

PARISH COUNCIL OF ABBOTTS ANN

MINUTES

OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 5th JUNE 2014
IN THE JUBILEE ROOM

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

In Attendance:

Mr. A. Stokes, Clerk; Mrs. R. Griffiths, Treasurer; Cllr M. Flood TVBC;
one member of the public.

The meeting opened at 6.38 p.m.

14/59. Apologies. Apologies were recorded from Cllr. G. Whyte; Cllr. A. Gibson, HCC; Cllr. G. Stallard, TVBC; Mr. P. Wood, Footpaths Warden.

14/60. Minutes. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2013 were confirmed and signed.
Pro BS Sec PW

14/61. Appointment of Treasurer. It was resolved to relieve the Clerk of the office of Responsible Financial Officer and to appoint Mrs. R. Griffiths ACIS to that office (to be known normally as Treasurer) with immediate effect and to authorise the Chairman to sign the appropriate contract. Her salary was fixed as one-third of that of the Clerk, whose salary was to be reduced by that amount.
Pro DP Sec SO

14/62. Matters arising.

a. Maintenance. The Chairman had arranged for Darren Murphy to take over the grass-cutting duties formerly carried out by Trevor Hook. No decision had yet been made as to whether his duties should include work on the footpaths.

b. War Memorial Hall. The Chairman had instructed Andover Groundworks to repair the faulty drain in the car park of the War Memorial Hall. Pending a permanent solution, the gully had been made safe. It was suggested that surface water from the road was aggravating the problem.

c. Jubilee Oak junction. i. It was noted with satisfaction that the Keep Left signs were now in place.

ii. It was noted that the lowering of the kerb opposite the Village Shop had still not been carried out. The Clerk was instructed to write to the highway authority requesting completion of the project and investigation of the problem in item b above.

Action Clerk

d. TVAPC. The Chairman had attended the meeting of TVAPC on 15th May. It was disappointing that only six Parishes out of 59 were represented. The meeting had been interesting and informative.

e. Telephone Poles. The Clerk had tried unsuccessfully to contact BT about the redundant poles. The Chairman had been advised to try contacting the electricity supplier (SSE).
Action Chairman

f. "Your Countryside." The presentation by AAV had been well attended and had provided a great deal of interesting and valuable information. The Council expressed appreciation of the work of Mrs. J. Stanton in organising the meeting.

14/63. Planning.

Note was taken of decisions of the Planning Service.

14/64. Clerk's Report. The Clerk thanked the Council for the vote of confidence recorded at the previous meeting and for giving him the opportunity to continue as Clerk for a while without the financial responsibilities. The financial documents could now be produced in a more up-to-date format compatible with modern electronic systems.

Several comments had been received about overgrown hedges obstructing footpaths and pavements. The problem had been exacerbated by the luxuriance of growth arising from exceptional weather, and by the sudden retirement of Trevor Hook. It had to be remembered, however, that the surface of paths was the responsibility of the County Council and the control of hedges was the duty of the landowners. Any work by employees or volunteers of the Parish Council was an optional extra, since the County was unable to provide the necessary manpower. The Clerk was to draw attention to these facts in his next newsletter.

Action Clerk

A peremptory demand for a copy of the audited accounts had been received from Mr. Paul Kelly, in a measured response to which the Clerk had explained the auditing procedures which would not be completed until the Audit Commission's agents had reported. He had sent Mr. Kelly some documentation and referred to the insertion of a copy of the Annual Return in the book in the Village Shop. Mr. Kelly had also asked for the draft minutes of the last meeting. The Clerk had replied that minutes could only be available to the public when approved and signed, after which they were available in the Village Shop and on the website. All present affirmed their approval of these procedures. Cllr Oram raised the question of persistent or vexatious use of the Freedom of Information Act and undertook to make enquiries.

Action Cllr Oram

The Chairman and Clerk had had a most useful meeting with Mr. Gordon Howard, Churchwarden, to survey the extensive works required in the Churchyard. For the Parish Council these included attention to trees, drains, pathways and maintenance of the grounds. The future of the wild garden remained unresolved. Mr. Howard was to see whether the consecration of the unused area on the southern side of the Burial Ground could be arranged. As first steps, the Clerk was to see whether Enham could work on the paths, and the Chairman was to contact the landowners about nettles and other weeds encroaching on Church Path.

