# Minutes from the Meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 19:00 at The War Memorial Hall, Abbotts Ann.

# **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

	In Attendance	Apologies	Absent
Councillor Jordan	٧		
Councillor Howard		٧	
Councillor Heather	٧		
Councillor Wallis	٧		
Vacancy	-	-	-
Vacancy	-	-	-
Vacancy	-	-	-

# Also, IN ATTENDANCE:

Amanda Owen - Clerk, Test Valley Borough Council Councillor Hasselmann, Borough Councillor Drew & 4 members of the public.

the public	•
231001	To receive Chairman's opening remarks.
	Councillor Jordan welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the meeting is recorded by the Parish
	Council and may be recorded by members of the public.
231002	To receive and accept apologies for absence.
	Apologies were received from Councillor Howard and Test Valley Borough Council Councillor Flood.
231003	To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests relating to items on this agenda.
	There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest relating to items on this agenda <b>RECEIVED</b> .
231004	To approve the minutes of the full council meeting held on Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> September.
	The minutes of the full council meeting held on Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> September were <b>APPROVED</b> as a correct record of the meeting.
	Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Wallis.
	All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.
231005	To receive updates already published and any further updates provided.
	Reports can be found at <b>APPENDIX A</b> .
	In addition to his report, Councillor Wallis notified the Council of a request from John Deacon with regards to
	replacement orange fencing for the bonfire / firework events.
	It was <b>AGREED</b> to purchase replacement fencing at a cost of no more than £140.00.
	Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Heather.
	All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.
	Councillor Jordan provided an overview of his report.
	Councillor Hasselmann provided an overview of her report.
	Councillor Drew provided an overview of his report.
	Abbotts Ann Community Land Trust provided a brief update. They are on the verge of the option agreement being signed which is crucial to the development & the development contract. They are hopeful this will be complete in a couple of months. It is noted that the Sportsfield Group application needs to go forward but note that it is a chicken and egg situation both items requiring movement from the other. Councillor Jordan offered to meet with all parties to try and chart a way forward and if needs be, arrange a meeting with Test Valley Borough Council Head of Planning.

#### 231006

#### To note the current financial situation and the reconciliation of the bank balance.

The current financial situation and the reconciliation of the bank balance were **NOTED** with the bank balance at 30<sup>th</sup> September being £78,467.14. The bank reconciliation can be found as **APPENDIX B**.

## To approve the requests for payments for October.

The payments as listed in the tables below were **APPROVED** for payment.

Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Heather.

All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.

ТО	FOR	INVOICE NO	AMOUNT
Staff	Salary	October	£1,147.51
Staff	Expenses	September	£34.03
Scandor	Grounds Maintenance - September	Inv 19533	£852.67
Clear Councils	Insurance Renewal	LCO02738	£1,112.80
BDO	Limited Assurance Review - External Audit 2022 / 2023	Inv-00422424	£378.00
Hugo Fox	Website hosting fee	Inv 2826	£122.28
Arb.Company	Arboricultural Consultancy Fee	Inv 0148	£300.00
Tudor Environmental	Fanwheel & Delivery Charge	SO01331185	£44.22
Andover Garden Machinery	Batteries for Footpath Equipment	S002347	£678.00
			£4,669.51

#### 231007

#### To approve the Parish Council Insurance renewal arrangements.

It was

#### **AGREED**

to approve the insurance renewal.

Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Heather.

All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.

#### 231008

#### To note the conclusion of the external audit.

The conclusion of the external audit was **NOTED**.

## 231009

### To discuss items highlighted by the War Memorial Hall Committee.

\* Followed item 231004 \*

Jenny & Mark addressed the meeting and advised that there are considerable amounts of work ongoing at the War Memorial Hall, however the roof repairs complete.

First concern, soakaway to rear of building – causing damp to wall of the bathrooms in heavy rain. It was noted that the soakaways were cleaned 2 years ago and that the soakaway within 3 metres of the building had collapsed.

