

**Minutes from the Meeting
held on Thursday 4th April 2024 at 19:00
at The War Memorial Hall, Abbots Ann.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

Also, IN ATTENDANCE:

Amanda Owen - Clerk, Test Valley Borough Council Councillor Hasselmann, County Councillor David Drew & one member of the public.

240401	<p>To receive Chairman's opening remarks. Councillor Jordan welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the meeting is recorded by the Parish Council and may be recorded by members of the public.</p>
240402	<p>To receive and accept apologies for absence. Apologies were noted from Borough Councillor Flood.</p>
240403	<p>To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests relating to items on this agenda. There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest relating to items on this agenda RECEIVED.</p>
240404	<p>To approve the minutes of the full council meeting held on Thursday 7th March 2024. The minutes of the full council meeting held on Thursday 7th March were APPROVED as a correct record of the meeting. Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Heather. This motion was passed on a vote of 5 FOR and 1 ABSTENTION.</p>
240405	<p>To receive updates already published and any further updates provided. Reports can be found at APPENDIX A.</p> <p>Councillor Mitchell advised that she had met with Aly Goodman and Councillor Flood and will be producing a paper for the next meeting to discuss with regards to health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Councillor Jordan provided the following updates: Tree Works – noted that he would like Councillors to consider the upcoming request for Arb.Company to return to confirm that works have been conducted accordingly. Kingsmead – Recently attended a meeting at Kingsmead with the residents group to hear concerns relating to the development of a property. A range of concerns were discussed, the main concern with regards to Bats, loss of acoustic protection and access points. Councillor Jordan expressed sincere thanks to Jane Wiggs and her team at FOTAAS who ran an Elvis night raising approximately £2000.00. It was advised that the Fete Committee back up and running, whom have confirmed that it will run in the village again. The Fete Committee have advised they are aiming to achieve a charitable status. Councillor Jordan expressed thanks to them for their work they did last year.</p> <p>Councillor Hasselman provided an overview of her report.</p> <p>Councillor Drew provided an overview of his report.</p>

240406	<p>To note progress with regards to the new Clubhouse. Councillor Jordan provided an update to the meeting with regards to fees, noting little change from £40,000 inclusive of VAT to RIBA stage 4 from both Architects who had quoted.</p> <p>It was noted that Barton Stacey Parish Council are rebuilding their pavilion, the Clerk is to reach out and discuss.</p> <p>Councillor Jordan provided the following update on behalf of Abbots Ann Community Land Trust: <i>“Discussions involving the proposed developer and landowner continue and the option agreement is still to be signed.”</i></p>
240407	<p>To review the standing orders. Councillor Jordan asked Councillors to draw their attention to ‘rules of debate’ to help maintain meeting fluency and asked Councillors to highlight any questions or queries that they may have.</p>
240408	<p>To discuss Poplar Farm Defibrillator Warranty. It was AGREED to remain with the current defibrillator at Poplar Farm. Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Wallis. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.</p>
240409	<p>To agree and sign agreement to remain a member of the Lengthsman Scheme. It was AGREED to remain a member of the Lengthsman Scheme. Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Howard. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.</p>
240410	<p>To agree the quote from Arb.Company for £96.00 to review completed tree works. It was AGREED to accept the quote from Arb.Company for £96.00 to review completed tree works. Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Howard. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.</p>
240411	<p>To discuss Church path fence. Following discussion, the condition of the fence was noted. Noting that the Land Owners are not replying to correspondence, the following was agreed:</p> <p>Councillor Jordan drafting a letter stating highways act with regards to barbed wire, noting complaints and that a young child was recently injured. The Clerk is to contact Hampshire County Council for advice. Discretely, if necessary, access to free legal advice just to ask the question, can we compel repairs to be taken. Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Mitchell. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.</p>
240412	<p>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 March 2024 being £63,573.11. The bank reconciliation can be found as APPENDIX B.</p>
240413	<p>To approve the requests for payment for April. The payments as listed in the table below were APPROVED for payment, less the payment to HRG Tree Surgeons until report from Arb.Company received. Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Wallis. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.</p>

April 2024 Payment Requests

TO	FOR	INVOICE NO	AMOUNT
Staff	Salary	March	£1,147.51
Staff	Expenses	February	£34.03
Councillor Heather	Expenses	March	£14.97
Scandor	Grounds Maintenance	Inv 19921	£852.67
HRG Tree Surgeons	Tree works	Inv 2612	£4,740.00
Arb.Company	Review of completed tree works		£96.00
Mid-Hants Fire Protection	Fire Extinguisher Servicing	366/24	£54.00
Rialtas	Support & Maintenance 2024 / 2025	SM28587	£230.40
Rialtas	Making Tax Digital	SM28588	£132.00
			£7,301.58

240414	To note the appointment of the Internal Auditor. The appointment of Do The Numbers Ltd was NOTED .
240415	To consider the following planning application:
240415.01	To discuss the response from Atlas Planning Group with regards to St Vincents, Andover Road (24/00269/FULLN). Following discussion, it was agreed to not engage with further comments. Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Heather. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.
240415.02	24/00636/TREEN T1 - Karo – Fell. T2 - Hazel - Cut one stem from the base that has grown as a reverted straight shoot. T3 - Laburnham - Remove main trunk that is lopsided. Brook House, Duck Street, Abbots Ann. The Parish Council had NO OBJECTION to this application. Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Howard. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.
240416	To agree the date and location of the Parish Assembly. The date of the Parish Assembly was AGREED as Wednesday 22 nd May at 19:00, at the Main Hall in the War Memorial Hall.
240417	To agree the date of the next meeting as Thursday 2nd May 2024. The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday 2 nd May 2024. Councillor Wallis advised of his apologies for Thursday 2 nd May 2024.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20:31.

