

**PARISH COUNCIL OF ABBOTTS ANN
MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2010
IN THE JUBILEE ROOM**

Present:	Cllr. B.Griffiths, Chairman	
	Cllr. G.Whyte, Vice-chairman	Cllr. S.Oram
	Cllr. D.Alleway	Cllr. D.Paffett
	Cllr. A.Barham	Cllr. P. Wilkins

In Attendance: Mr. A.Stokes, Clerk; Cllr M.Flood, TVBC; Mr.P.Kelly, Footpaths Officer, Mrs.W.Davis, AAGA; Mrs. A. Nolan, Sports Field Committee; Mr. A.Bulpitt, Fete Committee; and two members of the public.

The meeting opened at 6.35 p.m.

10/117. Apologies. Apologies were recorded from Cllr A. Gibson, HCC, and Cllr G.Stallard, TVBC.

10/118 Minutes. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th November 2010 were confirmed and signed. *Pro PW Sec DA*

10/119. Matters Arising.

a. Bulbery: possible breach of regulations. The Clerk had made contact with the appropriate representative of Testway Housing.

b. 20 Cattle Lane. It was noted with satisfaction that the appeal had been dismissed on grounds that closely matched the requirements of the Village Design Statement and the objections raised by this Council.

c. Grit Bins. No bins had yet been supplied. Requests for the locating of five bins had been received by the Clerk. It was suggested that these options be passed to Cllr Gibson, with the proviso that all responsibilities, including those affecting Health and Safety, remain with the County Council.

d. Old Telephone Exchange. It was noted with satisfaction that, following pressure from the Chairman, the Section 106 requirement for this development had been substantially reduced.

10/120. Planning.

a. **It was resolved** to register No Objection to the following application:

TV No 10/02538/FULLN Old Post Office: Rear Extension and Summer House

“ 10/02539/LBWN *Pro GW Sec PW*

b. Cllr Oram asked that the Planning Service be notified that there was a disused well adjacent to the above premises, concealed by tarmac.

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

10/121. Clerk's Report.

a. The Clerk had distributed memoranda

i. on the precautions advised by local authorities and the Council's insurers during periods of severe weather.

ii. on possible effects of amendments to the Local Government Act 1972 in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 1977, some of which, if brought into force, would make it impossible for relatively small councils such as this council to function.

b. The Clerk warned Councillors that, under existing legislation, a resolution, once passed, could not be rescinded until six months had elapsed.

10/122. Organisations

a. TVBC Councillor. Cllr M.Flood reported that she understood that grit bins might be available in a matter of days.

Cllr Flood had been notified that the closure of the West Hill-Monxton Road was expected shortly for repairs.

b. Footpaths. Mr. Kelly had removed fallen trees on the Coach Road and Webbs Lane with the help of Mr. Chris Davis for which the Chairman expressed the thanks of the Council. He was concerned that the overgrown hedges narrowing the footpath from Bulbery towards the school had not yet been cut back. It was noted that the gates on the path from the Manor Close field to Duck Street had been repaired.

c. Sustainability Group (AAGA). Mrs. W.Davis reported on her efforts to obtain funding for the Wildlife Project, so far unsuccessful, but outlined plans for other nature-study projects requiring less funding. The group was planning a drive for energy conservation as a project for 2011.

Mrs. Davis was concerned about the lack of information about the future of the Manor Close playing field. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council's negotiations for the purchase or leasing of the field had been put on hold pending the County Council's response to the request by the Manor Close residents for the field to be registered as a village green, for which no time-scale was available.

In this connection Cllr Whyte expressed astonishment, shared by all Councillors, at the extent and cost of the traffic survey undertaken on behalf of the Highway Authority in Manor Close.

d. Neighbourhood Watch. It was noted with dismay that the standard of the regular bulletins circulated by the Police had deteriorated in terms of content and frequency. Cllr. Paffett undertook to discuss the matter with Mr. Mike Butt, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

Action Cllr Paffett

e. Sports Field. Mrs. Alex Nolan reported as Chairman of the Committee. The danger from asbestos had been dealt with by the removal of the damaged ceilings in the Pavilion. Mr. Clive Pedlar had conducted a survey of the building, from which it was apparent that the roof, including its supporting structure, was basically sound. The walls, however, were in such poor condition that they were beyond economic repair. Mr. Pedlar had suggested three possible ways forward:

1. Demolition and replacement with a new architect-designed building (cost at least £100,000)

2. Demolition and replacement with an "off the shelf" pre-fabricated building. (c£75,000)

3. Retention of present roof, with replacement of walls, perhaps with timber cladding (c£50,000).

Much thought needed to be given to finance, for which there were many possible sources of funding. In the long term, the Parish Council could consider raising a loan; meanwhile the budget could support some running repairs and measures to keep the building in use for the time being.

f. Fete Committee. Mr. Andrew Bulpitt reported on the great success of the recent fete. The sum of £4,800 from the proceeds had been distributed around Parish organisations.

The committee had purchased a marquee which could be borrowed free of charge. Mr. Bulpitt had resigned from the chairmanship of the committee; his successor was Mr. Steve Carroll. The Chairman expressed the great appreciation of his, and his committee's, work on behalf of the community.

10/123. Finance.

a. **It was resolved** to authorise the following payments: *Pro AB Sec SO*

Cheque No	586	Administration	£682.42
"	587	Land Registry	£100.00
"	588	Valiant Computing (via Clerk)	£450.00
"	589	Andover Mencap	£140.00
"	590	SLCC Sub	£118.00
"	591	Westfield Group: asbestos removal	£1,057.00

b. **It was resolved** to adopt the Budget for 2011-12 as appended to these Minutes. There would be no increase in the Precept. *Pro GW Sec SO*

c. HCC Discretionary Grant. Councillors were asked to offer suggestions on the use of this grant. Possible schemes included:

i. improvement of the surfaces of Pitts Path and the path from the Manor Close field to Duck Street.

ii. alterations to the roundabout at the Jubilee Tree in order to ensure the tree's survival.

The Clerk undertook to look into the possibilities of obtaining funding for either or both of these projects. *Action Clerk*

10/124. Correspondence.

a. 100-acre Corner. The Clerk had distributed details of the prolonged closure of parts of the junction during reconstruction of the roundabouts.

b. John Hanson School had invited this Council to make a donation and to send a representative to the prize-giving, as had been customary. The notice had been too short to make arrangements, and it was decided to defer a decision on whether or not to continue the commitment.

c. Cider Press. Mr. Lawrence Leask of Hatherden had offered to make his large cider-press available for apple-processing in the summer. The Clerk was asked to express interest and to let AAGA have a copy of the correspondence. *Action Clerk*

d. A letter of thanks had been received from Ms Elizabeth Dell for supporting her application to convert the Old Telephone Exchange and for helping to obtain a reduction in the demand for Section 106 funding.

10/125. Other Business.

a. Visit to Primary School. It had not been possible to arrange a visit to the school in November, but six Councillors and the Clerk were still keen to be shown round during a normal school day. The clerk was asked to approach the school with a view to a visit in January 2011. *Action Clerk*

b. Lighting at Burghclere Down. Ms Kirsty Gray had enquired about progress in establishing responsibility for street lighting in Burghclere Down. As none of the lights were the property of, or managed by, the Parish Council Cllr M.Flood was asked to investigate the position of the Borough Council in this matter. *Action Cllr Flood*

c. Cllr Paffett raised the subject of the future of the old school site. The Chairman reported with regret that he had had no reply from the Bishop or any diocesan official in response to his request to be kept informed about plans for the development of the site. It was suggested that Mr. Kevin Ayrton of Carter Jonas be asked for a progress report. *Action Chairman*

10/126. Future Meetings.

a. Meetings in 2011 would be on the first Thursday of each month at 6.30 p.m., with the exception of August. There would be a shortened meeting on July 28th.

b. The next Meeting was scheduled for 6th January 2011.

In closing the meeting at 8.55 p.m., the Chairman expressed his best wishes to all present, and to the whole community, for Christmas and the New Year.

Signed

Date