

*PARISH COUNCIL OF ABBOTTS ANN*

**MINUTES**  
 OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
 HELD ON THURSDAY APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup> 2009  
 IN THE JUBILEE ROOM OF THE WAR MEMORIAL HALL

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

In Attendance:  
           Mr. A.Stokes                      Clerk                      Ms. J. Dixon  
           Mr. D.Downey                Footpaths Officer

*The meeting opened at 7.08 p.m.*

**0931. Apologies.** Apologies were recorded from Cllrs. P.Stanton, A.Peters and G. Stallard .

**0932. Minutes.** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009 were confirmed and signed. *Pro PW Sec DP*

**0933. Matters Arising.**

a. Street Name Signs. New signs had been placed at the entrance to Abbots Hill.  
 b. Tree at War Memorial Hall. Work on the tree had been completed.  
 c. War Memorial Hall Railings. i. The Clerk had obtained a further estimate from Martyn Dean for £4962.64 without powder-coating, which he did not recommend for outdoor work.

ii. Cllr Whyte had ascertained that for health and safety purposes a height of 110 cm was sufficient. He would ask for a further estimate from Faraday Fabrications to exclude powder-coating. *Action Cllr Whyte*

iii. The Chairman undertook to obtain a further estimate to a similar specification. *Action Chairman*

d. Manor Close Playing Field. The importance of maintaining this property as a green area was considered paramount by the Council, and this view was in line with opinions expressed at the recent Annual Assembly. Ideas for future use included establishing a community orchard and/or allotments, for which it was considered likely that there would be strong demand in the Parish. After much detailed discussion the Clerk was requested

i. to write to the Leader of HCC indicating the Parish's wish that the property should be made available for this type of use.

ii. to publish in the Parish Magazine an announcement that the Council was considering provision of allotments and asking for statements of interest. *Action Clerk*

e. Kerb Stone in Duck Street. The raised kerbstone outside the Village Shop had still not been rectified. The Clerk was instructed to contact Hampshire Highways yet again, and to emphasise that a resident had sustained an injury for which the County Council could be held responsible. *Action Clerk*

**0934. Planning.**

a. It was noted that permission had been granted for the development of “Dunromin” (TV No 09/00208/FULLN) and refused for the retention of the tree house at Abbotts Hill House (TV No 08/02256/FULLN).

b. 20 Cattle Lane. The architect acting for Mr. J.Harwood had sent a preview of the revised plans for a dwelling. These were considered to be broadly acceptable, but Councillors had reservations about the height of the roof, which the Clerk was asked to express in reply. *Action Clerk*

c. Cllr Wilkins drew attention to the appearance of a new stable block near the old waterworks on Cattle Lane, for which no planning application had been made. The Clerk was requested to notify the Enforcement Officer at TVBC. *Action Clerk*

**0935. Test Villages Energy Initiative.** Ms J. Dixon reported that since the inaugural meeting Longstock and Stockbridge had expressed interest. For the benefit of these and other parishes a second seminar had been arranged for May 9<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 a.m. in Longstock Village Hall. This would be publicised in the Parish Magazine and on the Website.

**0936. Clerk’s Report.** The Clerk reported that he had signed the documentation for the outright purchase of the Duck Street telephone kiosk, for which he had paid £1. He had also contacted Southern Electricity in connection with the power supply. He was awaiting replies.

The County Council was planning to hand over the provision and maintenance of street lighting to a contractor under a PFI scheme. Following advice from HALC the Clerk had signed up to the scheme.

**0937. Parish Organisations.**

a. Abbotts Ann Action. The Chairman had received a letter under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act; it contained details of the qualifications and experience of the Planning Department’s officers, as requested by parishes associated with the “STOP” campaign.

He also reported that the developers of the Airfield Site had agreed to the appointment of an independent “Watch Committee” to ensure observance of the legal restrictions on traffic movement.

b. Neighbourhood Watch. Mr. Downey reported on the recent appearance of a number of door-to-door salesmen; residents should report these to the Police.

c. Nursery School. Although no representatives were present, Cllr Oram reported that the Nursery School had been classed as “outstanding” by the Ofsted inspectors.

d. Village School. Cllr Stanton had asked the Clerk to inform the Council that the legal procedures were at last completed. Building was due to start on 27<sup>th</sup> April.

e. Village Shop. Cllr Whyte reported that Mr. Donald Sorterup was now Chairman of the Committee and had given an encouraging report to the Annual Assembly. The Shop was entered for a competition run by Hampshire Magazine.