APPENDIX A

Environment Portfolio Report for March 2024

Footpaths

We have started grass trimming foot paths and have managed five paths so far between the rain showers, we plan to achieve 2 to 3 per week.

The new higher power batteries are proving successful, we have increased our operation time per battery to one and half hours, compared to half hour on the old type batteries.

I am in discussion with the supervisor on the site of the two new houses being built at the start of Penny path at the A343 end concerning foot path width related to a new wooden fence/brick wall they are erecting.

Sewage

We have had several spillages at Manor Farm during the month, owing to ragging of the valve in Mill Lane and high ground water levels, Southern Water are managing the situation with Tankers when required, they are also water sampling spillage at source and at various points along Duck Street, if over the limit of ammonia levels, they will arrange a cleanup tanker. The spillage problem was debated at the recent PPF quarterly meeting (minutes available on request) SW are looking into possible solutions 1) automated valve system which alone will not solve the problem, 2) diverting the sewer, which would be costly and highly disruptive and 3) upsizing the system, which would move the problem further down the catchment. A review of these options are underway and currently with the SW Asset and Project Management, they have been requested to respond to a solution by the next quarterly meeting. It was pointed out to SW a non-resolution to this problem jeopardises all the good work they are achieving with the relining programme, which is resulting in a lot less Tankers, compared to 2022 when the ground water level 83.53m they had 38 tankers per day in operation, and in 2024 when the ground water was much higher 87.3m they have only 3 tankers per day in operation.

River Watch

The inaugural meeting of the Pillhill Brook Association was held on Saturday the 16th March in Abbotts Ann Memorial Hall where 30 members came together to exchange knowledge and share ideas and concerns.

Everyone thought the meeting was useful and agreed that steering group was required to take the association forward and this group will meet again in April.

The association is working closely with the Watercress and Winterbourne landscape partnership who have been fantastic in supporting our volunteering endeavours along the Pillhill Brook. They've helped facilitate invertebrate and water vole monitor training, water quality testing, carry out bank side renovation work, survey for native crayfish, install a mink raft and provide expertise and advice.

Wildflower Meadow and the Green

All okay trimming required around benches and at the Duck Street entrance. All the fruit trees are doing well and in bud.

Highway/Pavements.

Have report to Hampshire Highways two road pot hole issues at Mill Lane and Cattle Lane.

Councillor John Heather

Update from Hampshire County Council – April 2024

Hampshire County Council considers consolidating office spaces across Hampshire

Proposals by Hampshire County Council to reduce its office accommodation in towns across the county will be considered next week, as part of efforts by the Local Authority to consolidate staff into fewer buildings and help save money on running costs

The proposals set out a strategy for implementation in the coming years, as part of the County Council's regular work reviewing the use of its buildings, and ensuring that facilities keep pace with changing patterns of use.

Many of the people working in County Council offices spend a significant proportion of time working directly in the community with people who need them – delivering local services such as social care to vulnerable children and adults, enabled by technology. Some staff are also working remotely, which has become a more frequent pattern since the Covid-19 pandemic.

Buildings such as libraries and register offices, which are important public-access amenities, were included purely to consider the opportunities for how any office space within them might be used in future. The review of office accommodation does not consider closing any libraries or other public services.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20240603Officeaccommodation>

Hampshire County Council to sell buildings in Winchester

Hampshire County Council will shortly be marketing three sites in Winchester for sale - Three Minsters House, on the High Street, Four Chimneys Family Centre, near the Andover Road, and property on the County Council's Monarch Way site, near the Romsey Road

These buildings will close to staff later this year, and services run from these sites will be relocated to other County Council buildings in Winchester. The services will be moved to other locations within Winchester that are accessible by public transport, and local people will still be able to use them.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20240319winchesteroffices>

£300,000 of illegally sold vapes and fake tobacco seized by Hampshire County Council

Illegal vapes and fake tobacco products valued at £300,000 have been seized by Hampshire County Council's Trading Standards over the last 12 months – in their crackdown on retailers who sell vapes to under 18s

Parents are rightly concerned about their children having access to vapes following an alarming rise in vaping by young people. The vast majority of traders in Hampshire act within the law but we are putting more resource into catching the irresponsible minority whose actions put people at risk. Our Trading Standards team has ramped up activity to clamp down on illegal and underage sales and, as a result, we have seized large amounts of illegal vapes that breached the legal limit of nicotine or that were sold illegally to underage people. We have also seized pouches of counterfeit tobacco which are not subject to the usual manufacturing standards and could contain any substances. This haul of 15,000 contraband items has been kept out of the hands of consumers and will now be destroyed. This is a great result that underscores our commitment to keeping people in Hampshire safe."

