

PARISH COUNCIL OF ABBOTTS ANN

MINUTES

OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2008
IN THE JUBILEE ROOM OF THE WAR MEMORIAL HALL

Present: Cllr. B.Griffiths, Chairman (from 7.25 p.m.)
Cllr. G.Whyte, Vice-chairman Cllr. P.Stanton
Cllr. D.Paffett Cllr. P.Wilkins
Cllr. S.Oram (from 7.29 p.m.)

In Attendance:

Mr. A.Stokes, Clerk Cllr. A.Peters, TVBC (from 8.25 p.m.)
Mr. D.Downey, Footpaths Officer Ms. J. Dixon Mrs. S.Coffey

The meeting opened at 7.0 p.m., with Cllr G.Whyte in the Chair

1358. Apologies. Apologies were recorded from Cllrs B. Griffiths, S.Oram and A.Peters for late arrival and from Cllrs D.Alleway, M. Woodhall and G.Stallard for absence.

1359. Minutes. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th August 2008 were confirmed and signed. *Pro PS Sec DP*

1360. Matters Arising. It was noted that the hazardous kerbstone outside the Eagle had still not been repaired. The Clerk undertook to keep pressing Hampshire Highways to rectify the problem. *Action Clerk*

1361. Planning. a. **It was resolved** to raise no objection to the following applications:
TV No 08/01953/LBWN and 08/01954/FULLN: Polyanna; open carport.
TV No 08/02149/FULLN; Pitt House: extensions. *Pro PW Sec PS*

b. Note was taken of delegated items and decisions by the Planning Service as set out in the Appendix attached to these Minutes.

1362. Clerk's Report. The Clerk reported that the Small Grants office of HCC had received all the necessary documentation for part-funding of three dog bins; a decision was not expected until November.

1363. Parish Organisations.

a. Cllr Whyte reported that the fete had been much more successful than the organisers had expected in view of the poor weather conditions. It was too early to calculate the profit.

b. Footpaths. Mr. Downey reported that the weather had caused many problems arising from overgrown vegetation, including abundant stinging nettles, on the verges. The Clerk undertook to ask those responsible to take action. *Action Clerk*

There were also two wasps' nest close to footpaths in Pitts Path and Dunkirt Lane, and rubbish had been tipped at the steps leading from Webbs Lane to Bulbery. The Clerk was asked to emphasise the illegality and anti-social nature of fly-tipping in the Newsletter. *Action Clerk*

Cllr Wilkins reported on young persons cycling on Church Path, and asked that a "No Cycling" sign should be placed at the western end of the path. Mr. Downey undertook to try to obtain a suitable sign. *Action Mr. Downey*

c. School. Cllr Stanton reported that work on the new school had been delayed by about a month. It was hoped to start in October.

d. Sports Field. Cllr Wilkins reported that replacement of pavilion windows had been successfully completed. Some plumbing problems remained.

The Chairman took the Chair from 7.24 p.m. Cllr Oram joined the meeting at 7. 29 p.m.

1364. Finance.

a. **It was resolved** to approve the following payments:

Cheque No 445	Administration	£718.03
" 446	Orchard Hill Machinery	£113.39
" 447	T.C.Hook	£235.00
" 448	Andover Mencap	£128.00

Pro PW Sec PS

b. The Clerk reported that M.J.Sly had quoted £425 for repainting the lettering on the plaque above the West door of the War Memorial Hall. The Chairman and Clerk were asked to investigate less expensive alternatives. *Action Chairman and Clerk*

1365. Correspondence.

a. "Planning Hampshire's Future". A consultation document had been received from SEERA, in which the most disturbing item was a proposal to eliminate the strategic gaps protecting villages from urban encroachment. The Clerk was instructed to respond in suitable terms and to ask for Cllr Woodhall's support. *Action Clerk*

b. FWAG. It was decided that it would not be appropriate for this Parish to subscribe to the Farmers' Wildlife Advisory Group.

c. A consultation document from SEERA referred to provision of sites for the accommodation of gypsies and other travellers. The Clerk was asked to respond in suitable terms. *Action Clerk*

d. Speed Warning Signs. The Chairman of HALC, Mr. Steven Lugg, was in negotiation with HCC and Amey, the Highways contractor; the topic had shown up a variety of conflicts of interest between Parish, Borough and County Councils, but Mr. Lugg is hopeful that these can be resolved.

e. Potholes. Hampshire Highways had received funding for extra attention to be paid to potholes and broken-down verges on country roads; the Clerk had informed them of the worst areas in the Parish, and it was hoped that work would be undertaken in the near future. Many of those present expressed strong feelings on the subject.

Cllr A. Peters joined the meeting at 8.20 p.m.

1366. General Interest.

a. Andover Airfield development. Cllr Peters gave a report on the Northern Planning Area Planning Committee Meeting held on 1st September, which had also been attended by several Councillors; he explained the procedures for the next stage, which involved reference to the Planning Control Committee. Councillors took the opportunity to express the appreciation of the whole Parish for the contributions of Cllrs. Peters and Stallard.

b. Carbon Footprint. Ms J. Dixon presented a short paper about the proposal for an inter-parish conference aimed at fostering co-operation between neighbouring communities in ensuring sustainability and protecting the environment. The Council gave its endorsement to the proposal and Cllr Oram undertook to represent the Parish for liaison purposes. Sponsorship had been obtained for the expenses of the conference, which would be addressed by several experts and would take place on 22nd November.

c. Mrs.S.Coffey brought to the meeting an early 19th Century engraving after Sir David Wilkie R.A. entitled *The Village Politicians*. She suggested that it would be of interest to the Council if it could, for instance, be copied for display in the Jubilee Room. Her offer was gratefully accepted by the Council.

Action Cllr Paffett, Cllr Whyte and Clerk

c. Telephone kiosk. Since the last meeting, BT had offered two schemes for councils that wished to retain a kiosk:

1. "Adopt a kiosk". The Kiosk would be stripped of telephone equipment, but sold to the Council for £1.

2. "Sponsor a kiosk." BT would maintain the kiosk with a card-operated telephone in return for an annual payment of £500.

The deadline for making a commitment for either of these schemes was 30th September.

After discussion **it was resolved** to apply for the "Sponsor a kiosk" scheme in order to avoid the loss of a public facility, with a view to reviewing the level of use after one year. The Chairman and Clerk were asked to proceed with negotiations.

Pro PS Sec PW Action Chairman and Clerk

d. Long Vehicles. Cllr Wilkins pointed out that lorry-drivers were often unable to see the "Unsuitable for Long Vehicles" signs at St. John's Cross until it was too late to avoid turning into Red Rice Road. She asked for this to be drawn to the attention of Hampshire Highways with a request for altering or re-positioning the signs.

Action Clerk

e. Cllr Alleway had asked that the Council should be alerted to the fact that the roof of the Church tower was in poor condition, and repairs costing up to £25,000 were likely to be needed. The Clerk was asked to place the subject on the Agenda of the next meeting for full discussion.

Action Clerk

1367. Next Meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for 2nd October 2008.

The Meeting closed at 8.39 p.m.

THESE MINUTES REMAIN IN DRAFT FORM UNTIL APPROVED AND SIGNED