



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held Monday 25th February 2019 at
Parish Rooms, Abbotskerswell
Meeting commenced at 7.30pm**

Present Cllr Mrs W Grierson, Cllr P Marino, Cllr C Ward, Cllr Mrs M Colclough, Cllr Mrs A Walkden.

In Attendance – 1 member of the public.

Apologies for Absence – Cllr Mrs L Clowes, Cllr Mrs A Allen, Cllr K Eales, D Cllr D Smith

Declarations of interest

Co-option of Parish Councillor - Amy Walkden was duly co-opted onto the Parish Council with all in agreement.

- 1) Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – Minutes of the Parish Council meeting Monday 28th January 2019 – these have been distributed and read, Proposed by Cllr P Marino & seconded by Cllr Mrs M Colclough with all in agreement and duly signed by the Chairman – Cllr Mrs W Grierson.
- 2) **Public Time (Limited to 15 Minutes)** – no points raised.
- 3) **Planning Applications & Decisions**

Applications received from Teignbridge District Council

a) Application no 19/00239/FUL – C Throgmorton WIMS (UK) Ltd – Court Grange – Change of use from Stables to B1 (a) office. The Parish Council refuse this application for the same reasons as previously stated as follows:-

1. The Parish Council notes that a similar Change of Use application (No:14/02304/COU) was withdrawn by the Applicant following advice given by TDC that members would be unlikely to support the scheme.
2. In considering this new application the Parish Council would like to reiterate the fact that there has not been a material change in planning policy for the conversion of the same building into an Office because it remains outside the settlement framework of Abbotskerswell and does not appear to meet the criteria of Policy S22 (Countryside) of the Teignbridge Local Plan (2013-2033).
3. Abbotskerswell Parish Council also notes that previous advice with respect to the tenets of paragraph 55 regarding Rural Housing as set out in the National Policy Framework 2012, would appear to stand, despite the sustainability argument promoted in the applicant's Planning Statement and

therefore the Council supports TDC's earlier stance that it would not recommend approval for the conversion of a redundant building in the open countryside unless it meets one of the aforementioned criteria identified in Policy S22 of the Teignbridge Local Plan (2013-2033).

4. The applicant's Planning Statement refers to the General Permitted Development Order 2015 and General Permitted Development Order 2016, but the applicant has omitted to specify under which Class or Part or Schedule this Change of Use application refers to. It is the Council's opinion that this application is not covered by either of the General Permitted Development Orders mentioned:

Reference: General Permitted Development Order 2015, specifically Schedule 2, Part 3 – Changes of Use.

5. Finally, the original application (No:2002/3686/49/03) granting permission stated:

"The use of the stabling hereby approved shall be for private domestic stabling only.....and shall not be used, let, leased or otherwise disposed of for any other purpose or to any other private individual."

Decisions Received from Teignbridge District Council –

- a) Grant of Conditional Planning Permission – Application no 18/02538/FUL – Mrs L Banks – 24 Wilton Way – Two storey rear extension.
- b) Grant of Conditional Planning Permission – Application no 18/02532/FUL – Mr M Tucker – Abbotsmeade, Ford Road – Rear extension.

4) Matters Arising

- a) NA3 update, agreement to use Buxtons Solicitors for further works – Cllr Mrs W Grierson confirmed that file 6 has been applied for which means the Parish Council has joined with Wolborough and will be able to sit at the table at the enquiry and cross examine the appellant and witnesses with a Solicitor from Buxtons, Sam Watts from Bioscan will also attend. All Cllrs were in agreement that any extra costs will be paid in conjunction with Wolborough.
- b) Housing needs survey – this is currently underway to be in March Abbtalk for circulation.

5) Correspondence – none received.

Matters not requiring discussion placed in the folder to be circulated

6) Main Agenda

- a) Report from County Cllr A Dewhirst – Copy of report attached to the minutes.

