Minutes from the Meeting
held on Thursday 3rd September at 19:00
at The War Memorial Hall, Abbotts Ann.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

	In Attendance	Apologies	Absent
Councillor Jordan		√	
Councillor Howard	√		
Councillor Heather	√		
Councillor Wallis	√		
Councillor Mitchell		√	
Councillor Stratford	√		
Vacancy	-	-	-

Also, IN ATTENDANCE:
Amanda Owen – Clerk, Borough Councillor Hasselmann and no members of the public.

260901	**To receive Chairman's opening remarks.** Councillor Howard welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the meeting is recorded.
260902	**To receive and accept apologies for absence.** Apologies were **RECEIVED** and **ACCEPTED** from Councillor Jordan and Councillor Mitchell. Apologies were **NOTED** from Borough Councillor Flood and County Councillor Drew.
260903	**To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests relating to items on this agenda.** No declarations of pecuniary interests were received.
260904	**To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th August.** The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6th August were signed as a correct record of the meeting. Proposed by Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor Wallis. This motion was passed on a vote of 3 **FOR** and 1 **ABSTENTION**.
260905	**To receive updates already published and any further updates provided.** **Councillor Wallis advised the following:** - New goal posts are in position and he will obtain some top soil to smooth over left over holes and for the goal mouth. Councillor Howard thanked Councillor Wallis and his wife, Trish for their efforts. Councillor Stratford advised he has been researching S106 following on from discussions at the August meeting. He will discuss findings with Councillor Jordan. Councillor Mitchell provided the following report prior to the meeting: "Flyers for Prostate Awareness Day are currently being printed and will distribute accordingly. We are a month away from the big screening day and bookings are at half capacity with no real trying. The next push should raise numbers to at least 70 blood tests." Borough Councillor Hasselmann and County Councillor Drew's report can be found at **APPENDIX A**.
260906	**To receive an update from Abbotts Ann Community Land Trust.** Abbotts Ann Community Land Trust provided the following report: "We continue in close touch with Metis who are in consultation with TVBC over all the matters to be discussed, including the results of the Village consultation and many other issues, community involvement, housing needs survey etc etc. The case officer, Emma Jones, has informed us that COM9 applications such as ours are rare, there being only 3 others in Test Valley apparently. I expect to hear further from Metis when all responses from the different parts of the Council are in."
260907	**To approve the insurance renewal with Clear Councils at a cost of £1352.07.** It was **AGREED** to accept the insurance renewal from Clear Councils at a cost of £1352.07. Proposed by Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor Stratford. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.
260908	**To agree the grant request from Abbotts Ann Fete Committee for £513.40 under powers afforded by the Local Government Act 1972, S144.** It was **AGREED** to support the grant request from Abbotts Ann Fete Committee for a total of £513.40 under powers afforded by the Local Government Act 1972, S144. Proposed by Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor Heather. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.

260909 — **To agree the quote from One Two Tree to remove the fallen tree limb on Church Path.**

It was noted that the fallen branch had been tidied and that ownership of the tree needs to be determined. The Clerk has contacted Hampshire County Council who have informed the tree query has been passed to the Countryside Access Team to investigate.

It was **AGREED** that the quote would not be accepted at this time due to ownership queries.

Proposed by Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor Stratford.

All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.

260910 — **To note the conclusion of the external audit.**

The conclusion of the external audit and its comments were **NOTED** and can be found at **APPENDIX B**.

260911 — **To complete a mid-year budgetary review.**

The mid year budget was discussed. It was noted the Clerk will update and circulate to Councillors.

260912 — **To note the current financial situation and the reconciliation of the bank balance.**

The current financial situation and the reconciliation of the bank balance were **NOTED** with the bank balance at 31st August 2026 being £61,495.75. The bank reconciliations can be found at **APPENDIX C**.

260913 — **To approve payment requests.**

The payments as listed in the table below were **APPROVED** for payment.

Proposed by Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor Wallis.

All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.

September 2026 Payment Requests

TO	FOR	INVOICE NO	AMOUNT
Staff	Salary	September	£1,329.48
Staff	Expenses	August	£34.86
Lloyds	Bank Charge		£4.25
Scandor	Grounds Maintenance	Inv 21779	£886.78
One Two Tree	Bulbery Tree Works	Inv 1124	£900.00
BDO	Limited Assurance Review YE 2026	Inv-00869599	£504.00
Eco Green Living	Station & 2 cases of compostable bags	Inv 19835	£345.60
Bulpitt Print Ltd	Prostate Awareness Day Flyers	Inv 60146	£58.00
EDF Energy	Pavilion Electricity	Inv KI-CC1F4FE6-0010	£33.80
			£4,096.77

260914 — **To consider the following planning application(s):**

260914.01 — **26/01751/TREEN**

T1 - Bay – Fell.

