

PARISH COUNCIL OF ABBOTTS ANN

MINUTES

OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 2nd JANUARY 2014
IN THE JUBILEE ROOM

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

In Attendance:

Mr. A. Stokes, Clerk; Cllr. M. Flood, TVBC; Mrs. L. Stockings, Burghclere Down; Miss R. Groves, Press.

The meeting opened at 6.37 p.m.

14.01. Apologies. Apologies were recorded from Cllr. S. Oram; Cllr. B. Sims; Cllr. R. Bone; Cllr. A. Gibson, HCC; Cllr. G. Stallard, TVBC; Mr. P. Kelly, Footpaths Officer; Mr. T. Tayler, Archivist; Mrs. W. Davis, AAGA.

14/02. Minutes. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th December 2013 were confirmed and signed. *Pro PW Sec GW*

14/03. Matters arising.

a. Roadside Stakes. Enquiries were still proceeding about the issues of legality and insurance liability of stakes placed by private individuals on road verges.

Action Clerk

b. Wild Garden. Since no-one seemed to be available to undertake the maintenance of the area, it was suggested that the Clerk should enquire whether Enham could take on a limited maintenance programme.

Action Clerk

14/04. Planning.

a. **It was resolved** to register No Objection to the following applications:

TV No 13/02773/FULLN: Kantara, alterations.

Pro PW Sec DP

TV No 13/02725/TREEN: The Herons, multiple tree works.

b. **It was further resolved** to register an Objection to the following application:

TV No 13/028724/TPON: The Herons, reduce Sycamore to "living monolith," on the grounds that the tree was an important feature of the landscape and that it should be preserved if possible. It was not considered desirable to leave it as a "monolith"; if the fungal infection was serious Councillors recommended that it be removed completely. The Chairman undertook to arrange a site meeting with TVBC's senior arboriculturalist.

Action Chairman

14/05. Clerk's Report.

a. HCC Seminar. The Clerk had received notice of a Seminar on HCC's policies for infrastructure hosted by the County Economy, Transport and Environment Department in Winchester on 16th January. The Chairman and Cllr. Paffett were arranging to attend.

b. Thermal Imaging. Mrs. W. Davis wished to remind Councillors that the effectiveness of insulation could be checked free of charge by thermal imaging.

c. Flooding. The Clerk had passed complaints about flooding at the lower end of Duck Street on to the highway authority.

- d. Drainage. Councillors drew attention to continuing drainage problems:
- i. Raw sewage running down West Hill. Cllr Flood had made contact with Southern Water and was hopeful she had raised their awareness of the seriousness of the problem. Councillors and residents were asked to put pressure on Southern Water by registering individual complaints. *Action All*
 - ii. Blocked drains – some apparently blocked deliberately – on Duck Street and Salisbury Road.
 - iii. Blocked drains causing a flood at the junction of the A343 with Foundry Road. A number of accidents had resulted, including one in the previous week.

14/06. Borough Councillor's Report.

Cllr. M. Flood reported on the progress of the revised Borough Plan. This should shortly be published for consultation. The revised draft included the protection of the strategic gap between Andover and Abbots Ann. As many individuals as possible were urged to respond. *Action All*

The Farmers' Market was to be revived as the Andover Farmers' and Crafts Market.

Cllr Flood noted the continuing difficulty of establishing ownership of the trees on Webbs Lane; the responsibility for repairing the steps in the same area was also problematical.

14/07. Finance.

a. It was resolved to approve the following payments:			<i>Pro GW</i>	<i>Sec PW</i>
Cheque No	795	Administration	£736.37	
	“ 796	DIYPlayco via Clerk	£ 39.90	
	“ 797	P.O.Ltd, PAYE & NI	£566.10	
	“ 798	B.R. Griffiths, Seminar Exp & purchase of of drain covers for recreation Ground	£110.88	
	“ 799	Julie Moon, Parish Meeting Exp	£ 46.72	

b. Statement. The Clerk presented a summary of Receipts and Payments to 31 December 2013, as appended.

c. PAYE Returns. The Clerk had obtained the services of an accountant for preparation and submission of PAYE and NI returns at a cost of £60 per year.

14/08. Correspondence.

a. Litter. Mr.P. Kelly had reported that he and Mrs. Kelly were registered as Community Litter Pickers and had recruited sixteen residents willing to form a team. Apart from litter-picking, the project would include clearing ditches, cutting back hedges, cleaning signs etc. It was noted that these tasks were similar to those of the traditional “Lengthsman”.

Deborah Hughes, TVBC officer, had explained that road signs were the responsibility of the County Council; Test Valley was contracted to the County to mow the verges 6 times a year. Test Valley was also responsible for roadside litter, including fly-tipping on highway land. Fly-tipping on private land was the responsibility of the landowner.

The Council expressed appreciation of the valuable work of Mr. and Mrs. Kelly.

b. Stockbridge. It was noted that Stockbridge had obtained £134,000 of funding for a new pavilion to replace their old pre-fabricated building.

c. Duck Street. The Clerk had enquired about the proposal to lower the kerb opposite the Village Shop. Mr. Keith Thompson of Hampshire Highways had replied that the work was scheduled for early 2014 and that the “Keep Left” arrows at the Jubilee Tree would be replaced at the same time.

d. HALC. Mr. Steven Lugg had introduced a change of policy. Hitherto the Association had only accepted communications from Chairmen or Clerks. In future they would welcome direct contacts with Councillors.

Also distributed were details of (a) a scheme supported by Age Concern and HCC called “Food and Friendship” and (b) a bereavement counselling service called “Sebastian’s Bereavement.”

14/09. Other Business.

a. Manor Close Field. Final engrossment of the lease had to be postponed by the County Council. The delay was caused by the legal requirement to advertise the withdrawal of the application to register the field as a village green.

b. Recreation Ground. The seat for the baby swing had been received. The fitting of new manhole-covers had been delayed by bad weather. RoSPA had not yet arranged a date for an inspection.

c. Burghclere Down. Mrs. L. Stockings commented on (a) the inadequacy of the new acoustic fencing on the A303, of which she undertook to provide photographs, and (b) on the fact that many of the new 20mph signs were small, poorly positioned and difficult to see. The Clerk was instructed to ask for bigger signs with improved visibility.

Action Clerk and Mrs.

Stockings

14/10. Future Meetings. The next meeting was scheduled for 6th February. Meetings throughout 2014 would take place on the first Thursday of each month except in August. A short meeting would take place on 31st July. The date of the Annual Assembly was fixed for 4th April.

The Meeting closed at 7.48 p.m.

Signed

Date