It was noted that the car park soakaway also floods in heavy rain. It was noted that the drains under the gates had been cleared by the Lengthsman. Councillor Jordan will speak to the neighbouring house to replace drainage down pipe thus reducing water flow.

After discussion, it was AGREED to clear the three soakaways at the War Memorial Hall.

Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Heather.

All members voted unanimously to **ACCEPT** this resolution.

Oak tree overhanging branches – Councillor Jordan advised that the extensive tree report that had been received would help provide a route for tree works. He also advised that felled branches will be sold and funds donated to War Memorial Committee.

The rotten gate post at the entrance to the car park was also noted. The Clerk advised that this is with the Lengthsman for completion.

231010	To review the report from Arboricultural Consultant, Amelia Williams.
	It was noted that the tree report provided by Amelia Williams was extensive and informative. The report also
	included a proposed schedule of works on which the Parish Council will obtain quotes.
	It was <b>AGREED</b> that the Clerk would contact tree surgeons to provide quotes, those being the tree surgeons
	identified by Amelia, and others locally to compare pricing for works.
	Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Heather.
	All members voted unanimously to <b>ACCEPT</b> this resolution.
	All members voted unanimously to Accept this resolution.
231011	To consider a first review of the budget and highlight Councillor funding priorities for the upcoming
231011	budget.
	It was noted that Councillors are to review and offer suggestions to prepare next years budget. If new items
	are required, the Clerk is to be notified.
	Councillors were also asked to consider the earmarked reserves.
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231012	To consider a potential event for the 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day – 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2024.
	It was agreed to hold the item unless adequate interest received.
	te was agreed to note them amess adequate interest received.
231013	To consider supporting 'Hedgehogs R Us'.
	It was <b>AGREED</b> to not support Hedgehogs R Us.
	Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Heather.
	All members voted unanimously to <b>ACCEPT</b> this resolution.
	All members voted unummously to Accer i this resolution.
231014	To consider the following planning application:
231014.01	23/02301/FULLN
	Replacement windows and doors and alterations to openings including addition of a door.
	Manor Farm House, Dunkirt Lane, Abbotts Ann, Andover.
	The Parish Council had <b>NO OBJECTION</b> to this application.
	Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Wallis.
	All members voted unanimously to <b>ACCEPT</b> this resolution.
	All members voted unanimously to Accer I this resolution.
231014.02	23/02302/LBWN
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231014.05	23/02265/FULLN
	New outdoor swimming pool and ancillary pool house.
	Upper Mill House, Andover Road, Monxton, Andover.
	The Parish Council had <b>NO OBJECTION</b> to this application.
	Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Heather.
	All members voted unanimously to <b>ACCEPT</b> this resolution.
231014.06	23/02435/TREEN
	T1 - Yew - Crown lift by up to 3.9m
	Paddocks End, Little Ann Road, Little Ann
	The Parish Council had <b>NO OBJECTION</b> to this application.
	Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Wallis.
	All members voted unanimously to <b>ACCEPT</b> this resolution.
231014.07	23/02269/FULLN
	Demolish single storey side extension, and replace with two storey extension.
	Timbertops, Old Salisbury Road, Abbotts Ann, Andover.
	The Parish Council had <b>NO OBJECTION</b> to this application.
	Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Heather.
	All members voted unanimously to <b>ACCEPT</b> this resolution.
231015	To agree the date of the next meeting as Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2023.
	The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November.
1	

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20:35.

#### **APPENDIX A**

## **Footpath Portfolio Report for February 2023**

Completed the hedge trimming along the Drove and Bury Hill paths, also carried out a footpath survey of all the footpaths on the list, and I am pleased to confirm all paths are generally in good condition at the moment. The only issues, I need to replace a number of footpath fingers on a number of sign posts at Pitt Path, Donkey Path, Short Path, AA Down and Little Park, I am in contact with Hampshire Countryside Services for replacement materials.