**0038. Finance.**

a. **It was resolved** to authorise Professor Peter Gibson to act as the independent Assessor to carry out the Review of the Council’s financial procedures. *Pro GW Sec PW*

a. **It was resolved** to authorise the following expenditure:

Cheque No.	479	Administration	720.30	
“	480	PAYE, NI	620.31	
“	481	SLCC Subscription	117.00	
“	482	Local Council Review		27.00
“	483	HCC Lighting	9.36	
“	484	T.C.Hook (Feb-Mar)	195.01	<i>Pro GW Sec DA</i>

c. It was noted that as the final result of negotiations on Clerks' pay-scales for 2008-9, the administration charge included back-pay of £26.

d. The Clerk reported that TVBC's servicing of dog-bins was charged per bin, with no reduction for quantity. Accordingly, if the Council went ahead with the provision of four bins, the annual cost would amount to £560.

### **0039. Correspondence.**

An article in the current issue of the Local Council Review had explained the application of the Power of Well-being incorporated in recent legislation under which Quality Councils would be able to take measures without reference to Section 137. It was still the considered opinion of this Council that Section 137 provided sufficient resources and that the extra work involved in applying for and maintaining Quality status could not be justified.

### **0040. Other Business.**

a. Dog-bins. In view of the cost of servicing dog-bins (see 0038 d above) **it was resolved** not to proceed with the installation of new bins. *Pro SO Sec DP*

b. Speed signs. The Chairman expressed disappointment at the lack of progress in negotiations for the provision of speed warning signs. The Clerk was requested to ask the Director of HALC for a progress report. *Action Clerk*

c. Cllr Oram reported on HALC's seminar on Planning, which he had found to be valuable. It was noted that the Planning Service would welcome the Council's comments on applications whether or not an objection was registered..

d. Cllr Alleway asked that the old "No Cycling" sign be removed from the western end of Church Path before he installed the new one. *Action Chairman*

e. The Chairman proposed that a clean-up day should be scheduled for Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup>, starting at the War Memorial Hall at 2 p.m. The Clerk was requested to arrange publicity. *Action Clerk*

f. Cllr Wilkins drew attention:

i. to the overgrown hedge on the corner close to 50 Bulbery. The Clerk was requested to notify Testway Housing. *Action Clerk*

ii. to the unexpected appearance of a zebra crossing in Duck Street. In the course of animated discussion it was established that its creation could be authentically dated to 1<sup>st</sup> April.

**0041.** The next meeting would be the AGM and was scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30 p.m. Because of the use of the War Memorial Hall as a Polling Station the June meeting would take place in the Pavilion.

*The Meeting closed at 9.02 p.m.*



**5. Financial Report.** The Clerk presented a summary of the Council's accounts for 2008-09 and explained budgeted forecasts for 2009-10, which included contributions to the War Memorial Hall for updating the heating system. Expenditure was also anticipated on fencing for the Hall grounds and on health and safety measures in the Churchyard.

**6. County Councillor's Report.** Cllr Michael Woodhall reported that he was retiring, and introduced Mr. Andrew Gibson, who would be standing for the Ward at the June elections. His remarks included the following:

- There had been a great increase in population in Hampshire generally and in the Andover area in particular over the last 50 years; 7,000 new dwellings per year were demanded, of which a third would be designated as "affordable housing."
- Hampshire had come second only to Kent in an analysis of the Best Counties in England. It was an indication of the County's efficient management that Council Tax was rising by only 1.9%.
- It was gratifying that funding for the new Village School was secure.
- In connection with the development of Andover Airfield he had been in close touch with Sir George Young MP, and in agreement with his views; he would continue to pay attention to the work of the Highway Authority on the control of traffic. In response to a question he undertook to look into the proposals concerning the widening of the A303. In the course of discussion it was emphasised that neither of our Borough Councillors was on the Planning Control Committee, which, however, included representatives from the southern Test Valley who were unaffected by the development.
- He congratulated and thanked the Borough Councillors, the Chairman, Councillors and Clerk of the Parish Council together with all those who had worked so successfully for the welfare of Abbots Ann.

**7. Borough Councillor's Report.** Cllr Stallard expressed the appreciation of the whole community for Cllr Woodhead's 16 years of supportive service, culminating in the office of Chairman of the County Council.

The full text of his Report is appended to these Minutes.

**8. Reports from Parish Organisations.** Reports by representatives were given as follows:

Abbots Ann Action: Dr. J. Moon

Fete Committee: Mr. A. Bulpitt

Neighbourhood Watch: Mr. M. Butt

Parochial Church Council and Archives: Mr. T. Tayler

Sports Field Management Committee: Mr. G.McDonald.

