

PARISH COUNCIL OF ABBOTTS ANN
MINUTES

OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2013
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; Mrs. W. Davis, AAGA;
Mr. G. Howard, Churchwarden; Mrs. R. Groves, Press.

The meeting opened at 6.35 p.m.

13/102. Apologies. Apologies were recorded from Cllr. A. Gibson, HCC; Cllr. G. Stallard, TVBC; Cllr. B. Sims; Mr. T. Tayler, Archivist; Mr. R. Lucas, AAA; Mr. N. Palmer; Village Shop Association; Mr. P. Kelly, Footpaths Officer.

13/103. Minutes. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd October 2013 were confirmed and signed. *Pro DP Sec RB*

13/104. Matters arising.

a. Highway Matters. The Chairman was waiting for more suggestions for a “wish list” from Councillors before arranging a meeting with the County Councillor and officials. Councillors were asked to send lists to the Clerk without delay. *Action All*

b. Pillhill Brook. The Clerk reported that emails from members of Monxton Parish Council indicated that they were still disappointed that alterations to, or replacement of, the dam and bridge at Upper Mill House had not been undertaken.

c. Trees on Webbs Lane. Cllr. Flood and Mr. Kelly were still trying to establish the ownership of the trees. It appeared that they were not the responsibility of TVBC or of Aster Homes.

d. Moss on paths at the Church. This was being successfully treated.

e. Roadside stakes. The Clerk was investigating the legality of the installation by private individuals of stakes on roadside verges. *Action Clerk*

f. War Memorial Hall. Under suspension of Standing Orders, Mr. Gordon Howard emphasised the strength of feelings involved on the subject of war memorials and remembrance services and the need for sensitivity in any discussions. Alterations to the established ceremony at the church were not felt to be acceptable to the PCC or the congregation. Cllr Oram was still concerned that the establishment of the Hall as a War Memorial needed greater recognition and drew attention to the fact that the lists installed there commemorated not only the fallen, but all those who had served their country in the conflict. The issue of marking the centenary of the outbreak of WWI needed to be taken into consideration.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that no decisions had yet been made or actions authorised; he asked that Cllr Oram, Mr. Howard and other interested parties, including himself, should arrange to meet in the near future with a view to establishing a consensus as a basis for action. *Action Chairman*

g. Burial Ground. The Clerk was investigating the future management of the area at the eastern end of the Burial Ground. With the Chairman, he was also looking into the possibility of using, for future burials, the empty area adjoining the wall of the Old Manor. *Action Chairman and Clerk*

13/105. Planning.

- a. Note was taken of delegated responses and decisions of the Planning Service.
- b. The Chairman reminded Councillors of the seminar at Monxton with TVBC's Head of Planning, on 20th November at 5 p.m. *Attention All*

13/106. Clerk's Report.

a. Abbotts Ann Vision. The Clerk had received an email from Julie Moon with a summary of comments about the Parish Council from Abbotts Ann Vision sessions. Many of these indicated that parishioners were unaware of the statutory role of the Council and the limitations on its activities, and some could be regarded as disparaging. With the approval of the Chairman, the Clerk had responded briefly in the hope of correcting misunderstandings, but acknowledged that the issue of communication with the public needed to be addressed. It was expected that these issues would arise during the consultations.

b. Nursery School. The Clerk was to inform the insurers about the use of the Recreation Ground by the Nursery School and to enquire whether this affected the policy. *Action Clerk*

13/105. Organisations.

a. Borough Councillor. Cllr. M. Flood drew attention to the favourable comments of the Auditors on the management of the Borough's finances.

The Borough was in the process of introducing a system of vouchers for an hour's free parking.

The Borough was intending to provide new "Keep Left" signs at the Jubilee Tree. Cllr Flood would press for action. Neither the Borough nor the County seemed to be prepared to replace the tree-guard.

In wintry weather the area of the bottle-bank at the Eagle could become dangerously slippery, and Cllr Flood had been asked to see whether a grit-bin could be provided. Since bins had hitherto only been put in place by the County Council on highway verges, it did not seem likely that a bin could be provided at public expense, but she undertook to enquire further. *Action Cllr Flood*

b. Abbotts Ann Action. M. Ray Lucas had had a meeting on strategic planning with the Borough Councillors and had expressed concerns, summarised in an email, about the calculation of housing requirements.

c. Abbotts Ann Vision. Councillors were reminded of the presentation on 21st November.

d. AAGA. Mrs. Davis thanked the Council for the contribution to the flier, which would be distributed to all households.

AAGA was continuing to support the tree-planting programme with the participation of the Primary School.