The other long running issue is the wire fence along Penny Path, I have had an exchange of emails with the surveyor at Carter Jonas who has inspected the path, and finds little wrong with the path he said it has good access and free of any obstructions, and says the tenant farmer has met obligations in maintaining the footpath. I will read out the email from Carter Jonas at the next meeting.

I have installed a wooden strip floor in the Information Kiosk as the door mat gets very wet when we have heavy rain and seeps into the Kiosk and soaks the mat.

During the month I had a interesting guided tour with Councillor Mrs M. Flood of our local sewage system from Fyfield to Anna Valley by Mr G. McCubbin of MTS Cleansing (Contracted by Southern Water) who is our main contact concerning issues related to sewages in our village.

Councillor John Heather.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - OCT 23**

**Purchase of Land**. As Chairman I have written to the owners of the land to the north of the current burial ground, as directed at the last meeting, with a view to asking whether or not they would consider selling a small strip adjacent to the current footpath path to allow for an extension to the burial ground. Whilst we have sufficient plots to cater for the normal number of internments for a few years to come, it is perhaps prudent we start to make provision for an extension to the current facilities to cater for future generations of parishioners who may wish to be laid to rest in their home parish. I will councillors informed of any response.

**Village approach to sustainable power generation**. AAPC have been approached by the Village Shop with a request to consider investigating a village wide initiative to generate renewable energy. The request stated

"For some time now the Village Shop Association has wanted to use solar energy if at all possible. Our energy consumption in the shop is considerable due to the number of fridges, freezers, etc and of course our air conditioning. Energy costs for us are critical and could easily make the difference between profit and loss at the end of the financial year. However as far as we can see, there really is nowhere practically possible to put solar panels on the shop roof or anywhere on the site itself. Clearly there is an argument, and I understand quite some interest, in the village developing its own solar panel site in order to provide power for village institutions or for direct use by residents.

I would like to state on behalf of the Shop Association that we would very much support this, and indeed would be willing to give our support financially were there an opportunity to move this forward."

If we attempt to take such an initiative forward it may be appropriate to include the WMH Committee, The Church, The sports Pavilion and CLT (the latter simply to seek confirmation on their approach to designing in renewable energy sources during construction). I believe I should state from the outset that I do not believe a mini solar farm is either desirable or practicable; the land purchase, infrastructure and connectivity costs alone would probably make the scheme unaffordable from the outset. That said in principle I am not opposed to the idea; there are other solutions available, some specifically designed for conservation areas and listed properties, that could go a long way to meet future energy provision for village institutions (not least solar slate PV tiles). The problem of course is likely to be Test Valley Borough Council, whose attitude and response to climate change initiatives in conservation areas has not kept pace with societal developments and seeks to default to National Planning Framework Guidance as a means to potentially dissuade compliance with Government Greening Initiatives. I would welcome Cllrs views as to whether they see merit in trying to take forward community proposals to TVBC, hopefully with the support of our interested community groups.

Tree survey. This week saw an extensive and incredibly detailed survey conducted by ARB Company of trees owned by AAPC in a number of locations as part of a preventative maintenance strategy to delivery increased health and longevity to some of our more mature trees. This work was possible due to the budgeting system we run and the use of Earmarked Reserves (EMRs) to build funds for targeted projects several years ahead of the funds actually being required. It is clear that not as much 'intrusive' work is required as first envisaged. The detail in the report provides an excellent set of guidance to any tree surgeon subsequently asked to tender and be contracted to undertake the works.

Three notable observations were also discussed:

The church path leading to the Priests Door has mature root structures growing immediately under the surface (in some cases they are already exposed). Any replacement path should 'build up' and the current tarmac should not be mechanically scraped away in the area of the tree.

At the WMH it is suggested that the play equipment under the large Oak be relocated if possible. Whilst this maybe feasible there is no budgetary provision for this work in the current budget and the 'damage' being caused to the tree vs the relocation of equipment may ultimately come down to a balance of investment decision based on affordability!

