

PARISH COUNCIL OF ABBOTTS ANN

MINUTES

OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2008
IN THE JUBILEE ROOM OF THE WAR MEMORIAL HALL

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

In Attendance:

Mr. D.Downey, Footpaths Officer
Dr.J.Moon, Hon Tree Warden and Abbots Ann Action *from 7.27 p.m.*
Mrs.R. Griffiths

The meeting opened at 7.02 p.m.

1378. Apologies. Apologies were recorded from Cllr A.Peters and G.Stallard and from the Clerk, owing to indisposition. Mrs. Griffiths volunteered to take the Minutes.

1379. Minutes. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd October 2008 were confirmed and signed. *Pro DA Sec PS*

1380. Matters Arising.

a. Telephone Kiosk. The Clerk had received a copy of TVBC's official objection to the removal of the Abbots Ann kiosk on grounds of limited mobile coverage and lack of a land-line to the nearby War Memorial Hall; this Parish's offer to "Sponsor" the kiosk was noted. BT had so far taken no action.

b. Long Vehicles. The Clerk had received a promise from Hampshire Highways to re-locate the "Long Vehicles" signs at St. John's Cross to make them more visible to drivers.

c. Church Path lighting. The Clerk had reported that the faulty lamp was still out of action; meanwhile the annual bill for maintenance and electricity had been received.

d. Airfield development. Dr. Moon had submitted further detailed figures on vehicle movements and noise pollution to the planners on behalf of the "STOP Megashed" campaign. He was warmly thanked and congratulated on the brilliance of his reports.

It had been noted that TESCO had protested at the onerous nature of the traffic restrictions and that Goodman had withdrawn from its contract with TESCO. Cllr Whyte reported on news of Goodman's apparent financial problems and on the possibility that TESCO might revive its interest in the Farnborough site. Meanwhile Goodman was insisting on pursuing its application at the Planning Control Committee's meeting on 1st December.

e. Church Roof. Cllr Alleway commented that the P.C.C. was aware of the Council's assurance of support, but it was too early for discussion of figures.

f. Footpath. The Chairman had contacted the landowners of the footpath between Dell Garage and the Coach Road. They had asked that the Council should organise the necessary clearance.

g. Nursery School store. The Chairman was due to meet Mr. Clive Pedlar to discuss the matter. It appeared that the Nursery School management did not favour siting a store out of sight on the eastern side of the hall.

h. War Memorial plaque. The Chairman was still seeking economical ways of restoring the inscription.

1381. Planning.

1. The following applications were discussed:

a. TV No 08/2460/FULLN: Chalk House; outbuilding. **Resolved** No Objection

Pro GW Sec SO

b. TV No 08/02466/FULLN: Dunromin, Old Salisbury Rd.; 2 new dwellings.

Resolved No Objection

Pro SO Sec GW

c. TV No 08/02530/FULLN: 15 Red Post Lane; replace garages with barn/workshop. Mr. Dickinson was concerned about encroachment and had contacted the Chairman, who had visited the site and established that the new building was to be no closer to the boundary than the old. **Resolved** No Objection

Pro PW Sec DA

d. TV No 08/02596/FULLN: 21 Honeysuckle Gdns: use of garage for office and physiotherapy practice. **Resolved** No Objection.

Pro GW Sec PW

2. Note was taken of delegated responses and of the Planning Service's decisions as listed in the Appendix to these Minutes.

3. Re TV No 08/02189 (20, Cattle Lane; replace bungalow with 5-bedroom house) to which the Council had objected at the last meeting. The Chairman had received a copy of a letter from the applicant's agent to the Planning Officer disputing the existence of a policy restricting the height of buildings in Little Park. It was agreed that this policy was not specified in the Village Design Statement, but confirmed that it had been consistently applied to the Council's decisions on development on Cattle Lane. This was in line with (a) the Guidelines on pages 10 of the Design Statement referring to development reflecting the original pattern of the village in terms of layout and scale as well as of design and character.

(b) the Guidelines on page 15 which indicate that "Smaller houses are preferred with a form to match existing properties... Low roofline should be maintained."

