

PARISH COUNCIL OF ABBOTTS ANN

MINUTES

OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 7th February 2013
IN THE JUBILEE ROOM

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

In Attendance:

Mr. A. Stokes, Clerk; Cllr. A. Gibson, HCC; Cllr. M. Flood, TVBC; Mrs. L. Stockings, Burghclere Down; Mr. R. Lucas and Dr. J. Moon, AAA; 6 members of the public.

The meeting opened at 6.35 p.m. The Chairman welcomed those attending and thanked participants for their work for the Abbots Ann Vision Joint Working Party.

13/10. Apologies. Apologies were recorded from Cllr G. Stallard TVBC; Mr. T. Tayler, Archivist; Mr. P. Kelly, Footpaths Officer.

13/11. Minutes. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd January 2013 were confirmed and signed. *Pro BS Sec BG*

13/12. Matters arising.

a. Manor Close Playing Field. The Chairman reported that, following the correspondence between Sir George Young and Cllr. Ken Thornber, Leader of HCC, it had been arranged for representatives of this Parish to meet Cllr. Thornber in Winchester on 7th March. Mr. Richard Barry, HCC, had offered to come to Abbots Ann for a meeting to be arranged before that date. *Action Chairman and Clerk*

b. Moss. The Clerk had found an effective remedy for moss on hard surfaces, and had asked Trevor Hook to apply it to the paths in the Church Yard when weather permitted.

c. Highways. The broken bollard on the build-out near the Village School had been repaired, but action was still awaited on the reflective markers at Poplar Corner.

It was reported that another resident had suffered an injury caused by the raised kerb near the Jubilee Tree. A simple precaution would be to paint a white line along the edge of the kerb, but the Parish Council did not have the authority to do this.

13/13. Planning.

a. No Planning Applications had been received. Note was taken of decisions of the Planning Service.

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

13/14. Clerk's Report.

a. Bulbery Notice Board. Trevor Hook had been asked to repair the ineffective locks.

b. Inspection of Play Equipment. The Insurance Company had issued a reminder that play equipment should be inspected weekly, and a record kept on file. This was being undertaken by the Clerk and Cllr Sims.

c. A number of graves in the Burial Ground were suffering from subsidence. It was noted that remediation was the responsibility of the owners of the graves.

d. It had been necessary to purchase a new printer. An asset would be the facility for duplex printing and the economy of laser technology.

e. It had also become necessary to separate personal and business email correspondence. Accordingly there was now a new email address for Parish Business, namely clerk.abbottsann@virginmedia.com.

f. The tax authorities appeared to have put an end to the use of paper for any transactions, assuming that even the smallest offices were computerised. They had also shifted a great amount of their work-load onto employers, who will, from April, have to send an electronic return (under the title of Real Time) every time they pay an employee instead of supplying an annual summary.

g. The work of Mr. C. Davis and Mr. J. Barlow in removing a fallen branch from a yew tree in the Churchyard was noted with gratitude.

13/15. Organisations.

a. County Councillor. Cllr Gibson reported on the problems in his ward arising from flooding.

He had received an independent complaint about the poor condition of Cattle Lane, which would strengthen the case for improvement.

The County had frozen Council Tax for the third year running. It had still been possible to finance 1,000 new scholarships and apprenticeships.

He would draw the highway authority's attention to the problem of the raised kerb at the Jubilee Tree corner.

Action Cllr Gibson

b. Borough Councillor. It had been noted that the grass on the Manor Close playing field had been allowed to grow to an unacceptable length. Cllr Flood undertook to check the grass-cutting contract.

Action Cllr Flood

The Draft Revised Local Plan, replacing the former Core Strategy, was now published on the website. Public consultation would run from 8th March to 26th April. It was most important that individuals and organisations should send in responses; these should include positive comments on parts of the plan considered beneficial.

c. Abbots Ann Action. Re Community Consultation/Neighbourhood Plan see Item 13/17 a below.

Dr. Moon commented on the application by Goodmans for a second "Megashed" on the old airfield site. Apart from aggravating the existing traffic problems, the impact on the residents of Red Post Lane would be much more severe than those arising from previous plans. The Clerk was instructed to issue a strong objection to the proposals as submitted and to inform Monxton Parish Council.

Action Clerk

d. Archivist. The Archivist had been presented by David Downey with a watercolour of the Cob Barn before it was demolished to make way for the Village Shop, painted by Mr. Downey's relative, Jean Fairey. He was proposing to ask the War Memorial Hall Committee if it could hang in the Hall. Councillors were happy to accept the gift on the basis that the picture should be the property of the Council.

e. Burghclere Down. Mrs. Stockings expressed appreciation of the installation of grit-bins.