The tree overhanging the Green from Edelweiss off Church Close presents a health and safety risk. A crown lift of circa 2.5 m will rectify access issues. Whilst the tree is privately owned AAPC is within its legal rights to conduct works on the overhanging branches. As chairman I will be recommending that these works be carried out regardless of the wishes of the owners, who have failed to maintain the tree in a safe condition.

## **Sports and Recreation Update Oct 2023**

#### **Sports Field**

The main football pitch is being used regularly by FC Anton. The junior pitch has been used once by Shooters FC. Shooters FC would like the grass to be cut to 25-30mm instead of the current 40mm. A shorter cut would cost an extra £41.00.

It appears that the latest white lines are herbicidal so we now have brown lines due to dead grass. Which is fine, I suppose, as the lines last longer but unfortunately, according to the Shooters FC manager, the width of the junior pitch has been marked out 5 yards less than it should be.

The new benches have been relocated, by our Lengthsman, on the original concrete bases which have been extended by adding a paving slab at each end. They have not been bolted to the bases. The old bench, which was bolted down, was left by the side of the pavilion and has since disappeared.

#### **Pavilion**

Nil of note

### **Fundraising**

No updates this month

Cllr. Chris Wallis

### **Update from Hampshire County Council – October 2023**

## Hampshire County Council marks National Inclusion Week with a call to local employers to take action

During National Inclusion Week (25 September -1 October), the County Council is supporting two key events as part of its work with employers and colleges to help SEND young people into the workforce.

The first event saw the County Council inviting local hospitality and catering businesses to discover the benefits of employing young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

The event will included case studies from employers in the sector, explaining how employing young people with SEND has helped their businesses. Employers will also have the opportunity to hear about the support that colleges and education providers can give to businesses to ensure the right young person is placed in the right job.

The County Council is also delighted to be taking part in the opening of a brand new £4.9 million SEND Independence Hub at Brockenhurst college. The building contains 14 new classrooms, social space, staff space, meeting rooms, a medical room, a hygiene room and a sensory room, among other facilities.

https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/250923NationalInclusionWeek

### Andover special school celebrates completion of building project

The Mark Way School in Andover has celebrated the completion of major building works which have created 20 additional school places for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)



The Mark Way School caters for young people aged 11-16 with Moderate Learning Difficulties. A significant expansion of the school was completed in May 2023 and has enabled the school to increase its capacity by up to 20 additional places, from 82 to 102 pupils. The project has created two new classrooms, two new group rooms and an improved outdoor space for students, as well as extensive internal refurbishments to the existing school building.

# On your feet Hampshire!

DuringFalls Prevention Week (18-22 September), Hampshire County Council is highlighting the more than 100 'Steady and Strong' classes taking place across the county each week, helping people aged 65+ maintain and improve their strength and balance, enabling them to stay independent and keep doing the things they love Steady and Strong classes are specially designed to build strength, reducing the risk of falls and fractures. The classes are a mix of seated and standing exercises, with chair support for those who need it. Costs are kept low to make all the sessions accessible to as many people as possible - and new members are always welcome.

https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20230918SteadyandStrong

### #BeeWell youth wellbeing programme to bring a hive of activity to 130 local secondary schools

Young people in over 130 secondary schools will be invited to have their say on the issues that matter to them most, as a pioneering youth-centred wellbeing programme gets underway in Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton

The programme in Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton will see annual surveys delivered in participating schools over the next three years from September 2023.

https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20230918beewell

## Hampshire to further increase monthly payments to local residents hosting Ukrainian families

Hampshire County Council has today announced that it will be paying an extra £200 per month to all Hampshire residents hosting Ukrainian guests as part of the Government's Homes for Ukraine Scheme, until the end of March 2024. This takes the monthly payment to £700

https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20230911Ukrainehostpayment

## County Council future spending plans take shape this autumn

This autumn, Hampshire County Council will begin important financial planning for the future of local services, taking on board feedback from the county's residents on a variety of options that could help address a predicted shortfall in the council's budget of at least £132 million by April 2025

https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/08092023FuturespendingplansSept2023

Cllr\_David Drew
Test Valley Central Division, HCC

## **Borough Councillor Report Councillor Susanne Hasselmann**

## 1. Energy Efficiency Support Grants

The main summary page on TVBC website is here: <u>Energy efficiency grants | TestValley Borough Council</u> and it will be updated if there are any changes to the information.

