

**PARISH COUNCIL OF ABBOTTS ANN**

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON THURSDAY 7th May 2009 at 6.30 p.m.**  
**IN THE JUBILEE ROOM OF THE WAR MEMORIAL HALL**

Present	Cllr. B.Griffiths, Chairman, from 6.38 p.m.	Cllr. G.Whyte, Vice-Chairman
	Cllr. D.Alleway	Cllr. D.Paffett
	Cllr. S.Oram	Cllr. P.Stanton
		Cllr. P.Wilkins
In Attendance	Mr. A.Stokes, Clerk	Cllr.A.Peters, TVBC
	Mr. D.Downey, Footpaths Officer	

*The Meeting opened at 6.31 p.m.*

**0942. Elections.** a. Chairman. *In the absence of Cllr. Griffiths, Cllr G. Whyte took the chair for this item.* Cllr B.Griffiths was unanimously elected to the office of Chairman.

*Pro DP Sec DA*

b. Vice-chairman. Cllr G. Whyte was unanimously elected to the office of Vice-Chairman.

*Pro DA Sec PW*

**0943. Apologies.** Apologies were recorded from Cllr M. Woodhall HCC , Cllr G. Stallard TVBC and Mr.T. Tayler, Archivist.

**0944. Council Representatives, Officers and Subscriptions.**

**It was resolved** to renew the appointment of Representatives and Officers without change and to continue the current subscriptions.

*Pro PW Sec SO*

**0945. Minutes.** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd April 2009 were confirmed for signature.

*Pro DA Sec DP*

**0946. Matters Arising.**

a. Manor Close Playing Field. The Vice-Chairman had spoken to Cllr Thornber, Leader pf HCC at a recent reception, and the Clerk had written a follow-up letter; in response Cllr Thornber had promised that the Council's wishes for its preservation as a green space would be taken into consideration in any plans for its future.

It was considered too early to raise expectations by publicly announcing the possibility that the playing field could provide space for allotments. Councillors were, however, aware that several parishioners would interested if allotments were available.

b. Stable block, Cattle Lane. The Clerk had been in touch with the Enforcement Officer, who was investigating the claim of the owner, Mrs. Helen White, that the structure was "mobile" and so not subject to planning permission.

c. Telephone Kiosk. The Clerk was still awaiting a reply from BT. His cheque for its purchase had not been cashed.

e. Dog-bins. Neither the Clerk nor Councillors had received any feed-back from parishioners about the decision not to install dog-bins.

**0947. Planning.**

a. **It was resolved** to register No Objection to:

TV No 09/00692/FULLN: Down House, Grain Store.

*Pro PS Sec PW*

“ 09/00787/FULLN: Far End, Abbotts Hill, alterations.

*Pro GW Sec PW*

b. **It was resolved** to register an Objection to:

TV No 09/00729/FULLN: 20 Cattle Lane, new dwelling, on grounds of excessive height and dominance as essentially a 2-storey house out of sympathy with its surroundings. *Pro GW Sec PS*

c. Note was taken of delegated responses and decisions of the Planning Service as noted in the Appendix to these Minutes.

**0948. Clerk's Report.**

a. Burial Ground. The Clerk drew attention to the increasing number of applications to reserve plots. It appeared that parishioners were concerned that about a possible shortage of space.

b. Village Shop. The shop had been judged Best Village Shop in Hampshire in a competition run by "Hampshire" Magazine. **It was resolved by Acclaim** to send a message of congratulation to the Managers. *Action Clerk*

**0949. Parish Organisations.**

a. HCC Councillor. A unanimous **Vote of Thanks** was passed in gratitude for the support given to the Parish Council by Cllr Michael Woodhall who was retiring. *Action Clerk*

b. TVBC Councillor. Cllr. Peters reported that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, of which he was a member and of which Cllr Stallard was now Deputy Chairman, had been strengthened. Cllr Peters was also now a member of the Planning Control Committee.

The Chairman expressed the appreciation of the Council of the constant support given by Cllrs Peters and Stallard.

c. Footpaths. Mr. Downey reported a fallen tree on The Drove. It was also noted that many of the trees in the area were affected by ivy. The Clerk undertook to inform the agents for the estate. *Action Clerk*

d. School Governor. Cllr Stanton reported that work on the new premises was well under way. There would be a ceremonial opening in due course. It was possible that the playing-field there would not be ready for use until after the opening.

**0950. Finance.**

a. **It was resolved** to adopt the final Statement of Account for the year 2008/9.

*Pro GW Sec SO*

b. The Annual Statement and the Statement of Assurance (Parts 1 and 2 of the Annual Return for the Audit Commission) **were approved and signed.** *Pro GW Sec PW*

c. Having reviewed the accounting procedures in the light of Professor Gibson's report, the Council considered that these continued to meet the requirements of transparency and effectiveness, and therefore **resolved** that no changes were necessary. *Pro PS Sec SO*

d. The list of assets and valuations was noted.

e. **It was resolved** that the Chairman's Allowance be fixed at £150. *Pro SO Sec PS*

g. Insurance Renewal. The Council was committed to renew the policy with Norwich Union through the 3-year contract with the brokers Came and Co. The premium was less than the previous year due to the no-claim bonus. At the Internal Auditor's suggestion the Clerk had requested that the Fidelity cover be set at the Company's standard rate of £100,000.

h. Internal Audit. i. Note was taken of the contents of the letters of 23.04.09 and 01.05.09 from Mr. J.K.Murray, internal auditor. The Clerk had ordered the up-dated manuals recommended.

ii. It was noted that no changes were requested in the accounting system.

i. **It was resolved** to authorise the following payments:

Cheque No 485	Administration	£701.99
486	J.K.Murray Audit Fee	£150.00
487	Broker Network, Insurance renewal	£1,788.52
488	B.Sims: fuel	£43.70
489	P.C.C. Magazine, Clock (S.137)	£400.00
490	T.C.Hook	£300.00

**It was further resolved** to approve the payment of £400 to Abbotts Ann P.C.C. in accordance with the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. *Pro SO Sec DA*

### 0951. Correspondence.

a. Dr Ahmad had asked the Council to consider facilitating his campaign to demonstrate the essentially peaceful nature of Islam. While sympathising with his intentions, the Council did not consider it appropriate to promote a local meeting.

b. The Abbotts Ann Players were urgently seeking storage for their wardrobe and equipment. It was not considered possible for any provision to be made in the War Memorial Hall or its grounds; it was suggested that the Players should investigate hiring secure storage in the neighbourhood, for which there was a possibility that the Council could provide some initial financial assistance.

c. A field at Clatford Lodge had recently been illegally occupied by travellers but it had to be acknowledged that the Parish Council had no powers to intervene in such cases.

### 0952. Other Business.

War Memorial Hall fence. Cllr Whyte considered a height of 4'6" to be excessive. The Clerk undertook to try to obtain guidance on the recommended height for the protection of children in a playground. Meanwhile the Chairman was asked to pursue a third estimate for the work.

*Action Chairman and Clerk*

**0953. Conclusion.** Cllr Griffiths thanked the Councillors for their continued support for his Chairmanship, which he had now held for 20 years, having been a Councillor for 30 years.

**0954. Next Meeting.** The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 4<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at 6.30 p.m. in the Pavilion.

*The Meeting closed at 8.21 p.m.*

**THESE MINUTES REMAIN IN DRAFT FORM UNTIL CONFIRMED AND SIGNED**