The Council therefore did not apologise for taking what the agent described as a "blanket" attitude to such proposals and did not accept the agent's argument (a) that applications should be assessed on a "plot-by-plot" basis and (b) that this particular development would be adequately screened and would not set a precedent for the future. The Chairman would reply that the comments had been noted. *Action Chairman*

1382. Parish Organisations.

a. Abbots Ann Action. The Chairman thanked Dr. John Moon for his outstanding report on noise pollution. Dr. Moon replied that he had been fortunate in having the help, among others, of a retired professor of acoustics from King's Sombourne. On the cancellation of Goodman's contract with Tesco, he commented that there could yet be another "Megashed", as the developers were continuing with their application for a

business park. Other businesses could occupy it, as Tesco had lost the exclusivity deal only. The “STOP” Campaign was keen to continue representation and objection cards were to be circulated in the parishes. The Chairman commented that the Council had been asked to help fund the campaign, but could not do so until they had received assurances of the “bona fides” of the organisation. Dr. Moon undertook to address this.

Action Dr. Moon

b. Footpaths. Mr. Downey produced four signs for Church Path to indicate “Walkers Only”. These seemed weatherproof, but some seemed more substantial than others. After discussion Cllr Alleway undertook to investigate suitable locations and to organise installation.

c. Neighbourhood Watch. Mr. Downey reported that a vehicle had been driven along Church Path as far as the kissing gate, and in reversing had almost knocked down a pedestrian. He would be keeping an eye on the situation.

Mr. Downey and Dr. Moon left the Meeting at 8.02 p.m.

d. Fete Committee. Cllr Whyte reported on the Fete Committee’s meeting held on the previous Tuesday. The profit was stated to have been about £1,500; the weather this year has been responsible for a reduction from the usual level of about £3,000. The profit had been divided equally among ten organisations.

The Fete Committee’s Chairman, Mr. Andrew Bulpitt, had discovered through research that more people attended village events on Sundays than Saturdays, so it had been decided to hold next year’s fete on a Sunday; it was considered that the marquee could therefore perhaps be let on the Saturday.

The length of time required to set up the fete was discussed; it was agreed that it was impractical to get everything ready on the day itself.

e. School Governors. Cllr Stanton commented that the gap recently created in the hedge was to give building access only. It had been removed at this time in order not to disturb hibernating animals later in the year. Building was not due to commence until the New Year, and occupation was anticipated early in 2010.

Cllr Stanton confirmed that he was now Chairman of Governors.

f. Sports Field. Cllr Wilkins reported that the recent Fireworks Display had been successful, though some Councillors expressed the opinion that attendance seemed to be less than the previous year. Gate receipts had amounted to about £2,000.

1383. Finance.

a. Payments. **It was resolved** to authorise the following payments:

Cheque No.	458	Administration	£773.91
“	459	Andover Mencap	£128.00
“	461	T.C.Hook	£163.30

It was further resolved that payment of Cheque No 456 should be delayed pending clarification of the financial status of the “STOP” organisation (see Minute 1374 a) and that Cheque No 460 should not be paid until work on the Church Path lights had been satisfactorily completed. The Clerk was to write to explain why the money was being withheld.

Pro GW Sec PW Action Clerk

b. Clerk’s remuneration. **It was resolved** that the Clerk’s remuneration as from 1 April 2008 should be at the newly-agreed NALC rate of £11.78 per hour for 15 hours per week, reduced from 15.6 hours; his allowance for use of home as office should be £24 per month. It was noted that the changes would have no significant effect on the budget.

Pro DA Sec DP

c. Budget. **It was resolved**, after discussion, to adopt the budget unaltered from the draft previously circulated to Councillors. *Pro GW Sec SO*

d. Precept. **It was resolved** that the precept for the year 2009-10 should be set at £20,500. *Pro PW Sec SO*

1384. Correspondence.

a. Telegraph Pole The Chairman summarised correspondence between the Clerk and BT, who had dismissed his objections to the siting of the pole within the pavement outside Chapel Cottage on the grounds that the installation met all their required standards and procedures. The Council could appeal to the County Court, and the rights of objection were appended; it was not evident that the Council itself qualified for any right to object. In discussion, Councillors emphasised the hazard involved, and the Chairman suggested that the County Council could raise an objection as being responsible for highways. Accordingly the Clerk was requested to write to Cllr Woodhall with copies to Sir George Young MP and HALC.