More information about Hampshire County Council Trading Standards can be found by visiting: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/business/tradingstandards>

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/06032024TSvapehaul>

Creating a smoke-free generation comes a step nearer

Up to £23 million will be spent from April 2025 over the following seven years to support Hampshire smokers to quit, and to help stop people taking up the habit in the first place

Smoking is the single biggest preventable cause of ill health and premature death in England, costing the taxpayer millions and placing a huge burden on the NHS and social care. Helping people to quit smoking therefore is vital and is one of our key statutory responsibilities."

The County Council's current commissioned service, [Smokefree Hampshire](#), offers stop smoking support that is personalised to meet the needs of its clients.

Currently some 3,500 people in Hampshire are supported to quit each year via this service.

In 2022, it was estimated that 10.5% of adults living in Hampshire smoked. It is also estimated that some 4,500 Hampshire residents die, and 8,600 residents are admitted to hospital each year because of smoking.

Local Authorities' Public Health budgets are 'ring-fenced' by Government. This means they cannot be spent on funding other services.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/19032024Smokingcessation24>

County Council invites communities to bid for funding to plant disease resistant elms

In a boost for nature recovery, communities across Hampshire are being invited to apply for funding to plant disease resistant elm trees. The once abundant species has been decimated by disease in recent decades, but new varieties are now taking root across the county

The initiative to support its comeback is possible thanks to a grant from The Tree Council secured by Hampshire County Council's Forest Partnership.

Enquiries are open now for the 2024/25 tree planting season which starts from the autumn. Organisations such as town and parish councils, local groups and landowners can find out more information on the Hampshire Forest Partnership [webpage](#).

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/19032024DiseaseResistantElms>

New forum launched to encourage young people with additional needs and disabilities to speak up

Young people across Hampshire with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) have an exciting opportunity to join a new youth forum to voice their opinions and share experiences directly with decision makers from the local authority on topics that directly affect them – such as education, training and employment opportunities

Anyone aged 14 to 25 with SEND can join the new SEND Youth Forum – you don't need to have a formal diagnosis or an Education Health and Care Plan.

Members will have opportunities to make new friends, learn new skills, feed back their firsthand experiences of education, work and training, gain insight into how decisions that affect them are made, and influence those decisions at times too. The Forum has been set up in collaboration with learners currently enrolled in the County Council's Supported Internship programme, which offers real workplace experience alongside support and training with a range of Hampshire employers.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20240319SENDforum>

Cllr David Drew

Test Valley Central Division, HCC

Borough Councillor Report

Councillors Maureen Flood and Susanne Hasselmann April 2024

Community Grants – Green Projects

Following a request by the Climate Emergency Working Group, TVBC officers have adapted the community grants document to include those grants that may be applicable to community environmental projects. Please see a full list in the attached document.

Butterfly Monitoring

Every year, Test Valley Borough Council takes part in the United Kingdom Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKBMS) in conjunction with Butterfly Conservation.

There are 10 locations in Test Valley with 10 transects in each. The transect walks are for 26 weeks between April and the end of September and consist of a predetermined walk. We would like to hear from you if you'd like to walk a transect, record your sightings, provide valuable information for TVBC's conservation work and inform the future management plan for the Borough.

All training will be provided. If you would like to be part of this year's Butterfly Monitoring Scheme, please email CitizenScience@testvalley.gov.uk to register your interest.

Caroline Nokes MP visit to Southern Water Pathfinder Project and Fullerton Wastewater Treatment Works

On Tuesday 2nd April Caroline Nokes MP spent a day in our area to find out about the Pathfinder project in Kimpton, Thruxton and East Cholderton, and to learn more about the work carried out by the Pan Parish Forum in collaboration with Southern Water down the Pill Hill Brook and Anton.

She also visited the Fullerton Treatment Works in the afternoon where she had detailed discussions with Southern Water about the overflows into the Test and Southern Water's future investment plans.

Your local County and Borough Councillors, Chris Donnelly, David Drew, Maureen Flood and Susanne Hasselmann, as well as the PPF secretary Janet Wright, PPF chair and members attended some or all of these meetings.

CLlr Susanne Hasselmann, cldrshasselmann@testvalley.gov.uk

CLlr Maureen Flood, cldrmflood@testvalley.gov.uk

APPENDIX B

Date: 02/04/2024

Abbots Ann Parish Council

Page 1

Time: 08:38

**Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31/03/2024
for Cashbook 1 - Lloyds Treasurers Account**

User: AMANDA

<u>Bank Statement Account Name (s)</u>	<u>Statement Date</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Balances</u>
Lloyds Treasurers Account	31/03/2024		63,573.11
			<u>63,573.11</u>
<u>Unpresented Payments (Minus)</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			63,573.11
<u>Unpresented Receipts (Plus)</u>			
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			63,573.11
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	63,573.11
		Difference is :-	0.00