Action Chairman and Clerk

The Chairman and Clerk had also had a useful meeting with representatives of the War Memorial Hall and the Nursery School. It had been agreed that the Council, through the Chairman, would acquire permanent notices to be fixed near the entrances, and that the Nursery School, when they had to close the main gate for safety reasons, would provide a notice directing members of the public to the gate to the Recreation Ground.

Action Chairman

14/65. Organisations.

a. Borough Councillor. Cllr M. Flood reported that the Borough Council had received 2,100 responses to the consultation on the revised Local Plan. This should be ready for presentation to the Inspectorate in July.

Some railings had recently been removed from Crossfield Hall were to be available to any Parish Council that might have a use for them. The Clerk was asked to obtain details from Mr. K. Firth at the Portway depot.

Action Clerk

Mr. Chris Gregory had been appointed Town Centre Manager.

Work on the bus-station was continuing, as was replacement of floor tiles at the car-park end of the Chantry Centre.

15 new “Dash and Go” ultra-short-term parking places had been provided in Andover, giving free parking for 15 minutes.

Cllr Flood had been asked about dogs in the Recreation Ground. The Parish Council confirmed that no dogs should be permitted and that notices to this effect should be in place. It was suggested that the notice forbidding ball games at the Hall was in poor condition and redundant. The Chairman undertook to remove it in due course.

Action Chairman

b. Archivist. Mr Tayler had enquired whether it would be permissible to display a Lee-Enfield rifle at the WW1 display. The Clerk was to check with the insurers.

Action Clerk

c. Footpaths. Mr. Wood was away at a conference. Cllr Oram had voluntarily cut back the overgrown hedges at the footpath at Bulbery and had the scars to show for it. The Clerk suggested that volunteers could undertake the maintenance of short stretches of footpath near their homes.

d. Primary School. Cllr Bone reported that the school was working with the Archivist on the WW1 exhibition.

e. Website. The Chairman reported that Lorna Haigh was working with Keith Saunders on the up-dating of the website, under the auspices of Abbots Ann Vision.

14/66. Finance.

a. It was resolved to approve the following payments:				<i>Pro SO</i>	<i>Sec RB</i>
Cheque No	821	Administration		£766.90	
“	822	D. Murphy		£ 90.00	
“	823	Enham		£264.03	
“	824	T.Tayler: Archives		£ 64.05	
“	825	J. Barlow: Archives		£ 39.36	
“	826	B. Sims: Fuel		£ 68.26	
“	827	Julie Moon: AAV		£ 55.98	
“	828	Village Shop: Grant		£1,600.00	

* See Minute 14/38 g.

b. The budget summary for 2014-15 was received as appended to these Minutes. This allowed for an increase of 2.5 % in administrative salaries, to be authorised at the next meeting.

c. As a matter of routine, the Treasurer would send the spreadsheet detailing the month’s accounts to the website and would place the printed summary in the book in the Village Shop.

Action Treasurer

14/67. Correspondence.

a. Mrs. S. Dashwood had drawn attention to Estate Agents’ boards being left in place for too long.

b. A Government notice had been received about changes to the Dangerous Dogs Act. This had been posted on the Notice Board and the Clerk was forwarding it to the Parish Magazine.

Action Clerk

c. The Clerk drew attention to a Minibus Event organised by the County Council on 11 June in Basingstoke; to HALC’s Information event, an update on effective communication, at Winchester on 18th June: and to the Mayor of Romsey’s charity quiz evening for parish council teams planned for July or August.

d. In connection with the Cllr Sims’s list of Highway problems the Chairman and Clerk were proposing to contact Mr. Alborough for a site meeting with Cllr Gibson.

Action Chairman and Clerk

14/68. Other Business.

a. Recreation Ground. After discussion Cllr Bone was asked to contact Adam Rose about the provision of one or two simple seats. *Action Cllr Bone*

b. Manor Close Field. The key to the gate had not yet been received from the County Council. It was suggested that at some stage there should be a ceremony to mark the acquisition of the field.

Cllr Sims and the Chairman drew attention to the need for some new machinery.

c. Defibrillator. A firm decision was still needed about the location of the defibrillator, especially since it appeared that it had to be protected from frost.

d. The Chairman suggested that, after the contribution from the “Great Shave-off,” the Air Ambulance might be present at the Village Fete.

14/69. Future Meetings.

The next meeting was scheduled for 3rd July. There would be a short meeting on July 31st and no meeting in August.

The Meeting closed at 8.43 p.m.

Signed

Date