

PARISH COUNCIL OF ABBOTTS ANN

MINUTES

OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 3rd April 2014
IN THE JUBILEE ROOM

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

In Attendance:

Mr. A. Stokes, Clerk; Cllr. M. Flood, TVBC; Mr. P. Kelly, Footpaths Officer; Mr. T. Tayler, Archivist; Mrs. J. Else, Village Shop Association; Miss R. Groves, Press.

The meeting opened at 6.30 p.m. A Minute's Silence was observed in memory of Rosie Davis, who had died earlier in the day.

14/33. Apologies. Apologies were recorded from Cllr. A. Gibson, HCC; Cllr. G. Stallard, TVBC; Cllr. B. Sims; Mr. R. Lucas, AAA/AAV.

14/34. Minutes. The Minutes of the meeting of March 2014 were approved for signature. *Pro PW Sec GW*

14/35. Matters Arising.

a. Manor Close Field. The Clerk reported that although the Solicitor had still not received the final version of the lease, Hampshire County Council had given an assurance that there were no more obstacles to completion of the transaction. The delay was caused mainly by the legal processes arising from the application for registering the field as a village green. This application had been made independently of the Parish Council.

b. Highway Issues. Cllr Sims had provided the Clerk with a comprehensive list of problems affecting the roads in the Parish.

c. Church Repairs. The Clerk had ascertained that the legality of funding for repairs to the fabric of the village church was uncertain; however there should be no problem in funding work on the churchyard. It was essential to have a meeting with the Rector and Churchwardens in the near future.

14/36. Planning.

a. **It was resolved** to register No Objection to the following applications:
TV No 14/00548/FULLN. Robins, Salisbury Road: Rear Extension. *Pro SO Sec RB*

“ 14/00754/FULLN. Meadow View, Old Salisbury Road: change of use to keep ponies; provision of associated buildings. *Pro GW Sec SO*

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

14/37. Clerk's Report.

a. Clerk's office. The Clerk was able to report that after several weeks of intermittent flooding, his home and office were no longer below water-level. He apologised for the effect that this, together with simultaneous family illness, was having on his service to the Parish.

b. Trevor Hook, who had contributed most effectively to the maintenance of the footpaths, had decided to discontinue this part of his work. He would continue to maintain the grass in the War Memorial Hall grounds and elsewhere. The Council expressed appreciation of his service over many years.

14/38. Reports from Organisations.

a. Borough Councillor. Cllr M. Flood explained the arrangements for collection of the sandbags which had been provided as flood protection by the Borough.

With Cllr G. Stallard, she had been pleased to present a cheque for £4,000 to the 4th Andover Scout Group, which included members from This Parish.

The Planning Enforcement Officer had offered to come to a Council meeting to discuss her role. Councillors were unanimous in welcoming the proposal.

Cllr Flood reported on the successful use of empty shops by “Pop-up” shops, where a business could test the market over a period of around two weeks.

In response to a question from Cllr Oram about the difficulties experienced by shops struggling to survive in the town where the level of business rates was part of the problem, Cllr Flood explained that these rates were fixed nationally, leaving local authorities little room for manoeuvre.

Mr. P. Kelly, as lead for Abbots Ann Vision – Tidy Village, commented critically on the delay in removing the logged remains of the storm-damaged tree from Dance’s Corner, and on an unrepaired fence with bollards remaining on the roadway nearby. He expressed the view that Councillors should set a good example in preparation for Sparkle Day .

b. Abbots Ann Action. Mt. R. Lucas had prepared a full response to the consultation on the TVBC’s revised Local Plan. This was approved for signature by the Chairman and submission to the Planning Service. The Vice-chairman undertook to provide the Chairman with sufficient copies for all TVBC Councillors.

Action Vice-chairman

c. Abbots Ann Vision. It was agreed that £50 should be contributed from the Chairman’s allowance for refreshments at the public meeting, entitled “Your Countryside,” to be held on 21st May.

d. Archivist. Mr. T. Tayler reported on progress of the WW1 exhibition. It was planned to mount it at the school at the end of the Summer Term before moving it to the War Memorial Hall. It was also hoped to take it to the Museum of Army Flying.

Cllr Oram emphasised the importance of the active involvement of the schoolchildren in the commemoration although the date of the outbreak of the war, August 4th, was in the holidays. A church service was proposed for August 4th.

f. Fete Committee. The Chairman reported with satisfaction that the presence of an ice cream van had been secured for the Fete.

e. Footpaths. Mr. P. Kelly reported that all footpaths were open.