35 Duck Street, Abbotts Ann, Andover.

The Parish Council had **NO OBJECTION** to this application.

Proposed by Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor Wallis.

All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.

260914.02 — **26/01772/LBWN**

Installation of through floor lift.

Shilling Cottage, Monxton Road, Abbotts Ann, Andover.

The Parish Council had **NO OBJECTION** to this application.

Proposed by Councillor Heather, seconded by Councillor Howard.

All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.

260914.03 — **26/01848/TREEN**

(T1) - Bhutan Pine (T2) - Willow (T3) - Monterey Cypress/Macrocarpa (T4) Cedar of Lebanon – Fell.

Pinewood, Little Ann Road, Little Ann.

The Parish Council had **NO OBJECTION** to this application.

Proposed by Councillor Stratford, seconded by Councillor Heather.

All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.

260915 — **To agree the date of the next meeting.**

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday 1st October.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 19:45.

APPENDIX A

Borough Councillor Report
Cllr Maureen Flood and Cllr Susanne Hasselmann September 2026

The dangers of battery and vape recycling
We're asking all residents to consider the importance of recycling batteries, vapes and electrical items correctly following a recent fire in one of TVBC's refuse collection vehicles.

The incident was dealt with safely and no one was injured. However, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service attended the scene, taking resources away from an already busy service in August.

Investigations found several items in the waste, including a vape, laptop, mobile phone and household batteries. We believe the fire may have been caused by an incorrectly disposed vape.

As lithium-ion batteries become more common in everyday items, the risk of fires during waste collection and processing continues to increase. These fires can endanger crews, damage vehicles and cause disruption to local services.

We therefore ask you **not** to place batteries, vapes, phones, laptops or other electrical items in your household bin.

Residents can recycle:

- batteries at supermarkets, retailers, and Household Waste Recycling Centres
- vapes through participating retailers or Household Waste Recycling Centres
- electrical items, including laptops and mobile phones, at Household Waste Recycling Centres

More information about local recycling options is available on the Hampshire County Council website.



Annual Canvass 2026 about to begin
Residents across Test Valley will be contacted as part of the annual electoral canvass, an important process that helps ensure the electoral register remains accurate and up to date.
The canvass is a legal requirement. Its purpose is to confirm who lives at each address and who is eligible to be registered to vote. Keeping the register accurate helps protect the integrity of elections and ensures residents can take part in local and national polls.

The process involves a combination of data matching and direct communication with households. Some residents may receive an email invitation to check and confirm their details online, while others will receive a paper form. In some cases, where records cannot be fully matched, a response will be required even if there are no changes to report. Follow-up reminders and visits may be undertaken where necessary to obtain a response.

More information about the annual canvass, including details of the different communication routes and how residents can respond, is available on the Test Valley Borough Council website:
www.testvalley.gov.uk/annualcanvass

Electoral Services can be contacted on 01264 368000 or elecreg@testvalley.gov.uk

Man fined after mattress, fridge freezer and furniture dumped in Andover
A man has been ordered to pay more than £1,300 after admitting to fly-tipping in Andover.

On 4 and 5 August 2025, the council received reports about waste dumped in Pasture Walk, Andover. The rubbish included broken furniture, a mattress, a fridge freezer and a chest freezer.

An investigation showed that a nearby property had been recently vacated and the occupier, Joshua Scarlett, admitted to leaving the waste outside the home to be collected but it wasn't removed.

On 24 July 2026 at Southampton Magistrates' Court, Mr Scarlett was fined £425 and ordered to pay £947 in costs.

Residents can report fly-tipping online at www.testvalley.gov.uk/fly-tipping.

Councils to consider support to help secure future of Andover Museum and Museum of the Iron Age
Test Valley Borough Council and Andover Town Council are proposing to join forces to consider support to secure the future of Andover Museum and the Museum of the Iron Age, with Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT) seeking a combined funding package of £150,000.

