

**ABBOTTS ANN PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON
TUESDAY 14th MAY 2015
7.00PM AT THE ABBOTTS ANN WAR MEMORIAL HALL**

Present: Parish Councillors B Griffiths (Chairman), B Sims, Mrs E Howard, S Bleeker,
Borough Councillors Mrs M Flood and G Stallard, County Councillor Gibson

26 members of the public

Minutes: Mrs A Taylor – Locum Clerk

Apologies: No apologies

ITEM		ACTION
1	<p>Councillor Griffiths welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Mrs Bleeker and Mr Hayter raised dissatisfaction that they had been summoned to an Annual Parish Meeting.</p> <p>Apologies of absence None received.</p>	
2	<p>Cllrs to propose the minutes of the Assembly held on 4th April 2014 are accepted as a record of proceedings Cllrs agreed the minutes of the Assembly held on 4th April 2014 as a record of proceedings.</p> <p>A member of the public requested that the minutes taken from an Annual Parish Assembly are circulated following the meeting as soon as is practicable.</p>	
3	<p>Chairman's Report Cllr Griffiths apologised for having to hold the Annual Parish Assembly and the Annual General Meeting on the same evening. Cllr Griffiths provided an update to the recent resignation of the Clerk and that a locum Clerk is currently covering until a replacement Clerk is employed. He explained that it is recommended that the Annual Parish Assembly is held after elections in an election year. This is a public forum. He reported the previous Clerks retirement and the employment of a new Clerk and the Council was sorry to have had to accept his resignation following all his hard work. Cllr Griffiths thanked all previous Councillors for their help and support. Manor Close Playing Field – management of the field is within the Parish Council's remit. The War Memorial Hall Play park has been ROSPA checked. Burghclere Down has faced dog fouling problems. However, the Parish Council is pleased to announce a new dog bin has been installed on Dunkirt Lane and enquires have been made to install a further dog bin near Church Path and the Church car park. Parish Organisations were thanked for their continued support and efforts. Abbots Ann Action were thanked for their efforts, their current project is affordable housing for the Parish. The War Memorial Hall now has a new kitchen area.</p>	

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	<p>The Parochial Church Council has made restoration repairs to the Church.</p> <p>The tree warden was thanked for his assistance with tree work applications and for his advice.</p> <p>The local shop is a success, with thanks to all residents for their continued support.</p> <p>The website is run by two local volunteers and is now easily accessible to residents.</p> <p>Mr Oram thanked Rebecca Bone for all her hard work and design of the Play Park at the War Memorial Hall.</p> <p>Mr Peters raised complaint at a comment made by the Chairman that the improvements to the play park were 'beyond statutory requirements'. Reclaim of the funding and TVBC required confirmation that the play park was built to European Standard for future safe use. The constructor must be compliant with play standards. Due to a height of the equipment being over 1.5metres, the play park had not been compliant. It was reported that the insurance providers would not provide cover for the equipment, nor the funding obtained from TVBC until the equipment was fully compliant.</p> <p>A vigorous discussion was held between Mr Peters and Cllr Griffiths over concerns of the compliance of the play park equipment.</p> <p>Mr Peters requested the '<i>beyond statutory requirements</i>' statement to be excluded from the Chairman's Report.</p> <p>Mr Oram proposed acceptance of the Chairman's report, Mr Read seconded, all agreed.</p> <p>A representative from the Burghclere Down Community, Mrs Grey, enquired how the Parish Council were acting on behalf of Burghclere Down. She was not aware of a residents committee and would like to see improvements in communication between Burghclere Down and the Parish Council.</p> <p>Cllr Griffiths suggested two Parish Council meetings a year be held at Burghclere Down. Mrs Grey raised concerns that the impression was that nothing had been done by the Parish Council on behalf of Burghclere Down and that they had failed to engage with the residents. Cllr Griffiths expressed that Mrs Stockings had represented Burghclere Down at Parish Council meetings in the past, and the Council had assisted where possible, following her suggestions. The Council was seeking a new representative, as Mrs Stockings was unable to continue in the role.</p>	
4	<p>The Responsible Finance Officer to report the annual accounts for the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015 and provide a briefing on the precept and budget for the new financial year</p> <p>Mrs Griffiths provided a report on the annual accounts for the period 1st April 2014 – 31st March 2015 and an explanation.</p> <p>Mr Peters requested clarification on one or two entries in the</p>	

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	<p>accounts.</p> <p>Mr Kelly requested to see the Annual Return once received back from the External Auditor.</p> <p>Mr Peters requested whether the Asset Register was up to date. It was clear that the Asset Register is out of date and needs review as soon as possible.</p> <p>Mr Peters enquired the whereabouts of the Clerk's computer. This is currently with the previous Clerk and requires to be returned to the Parish Council.</p> <p>Mrs Wilkins proposed acceptance of the report.</p> <p>Mr Oram seconded, all agreed.</p>	
5	<p>Borough Councillors Report</p> <p>Borough Stallard invited members of the public to e mail either Borough Councillor their questions.</p>	
6	<p>County Councillors Report</p> <p>County Councillor Gibson reported the tough financial constraints that will be faced over the next few years.</p> <p>Mr Peters thanked County Cllr Gibson for his support during his role as Clerk and thanked the Highways Team for resolving a number of problems faced by the Parish. St Johns Cross is to be considered within the next year. Concerns were expressed that the site was low on the priority list due to no previous incidents here, and fear that it would take an incident before action is taken.</p> <p>County Cllr Gibson expressed his concerns and will be reporting this back to HCC. A roundabout is unlikely due to the amount of land here. He recommended a petition to the portfolio holder and publicising the issue showing the public support to improve priority.</p> <p>Borough Councillor Stallard informed he had requested barred route funding for St Johns Cross, with funds coming from the Co-op.</p> <p>Mr Kelly enquired about the repair to potholes and about the installation of the fibre optic broadband.</p> <p>County Cllr Gibson advised the second contract for 95% coverage for broadband has been signed. Members of the public need to consider where their property is located and where the exchange is located. If the property is within 1.5km residents will be getting fibre optic. The website is continuously being updated.</p> <p>Mr Peters had not been aware of any issues at Burghclere Down while Clerk. County Cllr reported there isn't a committee as such to deal directly with at the site. Parking has become an issue between residents and parents of the local schools. Borough Councillor Stallard advised TVBC are due to consult residents of Burghclere Down about parking restrictions.</p>	
7	<p>Parish Organisations Reports</p> <p>Cllr Griffiths reported that the reports from organisations have been provided and will be placed on the website. Copies can also be provided by the Locum Clerk upon request.</p>	

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	<p>Mr Stallard, speaking on behalf of the War Memorial Hall Committee, advised notices will be published in the Parish Magazine about the Hibbert Cup and any nominations are welcomed.</p> <p>Mrs Wilkins proposed adoption of the Organisation's reports. Mrs Whyte seconded, all agreed.</p>	
8	<p>Questions from the Public</p> <p>No further questions were received from the Public.</p>	

Meeting closed at 8.44pm

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED