

**Minutes from the Meeting
held on Thursday 7th March 2024 at 19:00
at The War Memorial Hall, Abbots Ann.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS

	In Attendance	Apologies	Absent
Councillor Jordan	√		
Councillor Howard	√		
Councillor Heather	√		
Councillor Wallis		√	
Councillor Mitchell	√		
Councillor Rous	√		
Vacancy	-	-	-

Also, IN ATTENDANCE:

Amanda Owen - Clerk, Test Valley Borough Council Councillor Flood, County Councillor David Drew & Ray Lucas –
Abbots Ann Community Trust / Abbots Ann Action.

240301	<p>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.</p>
240302	<p>To receive and accept apologies for absence. Apologies were accepted from Councillor Wallis and noted from Councillor Hasselmann.</p>
240303	<p>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 RECEIVED.</p>
240304	<p>To approve the minutes of the full council meeting held on Thursday 1st February and the extraordinary meeting minutes held on Monday 26th February 2024. The minutes of the full council meeting held on Thursday 1st February and the extraordinary meeting minutes held on Monday 26th February 2024 were APPROVED as a correct record of the meeting. Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Howard. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.</p>
240305	<p>To receive updates already published and any further updates provided. Reports can be found at APPENDIX A.</p> <p>Councillor Mitchell provided an update with regards to the health and wellbeing portfolio, also advising that she is meeting with Councillor Flood in the coming weeks. She is also in discussion with Ali Goodman and Judeth from the Parish Magazine. A full update will be received when all information is gathered.</p> <p>Councillor Rous reiterated that she is happy to help out on Portfolios.</p> <p>Councillor Howard ran through the Action List.</p> <p>Councillor Jordan addressed the meeting at thanked the Clerk for sorting salt bins on West Hill. Noted the residents of west Hill are happy. Tree works – Councillors noted that some works had taken place. Councillor Jordan requested that the Clerk contact HRG Tree Surgeons for a progress report.</p> <p>Councillor Drew provided an overview of his report.</p> <p>Councillor Flood provided an overview of her report. Also to note that the Markets are beginning again in Andover Town Centre.</p>
240306	<p>To note progress with regards to the new Clubhouse. Following the response received from Luke Rose, it was noted that Councillor Jordan would contact him to request a fixed fee following on from the Clerk’s contact.</p> <p>It was noted that the Clerk had approached another Architect who is reviewing documents and will revert.</p>

	Ray Lucas addressed the meeting and advised that the option agreement had not yet been signed, noting that the main issue that was causing delay has been resolved. Abbotts Ann Community Land Trust are hoping to meet with the Developer in a few weeks.																																								
240307	<p>To receive comments from Abbotts Ann Action with regards to the Local Plan.</p> <p>Ray Lucas and Abbotts Ann Action were thanked for the work with regards to the Local Plan. It was AGREED to support two initiatives, ENV4 & HOU2. Comments can be found at APPENDIX B. Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Howard. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution. It was also noted that the Clerk is to contact neighbouring Parish Council to declare position and ask for their support with the principals of the local gap.</p>																																								
240308	<p>To agree the booking of The Knowledge and Core Skills for Councillors training course for Councillor Mitchell.</p> <p>It was AGREED to book The Knowledge and Core Skills for Councillors training course for Councillor Mitchell & Councillor Rous not exceeding £250.00. Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Howard. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.</p>																																								
240309	<p>To resolve issues at WC block at Bulbery.</p> <p>It was AGREED to board the facility. The Clerk is to approach the Lengthsman to see if he can conduct works. If he is unable then put the work out to tender. Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded Councillor Heather. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.</p>																																								
240310	<p>To discuss November 2024 fireworks night.</p> <p>Councillor Jordan advised Councillors that the Parish Council should anticipate receiving a request to assist the 2024 event by covering the public liability insurance. It was noted that a decision cannot be made until a formal request is received.</p>																																								
240311	<p>To formalise Councillor portfolios.</p> <p>It was AGREED to formalise the councillor portfolios as shown in APPENDIX C. Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Howard. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.</p>																																								
240312	<p>To note the current financial situation and the reconciliation of the bank balance.</p> <p>The current financial situation and the reconciliation of the bank balance were NOTED with the bank balance at 29th February 2024 being £67,316.97. The bank reconciliation can be found as APPENDIX D.</p>																																								
240313	<p>To approve the requests for payment for March.</p> <p>The payments as listed in the table below were APPROVED for payment. Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Mitchell. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4" style="text-align: center;">March 2024 Payment Requests</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;">TO</th> <th style="width: 30%;">FOR</th> <th style="width: 20%;">INVOICE NO</th> <th style="width: 20%;">AMOUNT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Staff</td> <td>Salary</td> <td>March</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,147.51</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staff</td> <td>Expenses</td> <td>February</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£35.02</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scandor</td> <td>Grounds Maintenance</td> <td>Inv 19865</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£852.67</td> </tr> <tr> <td>War Memorial Hall</td> <td>Jubilee Room hire</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£9.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Test Valley Borough Council</td> <td>Dog bin emptying April 23 - March 24</td> <td>10060832</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,339.51</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Test Valley Borough Council</td> <td>Playground Inspections April 23 - March 24</td> <td>10060875</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,095.44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Viking</td> <td>Stationery</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£16.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£4,495.65</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	March 2024 Payment Requests				TO	FOR	INVOICE NO	AMOUNT	Staff	Salary	March	£1,147.51	Staff	Expenses	February	£35.02	Scandor	Grounds Maintenance	Inv 19865	£852.67	War Memorial Hall	Jubilee Room hire		£9.50	Test Valley Borough Council	Dog bin emptying April 23 - March 24	10060832	£1,339.51	Test Valley Borough Council	Playground Inspections April 23 - March 24	10060875	£1,095.44	Viking	Stationery		£16.00				£4,495.65
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240314	To consider the following planning application:
240314.01	<p>24/00269/FULLN Demolition of outbuilding and erection of ancillary annexe. St Vincents, Salisbury Road, Andover, Hampshire.</p> <p>It was proposed to OBJECT on the following grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change of use from non-residential to residential. - Seeking to build residential building in designated local gap. <p><i>Abbotts Ann Parish Council would also like to express concern that if the proposal is approved, it could possibly set a precedent for future settlement incursion into / within the Local Gap.</i></p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Howard. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.</p>
240314.02	<p>24/00358/TPON T1 Lime, T2 Sycamore - pollard above previous cuts, up to 4m. 10 Kingsmead, Anna Valley, Andover, Abbotts Ann.</p> <p>The Parish Council had NO OBJECTION to this application. Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Rous. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.</p>
20:56 <i>(time)</i>	<p>It was proposed by Councillor Jordan that an extension be granted to extend the meeting, seconded by Councillor Howard. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.</p>
240314.03	<p>24/00382/FULLN Demolition of bungalow and erection of replacement dwelling, widen entrance, relocate access gate and replacement boundary fences. Rosebank, Webbs Lane, Abbotts Ann, Andover.</p> <p>It was proposed to OBJECT to the planning application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The new application does not address comments that were previously issued by the Parish Council other than the matter of parking. <p>Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Heather. This motion was passed on a vote 4 FOR and 1 AGAINST.</p>
240314.04	<p>24/00427/FULLN Removal of single storey side extension and erection of two storey replacement side extension; single storey rear extension, provision of dropped kerb and creation of on-site parking. Holly Tree Cottage, 2 Dunkirt Lane, Abbotts Ann, Andover.</p> <p>The Parish Council had NO OBJECTION to this application. Proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor Howard. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.</p>
240315	<p>To agree the date of the next meeting as Thursday 4th April 2024. The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday 4th April 2024.</p>

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21:00.

APPENDIX A

Footpath and Sewage Portfolio Report for February 2024

Footpaths

All footpaths are okay and walkable, but with all the rain and mild weather we have been having recently we will need to start trimming paths in March.

We will also need to consider replacing the gate at the end of footpath 001/5/1 at the Duck Street end, because the gate is rotting away, unless the Lengthsman can repair it.

Sewage Updates

Southern Water are continuing sealing the joints in the main sewers at Kimpton and sealing the manhole chambers in Thruxton main street.

Only two tankers at present supporting the system at Kimpton and Mullens Pond, no tanker support required at Manor Farm.

Unfortunately, during the month, there was a spillage at Manor Farm, owing to ragging at Mill Lane again. I have flagged this ongoing problem with Mr Scott Howe, SW Regional Operations Manager for Hampshire during his recent visit to Abbotts Ann, saying the sewer system pipe needs upgrading urgently between Manor Farm, Mill Lane valve and Little Ann Pumping Station to overcome the spillage issue, because the present arrangement it is not fit for purpose.

