

# **PARISH COUNCIL OF ABBOTTS ANN**

## **MINUTES**

OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON THURSDAY 31<sup>st</sup> JULY 2014  
IN THE PAVILION

Present: Cllr. B. Griffiths, Chairman Cllr. G. Whyte, Vice-Chairman  
Cllr. S. Oram  
Cllr. R. Bone Cllr. B. Sims Cllr. P. Wilkins  
In Attendance: Mr. A. Stokes, Clerk; Cllr. A. Gibson, HCC; Cllr G. Stallard, TVBC;  
Mrs. R. Griffiths, Treasurer and Press.

*The meeting opened at 6.37 p.m. with the Vice Chairman in the Chair. The Chairman presided from 6.45.*

**14/81 Apologies.** Apologies were recorded from Cllr. D. Paffett and Cllr. M. Flood TVBC.

**14/82. Minutes.** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014 were confirmed for signature. *Pro PW Sec GW*

**14/83. Appointment of Clerk.** The Clerk had placed advertisements on the main notice-board and on the web-site, but no response had been received.

Meanwhile the Chairman had contacted Mr Arthur Peters, who had already expressed an interest in the post, and had repeated his willingness to serve as Clerk after a detailed briefing from the Chairman and Clerk. No Councillors had any doubts about his evident suitability for the post, but concern was expressed about the wisdom of making the appointment of a parishioner known personally to many of those present without advertising the post more widely and for a longer period.

After discussion **it was resolved by 4 votes to two** to appoint Mr. Arthur Peters to the position of Clerk to the Parish Council of Abbots Ann with effect from the September meeting of the Council. The Chairman and Cllr. Bone, having voted against the motion, explained that their decision had been based on the issue of the advertising of the post and not on doubts as to Mr Peters's suitability for the post. *Pro GW Sec BS*

The Chairman and the Treasurer were authorised to deal with the new Clerk's contract, terms of employment and salary.

All Councillors concurred with the Chairman's warm expression of appreciation of Mr. Stokes's nine years of service and Mr. Stokes said that it had been a privilege and pleasure to work with such a good-humoured, co-operative and dedicated Council.

**14/84. Matters arising.**

a. Footpaths. The Chairman confirmed that Darren Murphy would undertake the work on footpaths previously carried out by Trevor Hook.

b. Recreation Ground. Cllr Bone had received an assurance from Adam Rose that the benches would be ready in August.

c. TVBC Visit. The visit of the Head of Planning and Enforcement Officer was scheduled for the October meeting.

d. Fences and signs. The Chairman had received an assurance that the repairs to the Burial Ground fence would be carried out shortly. He had been unable to make contact with the manufacturer of the signs, but would keep trying. *Action Chairman*

e. Vexatious Correspondence. Cllr Oram had made enquiries from TVBC's Legal Department. He understood that, once a response had been given to an enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act, a persistent enquirer could be told that the correspondence was closed.

f. Obstruction of footpaths. The Clerk had provided a draft of a card to be posted through the letter-box of residents whose hedges were obstructing footpaths or pavements. It was considered desirable that the wording should be more forceful and the presentation more formal. Cllr Oram undertook to revise the document and its presentation. *Action Cllr Oram*

g. Primary School Head. Cllr Bone reported that Mrs. Hall, Head Teacher of the Primary School, would like to attend the September meeting. The Clerk was to send a formal invitation. *Action Clerk*

h. Manor Close Field. A parishioner had suggested that the Manor Close Field was in danger of remaining unused and that parishioners should be asked for ideas about its future use. The Clerk was asked to include his request in a Newsletter. *Action Clerk*

i. Church Path. It was noted with concern that new barbed wire had been installed, but Cllr Sims explained that this was to ensure that cattle did not escape and that, being on the field side of the fence, it complied with the law. Councillors were, however, disappointed that the fence was in such poor repair.

#### **14/85. Planning.**

a. **It was resolved** to register an objection to the following applications:  
TV No 14/01695/FULLN: Willow Farm, on the grounds that the proposed extension constituted the erection of a separate dwelling in the countryside.

*Pro PW Sec GW*

b. **It was resolved** to register no objection to the following application:  
TV No 14/01737/FULLN: Rosecombe Farm, Cattle Lane: Extensions.

*Pro BS Sec RB*

c. Note was taken of decisions of the Planning Service.

**14/86. Clerk's Report.** After a short holiday, the Clerk was planning to complete a handover of records and briefing of procedures to Mr. Peters before the next meeting. He outlined the massive changes to the Clerk's work during his nine years in the post, particularly in terms of Government legislation and electronic communication. He suggested that consideration be given to new working practices, such as a separate phone-line and limited office hours, or even a separate office.

He also mentioned a number of ongoing matters which would still be pending before the next meeting, such as the drawing of the Section 106 funds for the Recreation Ground, the extension of the Burial Ground and highways issues.

#### **14/87. Organisations.**

a. County Councillor. Cllr Gibson reported that a new team had been appointed in the Highways Department and he undertook to provide a list of contacts.

He indicated that problems had arisen in the relationship between the County Council and HALC which it was important to resolve.

There was funding available for projects for improving the environment, and it was always worth applying for grants. The County Council was also involved in social welfare matters, such as the work of carers and “Silver Surfers”.

Cllr Gibson also reminded the meeting that there were inhibiting factors in the cutting back of hedges because of the demand for protection of wildlife habitats.

b. Borough Councillor. Cllr Stallard commented on the application by Goodman for relaxation of some of the traffic restrictions on the approaches to the former airfield site. The Borough Planning Committee had refused the application not just as a potential “thin end of the wedge”, but because the restrictions had been part of the original contractual requirements for allowing the airfield development and therefore should not be altered. The fines for improper use of barred routes had been used for improvements to highways, for example at Hurstbourne Tarrant.

Cllr Stallard confirmed that the Borough was to submit the revised Local Plan to the Secretary of State after a close vote. He had spoken strongly in favour, with particular emphasis on the retention of the local gaps.

The Plan would now be subject to the scrutiny of the appointed Inspector, and Cllr Stallard advised that Abbotts Ann Action should present a strong case. It was important to indicate that the support for development of “Little Bridge” engendered by Andover College did not necessarily reflect local views and arose from the fact that this would provide a massive financial windfall for the College. However beneficial this might be, it was not in any sense a planning issue.

#### 14/88. Finance.

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

Cheque No	835	Administration	£448.00
“	836	RFO Salary	£280.00
“	837	Enham	£198.03
“	838	Diane Malley (Payroll)	£ 27.50
“	839	Administration Expenses	£ 39.71
“	840	Enham	£198.03
“	841	B. Sims	£ 74.77
“	842	Bulpitt Printing	£ 16.00
“	843	T.Tayler	£ 27.94
“	844	Jo Dixon	£ 6.30
“	845	A.A. War Mem. Hall	£3,000.00

b. Purchase of mower. Because of the poor condition of the “Topper” and the requirement to maintain the Manor Close Field, **it was resolved** to authorise Cllr Sims to negotiate for the purchase of a suitable new machine up to a limit of £3,500.

*Pro GW Sec PW*

c. War Memorial Hall. Cllr Stallard reported that work was starting immediately on the internal works at the Hall, and that the Committee would be calling on the Parish Council for the promised funding. **It was resolved** to authorise the expenditure of a sum not exceeding £3,000.

*Pro GW Sec SO*

#### 14/89. Correspondence.

a. Fracking. An email from Cllr David Drew of Andover Town Council asked whether this Council would be interested in attending a presentation on fracking. It was agreed that this would be of great interest, provided that the views expressed were free of bias or vested interests. The Clerk was to send a positive reply. *Action Clerk*

b. Roadside weeds. Mr. M. Butt had drawn attention to the weeds and other overgrowth which disfigured the approaches to the village. Cllr Stallard undertook to request appropriate action.  
*Action Cllr Stallard*

c. CIL. The replacement of the Section 106 arrangements by a Community Infrastructure Levy was the subject of a current consultation by TVBC. Cllr Stallard explained the new system and recommended it as beneficial to Parish Councils. It was not considered necessary for the Council to respond officially.

d. Community Speed Watch. Goodworth Clatford Parish Council had asked whether Abbots Ann would be interested in sharing equipment for a Speed Watch system with themselves and other Councils. Councillors expressed limited interest and asked the Clerk to request to be kept informed.

*Action Clerk*

**14/90. Other Business.**

a. Hedge at War Memorial Hall. Comment had been received about the hedge at the entrance to the Hall. The Chairman was to ask Darren Murphy to trim it back.

*Action Chairman*

b. Cllr Sims asked that the problem of water from Duck Street adding to drainage problems at the War Memorial Hall be added the “Wish List” for discussion with the Highways department.

c. Cllr Wilkins had noticed a resident apparently cutting back the yew trees at the entrance to the old Village School site. As these trees were subject to a TPO, Cllr Stallard suggested that Cllr Flood should speak to the person concerned.

*Action Cllr Flood*

**14/91. Next Meeting.** The next meeting was scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> September in the Pavilion.

*The Meeting closed at 9.12 p.m.*

***THESE MINUTES REMAIN IN DRAFT FORM UNTIL APPROVED AND SIGNED***