School: Cllr P. Stanton

Trees: Dr.J.Moon

Village Shop: Mr. D. Sorterup

War Memorial Hall: Mr. A. Hayter

Summaries of reports will be found in an Appendix to the Minutes.

**7. Other Business.** The Clerk described the acquisition of a print to hang in the Jubilee Room of "The Village Politicians" by the 19<sup>th</sup> Century artist Sir David Wilkie R.A. thanks to the loan of the original by Mrs. Sally Coffey.

**8. Closure.** With thanks to all present, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50 p.m.

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

Signed ..... Date .....

## **PARISH ASSEMBLY 27.03.09: SUMMARIES OF REPORTS**

**Abbotts Ann Action.** Dr. John Moon outlined the contributions he had made to the campaign to oppose the application to develop the former Andover Airfield site. He had made several submissions on behalf of this and neighbouring Parishes criticising the inadequacy of the plans in connection with landscaping and pollution by light and noise. He had also drafted a letter of complaint to the Chief Executive of TVBC on the conduct of the Planning Control Committee. These efforts had met with a negative response. However, contacts with Hampshire Highways had been more successful, and had resulted in the imposition of worth-while restrictions on the movement and parking of lorries.

**Archives.** Mr. Tim Tayler, newly appointed Archivist, outlined his plans for establishing a Parish Archive. His first task, which required the help of parishioners, would be to locate records and memorabilia. It would then be necessary to provide storage and methods of access. In addition, he saw the Archivist's task as including responding to requests for information and initiating research projects.

**Fete Committee.** Mr. Andrew Bulpitt reported that, despite poor weather, last year's fete had been well supported and shares of the profits had been distributed to Parish organisations. The Committee had purchased a Public Address system which was generating revenue from hiring.

**Neighbourhood Watch.** Mr. Mike Butt reflected on his 20 years as organiser, throughout which he had always enjoyed an excellent relationship with the police which had paid off in very low local crime-rate. There had never been a shortage of volunteers; there were currently 22 co-ordinators for whose work he expressed the gratitude of the community.

**Parochial Church Council.** Mr. Tim Tayler mentioned the sad loss of Mrs. Gill Liddell as Churchwarden and reminded the meeting that all those on the Electoral Register were entitled to vote in the forthcoming election of new Churchwardens. He thanked the many volunteers on whom the maintenance of the Church and its services depended greatly. Finance remained a major concern, and the Council was considering the establishment of a Trust to ensure provision for the upkeep of the building.

**School.** Cllr Paul Stanton stated that at last the legal complications which had delayed the start of building the new school premises had been resolved, and work on the site would start shortly. No plans were yet available for disposal of the current site or for the future of the Manor Close playing field. The Parish Council was well aware of the need to preserve the field as a green space and was intending to make contact with the County Council to ensure a satisfactory future for the area.

**Sports Field Management Committee.** Mr. Graeme McDonald thanked the Parish Council for its continuing financial support. Money had been spent on a new roller, importing of topsoil to improve surfaces and maintenance of the Pavilion. The Bonfire Night had been a great success. Thanks were due to volunteers, especially Mrs. Penny Wilkins, Mr. Brian Sims and Mr. Fred Thompson.

**Village Shop.** Mr. Donald Sorterup introduced himself as the new Chairman of the committee and reported on a successful year for the shop, which continued its award-winning progress and was attracting an increasing number of customers from outside the village. Particularly appreciated was the high quality of the stock and the continuing provision of new products; goods carrying the "Abbotts Ann" brand had been very popular. Great credit was due to the managers, Geraldine Heather and Carol Murphy, and to the many volunteers who provide such excellent service. As for

finance, it had to be remembered that there were still loans and a mortgage to be repaid. However the accounts recorded a 6.5% increase in profits, and a fund-raising event was planned for St. George's Day. Meanwhile, following the regretted retirement of Linda Reading, the successful and popular sub-postmistress, Maureen Flood was welcomed and congratulated on achieving the necessary qualifications as her successor. The amount of business conducted by the Post Office section indicated its importance to the village.

**War Memorial Hall Committee.** Mr Andrew Hayter reported that plans for the coming year included the up-dating of the heating system in the Hall, for which funding contributions from the Borough and Parish Councils was much appreciated. There were some concerns about the future, particularly because use by the school would cease when the new premises were opened. The Moviola showings had not attracted sufficient numbers to be profitable, but other functions, such as the Burns Night, had been very successful; a new project, a Trafalgar Banquet, was planned for the Autumn.

[Clerk's Note: the Parish Council was also planning to replace the railings on the Duck Street side of the Hall grounds and to re-furbish the stone plaque over the west door]