Councillor John Heather

Update from Hampshire County Council – March 2024



The banner features an orange wavy graphic at the top left. On the right, it displays the Hampshire County Council logo (a crown over a shield) and the slogan 'Making the most of your money' next to a stylized 'M' logo. The main text is in large, bold, black font: 'Future Services Consultation'. Below this, on the left, is the text 'Tell us your views on ideas for changes to some local services' in orange. On the right, there is an orange box containing the text 'Have your say by 31 March 2024' in white, with the URL 'hants.gov.uk/future-services-consultation' below it.

Have your say - Household Waste Recycling Centre proposals

A statement from Councillor Rob Humby, Leader of Hampshire County Council, encouraging residents to give their views on the Future Services Consultation, including proposals on Household Waste Recycling Centres:

Fly-tipping is a big concern for Hampshire residents and appreciate that it is an issue that is being linked to the County Council's current Future Services Consultation. The consultation sets out 13 cost reduction proposals which could help towards closing a £132m budget shortfall we expect by April 2025. Like many councils nationally, Hampshire County Council is also facing huge budget pressures in future as costs go up and more people need local services - particularly social care to protect children at risk of harm or abuse, supporting more older people and children and adults with disabilities and additional needs.

Tough decisions on what we can continue to deliver from April 2025 need to be taken. To ensure we can provide HWRCs that continue to meet people's needs and make the most of public money, please have your say and take

part in the public consultation which is open until to 31 March 2024. Visit www.hants.gov.uk/future-services-consultation."

Nine out of ten Year 6 pupils offered first preference secondary school in Hampshire

More than 98 per cent of parents in Hampshire (14,312) have been offered a place for their child at one of their three preferences for a secondary school in September 2024

Of those who applied for a Year 7 place for September 2024 by the application deadline, 90.71 per cent (13,232) have been offered a place at their first preference school. The County Council received 14,587 on-time applications this year – a decrease of 306 on-time applications compared to the number received for places in September 2023 (14,893).

A set of Frequently Asked Questions to help with parents' queries has been published on the Admissions webpages. This includes information on school transport assistance which may be available in certain circumstances, where the national eligibility criteria are met (application deadline 31 May).

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20240301secondaryadmissions>

Council Leaders receive assurances from Southern Water

Council leaders in Hampshire have collectively invited Southern Water to meet with them to explain how they are working to improve their services and to ensure reliable water supplies for the county's residents.

At the meeting it was also agreed to set up further meetings between the County Council and Southern Water colleagues to further support the ongoing improvement of services to customers in Hampshire.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20240227SouthernWaterMtgLdr>

County Council Trading Standards welcomes successful prosecution of fraudulent roofing trader

Hampshire County Council has welcomed the successful prosecution of a rogue trader who has been sentenced for roofing fraud to the value of £642,850.320 involving 29 properties across Hampshire, West Sussex and the Isle of Wight

Following a detailed investigation by the County Council's Trading Standards officers, Lawrence Martin, aged 36, of Burnham Chase in Southampton, was sentenced for five years in jail Wednesday February 21, 2024 at Southampton Crown Court in connection to three counts of fraudulent activity. The Judge also imposed a Criminal Behaviour Order for ten years prohibiting the defendant from undertaking various activities. Mr Martin, trading as CLJ Roofing Limited, as well operating as a sole trader, had pleaded guilty on 20 October 2023 to the crime of fraud by false representation, participating in a fraudulent business, and carrying on the business of a limited company for a fraudulent purpose. The charges related to the provision of roofing and other general building maintenance works carried out at the properties. During the work, Mr Martin made false claims to the homeowners about the necessity of the work being undertaken, the value of the work, and that payments made had been used to purchase materials when they had not.

Learn more about Buy with Confidence: www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20240222TradingStandardsCourtCase>

A budget to serve the people of Hampshire - County Council approves £2.6bn spending on local services for residents in 2024/25

£2.6 billion of public spending on the ongoing delivery of important local services to Hampshire's 1.4 million residents in 2024/25 has been approved by Hampshire County Council.

From 1 April 2024, Hampshire County Council's portion of council tax will increase by a total of 4.99%, of which 2% will go specifically towards adults' social care and supporting the county's higher numbers of older people and adults with complex needs and disabilities - in line with Government policy. This equates to an annual charge of £1,533.24 for a Band D property – an increase of £72.99 per year or approximately £1.40 a week.