Parking problems remain unresolved.

f. Fete. Councillors were very surprised to hear that it was proposed to move the date of the Fete to the last Saturday in August, and questioned whether due consideration had been given to possible clashes with other local events.

g. In the absence of the Footpaths Officer it was noted that it was almost impossible to walk on part of Pitts Path because of erosion. The Clerk was asked to remind Mr. Kelly. *Action Clerk*

h. Village Shop. Mrs. Margaret Lennon had taken up her appointment as Manager on the retirement of Mrs. Geraldine Heather.

i. War Memorial Hall. Cllr G. Stallard had emailed to report that no-one had yet come forward to take on the Chairmanship of the Committee. However, the grant application to TVBC had achieved the promise of £11,920 towards the internal restructuring. The Parish Council had offered £4,000; the Hall Committee had £8,000 available; a further £8,000 was being sought from HCC to achieve a total of £32,000.

The Burns Night had been very successful, despite the appalling weather which had prevented the Ceilidh band from attending.

A new Village Directory was being planned for this year, and a Hog Roast was scheduled for 22nd June.

The Chairman had noticed that the framed certificates for success in previous Best Kept Village competitions were no longer on display in the Hall. He emphasised the fact that these were the property of the Parish Council, not of the Hall Committee. Councillors agreed that it was desirable that they be found and displayed.

13/16. Finance.

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

Cheque No	732	Administration	£866.07
"	733	Village Shop Committee	£280.00

b. Precept. The Government's policy for Council Tax Support had changed the system of calculating the Precept. In order to fulfil this council's promise to ensure that those paying in full would not experience an increase, the Clerk had consulted the Senior Revenues Officer at TVBC and re-calculated the precept request at £20,442, to which would be added the Borough's discretionary grant of £1,366. Precept income for 2013-14 would therefore total £21,808.

c. Jubilee Sailing Trust. It was decided not to respond to this Trust's appeal for general funding, but the Clerk was asked to let the Trust know that the Council would consider supporting any individual member of the Parish who wished to participate in their activities. *Action Clerk*

d. The Clerk reported that a cheque for £540 had remained unrepresented by Hamptons Tree Care since May 2012. He intended to contact the firm. *Action Clerk*

13/17. Community Consultation/Neighbourhood Plan.

Mr. Ray Lucas presented the report of the Abbots Ann Vision Joint Working Party entitled *Engaging the Community*. This is appended to these Minutes.

Mr. Lucas emphasised that the proposal to hold a Community Led Consultation was initiated by AAGA before the passing of the Localism Act, which has provided for the production of Neighbourhood Plans, which have more legal force than other types of community-led plan.

Mr. Lucas proposed that the first priority would be the engagement of the community in a consultation, responses from which should indicate whether it was necessary or desirable to prepare a formal plan. If so, it would be necessary to indicate whether such a plan should take the form of a revised Village Design Statement, a Parish Plan, a Neighbourhood Plan or a combination of these, or similar, alternatives.

A vital issue raised in the Report concerned the geographical area to be covered, since a “neighbourhood” need not be defined by historic or administrative boundaries. It was therefore vital to decide whether, or to what extent, areas outside the “Village Envelope” (in, for example, Anna Valley or Abbots Ann Down) should be included. The working party considered that Burghclere Down, in particular, had so few, if any, issues in common with the rest of the Parish that it should be regarded as a separate community. It was suggested therefore that the Chairman and Mr. Lucas should arrange to discuss this issue with residents of Burghclere Down. *Action Chairman; Mr. Lucas*

After discussion **it was resolved** (with 2 abstentions) that the Council adopt the Report as policy and authorise the implementation of the actions proposed therein.

Pro PW Sec RB

The Chairman expressed the appreciation of the Council of the extensive work of Mr. Lucas and the working party in undertaking the preparation of the impressive report and the future implementation of its recommendations.

13/18. Recreation Ground

Cllr Bone reported that she had obtained an estimate from Mr. Adam Rose of between £6,000 and £7,000 for making and installing the planned equipment. Councillors agreed that this represented good value and provided a figure on which to base funding applications.

The Chairman explained that a new swing could be so designed as to provide the framework for the occasional installation of the reconstructed apple press.

Two estimates for the replacement of the gate had been received, the lowest of which amounted to £1388. The Clerk was requested to obtain a third quotation from Martyn Dean. *Action Clerk*

13/19. Other Business.

a. First Aid Course. Cllr Oram reported on the success of the course, which was much enjoyed and appreciated by the participants. He wished to record appreciation of the assistance provided by Cllr Sims for transport of equipment.

b. Defibrillator. The Council was asked to support the purchase of a defibrillator. It was agreed to approve a fund-raising campaign by Mrs. Carol Murphy and colleagues, based on the Village Shop. Cheques should be payable to the Parish Council, and the funds would be held in the Council's account pending a future purchase. Discussion on the location and deployment of the device was deferred.

c. Grit Bins. It was noted that some bins needed replenishment. Residents of Abbotts Ann Down had asked for a bin. The Clerk was to contact Cllr. Gibson.

Action Clerk

13/20. Next Meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for 7th March 2013.

The Meeting closed at 9 p.m.

Signed

Date