

PARISH COUNCIL OF ABBOTTS ANN

MINUTES

OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 6th JUNE 2013
IN THE JUBILEE ROOM

Present: Cllr. B. Griffiths, Chairman Cllr. S.Oram
 Cllr. R. Bone Cllr. B.Sims Cllr. P. Wilkins

In Attendance:

Mr. A. Stokes, Clerk; Cllr. A. Gibson, HCC; Cllr G. Stallard, TVBC; Cllr. M. Cleuch, Monxton P.C.; one member of the public.

The meeting opened at 6.37 p.m.

13/55. Apologies. Apologies were recorded from Cllr. G. Whyte; Cllr. D. Paffett; Cllr. M. Flood, TVBC; Mr. T. Tayler, Archivist; Mrs. W. Davis, AAGA; Mrs. L. Stockings, Burghclere Down; Mr. P. Kelly, Footpaths.

13/56. Minutes. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd May 2013 were confirmed and signed. *Pro BS Sec PW*

13/57. Matters arising. The Clerk was instructed to thank those responsible for the repair to the surface of Donkey Path. *Action Clerk*

13/58. Planning.

a. Application 13/00820/FULLN; 42 Duck Street. **It was resolved** to register an objection to this application on the grounds that the proposed close-boarded fence was inappropriate for the location within the Conservation Area, for which the original hedge was more suitable. Also the excessive height of the fence would cause shadowing in the next-door garden. *Pro PW Sec BS*

b. Old Airfield site. (13/00034/FULLN). In discussion joined by Cllr Stallard and Cllr Cleuch, it was noted that the comments of Cllr Stallard which were read to the recent Planning Committee meeting had effectively summed up the concerns also expressed by this Parish Council and that of Monxton. The main issues were those of noise and light pollution and further problems of traffic control; it was urged that permission should be conditional on effective solutions to these problems. Currently, violations of the traffic controls were occurring at the rate of two per day.

c. Dams on Pillhill Brook. Great concern had been expressed by residents of Monxton and their Parish Council about flooding of meadows; they considered that this had been caused by the diversion of the brook following construction of a dam at Upper Mill House, which is in the Parish of Abbots Ann. Investigations had already involved Sir George Young, together with the Head of Planning at TVBC and the Environment Agency; the latter, however seemed disinclined to take effective action. The Chairman had attempted to contact the landowner, Mr. Burgess, but commented that the extreme weather had also caused exceptional flooding in Abbots Ann; unusually early and vigorous weed growth had exacerbated the problem, which was unlikely to be resolved until after the forthcoming weed-cut. The Chairman and Clerk undertook to write to the Head of Planning in support of the concerns of Monxton Parish Council.

Action Chairman and Clerk

d. Manor Farm. Cllr Cleuch described the damage to buildings and the environment in Monxton by heavy vehicles on the way to the Manor Farm industrial site, formerly Siteweld. He had made contact with the proprietors, as had TVBC's Head of Planning, and it had transpired that they wished to move to larger premises elsewhere. It had been suggested that the use of the site for low-cost residential would be advantageous to both villages. The Chairman and Clerk were requested to write to the Head of Planning to encourage this development. *Action Chairman and Clerk*

e. Note was taken of delegated responses and decisions of the Planning Service.

13/59. Clerk's Report.

The Clerk had been advised by the Borough Solicitor that, because the village website was independent of the Parish Council there was no obligation for it to carry details of the Parish Councillors' Declarations of Interest. Accordingly the mandatory requirement for publication was covered by the inclusion of the Declarations in the TVBC website.

The RoSPA inspection had revealed no problems requiring immediate attention, apart from the bird-fouling on the slide in the Recreation Ground, for which a solution was being sought.

Mr. Alborough, Traffic Engineer, had given orders for new signs at the entrances to the village indicating unsuitability for HGVs. He was also pursuing the reinstatement of the Keep Left arrows at the Jubilee Oak junction.

13/60. Organisations.

a. County Councillor. Cllr Gibson was now in the Cabinet as Executive Assistant to the Leader. He confirmed that the leasing of the Manor Close field was welcomed by HCC and encouraged this Council to proceed with the project.

The roll-out of high-speed broadband was proceeding satisfactorily.

b. Borough Councillor. Cllr Stallard was grateful that this Council was represented by Cllr Whyte at the Sparkle Day at Burghclere Down.

He had attended the ceremony at Goodworth Clatford for the re-opening and re-dedication of the newly-named Elizabeth II Field. His suggestion that a similar ceremony should be held to mark the acquisition of the Manor Close field was warmly welcomed.

He drew attention to the forthcoming Vintage Market in Andover and paid tribute to his colleague, Cllr Flood; in her position as Vice-chairman of the Northern Planning Committee she would sometimes have to base decisions on the interests of the area as a whole that might seem contrary to local sentiment.

c. Abbots Ann Vision. Meetings of small groups were being held as the first part of the consultation for Abbots Ann Vision. It was agreed that the Parish Council should meet as a group on Monday 1st July at 7 p.m. in the Eagle.

It was confirmed that the Parish Council would provide up to £750 for the expenses incurred at this stage.

d. AAGA. Mrs. Davis had sent an email reporting on ideas for "greening" the Fete. Apple Pressing Day was set for Sunday 20th October and would include craft workshops and "apple tea".