The increase will generate an extra £39 million of vital income towards the delivery of crucial services to the people of Hampshire in 2024/25, and still means that Hampshire has one of the lowest council tax precepts of any county in England.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/22022024HCCBudget2024-25>

Hampshire's young people encouraged to make their mark through consultation on campaigning issues

Hampshire's young people are being asked by new Members of the Youth Parliament (MYPs) to let them know what issues matter most to them

The Forum, on Feb 14, was chaired by a Member of the Youth Parliament, encourages direct dialogue between young people and key influencers, including council leaders and Members of Parliament, and meets three times a year. The Forum, along with local youth councils across Hampshire, is open to all young people aged 11-18 who live or attend school in Hampshire.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20240220makeyourmark>

More transport choice and an improved built environment is at heart of new 10-year plan

A new local transport plan (LTP4) that aims to boost economic prosperity, reduce carbon pollution, help promote healthy lifestyles and build stronger communities is to be considered by Hampshire County Council



Central to LTP 4 are the following two principles, which are intended to guide what the County Council does to improve travel and transport infrastructure for the future:

To widen the choice of travel options that people can use;

To provide a transport system that puts people first and creates high quality and prosperous places.

The plan finds a balance between the movement of vehicles with the needs of people. It sets out frameworks to guide future transport planning and the policies that would be applied to create thriving and attractive places where residents can travel around easily.

Proposed schemes for further development are also included in the plan such as the roll out of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, higher quality bus services in urban areas, better quality cycle facilities, changes to our roads to reduce congestion and improvements to high streets and town centres so they are more accessible and safer for shared use by pedestrians, cyclists as well as those pushing prams and those in wheelchairs.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20240208TransportPlan>

Cllr David Drew

Test Valley Central Division, HCC

Borough Councillor Report

Councillors Maureen Flood and Susanne Hasselmann March 2024

Budget and Precept for 2024/ 25

The budget for Test Valley Borough Council was approved at the Council meeting on 29th March 2024. It is a balanced budget without the need to draw from reserves to cover ongoing costs. This is the result of sustained efforts to control costs and the continued income from property and cash investments.

To protect front-line services and in order to remain in a stable financial position, an increase in council tax by £5 for an average band D property, to £163.91, for 2024/25, was approved. This is a rise of 3.14%, and below current inflation levels. This represents less than 9% of the total Council bill people in the Test Valley will pay in 2024/ 25. Although TVBC collects the Council tax, most of it is distributed to other authorities, including Hampshire County Council, Police, Fire and Parish and Town Councils.

In addition, to protect its most vulnerable residents, the Council recently approved its Council Tax Support scheme, for low-income households, to minimise the impact of the proposed increase.

Finance portfolio holder, councillor Maureen Flood, said: *“Local authorities across the country have had a difficult few years, and Test Valley Borough Council has been no exception. However, thanks to our hard work, and being careful with our money, we find ourselves in a strong financial position.*

“Any increases made to council tax are always difficult but are important to make sure that we are able to keep providing our vital services to the public, including bin collections, maintaining green and open spaces, housing and homelessness, planning and much more. It will also help with our ambitious plans to regenerate both Andover and Romsey town centres. At an increase of 3.14%, we are still below the national inflation rates and believe it provides excellent value to our residents.”

Motion to oppose pumping of wastewater

Following an in-depth debate where several speakers provided evidence and information to Council members about the impact of river pollution, a motion by Cllr Drew and Cllr Hasselmann was approved unanimously by Test Valley Borough Council on 29th February 2024.

The motion read: 'This Council strongly opposes Southern Water pumping wastewater into the River Test or its tributaries. The Council is therefore calling on Southern Water to fix the problem by improving its infrastructure more widely and at greater speed, and work with Ofwat and the Environment Agency to enable the required investment funding to be released. In addition, we are calling on all parties to inform and closely engage with affected communities and relevant agencies.

Water quality must be monitored and transparency must be maintained by publishing all testing data promptly.'

Your Councillors and Caroline Nokes MP are working to put further pressure on Southern Water to resolve the many issues / problems in our area. At the same time there is a move to replicate some of the structures set up for the pan-parish forum elsewhere.

Test Valley Community Resilience Forum

The next Test Valley Community Resilience Forum will take place at King's Somborne Village Hall on Saturday 20 April 2024. The normal 'resilience' breakfast of sausage/bacon rolls and pastries will be on offer from 9.45am with the session beginning at 10am.

The event will, in part, comprise of a power outage exercise, a risk faced by all of our communities. The event will also look at other risks facing our communities, including the increasing threat of wildfires. Finally, there will be a presentation about the outcomes of the LRF's work on community resilience.

A final agenda will be circulated closer to the time.

