

PARISH COUNCIL OF ABBOTTS ANN

MINUTES
OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 1st May 2008 at 7 p.m.
IN THE JUBILEE ROOM OF THE WAR MEMORIAL HALL

Present Cllr. B.Griffiths, Chairman, from 7.05 p.m. Cllr. G.Whyte, Vice-Chairman
Cllr. D.Alleway Cllr. D.Paffett
Cllr. S.Oram Cllr. P.Stanton
Cllr. P.Wilkins

In Attendance Mr. A.Stokes, Clerk Mrs. R.Osmond, Nursery School
Mr. D.Downey, Footpaths Officer Mrs. F.Young, “ “

The Meeting opened at 7 p.m.

1314. Elections. a. Chairman. *In the absence of Cllr. Griffiths, Cllr G. Whyte took the chair for this item.* Cllr B.Griffiths was unanimously elected to the office of Chairman.

Pro SO Sec PW

b. Vice-chairman. Cllr G. Whyte was unanimously elected to the office of Vice-Chairman.

Pro PW Sec SO

1315. Apologies. Apologies were recorded from Cllr M. Woodhall HCC , Cllr A.Peters TVBC and Cllr G. Stallard TVBC.

1316. Council Representatives, Officers and Subscriptions.

a. **It was resolved** to renew the appointment of Representatives and Officers without change and to continue the current subscriptions. *Pro SO Sec PS*

b. **It was resolved** to authorise the Chairman to sign the List of Revisions to the Clerk’s Contract of Employment as agreed with NALC. *Pro PW Sec SO*

1317. Minutes. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd April 2006 were confirmed for signature. *Pro PS Sec PW*

1318. Matters Arising. a. Church Path. The Clerk reported that the damaged panel on the “chicane” had been removed. It was suggested that the metal spike protruding from the base of the old seat nearby should also be removed. *Action Clerk*

b. War Memorial Hall. It was suggested that the proposed new sign was unnecessary, as there was an existing sign inscribed on the stone above the western porch which could be rendered legible. The Clerk was requested to follow up this suggestion. *Action Clerk*

c. Size of Council and Parish Boundaries. The Clerk had received a questionnaire from TVBC Electoral Services on these subjects and had responded that this Council was interested in

i. Increasing the number of Councillors to 9.

ii. Revising the boundaries so as to exclude Burghclere Down.

No action by TVBC on these proposals was likely in the near future.

1319. Planning. a. After discussion **it was resolved** to register no objection to the following application: TV No 08/00920/LBWN 25, Red Rice Road; new rear entrance

b. Note was taken of the responses to delegated items and of Planning Service decisions as listed in the Appendix to these Minutes.

c. New Primary School. Discussion centred on the effect on traffic in Red Rice Road, as there was provision for only a single entrance and no alterations, such as a mini-roundabout or traffic calming measures, were included. The architect had provided more space for parking and manoeuvring within the grounds than was strictly required by regulations and the Highway authorities were apparently satisfied. Cllr Stanton reported that there was no prospect of a roundabout at St. John's Cross; he was not optimistic about the possibility of improving on these plans.

It was resolved that the Chairman, in a written response, would emphasise the Council's strong support for the project, but would also express severe reservations about the lack of measures to counter the inevitably negative impact on the safety of Red Rice Road (which constituted the main approach to the village from outside) arising from traffic generated by the school together with the ever-increasing volume of traffic from other sources. *Action Chairman*

1320. Clerk's Report.

a. Visitors. Mr. Charles Crossthwaite-Eyre was to attend the next meeting to speak about a plan to co-operate with Upper and Goodworth Clatford on climate-change issues.

b. Ms Ewa Gunter was to give a presentation on Police Community Support Officers at the July meeting.

c. In view of the amount of business it would be necessary to hold a meeting in August.

1321. Parish Organisations.

a. Nursery School. *Standing Orders were suspended for this item.* Discussion centred on the need for an outside store for play equipment, and various types of store were suggested and locations viewed. The favoured location was at the northern end of the Hall, but any structure placed there would interfere with the shrubs planted by the W.I. and would have a negative impact on the view of the Hall from Duck Street, while a permanent store would require planning permission. It was not considered possible to take decisive action without further consultation.

b. Footpaths. The Clerk reported on an exchange of emails with HCC Rights of Way Department, dating from 12th February, reminding them of the broken sign on The Drove and the slippery condition of Short Path. The Department had confirmed that these were not forgotten.

Mr. Downey and others reported that motor-cycle tracks had been observed on The Drove.

c. Neighbourhood Watch. Mr. Downey reported that vandals had broken a window in Duck Street. There had been a number of break-ins and other thefts in the Clatfords, and the Police had warned householders to take precautions against thefts of fuel oil from storage tanks.

1322. Finance.

a. **It was resolved** to adopt the final Statement of Account for the year 2006/7 as approved at the last meeting.

b. The Annual Statement and the Statement of Assurance (Parts 1 and 2 of the Annual Return for the Audit Commission) **were approved and signed.**

c. Having reviewed the accounting procedures in the light of Professor Gibson's report, the Council considered that these continued to meet the requirements of transparency and effectiveness, and therefore **resolved** that no changes were necessary.

d. The list of assets and valuations was **noted and approved.**

e. **It was resolved** that the Chairman's Allowance be fixed at £150.

f. **The Clerk was authorised** to simplify and revise the scale of fees for the Burial Ground, keeping any increases to a maximum of 5%.

g. **Insurance Renewal.** In view of the substantial financial savings involved **it was resolved** that the Clerk be instructed to make the necessary arrangements to change the Council's insurers from Allianz Insurance to Norwich Union through the brokers Came and Co.

h. **Internal Audit.** i. Note was taken of the contents of the letter of 25.04.08 from Mr. J.K.Murray, internal auditor.

ii. The Clerk undertook to implement the recommended changes in the accounting system and to request the insurers to increase the Fidelity cover to £38,000.

iii. The Chairman initialled the correction of the typing error which gave the figure of £250 instead of £114.76 for cheque no. 355 in Minute 1195 h (10th May 2007).

i. **It was resolved** to authorise the following payments:

Cheque No 425	Administration	£707.39
426	Broker Network Ltd	£1,827.82
427	J.K.Murray	£137.50
428	Andover Mencap	£64.00
429	B.Sims: fuel	£30.00

j. An estimate had been received from Faraday Fabrication for replacement of the War Memorial fence to a height of 1 metre at £5009.96. Apart from budgetary considerations this estimate could not be accepted as the new fence would have to be at least 1.5 metres high. The Chairman undertook to contact Dell Engineering.
Action Chairman

k. Street lighting. **It was resolved** that the Clerk be authorised to ask HCC to proceed with the replacement of the faulty lantern on Church path for which the estimate was £291.69.

Action Clerk

1323. Other Business.

Dog problems. Mr. J. Swann asked the Council to re-consider the question of provision of dog-bins. He suggested the placing of bins at Webbs Lane and at the car-parking area in Church Road; if funding were not available he was prepared to arrange finance himself. The Chairman expressed the Council's appreciation of Mr. Swann's concern and generous offer, and the Council was prepared to consider giving the proposals a one-year trial period. It was pointed out that the proposed locations were on private land, and installation would require the owners' permission. Mr. Swann undertook to initiate negotiations.
Action Mr. Swann

1324. Future Meetings. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 5th June 2008 at 7 p.m. in the Jubilee Room of the War Memorial Hall. The August meeting would be on the 7th and the September meeting would be on the 11th.

The Meeting closed at 8.47 p.m.

THESE MINUTES REMAIN IN DRAFT FORM UNTIL CONFIRMED AND SIGNED