

PARISH COUNCIL OF ABBOTTS ANN

MINUTES

OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 3rd JULY 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; Mrs. R. Griffiths, Treasurer, Press; Dr. J. Moon, Tree Warden, AAV; Mr. P. Wood; Footpaths Officer.

The meeting opened at 6.38 p.m.

14/70. Apologies. Apologies were recorded from Cllr. S. Oram; Cllr. B. Sims; Cllr. R. Bone; Cllr. A. Gibson, HCC; Cllr. G. Stallard, TVBC; Cllr. M. Flood, TVBC.

14/71. Minutes. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th June 2014 were confirmed and signed. *Pro DP Sec PW*

14/72. Deputy Footpaths Officer.

It was unanimously resolved that Cllr D. Paffett be appointed Deputy Footpaths Officer with immediate effect. *Pro PW Sec GW*

14/73. Matters arising.

a. Maintenance. Several complaints had been received about the overgrown state of the footpaths. The Clerk, in the Parish Magazine, had emphasised the responsibility of landowners for hedges. The Chairman undertook to contact Darren Murphy about taking on the work previously carried out by Trevor Hook. *Action Chairman*

b. Churchyard. The Clerk had asked Enham to clear the asphalt paths in the Churchyard, and was awaiting a response.

c. Signs for War Memorial Hall. The Chairman had obtained estimates for two signs at £180 and £195 ex VAT. **It was resolved** to authorise the Chairman to place orders accordingly. *Pro GW Sec PW*

d. TVBC offer of fencing. The Clerk had obtained details, but advised that there were no suitable positions for the sections offered.

e. Recreation Ground seats. It was understood that Adam Rose had suitable materials to hand for two simple benches.

f. Drain at War Memorial Hall. The Chairman undertook to press the contractor to remedy the problem. It was suggested that the further problem of surface water entering from Duck Street be included in the forthcoming discussions with Hampshire Highways.

g. Defibrillator. The Chairman reported that the defibrillator was currently stored at the Eagle, pending arrangements by the landlord for its installation in a cabinet.

14/74. Planning.

a. **It was resolved** to register No Objection to the following application:
TV No. 14/01485/FULLN: Down Farm: Conversion of farm buildings to residential use.
The Clerk was instructed to repeat the Council's misgivings about traffic hazards at the entrance to the property. *Pro GW Sec DP*

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

c. Pip Williams TVBC Enforcement Officer, and Paul Jackson, Head of Planning, had suggested attending the September Parish Council meeting. The Clerk was instructed to make the necessary arrangements. *Action Clerk*

14/75. Clerk's Report.

The Clerk informed the Council that he had reluctantly decided that the time had come for him to retire, and requested that he be relieved of his duties sooner rather than later. The news was received with sadness, sympathy and gratitude for past service. The Clerk indicated that he would be happy to continue to serve the Council in other ways if this were possible or desirable.

The Chairman indicated that he knew of a possible successor within the Parish, and was asked to open discussions with the individual concerned. *Action Chairman*

14/76. Organisations.

a. AAV and AAGA. Dr. J. Moon and Mr. D. Read reported:

i. Wild Garden. Estimates had been received for cutting paths in the near future (£50) and for cutting the whole area later (£150) had been received from Mrs. K. Newman. **It was resolved** to authorise this expenditure. *Pro GW Sec PW*

It was noted that some branches of the Cherry trees needed cutting back.

It was good news that the Fun Club was to be involved again.

ii. Community Energy Project. AAGA, for AAV, was organising a public meeting in the War Memorial Hall on 9th July to be addressed by an expert on subjects such as reducing fuel bills, collective energy purchasing and energy generating.

Under the Sustainable Communities Act, it was unclear whether it was legal for Parish Councils to sell energy. The pressure group known as Local Works is asking Parish Councils to support their campaign to ensure that the right to sell energy be extended to Parish Councils. The Clerk was requested to express this Council's support. *Action Clerk*

iii. Apple Day. This was scheduled for 12th October.

b. Footpaths. Cllr Paffett and Mr. P. Wood reported:

i. Church Path. The barbed wire on the meadow fence was still hazardous. The Chairman was continuing to urge the tenant of the field to replace the wire.

ii. The Footpaths Officers undertook to record problems and to report them to the Council.

iii. Where overgrown hedges were obstructing footpaths, it was suggested that the Footpaths Officers should put a note through the landowners' letterboxes reminding them of their responsibilities. The Clerk was asked to draft a suitable note. *Action Clerk*

iv. Mr. Wood had attended HCC's conference "Paths to Partnership", which he had found useful.

14/77. Finance.

a. It was resolved to approve the following payments:	<i>Pro PW Sec GW</i>
Cheque No: 829 P.O.Ltd: PAYE	£ 480.34
“ 830 A.A.Sports Field Grant	£1,500.00
“ 831 Administration	£ 437.08
“ 832 RFO Salary	£ 280.00
“ 833 Playsafety Ltd	£ 177.60
“ 834 Ranson Houghton: Legal Services	£ 958.00

b. Salaries. **It was resolved** that the salaries of the Clerk and Treasurer be increased by 2.5% from August 2014. *Pro PW Sec GW*

14/78. Correspondence.

a. Manor Close Field. Mr. P. Sabroe had commented on the condition of the Manor Close Field; the Chairman explained that the “topper” used for its maintenance had broken down, but repair and/or replacement were in hand.

Mr. Sabroe also suggested that residents should be asked for ideas about future uses for the field.

b. Farm Traffic. Velcourt Farms had written to assure local residents of their policy to minimise any disruption caused by their heavy machinery at harvest time.

14/79. Other Business.

St John’s Cross. The Clerk was instructed to contact Hampshire Highways about the uncut grass at St. John’s Cross, which was obstructing visibility. *Action Clerk*

14/80. Next Meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for 31st July in the Pavilion. There would be no meeting in August.

The Meeting closed at 8.54 p.m.

Signed

Date