Action Clerk

b. Newton Family. A request had been received from Mr. Tommy Newton for news and photographs of his family; he had lived in Abbotts Ann from 1950 to 1958. No-one present could help.

c. No reply had yet been received from StarEnergy (See Minute 1375e).

d. 2-Minutes' silence. The Borough Council had requested that the 2-minutes' Silence should be observed throughout the Borough at 11 a.m. on November 11th. Cllr Alleway undertook to notify the bell-ringers and the Village Shop.

e. Strategic Gaps. The Clerk had emailed Cllr Woodhall expressing concern that the latest report on planning policy from SEERA contained proposals to delete strategic gaps. Cllr Woodhall had replied that the County Council was determined to resist any such proposals. It was noted that in TVBC's Core Strategy proposals these gaps were safeguarded.

Cllr G. Stallard joined the Meeting at 8.43 p.m.

f. Mr. Brian Sims had written to draw the Council's attention to dog-fouling on the Sports Field, blocked drains on the Salisbury Road and the overgrown verge encroaching on the footpath between Bulbery and St. John's Cross. He also mentioned under-age drinking and asked whether the Council had a policy about this. It was pointed out that the Council had no powers of enforcement, and that under-age drinking was a matter for the Police. The Clerk was requested to mention the matter in the Newsletter.

Action Clerk

On dog-fouling, Cllr Stallard advised that a Devon council had a successful solution, by which each Councillor was provided with a can of red powder to squirt at any offending mess. This served to shame offenders. He undertook to provide the web-site address of the Devon council.

g. Mrs Tracy Russell had sent an email about trees from the Sports Field overshadowing her garden. Cllr Wilkins explained that this was an overgrown laurel hedge; the Chairman asked Cllr Wilkins to refer the matter to the Sports Field Committee.

Action Cllr Wilkins

h. Mrs. Sally Dashwood, Churchwarden, had advised that the trees in the old churchyard required substantial attention, some of which could not be carried out until the following Spring. Provision for expenditure of about £500 had been allowed for in the Budget.

i. Councillors were reminded about the meeting of Test Valley Parishes on 22nd November concerning the “Carbon Footprint.” This had been advertised by HALC and was to be held at the Upper Clatford Village Hall from 10.30 to 1.30 .

1385. TVBC Councillor’s Report.

Cllr G. Stallard gave a detailed report on recent activities of the Borough Council; the Chief Executive was unfortunately in hospital following a car-accident. The Chairman asked that wishes for his recovery be conveyed to him.

Cllr Stallard drew particular attention to the Exhibition and Consultation Meeting which he and Cllr A Peters had arranged on 24th November from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Upper Clatford Village Hall in connection with the Borough Council’s Core Strategy Consultation. A copy of the draft document was available from the Clerk. There was also to be an exhibition in the Guildhall on November 22nd, 24th and 25th which would include plans for the re-development of the land between the High Street and East Street, currently used for car-parking, for which alternative arrangements would be made. It was to be noted that Abbotts Ann was in the “Andover” section, not under “Rural Test Valley”.

It remained to be seen whether the cancellation of Goodman’s contract with Tesco was good or bad news.

The Chairman gave Cllr Stallard a copy of the letter from the agents concerned with the proposed dwelling in Cattle Lane (see Minute 1381 3 above).

1386. Other Business.

a. Model Publication Scheme. This item was deferred.

b. Traffic in Bulbery. Residents had asked for the Council to consider the possibility of creating a one-way traffic system in Bulbery. After discussion it was decided not to pursue the matter, but Cllr Oram undertook to speak to those concerned.

Action Cllr Oram

Following an enquiry from a resident, the Chairman had obtained confirmation that the footpath between Bulbery and the sheltered bungalows was indeed a public right of way.

c. “The Village Politicians.” Cllr Paffett had used his computer to scan the picture kindly loaned by Mrs. Coffey onto disc, and it was suggested that he should take it to Messrs. Bulpitt for printing after which it could be framed and hung in the Jubilee Room. The Chairman did not participate in the technical discussions.

Action Cllr Paffett

1387. Forthcoming Meetings.

The next meeting was scheduled for 4th December 2008 to be held in the Pavilion. The first meeting in the New Year would be on 8th January 2009.

THESE MINUTES REMAIN IN DRAFT FORM UNTIL APPROVED AND SIGNED.