenance. Trevor Hook was not continuing with any mowing. But the Chairman was aware of a number of other individuals who might be interested in the work, though some were unwilling to cut the verges of Church Path because of dog-fouling.

b. Road name error. The map provided by Miss Vanessa Cheung of TVBC for Sparkle Day had shown Old Coach Road as Old Church Road. The Chairman had discussed this with Miss Cheung; she had spoken to the Ordnance Survey, whose maps she had used; they confirmed that they would rectify the name at the next review. No date for this was available. This was an important issue, in view of recent attempts by the Church Commissioners to claim ownership and the right to close the road as a Right of Way. It was suggested that the Council should express concern to the authorities involved.

14/52. Planning.

a. TV No 14/00789/FULLN: Marbury, Cattle Lane. New garage and extensions. Under suspension of Standing Orders and discussion with Mr. Dennis Carter, concern was expressed that the proposed garage would be built in front of the housing line. However **It was resolved** to register No Objection to this application. *Pro PW Sec RB*

b. TV No 14/00941/FULLN & 14/00942/LBWN: 79 Little Ann Rd. Extension etc **It was resolved** to register No Objection to this application. *Pro PW Sec BS*

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

14/53. Clerk's Report.

a. Information. In the absence of the Clerk through illness, the Chairman reported on recent extensive correspondence received from Mr. Paul Kelly, demanding detailed responses to financial queries and questioning the efficiency of the Clerk and Council's administration. The Chairman had met Mr. Kelly twice to ask him to moderate his demands on the Clerk at this the busiest time of the year, and to discuss the issues. There were some valid points to deal with, and the Clerk had reinstated the information book in the Village Shop. It was clear, however, that there was widespread misunderstanding of the limited powers and responsibilities of Parish Councils, and that the Council needed to improve communication with the public.

b. War Memorial Hall. It had been reported that the drain in the Car Park at the War Memorial Hall had a broken cover and was failing to clear the surface water. The Chairman reported that Neil Palmer was instructing Andy Maclean of Andover Groundworks to provide an estimate for the necessary repairs. Meanwhile cones had been placed in the area.

c. The individual summonses to attend Parish Council Meetings, as prescribed by law, had been distributed to all Councillors.

14/54. Reports. Cllr A. Gibson was present to witness the signature of the Manor Close lease. He did not present an official report, but responded to queries from Councillors.

a. Broadband. This was being made available in stages. Abbotts Ann was to be included in due course.

b. Highway Matters. i. Cllr Sims drew attention to the hazards arising from poor drainage on the A343 between the Poplar Farm Inn and Anna Valley. The problem was exacerbated by the high ground-water level; Cllr Gibson was trying to persuade HCC to allocate funds directly to Parish Councils for rectifying such local problems.

ii. Jubilee Oak signs. Many jobs had been postponed because of the severe weather, but a start had been made by the installation of two posts for “Keep Left” signs at the Jubilee Oak.

iii. Duck Street. The lowering of the kerb opposite the Village Shop had been similarly delayed, but was on the list of scheduled works.

14/55. Finance.

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

Pro GW Sec PW

Cheque No.	812	PAYE & NI	£566.10
“	813	Administration	£780.05
“	814	B. Sims: Fuel	£ 44.08
“	815	Broker Network	£ 25.00
“	816	HPFA Sub increase	£ 20.00
“	817	G. Dinkele: Lego (Archives)	£ 21.48
“	818	J.K.Murray: Audit	£175.00
“	819	Local Council Review	£ 17.00
“	820	Enham: Burial Ground Maintenance	£110.02

14/56. Correspondence.

a. TVAPC. The Chairman and Cllr. Paffett would attend the AGM of TVAPC at Kings Somborne on 15th May.

b. CPRE. The AGM of the Hampshire Branch of CPRE would be held at Itchen Abbas on 16th May.

c. Old Coach Road. Correspondence between Ms. Caroline Land and HCC had been copied to the Clerk concerning right of passage over Old Coach Road. The Church Commissioners were attempting to deny access to their land and to close down any public right of way. The Clerk had expressed the Council’s support for resistance to the Commissioners’ claim, as it considered the road to be an integral part of the original mediaeval highway to Salisbury. (See 14/51b above)

d. Sparkle Day April 22nd. This was organised by TVBC with the help of numerous volunteers from the Parish and was considered a great success. Cllr. G. Stallard had asked for feedback, and the Clerk was instructed to pass on to him the thanks of the Council and community of Abbots Ann.

Action Clerk

e. “Your Countryside”. AAV was organising a public presentation on 21st May, with local experts running an interesting series of reports about the environment, with the aim of increasing the interest and involvement of residents in their surroundings. This initiative arose from AAV’s consultations.

f. “Paths to Partnership.” HCC was running an afternoon conference on countryside paths and access at Netley on 5th June. No Councillor could attend because of the clash with the June meeting, but Mr. P. Wood would be there representing the Ramblers.

14/57. Other business.

a. Annual Assembly. The review of the Assembly was deferred until the Clerk could be present.

b. Burial Ground. The need for a meeting with the Church authorities was becoming increasingly urgent. Matters for concern included: the future of the Wild Garden, opening up more consecrated ground for burials, moles and leaning memorials.

c. Recreation Ground. Cllr Whyte pointed out that there was nowhere for parents to sit. Cllr. Bone had heard from the family of the late Margaret Foster that they were considering presenting a seat in her memory. The Clerk had suggested asking Adam Rose about installing a very simple seat in keeping with the other equipment; this could be included as part of the total cost in applying for Section 106 funding.

The Chairman was waiting for suitable weather for installation of the manhole covers.

d. Drainage. Cllr. Wilkins mentioned blocked drains on Red Post Lane.

e. Cllr Sims drew attention to unsightly weeds at the Old People's Bungalows and suggested that a stern letter be sent to Aster. *Action Clerk*

f. Mr. P. Wood was arranging a handover meeting with Mr. P. Kelly.

g. Telephone Poles. It was suggested that BT be asked for a firm date for the removal of redundant poles. *Action Clerk*

h. Meeting with Nursery School. This could now go ahead in the light of a list of dates when Mr. Dennis Carter could attend on behalf of the War Memorial Hall. The Chairman undertook to make arrangements. *Action Chairman*

i. Cllr Bone. Cllr Bone was finding it difficult to attend Council meetings because of her increased family and professional responsibilities. Rather than face the election process that would be required at the present stage, it was agreed, to the satisfaction of all, that she be permitted to arrive late at future meetings.

14/58. Next Meeting. The next meeting was due on 5th June 2014 at 6.30 p.m. in the Jubilee Room.

THESE MINUTES REMAIN IN DRAFT FORM UNTIL APPROVED AND SIGNED