The two councils have been working closely with the HCT, which operates the museum, to identify a long-term solution that protects one of Andover's most valued cultural and heritage attractions after fears it could close without long-term funding.

If agreed, Test Valley Borough Council will provide £100,000 and Andover Town Council will contribute £50,000 to support the museum to remain open through Local Government Reorganisation to March 2029. It is intended that this funding will provide time for HCT to explore more financially resilient and sustainable service delivery options and operating models in partnership with the new unitary authority and Andover Town Council.

The decision is subject to approval from councillors. The borough council will decide whether to approve their funding on 23 September, while the town council will consider their contribution on 9 September.

The request follows recent confirmation that Hampshire County Council has reviewed its support for the museum, in order to help to put the attraction and much-loved local asset on a more secure footing in the years ahead.

Andover Museum and the Museum of the Iron Age play an important role in preserving and sharing the town's story, welcoming visitors, supporting education and providing opportunities for people of all ages to connect with the area's rich heritage.

If funding is agreed, then the two respective councils will meet Hampshire Cultural trust on a regular basis over the next two and half years to make sure they are progressing a longer-term solution to ensure the sustainability of the museum.

Cllr Susanne Hasselmann, cllrshasselmann@testvalley.gov.uk Cllr Maureen Flood, cllrmflood@testvalley.gov.uk

Update from Hampshire County Council – August-September 2026

Young people across Hampshire to showcase climate-themed artwork made from old musical instruments

Young people from 12 schools across Hampshire are taking part in a countywide art project that turns unwanted musical instruments into public artwork



The project, Climate Unity: Circular Art, will be exhibited at West Downs Art Gallery, University of Winchester, from 14 to 22 July 2026, with a preview event on 14 July from 4.30pm to 7pm. The exhibition will showcase work created by pupils using old and damaged instruments that would otherwise have been thrown away.

Led by Hampshire County Council for a sixth year, the project invites schools to create 3D artworks by repurposing musical instruments and using recycled, salvaged or natural materials. The pieces reflect young people's views on sustainability, waste and care for the environment.

The work has been shaped by children and young people's own reflections on issues including pollution, protecting natural environments, reducing waste and using resources more carefully.

As well as producing artwork for public display, pupils have been exploring the idea of the circular economy – looking at how materials can be reused, repaired and reimagined instead of simply being discarded. The project also supports wider learning across the curriculum, with resources made available to schools to help them explore environmental issues through art, music and other subjects.

https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260713climateunity

Please help us spread the word about battery and vape recycling



We're asking all councillors to help remind residents about the importance of recycling batteries, vapes and electrical items correctly following a recent fire in one of our refuse collection vehicles. The incident was dealt with safely and no one was injured. However, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service attended the scene, taking resources away from an already busy service.

Investigations found several items in the waste, including a vape, laptop, mobile phone and household batteries. We believe the fire may have been caused by an incorrectly disposed vape.

As lithium-ion batteries become more common in everyday items, the risk of fires during waste collection and processing continues to increase. These fires can endanger crews, damage vehicles and cause disruption to local services.

Residents can recycle:-

- batteries at supermarkets, retailers, and Household Waste Recycling Centres
- vapes through participating retailers or Household Waste Recycling Centres

- electrical items, including laptops and mobile phones, at Household Waste Recycling Centres

More information about local recycling options is available on the HCC website.

https://www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling?utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery

Thank you for helping us promote safer recycling and reduce the risk of preventable fires across Test Valley.

£15 million programme underway to improve Hampshire's roads this summer

More miles of Hampshire's roads will be strengthened and repaired this summer, following a £15 million investment by Hampshire County Council in highway maintenance

The funding will be used for planned maintenance and reactive repairs during the summer period to address the significant deterioration over the winter as a result of the adverse weather the county experienced. Work includes:-

- 35 resurfacing schemes to repair the roads most in need: in total this year, 113 resurfacing schemes are expected to be completed totalling nearly 40 miles.
- Additional surface treatment locations – in total this year, 139 schemes are expected to be completed totalling over 129 miles. Since April, 102 locations have been completed, with the funding allowing for more sites to be included.
- Multiple additional gangs undertaking patching treatments to replace damaged sections of road - these are localised repairs used to fix specific defects such as potholes, cracking, rutting, or surface failure without resurfacing the entire road. It comes after 90,000 potholes and road defects were repaired over the last financial year.