AAGA was organising wildflower walks and designating areas within the Parish where data on wildlife could be gathered and the results forwarded to Plantlife for adding to their database. This would be the third year of data gathering.

e. Archivist. Mr. Tayler had emailed a report on recent activities, including helping families from overseas with their research. He drew attention to the Hampshire Records Office's summer training courses advertised on the website.

Following this Council's contribution to the scheme to digitise early maps, he had now received a CD showing the tithe map of 1839 with a list of owners and renters of property at that time.

He was to show a group from U3A round the village later in June, and looking ahead was asking for the loan of materials for an exhibition to mark the centenary of WW1 in 2014.

f. Footpaths. Mr. Kelly reported by email on the successful repair of Donkey path at no cost, thanks to the work of volunteers and the contribution of gravel by Barbara Jankowski of Polyanna. The Council wished to record their gratitude to Mr. Kelly and the volunteers.

Action Clerk

He had walked all footpaths and reported them to be in good condition, but asked the Clerk to mention landowners' obligation to prevent their hedges from causing obstruction.

Action Clerk

g. War Memorial Hall. Cllr Stallard reported that the Committee had elected Mr. Denis Carter as Chairman. He was organising a meeting with the Nursery School managers with a view to clarifying a number of issues concerning the use of the premises. The Chairman welcomed this move and hoped that amicable agreements could be reached; the use of the grounds was the concern of the Parish Council and would be the subject of further discussions.

Action Chairman

Cllr Gibson noted that HCC was about to receive a request for grant aid for the refurbishment and alterations to the kitchen and storage areas.

Cllr Stallard reminded Councillors that the Hog Roast would be held on 22nd June.

13/61. Finance.

a. **It was resolved** to approve the following payments:

Cheque No 749	Administration	£697.59	Cheque No 754	Victim Support	£ 50.00
" 750	Enham	£198.03	" 755	B.Sims: Fuel	£ 78.61
" 751	T.C.Hook	£266.00	" 756	HCC Lighting	£171.68
" 752	Playsafety Ltd	£156.00	" 757	Sports Field Grant	£1,500.00
" 753	Andover Gdn Mach	£ 84.00	" 758	AAPCC: Parish Mag.	£240.00

It was further resolved a. that payment of cheques Nos 754 and 758 be authorised under the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

b. Cllr Oram pointed out that an audited statement of accounts should be made available to the Parish Council on request by any organisation to which the Council was making financial contributions. This was agreed as a matter of principle and **it was further resolved** that Cheque No 757 be issued only after receipt of a statement of the Accounts of the Sports Field Committee.

Pro SO Sec RB

13/62. Correspondence.

a. Registration. Notification had been received that inclusion in the Electoral Register would in future be the responsibility of the individual elector and not of the Head of the Household.

b. HCC wished to know whether local communities were planning to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of WW1 and the 70th anniversary of D Day. There was a possibility of financial support from the County. The Clerk was instructed to reply in the affirmative.

Action Clerk

13/63. Other Business.

a. Manor Close. HCC had sent a letter containing Heads of Agreement for the proposed leasing to the Council of the Manor Close field. The Chairman had informally consulted Mr. John Barlow, who had suggested that a number of minor issues required clarification. These included questions of boundary definition and fencing, legal costs and level of initial and ongoing expenses.

He also queried the inclusion of an obligation for the Council to “use its best endeavours” to make provision for affordable housing in the Parish and to ensure the withdrawal of the application for the area to be registered as a Village Green. It was considered that it would not be appropriate for these two considerations to be included in the terms of the lease, but should be covered by an exchange of letters.

It was resolved to authorise the Chairman and Clerk to reply that the Heads of Agreement were acceptable subject to the above considerations and to request the preparation of a draft lease accordingly. *Pro SO Sec BS Action Chairman and Clerk*

b. Recreation Ground. Cllr Bone reported that TVBC’s representative, Mr. K. Harrington, was in favour of the scheme. He had suggested that the gate be painted a different colour from the fence, but was not minded to press this in view of the site being within the Conservation Area. A helpful suggestion was that the grass at the entrance should be reinforced by matting to avoid mud and erosion.

Mr. Goodman of TVBC was the officer responsible for the issue of Section 106 funds. His approach was encouraging, but he had requested details of the equipment and layout, which Cllr Bone undertook to provide. *Action Cllr Bone*

c. Dogs. Cllr Oram suggested that tighter dog controls were needed on the Sports Field; possibly by enforcing a rule that dogs must be on leads. After discussion it was suggested that the Clerk’s newsletter should contain a warning that such a rule might be imposed if there were no reduction in the level of fouling. *Action Clerk*

d. Roadsides. Cllr Sims produced photographs to illustrate the poor level of maintenance of roadside drains on the A343, which in turn resulted in damaged and dangerous pavements. He also drew attention to the depressingly overgrown and weedy state of the verges particularly between St. John’s Cross and the School. The Clerk was asked to take up the matter with Hampshire Highways. *Action Clerk*

Cllr Sims also mentioned a serious accident on the A343 at the entrance to Eastover Farm. Following successful planning applications the volume of traffic there was likely to increase. The Council wished to press the Highway authority to improve the safety of this and similar turnings off the A343 at least in the form of double lines. *Action Clerk*

e. Misuse of Church Car Park. Evidence of drug use and/or dealing had been visible in the car park adjacent to the Old Rectory. Police had been informed and had taken action.

13/64. Next Meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for 4th July at 6.30 p.m. in the Jubilee Room. Councillors were reminded of the Abbotts Ann Vision meeting in the Eagle on Monday 1st July at 7 p.m.

The Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Signed

Date