

PARISH COUNCIL OF ABBOTTS ANN

MINUTES

OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2014
IN THE JUBILEE ROOM

Present: Cllr. B. Griffiths, Chairman Cllr. G. Whyte, Vice-Chairman
Cllr. S. Oram 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; Mr. T. Tayler, Archivist; Mr. P. Kelly, Footpaths Officer; Miss R. Groves, Press; Mr. M. Fowler, Fowler Architecture and Planning; Mr. A. Pilley, Community Engagement Officer, TVBC.

The meeting opened at 6.36 p.m.

14/11. Apologies. Apologies were recorded from Cllr. G. Stallard, TVBC; Mrs. W. Davis, AAGA; Mrs. L. Stockings, Burghclere Down.

14.12. Minutes. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd January 2014 were confirmed and signed.
Pro PW Sec GW

14/13. Matters arising.

a The proposal to reduce a Sycamore to a “living monolith” at the Herons had been given planning permission. There had been no opportunity for the Chairman to meet TVBC arboriculturalist at the scene.

b. Revised Borough Plan. Cllr. Flood reported that the consultation document was available in hard copy or on the website. The main areas of concern for Abbots Ann were the Local Gap and the Settlement Boundaries. Emphasising the importance of responding, Cllr Flood distributed Response Forms and reminded Councillors of the exhibition, with officers present, at Beech Hurst on 12th February.

c. Jubilee Tree junction. i. Work on lowering the kerb opposite the Village Shop was scheduled for early 2014. The Clerk had arranged for the engineer responsible to meet Mr. David Downey to discuss his concerns about the effect on his house.

ii. Replacement of the Keep Left signs was included in the plan. It was disappointing that the temporary signs placed there by the Chairman had disappeared.

d. Manor Close Field. The Clerk had been re-assured that the continuing delays were not a cause for concern, but resulted from the observation by HCC of the statutory procedures involved in the withdrawal of the Village Green application.

e. It had been necessary for the Clerk to defer action on the questions of (i) the legality of roadside stakes, (ii) the future maintenance of the Wild Garden and (iii) the fencing and signs in Burghclere Down.

14/14. Planning.

a. TV No 14/00209: Down Farm: Conversion of barns for residential use. Under suspension of Standing Orders, a presentation by Mr. Fowler was followed by questions and discussion. Although the sight-lines at the exit onto the A343 exceeded the statutory requirements, Councillors expressed serious concern over the safety of traffic.

It was resolved to register No Objection, but to add a strong request for double white lines on the main road and for an extension of the 50 mph speed limit from St. John's Cross to beyond the entrance to Down Farm. *Pro GW Sec BS*

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

14/15. Clerk's Report.

a. The Clerk drew attention to the surprising fact that despite the unprecedented rainfall there had been no communication from Monxton.

b. The recent cyclone had left trees in imminent danger of falling onto Church Road and Duck Street. Councillors were asked to note that if such incidents were life-threatening they should be reported to the Police (dialling 101), who would then organise warning signs and clearance.

c. "Action Clerk" The Clerk explained that owing to family illness and repeated flooding of his home, some tasks were liable to be deferred.

14/16. Organisations.

a. County Councillor. Cllr. Gibson drew attention to:

i. The Council's scheme for providing seed for sowing poppies in commemoration of WWI.

ii. The work of Village Agents, involving the Council and Age UK.

iii. The provision of funding for an antenna to improve mobile phone coverage.

iv. Progress on superfast broadband; this was already available to all schools in the County; it was hoped to extend provision to the village before the target date of 2017.

v. Extreme weather. The number of people affected by flooding in Hampshire was three times higher than in Somerset. The damage to road surfaces was causing huge problems.

Cllr Gibson was keeping an eye on the Manor Close Field negotiations, and would contact the Highways department on the traffic at Down Farm. *Action Cllr Gibson*

b. Borough Councillor: Cllr M. Flood drew attention to:

i. Local Plan Consultation. See 14/13 above.

ii. Refuse Collection. As a result of re-organisation in the interests of economy, the timing of some collections was liable to alteration.

iii. The Borough Council was participating in a national pilot scheme to assess the level of public services in rural areas. It was gratifying that, with thee other villages, Abbots Ann had been chosen to participate. Abbots Ann Vision was likely to be involved.

c. Archivist. Mr. T. Tayler presented a summary of his plans for the commemoration of WWI in the summer. These included:

i. A 4-day exhibition in the War Memorial Hall.

ii Further exhibitions at the Army Museum at Middle Wallop and at the Village Fete.

iii. One theme to be the stories of some 12 men involved in the war.

iv. A survey of the village as in 1914 and 2014.

v. An effort to give an account of those omitted from the current lists and to find a way of including them on the memorials.

vi. Following up a proposal from the Hampshire Record Office for production of art work in connection with the commemoration. Arts Council funding could be available.

Other details were included in Mr. Tayler's note of a meeting held on 20.01.14; copies were distributed to all Councillors.

d. Footpaths. i. Mr. Kelly reported that the fallen trees on Webbs Lane had been removed.

ii. He also explained the working of the litter-picking volunteers.

iii. It had been noted that some Hampshire parishes had appointed a paid Lengthsman; after discussion it was agreed that such an appointment was not needed in Abbotts Ann, because existing arrangements for the maintenance of footpaths with the services of Trevor Hook and volunteers were working satisfactorily, and responsibility for roadside verges, drains etc was the responsibility of the County Council.

e. Sports Field. Cllr Wilkins reported on plans for bringing "new blood" to the Committee. Among future events was an auction of promises and items for sale.

f. Village Shop. Cllr Whyte reported on the new manager's plans for changes to the layout and merchandising. The volunteers were enjoying a happy atmosphere in the shop.

14/17. Finance.

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

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| Cheque No | 800 | Administration | £ 697.19 |
| " | 801 | Playsafety | £ 474.00 |

14/18. Correspondence.

a. Meetings. Councillors were reminded of: i. TVAPC meeting at Kings Somborne on 5th March and ii. HALC Annual Conference in Winchester on 5th March.

b. Nursery School. The Clerk had received a letter from the Chairman of the Nursery School Committee requesting permission for the permanent display of a banner on the railings at the War Memorial Hall. Councillors were not in favour of this, but offered to help with financing a permanent notice board.

She also requested a meeting to clarify the position regarding the use of the Recreation Ground.

The Clerk was instructed to respond positively to these requests. *Action Clerk*

14/19. Other Business.

a. Recreation Ground. Cllr Bone reported on the inspection by RoSPA, which was largely satisfactory. The standard of craftsmanship was particularly commended. A few modifications were requested, and Adam Rose was implementing them. Apart from one area where grass-mats were recommended, it was decided to see whether the existing grass surface would be satisfactory in use. Cllr Wilkins undertook to arrange the purchase of the matting required. *Action Cllr Wilkins*

The Chairman undertook to see to the replacement of manhole covers.

Action Chairman

b. Highways. At the suggestion of Cllr Sims, all Councillors were requested to provide the Clerk with a list of items affecting the state of the roads for which action was required. *Action All*

14/20. Next Meeting. Thursday 6th March 2014 at 6.30 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Signed Date