

# **PARISH COUNCIL OF ABBOTTS ANN**

## **MINUTES**

OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON THURSDAY 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2010  
IN THE JUBILEE ROOM

Present: Cllr. B.Griffiths, Chairman Cllr. S.Oram  
Cllr. G.Whyte, Vice-chairman Cllr. D.Paffett  
Cllr. D.Alleway Cllr. A.Barham Cllr. P.Wilkins

In Attendance:

Mr. A.Stokes, Clerk Mr.D.Downey, Footpaths Officer  
Cllr. G.Stallard, TVBC Mrs. W. Davis, Sustainability Group  
Mrs. R. Bone, Nursery School 9 Members of the Public

*The meeting opened at 6.30 p.m.*

**1011. Apologies.** Apologies were recorded from Cllr A. Gibson, HCC and Mr.T.Taylor, Archivist.

**1012. Police.** P.C.S.O. Ross Hanley introduced himself to the meeting, outlined plans for future regular “surgeries” and answered questions from Councillors and members of the public, who welcomed the visible presence of Police in the Parish. He encouraged the use of the phone number 101 for alerting Police to nuisance or suspicious activities.  
*P.C.S.O. Hanley left at 6.39p.m.*

**1013. Cllr Arthur Peters TVBC.** Referring to the resignation of Cllr Peters from TVBC, the Chairman paid tribute to the tirelessness, diligence and authority with which he had worked in the interests of this and the other communities in the ward. All present wished that their gratitude and appreciation be put on record. The meeting also endorsed the Chairman’s emphasis on the friendliness and relative informality of the way in which the affairs of the Parish were traditionally conducted.

**1014. Minutes.** **It was resolved** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2010 be confirmed and signed.  
*Pro PW Sec DA*

**1015. Matters Arising.**

a. Red Rice Road. It was noted that the phrases “those affected” and “affected residents” in Minute 1003d iii and iv were defined by TVBC, and thus understood by this Council, as referring only to the residents whose current address is Red Rice Road.

b. Declarations of Interest. It was noted following legal advice from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, TVBC, that in discussions of the proposals to change the name of Red Rice Road in previous meetings the Code of Conduct had not required Cllrs Wilkins or Barham to declare an interest. Since their well-being or financial status would not be affected by the results any more than those of other members of the community, they had no “Personal” or “Prejudicial” interest in the matter.

c. Burghclere Down lighting. Cllr Stallard explained that maintenance of all lights on public property in Burghclere Down was now the responsibility of TVBC. The Borough had also taken on the task of negotiating for maintenance of those on private property.

d. Manor Close Playing Field. The Clerk had received an email from Mr. Barry, HCC. He had met officers from TVBC Planning Service and had had a positive response. However, a great deal of research would be required by both parties before any detailed proposal could be made, with the onus on HCC to provide justification in terms of planning policy, housing need and access. HCC is looking towards the resourcing of the further reports required.

The Chairman had been asked for details of the proposals by a resident of Catherine's walk. He was planning to discuss these, but it was not considered prudent to pass copies of any plans or documents into the public domain at this stage.

It was noted that Cllr Alleway, as a resident of Manor Close, had declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the matter.

e. Sign Post. The "fingers" had been renovated and replaced, but it was noted that the paintwork on the post itself was in poor condition.

#### **1016. Planning.**

a. **It was resolved** to register no objection to the following applications:

TV No 10/00046/FULLN: Folly Cottage; extensions. *Pro SO Sec PW*

“ “ 10/00199/FULLN: 15 Red Post Lane; demolition of bungalow

and replacement dwelling etc.

*Pro GW Sec AB*

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

#### **1017. Clerk's Report.**

a. Church Path. The Clerk had reported the appearance of a dangerous pot-hole on Church Path, and the Chairman had marked it with a cone.

b. RoSPA. The private safety inspector previously employed had closed his business, so the Clerk had instructed RoSPA to carry out the annual inspection of play equipment.

c. Burial Ground. A number of graves and memorial stones had been affected by the weather causing subsidence. The undertakers, grave-diggers and masons concerned were all prepared to make good the damage without charge.

**1018. TVBC Councillor's Report.** Cllr Stallard commented on the situation regarding the telephone kiosk at the War Memorial Hall. Since a vital letter from the Planning Office had not reached the clerk in November, the deadline for applying to adopt the kiosk had passed, so that it remained the property of BT. The Clerk was asked to continue his endeavours to clarify the situation. *Action Clerk*

He had attended a meeting at which the altered bus-routes had been discussed. It was clear that the changes to those serving Abbots Ann had to be viewed in the context of a county-wide review of the subsidies provided by HCC, and the figures for the use of the service from Abbots Ann were not considered sufficient to justify routing them to the Railway Station. TVBC, however, was actively scrutinising the revised time-tables.

He had obtained the assurances of the TVBC officers that the procedures for the changing of the name of Red Rice Road were being correctly followed and that the definition of "those affected" by the change was restricted to the residents of Red Rice Road.

*Standing Orders were suspended at 7.52 p.m.*

*Pro GW Sec SO*

### 1019. Red Rice Road.

Mr. Ian Moodie, TVBC, had conducted a survey requesting responses to the proposal to extend the name “Duck Street” to include Red Rice Road. The results had been received, showing that of a circulation of 35 households 25 supported the change and two opposed it, so of the 71% of residents who responded, 92% gave a positive response, representing 66% of those circulated.

