

PARISH COUNCIL OF ABBOTTS ANN

MINUTES

OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 3rd November 2011
IN THE JUBILEE ROOM

Present: Cllr. B. Griffiths, Chairman Cllr. S. Oram
 Cllr. G. Whyte, Vice-Chairman Cllr. D. Paffett
 Cllr. R. Bone Cllr. B. Sims (from 6.50 p.m.)
 Cllr P. Wilkins

In Attendance:

Mr. A. Stokes, Clerk; Cllr. A. Gibson, HCC; Cllr. G. Stallard, TVBC; Mr. R. Lucas; Abbots Ann Action; Mrs. W. Davis, AAGA; Mrs. S. Coffey and one member of the public.

The meeting opened at 6.34 p.m.

11/105. Apologies. Apologies were recorded from Cllr M. Flood, TVBC; Mr. P Kelly, Footpaths Officer; Mr. T. Tayler, Archivist.

11/106. Minutes. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th October 2011 were confirmed for signature. *Pro GW Sec DP*

11/107. Co-option of new Councillor.

After Mrs. S. Coffey and Mr. B. Sims had made brief presentations to the Council, **it was resolved** that Mr. B. Sims be co-opted to fill the current vacancy. Having signed the form of Acceptance of Office, Mr. Sims took his seat as Councillor.
Pro SO Sec PW

11/108. Matters arising.

a. Playgrounds. Cllr Bone was working on proposals for improving playground facilities in the village, but now required information about funding from the Clerk.

Action Clerk

b. Timothy's Field. The Clerk had consulted the Borough Solicitor about residents' obligation to share the cost of maintaining the parking area, but was informed that neither the Borough nor the Parish had any powers of enforcement. It was recommended that private legal advice be taken.

c. Oak tree in Hall Playground. The Clerk was instructed to obtain estimates for carrying out the work recommended by the Borough Arboriculturalist. *Action Clerk*

d. HALC AGM. Cllrs Oram and Paffett reported on the meeting, drawing attention to a presentation on the holding of "Play Events"; to the value of parishcouncil.net, which provided for the setting up of straightforward Parish websites; to competitions for Clerk of the Year, Best Website and Best Newsletter; to the importance of reacting to consultations on the Localism legislation.

11/109. Planning.

a. **It was resolved** to register objections to the following applications:

i. TV No 11/02158/FULLN & 11/02159/CAWN: Redevelopment of the Old Primary School site, on the grounds that the proposed development was out of keeping with its surroundings; the designs were uninspired and included inappropriate details such as tubular flues; no commitment was made concerning materials; despite being passed by the Highway authority, the access for vehicles was hazardous; the level of protection for the yew trees was unconvincing; the failure to provide affordable housing was regrettable; the account in the Design Statement about the Council's views was misleading.

Pro GW Sec BS

ii. TV No 11/01637/FULLN: Retention of retail premises, on grounds that the use of the buildings for sale of merchandise unconnected with gardening activities represented a change of use, with the danger of the site becoming a general retail park inappropriate for its rural situation.

Pro RB Sec PW

iii. TV No 11/02368/FULLN: Thornhill; Summerhouse, on grounds that, being visible from street level, it represented further damage to the previously rural nature of an important approach to the village in addition to the recent drastic reduction of the cover formerly provided by trees and shrubs, responsibility for which remained mysterious.

Pro PW Sec BS

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

11/110. Clerk's Report. The Clerk had found a possible solution to the problem of the fouling of swing-seats by birds; cable-ties attached to the horizontal bar was a cheap and effective deterrent. He would see if these could be fixed to the Parish's swings, since bird droppings on the seats had been criticised by the RoSPA inspector. *Action Clerk*

Cllr Whyte left the meeting at 7.55 p.m.

11/111. Organisations.

a. County Councillor. Cllr A. Gibson reported that the HATs had been discontinued, but that he was still well placed to help this Council with County affairs. He explained the effects on highway maintenance of "Operation Resilience", emphasising that safety was the first priority. Meanwhile the best way to get repairs made to specific roads was to register complaints via the website, and not by approaching individual officers. This was why he had only recently become aware of the poor condition of Church Road; he undertook to see that this was put into the programme.