### **Hitting the Cold Spots**

This is an advice service that is funded by Hampshire County Council. They can provide advice on energy usage or signpost/referrals to grant schemes. They can also help with access to energy bill discounts or switching suppliers. Hitting the ColdSpots – the Environment Centre (tEC) They can be contacted on 0800 804 8601.

#### **Warmer Homes scheme**

For homes not heated by mains gas and those on a means tested benefit or with ahousehold income of £31,000 or below; and with EPC rating of D or below. For

those that don't have an existing EPC, if they are lacking insulation or double glazingit is likely they have a low EPC. The scheme will do their own checks as part of the process. Applications can be online at <a href="https://www.warmerhomes.org.uk">www.warmerhomes.org.uk</a> or by phone 0800038 5737.

#### **Home Improvement Grants**

If there are repairs needed to the property such as roof repairs, double glazing, secondary glazing, etc. TVBC can consider grants or loans for owner

occupiers. They are means tested and grant eligibility for people with an income of up to £15,000 per year with savings less than £10,000. The loans are for a household income of up to £20,000 per year and savings less than £10,000.

For properties that are on the gas network there may be help with insulation via Connected for Warmth which is run by the Warmer Homes programme. That can be found via the warmer homes website under "On Gas properties".

Any resident who is vulnerable and needs support or help and isn't sure how toaccess support, please ask them to contact me.

### 2. Funding for Defibrilator

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is inviting organisations in England to bid for a share of £1 million of government funding to buy defibrillators for community spaces like town halls, local parks or post offices – apply here.

An estimated 1,000 new defibrillators are to be provided by the fund. As part of the grant award, applicants will be asked to demonstrate that defibrillators will be placed areas where they are most needed, such as places with high footfall, vulnerable people, rural areas, or due to the nature of activity at the site.

Examples could include town halls, community centres, local shops, post offices and local parks, to ensure that defibrillators are evenly spread throughout communities.

# 3. Thriving Communities Workshops - Rural Central Test Valley, 1<sup>St</sup> November 6pm

Thank you to everyone who attended the first stakeholder meeting for the ThrivingCommunities Workshops. By bringing together community representatives and hearing their views this series of three workshops will help Test Valley Borough Council develop more focused plans around our villages and rural communities.

The next two workshops are planned for 1 November and 5 December (venues tbc). I would encourage you all to participate and make your voices heard.

# 4. Test Valley Resilience Forum – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2023



The Forum is now in its tenth year and over that time has inspired many communities in Test Valley tobecome more resilient through peersupport and learning. The event in October will build on this work by looking at the Government's National Resilience Framework which encourages communities to play an active part in local resilience.

The Framework has, to some extent, been inspired by our communities in Test Valleythat have been able to make a

significant difference to their own resilience, through major events such as Covid.

The October session will be the usual networking opportunity and a chance to help bodies such as Hampshire County Council, Test Valley Borough Council and other organisations, from the Hants and IoW LRF, understand what they can do more of toencourage community resilience.

Cllr Susanne Hasselmann

#### **APPENDIX B**

_	Abbotts Ann Parish Council sank Reconciliation Statement as at 30/09/2023 for Cashbook 1 - Lloyds Treasurers Account	Page User: AMANI
Bank Statement Account Name (	(s) Statement Date Pa	ige Balances
Lloyds Treasurers Account	30/09/2023	78,467.14
		78,467.14
Unpresented Payments (Minus)	An	nount
		0.00
		0.00
		78,467.14
Unpresented Receipts (Plus)		
		0.00
		0.00
		78,467.14
	Balance per Cash Book	r is :- 78,467.14
	Difference	is :- 0.00