Extensive discussion ensued, with contributions from members of the public and Cllr Stallard, who had ascertained that Royal Mail did not object to the proposal.

*At 8.04 p.m. Standing Orders were resumed.*

*Pro GW Sec DA*

*From 8.05 p.m. to 8.11 p.m. Cllr Wilkins was absent from the room.*

*At 8.09 p.m. the following resolution was carried by majority vote:*

*Having taken legal advice confirming the legality of the actions and discussions of this Council and its members and officers in this connection, in consideration of the results of the survey carried out by the Test Valley Borough Council, and in accordance with the required statutory procedures, Abbotts Ann Parish Council hereby formally requests that the name of Red Rice Road, Abbotts Ann be changed, so that the entire stretch of road from St. John’s Cross to the junction of Duck Street with Cattle Lane be known as Duck Street.*

*Pro GW Sec DA*

The Clerk was instructed to enter a strong request that the Council be consulted about the location of any new street-name signs.

*Action Clerk*

### 1020. Parish Organisations.

a. Neighbourhood Watch. Mr. Downey reported on several thefts of diesel and heating oil in the area.

b. Nursery School. Mrs. Bone reported that the Nursery School wished to take over part of the storage shed from March.

c. Sports Field. The Chairman reported that the Abbotts Ann Players were asking to be permitted to place a storage container on the Sports Field. He requested that the Players should discuss the proposal direct with the Sports Field Committee and that Cllr Wilkins should report back to the Council.

d. Sustainability Group. Mrs. Davis reported that some 40 persons had expressed interest in taking action to protect the local environment. She had arranged for an open meeting to be held on February 20<sup>th</sup> in the War Memorial Hall at which it was hoped to establish a properly constituted committee. The Chairman expressed the appreciation of the Council for this initiative.

e. Village Shop. Cllr Whyte reported on the fact that the recent inclement weather had brought in many new customers, who, it was hoped, would remain regular patrons.

f. War Memorial Hall. Cllr Stallard reported that the Committee was concerned at the prospect of a considerable reduction in income because the Primary School would no longer be using the Hall after April. Other sources of revenue were being sought.

### 1021. Finance.

a. **It was resolved** to authorise the following payment;

Cheque No 537                      Administration                      £673.73

b. It was noted with appreciation that Cllr Gibson had allocated £500 from his discretionary funds for the re-roofing of the storage shed at the War Memorial Hall. This would cover nearly all the cost as estimated by Trevor Hook at £525, plus some £75 for minor alterations, replacement of locks etc.

**It was resolved** to instruct Mr. Hook to proceed with the repairs as specified.

*Pro SO Sec GW                      Action*

*Clerk*

c. War Memorial Hall Fence. The Clerk reported that he had obtained no offers of funding for this work, since it was classified as “maintenance” and not a new project. As authorised under Minute 09119b the Chairman and Clerk were requested to initiate the work on the basis of the least expensive tender. Subject to clarification of some minor points, the Chairman undertook to place the order with Faraday Fabrications.

### **1022. Correspondence.**

a. St. John’s Cross and A343. Mrs. C. Forrester had organised a petition in Abbots Ann and neighbouring Parishes requesting HCC to carry out works on the A343 to improve safety, including imposition of speed limits and the construction of a roundabout at St. John’s Cross. The Chairman congratulated Mrs. Forrester on amassing such a large number of signatures and undertook to forward the petition to Cllr Gibson.

b. Salt Bins. The leader of HCC, Cllr Thornber, had written to local councils indicating that the County Council was considering providing them with salt bins, free of charge. This Council, however, was concerned that there were drawbacks to the offer, not least because, as the law currently stood, legal liability for injuries occurring on treated areas could still fall on the individual or corporation carrying out treatment. Until this issue was resolved, the Council considered it advisable not to ask for any bins.

c. A parishioner had drawn attention to a passage in the Newsletter written by the Clerk for the Parish Magazine in which a part of the draft Minutes (relating to Red Rice Road) had apparently been quoted verbatim. The correspondent questioned the propriety of such a quotation being published before the Minutes had been approved as a true record by resolution of the Parish Council. The Chairman had taken legal advice and had concluded that the Newsletter was comparable to any press or other report of the proceedings of a public meeting and not subject to such formal restrictions. It was noted that in any case the passage concerned had later been approved unchanged (Minute 1013).

d. Red Post Bridge. In response to a letter from the Clerk, the Bridge Engineer at HCC had confirmed that the bridge, which was owned and maintained by Network Rail, was being strengthened and that this would enable heavier lorries to use it.

In connection with the sight-lines, he confirmed that the County Council’s Safety Engineering Team were reviewing these. They were aware of this Council’s concerns and of the suggestion that the “Give Way” priorities be changed.

### **1023. General**

Cllr Whyte reported on his research into the ways in which Satellite Navigation devices directed traffic in Abbots Ann. He confirmed that neither these devices nor the maps provided by Google recorded the names of any of the village’s main streets, including Red Rice Road, Duck Street and Little Ann Road. He explained that their programming was directed to post-codes rather than to addresses and he therefore questioned the likelihood that re-naming Red Rice Road would trigger an increase in traffic through the village, pointing out that traffic from Andover to the post-codes in the northern part of the village (e.g. the current Duck Street) was directed by Cattle Lane, while traffic for the central area was directed along Little Ann Road and Church Road.

**1024. Next Meeting.** The next meeting was scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30 p.m.

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