Informed of the lack of progress in settling the future of the Manor Close Playing Field, he undertook to look into the application for registration as a Village Green.

He took note of requests for grit-bins to be placed at Bulbery, Old Salisbury Road and at the Eagle.

b. Borough Councillor. Cllr G. Stallard mentioned that Goodworth Clatford had awarded the Community Cup to the Rev. Nicky Judd.

He commented on the Borough's new Core Strategy, details of which were already available on the internet; he emphasised that it was essential that this Council should respond to the forthcoming Consultation. It would be possible to arrange a visit

to a Parish Council meeting of a Planning Officer. Good news was that the “Village Envelope” was virtually unchanged and the Local Gap was preserved.

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c. Abbots Ann Action. Mr. R. Lucas echoed Cllr Stallard’s advice on the Core Strategy, and was thanked for expressing his willingness to help the Council in any relevant decision-making.

He warned that Ilchester Estates would waste no opportunity of benefiting from the proposed “presumption in favour of development”. It was not impossible that an application by them for developing Little Park would become a test case for establishing the meaning of the presumption. Vigilance was essential.

Cllr A. Gibson left the meeting at 8.58 p.m.

d. AAGA. Following the group’s AGM, Mrs W. Davis had sent the annual report to the Clerk, who undertook to circulate it in due course.

She had also sent details of the Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields Scheme, which offered protection in perpetuity. She suggested that the Council should apply for inclusion of the Manor Close field; she had been advised by the organisers of the scheme that individuals or bodies that did not own the property in question could nevertheless apply.

She was seeking advice on the possibility of AAGA benefiting from the distribution of profits from the Fete, and was asking for ideas for suitable projects.

e. Sports Field Committee. Cllr Wilkins reminded the Council of the forthcoming Bonfire Night. Responding to discussion of the position of the plans for replacing the Pavilion, she reported that Steve Pearce had undertaken to assemble information and research sources of advice; he would produce a report for presentation at a later meeting.

f. War Memorial Hall. Cllr G.Stallard reported on the successful installation of the new cooker, and thanked the Council for its assistance. He acknowledged that the committee was aware that the outside light was giving trouble and was working to solve the problem.

He reminded the Council that the Committee’s AGM would take place on November 9th.

11/112. Finance.

a. **It was resolved** to authorise the following payments: *Pro SO Sec BS*

Cheque No	646	Administration	£729.79
“	647	Hampshire Playing Fields Assoc.	£ 40.00
“	648	Enham	£154.00

b. **It was resolved** to adopt the draft budget for the year 2012-13 as presented by the Clerk and appended to these minutes. *Pro SO Sec PW*

c. **It was resolved** to authorise the Clerk to seek advice on the possibility of placing part of the Council’s funds in a Deposit Account offering better interest rates than the current account with the Bank of Ireland. *Pro SO Sec RB*

Action Clerk

11/113. Correspondence.

Insurance. The Clerk had been informed by the Insurance Company that it would be necessary to prepare a Risk Assessment to cover projects undertaken by volunteers. He could provide simple forms for this purpose, and Cllr Bone offered help and advice, having had much experience of the subject.

Other items were deferred or delegated.

11/114. Other Business.

a. Community Consultation. Following his circulation of those attending the meeting on September 21st, the Clerk presented a list of eight parishioners, including the Chairman and Cllr Wilkins, who had responded with an offer to serve on the Steering Group. The Chairman undertook to convene an inaugural meeting, and would report back, if possible, to the next Council meeting *Action Chairman*

b. The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. Cllr Oram had volunteered to convene and chair a committee of representatives of Parish organisations, starting immediately. He was already aware of a number of suggested activities to mark the occasion. His commitment was met with relief and gratitude. *Action Cllr Oram*

11/115. Next Meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for 1st December.

The meeting closed at 9.31 p.m.

Signed

Date