He was continuing to press Strutt and Parker for information about ownership of the land and trees adjacent to Webbs Lane. He was also in touch with Mr. D. Burnfield about provision of a permissive path between Andover and the Garden Centre.

He took note of Cllr Wilkins’s report that the finger-post at the Black Barn had collapsed, and of the broken stile reported by Cllr Oram.

He reminded the Council of the public meeting on The Countryside in May which promised a very interesting programme of talks by expert and knowledgeable speakers.

f. Primary School. Cllr Bone reported that there was a vacancy for a Foundation Governor. She was to remind Mrs. Hall, the Headmistress, that she had an open invitation to attend a Parish Council meeting.

g. Village Shop Committee. Mrs. J. Else, Chairman, had written to request financial assistance from the Parish Council towards the current refurbishment of the shop. In applying for grants from other bodies it was important to include information about the Council's contribution. The Clerk pointed out that the Council had not offered assistance before because they had not been asked. Provision had therefore not been made in the budget. After discussion **it was resolved** to offer a contribution of at least 10% of the net costs as set out in Mrs. Else's letter. *Pro GW Sec PW*

Mrs. Else commented on the happy atmosphere among the volunteers and the efficiency of the new Manageress, who was introducing many interesting new ideas, including greater use of local produce.

h. War Memorial Hall. Cllr Bone reported that about 30 people had attended the informal opening of the Recreation Ground. The Vice-chairman had received enthusiastic comments from children using the new play equipment. Some were critical of the lack of flooring in the tepees. Cllr Bone was working with Adam Rose on the roof for the slide.

14/39. Finance.

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

Cheque No	806	Administration	£698.19
"	807	Enham	£ 88.01
"	808	T.C.Hook	£185.30
"	809	B. Sims: Fuel	£ 57.06
"	810	TVBC: Dog-bin	£165.36
"	811	D.Malley: Payroll services	£ 13.75

b. Defibrillator. Cll Oram explained that a training course for up to 15 people would cost around £360. Cllr Flood suggested that this could be part-funded by a discretionary grant from the Borough Councillors; she would assist Cllr Oram with an application for half the sum required. After discussion **it was resolved** to offer matching finance if this grant were forthcoming; otherwise the situation should be reviewed.

Pro GW Sec DP

14/40. Correspondence.

a. CPRE. CPRE had produced a petition protesting against the Government's policy of facilitating development in the countryside. The Council agreed with the Clerk's suggestion that the form be circulated for signature at the Assembly on the following day.

b. Farnborough Airport. Lasham Gliding Club had written to emphasise the problems liable to arise from the airport's proposed expansion and the resulting increase in air traffic over a wide area.

c. Andover College. It had been noted that Andover College had circulated parents asking them to comment on the TVBC Revised Local Plan in favour of the development of Little Park. This could result in the College benefiting financially on a massive scale as a result of the terms of the original sale of the land by Sparsholt College. Mr. Lucas had written on behalf of the Council to combat the College's case and to re-emphasise the importance of the Local Gap between Andover and Abbots Ann.

d. "Can Do". A guide for organisers of voluntary events had been published by the Cabinet Office. The Clerk suggested that details of this useful document should be circulated to all those attending the Assembly.

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e. Lengthsman. It was decided to defer discussion of a possible appointment until after the "Sparkle Day", when more details of a lengthsman's duties would be known. An initial grant of £1,000 would be available for setting up the arrangements.

Cllr Flood undertook to find out what regular tasks were the responsibility of the Borough.

14/41. Other Business.

a. Sparkle Day. Mr. Kelly thanked the Borough Councillors for their help in the arrangements for a "Sparkle Day" on 22nd April. TVBC had already made a survey and listed the tasks required. Although many of these would be carried out by Borough personnel there was much to be done by volunteers, who would be provided with suitable equipment. Mr. Kelly would be away on holiday, but Mr. T. Tayler and Mr. R. Lucas would take the lead. The schoolchildren would tidy up their own premises.

It was noted that on the map provided by TVBC, Old Coach Road was titled "Old Church Road." Cllr Flood undertook to ask the appropriate officer to correct this for the future.

Action Cllr Flood

b. Wild Garden and Burial Ground. It was noted that space for new graves was running out in the maintained area of the Burial Ground. It would be necessary to incorporate some or all of the Wild Garden, which was already consecrated, or to use the space at the top of the Burial Ground which had been left unconsecrated for the benefit of those for whom burial in consecrated ground was in those days considered unsuitable.

14/42. Future Meetings.

The next Council meeting was scheduled for 1st May. The Annual assembly was to be held on April 4th.

The Meeting closed at 8.46 p.m.

Signed

Date