The provision of the Apple Press, which had been a major feature of the recent Apple Day, was greatly appreciated. There had been enquiries about the possibility of another pressing session. She was advised to contact Adam Rose. *Action Mrs. Davis*

e. Fete Committee. Councillors were reminded that the AGM was scheduled for 13th November. *Attention All*

f. Primary School. It was hoped that the Head Teacher could come to a Parish Council meeting after Christmas.

g. Sports Field. Cllr Wilkins reported that Bonfire Night had been successful despite some reduction in numbers attending. The strong wind had caused concern. The Chairman expressed the thanks of the Council to the Sports Field Committee and the School Association.

h. Village Shop. Cllr Flood gave a detailed report on the recruiting and appointment of the new manager, who was well-qualified for the post. Positive feedback was already being received.

i. War Memorial Hall. Cllr Stallard had asked that Councillors be reminded of the AGM on 14th November and of the special meeting for the presentation of the plans for the reconstruction and refurbishment of the kitchen area on November 28th.

Attention All

13/107. Finance.

a. It was resolved to approve the following payments:			<i>Pro PW</i>	<i>Sec GW</i>
Cheque No	781	Broker Network: Insurance	£1,799.89	
“	782	Administration	£ 751.93	
“	783	T.C.Hook	£ 261.26	
“	784	Adam `Rose: interim payment	£1,200.00	
“	785	HCC: Lighting	£ 185.48	
“	786	CPRE: Sub	£ 30.00	
“	787	Bulpitt Print Ltd: AAGA Fliers	£ 218.00	
“	788	Enham	£ 198.03	
“	789	Neil Palmer: AA Vision exp	£ 112.99	

b. The Budget for 2014-15, as appended to these Minutes, was approved and adopted.

Pro DP Sec PW

c. Brown Traffic Sign. It had been suggested that the village would benefit from the installation of a brown sign at St. John's Cross pointing to the Village Shop and The Eagle. After discussion **it was resolved** to offer a contribution of 25% of the cost.

Pro GW Sec PW

13/108. Correspondence.

a. Correspondent. The Andover Advertiser had asked villages to appoint a correspondent to provide monthly reports of local activities. Mrs. Rosemary Groves had offered her services, and the Council was very happy to confirm her appointment as the correspondent for Abbots Ann. The Clerk was to inform the Advertiser. *Action Clerk*

b. The Clerk distributed a plan containing details of changes to parking arrangements in the Burghclere Down area, which had long been considered unsatisfactory by residents, particularly in view of the amount of traffic generated by the local schools.

c. War Memorial. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for writing to allay the anxieties of parishioners about possible proposals connected with the commemoration of WWI and the ceremonies of remembrance. These had been the subject of emails from Mr. G. Howard and Brigadier C. Burson; they had emphasised the sensitivity of the topic, but had been re-assured by the Clerk's advice that to date no decisions had been made or actions sanctioned by the Council.

13/109. Other Business.

a. Manor Close Field. Legal processes were proceeding, albeit slowly. The solicitor was negotiating a qualification to the clause preventing the use of the field “for any public exhibition or entertainment”. The County Council’s solicitor had offered to qualify the clause with words to the effect that a village fete or similar event for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish and which is not promoting any commercial or profit-making activity will not be regarded as in breach of this covenant.

On consideration, the Council decided that this qualification rendered the clause acceptable. **It was resolved** to instruct the Clerk to advise the Council’s solicitor accordingly.

Pro GW Sec DP Action Clerk

b. Recreation Ground. Cllr R. Bone reported that the project was nearing completion. It had been thought necessary to drop the idea of attaching a “spider-net” to the “pick-up-sticks” apparatus, but a less expensive alternative had been found and it would still be possible to fit a scrambling net. The tepees should be installed shortly; then for completion the apple press needed to be re-converted to a child’s swing. The Clerk was arranging for the completed equipment to be inspected by RoSPA.

c. 20 mph speed limit. A local “Twenty is plenty” campaign was being led by parishioners of Chilbolton, in support of the setting of a 20 mph speed limit in their village. They were asking for other parishes to join, or support, the campaign. After discussion, it was decided that the Clerk should express this Parish’s interest.

Action Clerk

d. Defibrillator. Cllr Oram reported that fund-raising for the purchase of a defibrillator was continuing, and it was hoped to raise sufficient funds to opt for the more advanced model. He was looking into the possibility of arranging a demonstration by the Red Cross.

e. Overflow. An overflow of sewage from a manhole near the village school had been noted; when alerted, Southern Water had responded very quickly. It was recommended that the Clerk should communicate the Council’s appreciation of their efficiency and to request provision of a map of the sewers and water-mains in the village.

Action Clerk

13/110. Next Meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for 5th December.

The Meeting closed at 9.02 p.m.

Signed

Date