Highways teams are working day and night to strengthen and prolong the life of Hampshire's roads. In the 12 months since April 2025, we have completed around 90,000 pothole and road defect repairs, following an increase in reports over the winter months. Work continues to deliver our annual resurfacing programme and respond to issues as they arise.

Years of insufficient national highways funding, combined with rising costs, inflation, heavier vehicles and more extreme weather, are placing increasing pressure on road networks across the country. Hampshire's highways maintenance backlog is now estimated at more than £550 million and has grown over the past two years as a result of insufficient national funding.

Over the summer months and into autumn, a range of surface treatments and other works will be carried out. Roads are assessed and prioritised using condition data, ensuring limited funding is focused on those most in need of improvement.

Information about road closures is available at: https://one.network/

https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260723HighwaysInvestment

Grants help Chilbolton Village Shop and Tearoom grow and expand

A popular village shop and tearoom in Chilbolton is investing in its future after receiving more than £21,000 in grant funding from Test Valley Borough Council.

Nicky Bond, owner of Chilbolton Village Shop and Tearoom, has secured £13,400 from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) and £8,300 from the Rural Enterprise Grant to support improvements to the business and help it expand its food offering.

The funding has enabled the shop to be reconfigured, bringing together its freshly prepared food service with an upgraded coffee machine and display fridge. The new layout provides better customer experience, improves staff efficiency, and creates more space for food-to-go. The post office counter has also been moved to the rear of the shop, giving customers greater privacy when using the service.

Alongside the improvements to the shop, Nicky has established an offsite kitchen at Stonefield Park on the outskirts of Chilbolton. The additional facility will allow the business to increase production of food to go and ready meals, while also supporting the growth of its catering services for private and corporate customers. The grants have contributed towards the purchase and installation of specialist kitchen equipment including a gas oven, freezer, chiller, and dishwasher.

Nicky and her husband Andy recently celebrated 10 years at the shop and are proud to support local producers by stocking a wide range of high-quality local products. The business also plays an important role in the community by catering for a variety of local organisations and events.

Nicky Bond said: "I am so grateful for the grants. If they had not been available, we would never have been able to make this investment. We'd been making-do for years, but I've now been able to realise my vision for the shop. I could not have done it without the help of my husband Andy and the fantastic support of my staff, the village and my customers. We are all thrilled with the transformation."

The UK Government's Rural England Prosperity Fund is part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund that provides capital funding for rural business and rural communities. TVBC received over £150k for 2025-26 which is being distributed between businesses and community organisations across the rural areas of our borough to help develop our rural economy. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills.

For more information about business grants available through Test Valley Borough Council, visit the council's website.

https://testvalley.gov.uk/news/2026/aug/grants-help-chilbolton-village-shop-and-tearoom-grow-and-expand

Man fined after mattress, fridge freezer and furniture dumped in Andover

A man has been ordered to pay more than £1,300 after admitting to fly-tipping in Andover.

On 4 and 5 August 2025, the council received reports about waste dumped in Pasture Walk, Andover. The rubbish included broken furniture, a mattress, a fridge freezer and a chest freezer. An investigation showed that a nearby property had been recently vacated and the occupier, Joshua Scarlett, admitted to leaving the waste outside the home to be collected but it wasn't removed.

On 24 July 2026 at Southampton Magistrates' Court, Mr Scarlett was fined £425 and ordered to pay £947 in costs.

Residents can report fly-tipping online at www.testvalley.gov.uk/fly-tipping.

https://testvalley.gov.uk/news/2026/aug/man-fined-after-mattress-fridge-freezer-and-furniture-dumped-in-andover

Hampshire GCSE students praised for their achievements as results day support continues

Students across Hampshire receiving their GCSE results are being congratulated for their hard work and determination, as Hampshire County Council continues to offer free advice and support to help young people plan their next steps

GCSE results mark an important milestone for many students, whether they are preparing to move on to sixth form, college, an apprenticeship, training or another learning pathway.

To support young people and their families, the County Council's exam results helpline remains open, offering free careers advice from experienced advisers at Hampshire Futures. The service can help students talk through their options, understand what is available locally and make decisions that are right for them.

The helpline can support students who are confirming places at school or college, considering vocational courses, looking into apprenticeships, or wanting to understand other routes into future careers. Parents and carers are also encouraged to use the service if they would like advice on how best to support a young person after results day.

https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260819GCSEresults

Hampshire foster carers play key role in children's safe return home

Foster carers across Hampshire are playing a vital role in helping children return home safely to their families when that is the right and best outcome for the child, as shown in a new video released by Hampshire County Council.