For more information and to RSVP to this event, please contact: gbloss@testvalley.gov.uk

Greening Campaign – Information Events for Communities

The Greening Campaign is a scheme designed to help communities to consider how to tackle climate change, including measures to reduce energy use, health impacts related to climate change, waste prevention, promoting biodiversity and growing your own food.

National Lottery funding has been awarded to help 20 communities in Hampshire to support their journey in relation to climate change through this scheme. Eighteen communities are already signed up across the county, so there is funding available for a further two communities. A small number of free information events have been organised for those who want to find out more, with the final events comprising an online session on **Tuesday 12 March at 7pm** and an in-person event at Romsey Town Hall on **Tuesday 26 March at 7pm**. Alternatively you can get in touch with the Greening Campaign using the details below.

For more information contact the Greening Campaign on hello@greening-campaign.org to ask questions or go to the website www.greening-campaign.org.

Cllr Susanne Hasselmann, cllrshasselmann@testvalley.gov.uk Cllr Maureen Flood, cllrmflood@testvalley.gov.uk

APPENDIX B

<p>Policy No. ENV4 Policy title: Local Gaps</p>
<p>The Parish Council strongly supports the designation of the Abbots Ann Local Gap which is strategically important in defining the edges of the Andover and Abbots Ann settlements and in maintaining separation between them.</p> <p>The Stephenson Halliday Study ("<i>Test Valley Borough Council: Local Gaps Assessment Stephenson Halliday, 2023</i>") which provides a rationale for the designation of Local Gaps and a detailed examination of the nine Local Gaps in Test Valley concludes in relation to the Abbots Ann Gap: "<i>This Local Gap is particularly effective in separating the two settlements, noting in particular the openness of the arable landscape. Consideration should therefore be given to how the strong sense of separation between the settlements is maintained and potentially reinforced, with regard to any future pressures for development.</i>"</p> <p>We suggest that the Local Plan 2040 address the question of how the strong sense of separation be maintained and reinforced.</p>
<p>Policy No. HOU2 Policy title: Community led development</p>
<p>The Parish Council welcomes the proposal to encourage community led development but opposes condition e) which we think will considerably limit the number of community led projects that will come forward.</p> <p>Condition e) requires a community led residential scheme to be predominantly affordable housing. "Predominantly" suggests that only a small minority of market homes would be permitted. This would severely limit the number of viable schemes and is contrary to the desire to integrate market and affordable homes. The numbers of affordable and market homes that are viable should be determined on a case by case basis taking into account evidence of need and the offered community benefit. It would be consistent with other parts of the Plan to require a minimum of affordable dwellings in accordance with Policy HOU1.</p> <p>In condition b) "existing" should be inserted before "S106 planning obligations-----" as in para. 5.373</p>

APPENDIX C

Portfolio	Volunteer to lead:	Volunteers to assist:	Portfolio likely to cover:
Amentities	Gordon Howard	John Heather - Telephone Kiosk Clerk - Play Areas / Skate Park	Burial Ground Churchyard Telephone Kiosk Play Areas / Skate Park

Development & Infrastructure	Andy Jordan	Patricia Mitchell Annabel Rous John Heather - Pan Parish Forum	Planning & Climate Change Traffic Pan Parish Forum Local Plan Housing Needs Survey (Affordable Housing) Street Lighting Bulbery Project
Environment	John Heather	Patricia Mitchell - Conservation	Footpaths Footpath Warden Green Space (inc The Green) Grounds Maintenance Wildflower Meadow River Watch Dog Bins (Health & Safety) Highways / Pavements
Policy	Andy Jordan	Vacant	Finance Budget Contracts
Sports & Recreation	Chris Wallis	Andy Jordan	Sports Pitches Sports Pavilion Liasing with Sportsfield Group & Friends of the Abbots Ann Sportsfield Group
Wellbeing	Patricia Mitchell	Andy Jordan	Communications Safety & Security Policing Youth Group Watch Initiatives (Neighbourhood Watch) Local interest groups - walk & talk Welcome Pack

APPENDIX D

Date: 01/03/2024

Abbots Ann Parish Council

Page 1

Time: 10:25

**Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 29/02/2024
for Cashbook 1 - Lloyds Treasurers Account**

User: AMANDA

<u>Bank Statement Account Name (s)</u>	<u>Statement Date</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Balances</u>
Lloyds Treasurers Account	29/02/2024		67,316.97
			<u>67,316.97</u>
<u>Unpresented Payments (Minus)</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			67,316.97
<u>Unpresented Receipts (Plus)</u>			
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			67,316.97
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	67,316.97
		Difference is :-	0.00