

PARISH COUNCIL OF ABBOTTS ANN

MINUTES

OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 6th January 2011
IN THE JUBILEE ROOM

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

In Attendance:

Mr. A.Stokes, Clerk, Cllr. A.Gibson, HCC; Cllr G.Stallard, TVBC; Cllr M.Flood, TVBC; Mr.P.Kelly, Footpaths Officer; and two members of the public.

The meeting opened at 6.34 p.m .

11/01. Apologies. Apologies were recorded from Mr.T.Tayler, Archivist and Mrs W.Davis, AAGA.

11/02. Minutes. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd December 2010 were confirmed and signed. *Pro GW Sec DA*

11/03. Matters Arising.

a. Bulbery, possible breach of regulations. The Clerk had not heard from the Testway Housing representative. He would repeat the request for information.

b. Grit bins. Five bins had been installed, and had been used to good effect during the recent severe weather. It had been observed that some residents had been using the grit to treat private property. The Clerk and Cllr Whyte were requested to notify residents via the website, notices and the Newsletter that the grit is for use only on public roads and paths. *Action Cllr Whyte and Clerk*

Cllr Gibson had been impressed, as had the Council, by the efficiency of the crews responsible for servicing the bins. He explained that their positioning had been dictated by the need for accessibility for re-filling.

It was noted, however, that of the 7 bins requested only 5 had been installed, leaving Bulbery and West Hill without bins and that an 8th site had been identified in Abbots Close. Cllr Gibson undertook to look into the necessary provision, and re-assured the Council on the question of legal liability. It would be possible for the bins to be removed for storage after the winter, but this would not be carried out by the County Council.

d. HCC Discretionary Grant. Cllr Gibson had indicated that projects such as repairs to the Church clock and improvements to footpaths were suitable for funding by a discretionary grant from HCC. He advised the Clerk to apply. *Action Clerk*

e. Lighting at Burghclere Down. The problem concerning maintenance of two street lights arose from the fact that they were placed by the developers on private land and were not adopted by TVBC; it had proved difficult to obtain satisfactory service from the developers. The Council considered the possibility of adopting the lamps as a Parish responsibility. Cllr Stallard undertook to seek a solution. *Action Cllr Stallard*

11/04. Planning.

After discussion:

a. **It was resolved** to register No Objection to the following applications:

10/02770/FULLN: 52 Bulbery; New Bungalow *Pro GW Sec PW*

10/02942/FULLN: Pinewood; Garage conversion *Pro GW Sec DA*

10/03020/FULLN: Eastcot: Garden Room & Store *Pro SO Sec AB*

10/02907/CAWN: Old Primary School; demolish extensions *Pro GW Sec AB*

b. **It was resolved** to register an Objection to the following:

10/02729/OUTN: Former Airfield; Stannah Ltd, Works, Offices, Storage and Distribution Centre. Concern was expressed on the grounds that

i. The tower was obtrusive and could be seen from a considerable distance.

ii. Measures for control of light pollution should be enforced.

iii. Traffic control should be enforced. *Pro DA Sec SO*

c. **It was resolved** (Cllr Whyte abstaining) to register an Objection to the following:

10/02769/FULLN & 10/02907/LBWN: Old Primary School site, conversion of school building and erection of new dwellings. On planning grounds it was considered that the application did not supply: i. sufficient details of materials

ii. sufficient commitment to the protection of the yew trees

iii. sufficient commitment to the preservation of the railings on the frontage, which had been cast by Taskers. *Pro PW Sec SO*

The Council was disappointed that the applicants had disregarded its strongly-expressed preference for low-cost housing on this central site, and that it had been misrepresented in the Design Statement as having “accepted” the arguments against this preference. It was also felt that the importance of the toilet block, as constructed from flints removed from the Roman Villa on Abbots Ann Down, had not been taken seriously, and that the hazards arising from the proposed vehicular access to Duck Street had not been given full consideration.

Cllr Stallard indicated that the application would be called to the Planning Committee and strongly recommended that the Council be represented at the meeting.

11/05. Clerk’s Report.

The Clerk reported that he had submitted the necessary documentation to the Land Registry, with the result that the Recreation Ground for Children at the War Memorial Hall, and the Bulbery Sports Field, were now fully registered as the property of the Parish Council. The Clerk was thanked for ensuring the legal protection of these areas.

11/06. Organisations.

a. County Councillor. Cllr Gibson expressed his appreciation, which was endorsed by the Council, of the work of the teams involved in the distribution and maintenance of the grit bins.

The County Council was doing all it could to deal with pot-holes and other damage to road surfaces. He recommended maximum use of the Council website for reporting damage by all residents – a task which should not be left to the Clerk.

He reported on the success of the campaign, in which he and Sir George Young had been involved, for the installation of BT’s super-fast broadband in Whitchurch.