For some children, foster care provides a safe and stable home while work takes place with their family to address the difficulties that led to them coming into care. When those circumstances improve, a planned return home can help children rebuild relationships with their parents and wider family and give them the stability and sense of belonging they need to thrive.

In the video, a young person returning home after foster care thanks their carers and support network for helping them through a difficult time and enabling them to reunite with their family, highlighting the lasting impact fostering can have on children's lives.

The County Council has recently refreshed and strengthened its guidance to support children in care to return safely to their parents or others with parental responsibility. Known as a child's "Going Home" journey, the process depends on careful planning and support to make sure any move home is safe and sustainable.

Foster carers are a key part of that. They know the child's routines, needs and experiences, and can help them prepare for the move home. They also work closely with social workers and families, supporting contact, attending planning meetings and helping everyone understand what the child needs.

Hampshire County Council recognises that a child returning home can also be an emotional time for foster carers. Support is available throughout the process through supervising social workers and peer networks.

Anyone interested in fostering and making a difference to the lives of children and families across Hampshire can find out more and request an information pack here.

https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260701fosteringsummer

Funding available for local organisations helping Hampshire residents with money worries

Community and voluntary organisations across Hampshire are being encouraged to apply for funding to help residents build financial resilience and reduce the risk of future crisis

The Crisis and Resilience Fund Resilience Grants programme is open to community and voluntary organisations, charities, social enterprises, town and parish councils, district councils and other organisations that meet the funding criteria.

The grant funding is designed to support projects that help Hampshire residents manage financial challenges, improve confidence with money, access advice and reduce reliance on crisis support services.

Projects could include financial capability and budgeting support, income maximisation, debt advice, money management, advice and guidance services, community-based resilience projects, early intervention work, volunteer training and outreach to residents who may be vulnerable or facing hardship.

The fund is provided through the Department for Work and Pensions, with Hampshire County Council receiving Crisis and Resilience Fund funding from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029 to support activity that strengthens financial resilience, promotes early help and provides longer-term support for residents experiencing financial hardship.

Applications should focus on work that prevents financial hardship from escalating, supports early intervention, improves financial confidence, strengthens local support networks, and improves access to advice and guidance.

The programme is looking for projects that can show clear benefits for residents and communities, such as increased household income, improved money confidence, reduced debt, reduced food insecurity, better access to support and fewer repeat requests for emergency help.

Applications can be submitted at any time until autumn 2028. There are no fixed application windows or submission deadlines.

Applications will be reviewed by an independent CRF Funding Panel, which meets monthly to assess proposals against the fund's priorities, evidence of need, deliverability, value for money and expected outcomes.

Organisations can find full guidance and details of how to apply on the Resilience Grants webpage.

David Drew
Test Valley Central Division, HCC
Harewood ward, TVBC

APPENDIX B

Section 3 – External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2025/26

In respect of: Abbotts Ann Parish Council

1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit,** it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/ .

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2026 and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

2 External auditor's limited assurance opinion 2025/26

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

Box 11 in the Accounting Statements was incorrectly answered as 'No'. The AGAR was returned for amendment and has been appropriately updated. The Accounting Statements do not include any trust transactions.

The internal auditor has highlighted weaknesses and raised recommendations in their report to the smaller authority. The smaller authority should ensure that action is taken to address these areas of weakness in a timely manner.

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

3 External auditor certificate 2025/26

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2026

External Auditor Name: BDO LLP - Southampton

External Auditor Signature: DocuSigned by: BDO LLP 467DFB746A8A428... Date: 17 August 2026

APPENDIX C

Date: 01/09/2026 | **Abbotts Ann Parish Council** | Page 1

Time: 09:05 | User: AMANDA

Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31/08/2026
for Cashbook 1 - Lloyds Treasurers Account

Bank Statement Account Name (s)	Statement Date	Page	Balances
Lloyds Treasurers Account	31/08/2026		61,495.75
			61,495.75

Unpresented Payments (Minus)	Amount	
	0.00	
		0.00
		61,495.75

Unpresented Receipts (Plus)		
	0.00	
		0.00
		61,495.75

Balance per Cash Book is :-	**61,495.75**
Difference is :-	**0.00**