Cllr Gibson also undertook to ascertain the place in the “queue” of the application for registration of the Manor Close field as a village green. *Action Cllr Gibson*

Cllr Gibson left the meeting at 7.02 p.m.

b. Borough Councillors. Councillor Stallard expressed appreciation of the work of the refuse-collection teams in overcoming the problems arising from the recent severe weather and the cluster of bank holidays. The Chairman asked him to pass on the Council's appreciation.

Cllr Stallard mentioned the Borough's plans for the improvement at the River Way roundabout and Union Street. He also reported that the Planning Service would be charging for pre-application consultations, though the fee would not cover the whole cost.

He underlined the important changes that would result from Government policy and the application of the Localism Bill, mentioning particularly the proposal to release Councillors from the restrictions on free speech imposed by the current "pre-determination" rules. He urged all Councillors to study the provisions of the Bill.

Cllr Flood had been in touch with Testway Housing and ascertained that they had accurate information as to which properties in Bulbery were tenanted or privately owned. It had transpired that the bus shelter there was on Testway property.

c. Footpaths. Mr. Kelly reported that the recently-replaced timber in the gate at the Duck Street end of the footpath to Manor Close had been removed, and that the footpath between Bulbery and the new school was still obstructed by overgrown hedges. The clerk undertook to ask Trevor Hook for remedial action. *Action Clerk*

It was noted that a dangerous rut had appeared due to subsidence on Church Path. The Clerk would alert the Highway Authority. *Action Clerk*

Also noted was the hazard arising from barbed wire fixed to the top of the fence along the northern side of Church Path. The Chairman would contact the landowners. *Action Chairman*

d. Neighbourhood Watch. Cllr Paffett regretted the discontinuation of the regular newsletters and the apparent indifference of the Police to the loss of this valuable source of information. The AGM was due to be held on 9th February.

Cllr Wilkins reported on an incident after dark on the Coach Road involving a loud explosion and a car driven away at high-speed.

e. War Memorial Hall. Cllr Stallard reported on the new and planned improvements to the kitchen, partly funded by contributions from the Fete Committee. The Chairman expressed the Council's appreciation of the enthusiasm of the Committee.

The Committee was instituting a service by which tables would be let out on loan to organisations or individuals against a deposit.

The mystery of the clock's disappearance from the Jubilee Room remained unsolved. *Cllrs G.Stallard and M.Flood left the meeting at 9.04 p.m.*

11/07. Finance.

a. **It was resolved** to authorise the following expenditure: *Pro DA Sec PW*

Cheque No	592	Administration	£686.56
"	593	P.O.Ltd: PAYE and NI	£629.46
"	594	Andover Mencap	£ 70.00

b. The Clerk presented a Statement of Account to 31.12.10.

c. The Clerk presented a document purporting to explain a part of the Government's "Big Society" plans containing a proposal for Participatory Budgeting; he also mentioned another proposal for some Section 106 funds to be paid direct to Parish Councils.

11/08. Correspondence.

The Clerk distributed documents from central government summarising the provisions for local government reform contained in the Localism Bill, which would bring about substantial changes in the powers and procedures of local councils.

He also distributed a document prepared by HALC, in partnership with similar organisations from Hertfordshire, Northamptonshire and Suffolk, in which these bodies were to lobby for the reduction or removal of unnecessary burdens on local councils to enable them to serve their communities more effectively and to contribute to the “localism” agenda. The proposals concerned both existing legislation (e.g. the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government and Involvement in Health Act 2007) and proposals in the Localism Bill. Of particular interest to smaller Councils was the requirement, so far not implemented, that each council should include at least five elected councillors and that co-opted Councillors would not be eligible for the positions of Chairman or Vice-Chairman. This would, in not unusual circumstances, make it impossible for a small Council to function at all.

11/09. Other Business.

a. Cllrs Wilkins and Barham reported that they had distributed two “Welcome Packs” to new residents, and asked for information about any other newcomers. Cllr Barham would be adding information about the history of the village to the Welcome Pack.

b. Cllr Alleway had ascertained that Mr. George King still had some 300 copies of Pamela King’s history of the village. It was not thought appropriate to donate copies to newcomers, but it was suggested that they should be informed that the book could be purchased from the Village Shop.

Cllr Alleway also put forward a suggestion that on an appropriate day, such as May Day, the “whole village” could be assembled on the Manor Close field and photographed. Cllr Paffett indicated that there was a possibility that this could be an aerial photograph.

11/10. Future Meetings.

a. Meetings for the year 2011. The Clerk circulated a schedule of dates to which Councillors were summoned.

b. The next meeting was scheduled for 3rd February 2011.

The meeting was closed at 9.20 p.m.

Signed

Date