- b) Report from District Cllr M Colclough & District Cllr D Smith – Cllr Mrs M Colclough reported that TDC Budget has been agreed at 3.03% which equates to £5 more for a Band D property, Rural aid Grant remains at £40,000. The Planning application for NA3 was refused and the appeal for non determination will be in March. Bakers Park is going to have a new makeover which is being funded by S103 contributions. Car Park by the Multi Storey and Cattle Market plans for it to be developed into a 70 room hotel have been submitted.
- c) Natural Environment
 - a. Tree Warden Report – Cllr Mrs A Walkden reported as follows:-

Trees: We will ideally need to monitor and record the conditions of the parish owned trees in four sites, twice a year, ideally in winter when many of the trees are bare and then again in summer time. These areas are the pavilion/play area/football pitch, the 'triangle' off Wilton Way beside the pub, the Quaker memorial site on Wilton Way and the grassed area at Abbotskerwell Cross. There are not a large amount of trees to be looked at, the only slightly tricky bit is the mixed woodland alongside the football pitch and stream, but these don't need to be individually mapped as we can look at the general health of them as a whole.

I have some tree assessment survey sheets to guide us; we will be looking at species, approx age, height, crown spread, diameter and vitality - recording any obvious signs of damage or hazards/risk to public. To get a really good measure of how the trees are doing, we should keep some photographic records too, taking a picture from the same spot, same week, each season.

I've taken some very basic notes already of what we have - but not attempted anything further. The good news is that there is no obvious signs of ash dieback on the trees beside the football pitch, but as summer is the key time for assessing this, I can't be 100% sure we are still clear of it.

I'd like to get moving with looking at them all in more detail before they leaf-up, so will be having a walkabout this **Sunday morning, 3rd March at 10:30am** starting in the pavilion car park. I realise it's short notice but if anyone anyone is available to join me (and hold the other end of the tape measure!) then I will see you there.

Hedgerows: I'd like to schedule a date in late May (as this is when most of the species of hedgerow trees and shrubs will be in leaf) when we can take a couple of hours to walk around the length of the hedgerows of most importance around parish to check their condition and monitor for any signs of Ash dieback. Mark Waddams has offered to join us with this so that we can be sure of the conditions of them and decide on any management recommendations on the day. With NA3 in mind, It'd be good to have people's thoughts on which of the hedgerows we should be looking at first please?

Proposed dates 2019:

Sunday 3rd March 10:30am - Winter tree monitoring, meet Pavilion car park

Thursday 23rd May 10am - Hedgerow monitoring with Mark Waddams, TO BE CONFIRMED

Sunday 21st July 10:30am - Summer tree monitoring, meet Pavilion car park

- b. Allotments Report – no report given.

d) Transport and Accessibility

- a. Emergency Planning Committee report – Salt bin by the Priory cracked which has been reported. Snow Alert given in the bad weather but nothing further to report.
- b. P3 Report – nothing to report.
- c. DCC, Highways, Potholes, Roads & Hedges – Cllr Mrs W Grierson reported that Stonemans Hill was closed for DCC drainage works recently. She noted that after the works had been carried out a large gully had been dug into the new bank and water was diverted back onto the road and was not running through the new drain. This was investigated by DCC Engineers and it was found that the pipe had been blocked with expandable foam, with a Rugby Ball and Netball fixed in at each end. The netball had the initials JB written on it. The day after it had been repaired by the DCC Engineers it was noted that the work had again been vandalised and the drain had been blocked up for a second time. DCC confirmed they will be writing to the Landowner Mrs E Buckpitt.

Cllr Alistair Dewhirst arrived as the meeting concluded and gave an update. He advised that a DCC Engineer had gone again to this drain to investigate the second vandalism. The drain had been blocked again, this time with rocks which had been fixed in place with expandable foam. The newly formed bank had tyre tracks all over it spreading the soil all over the road. As the Engineer was examining the blockage he was met by the Land Owner's son, Andrew Backlit who approached him in a very aggressive and angry manner. The Engineer was unable to remove the new blockage, due to this confrontation. So far there has been a road closure of 2 days when the original drainage improvements were carried out by 3 men in two lorries. Then it took 3 men a further day to repair and unblock the drain after it had been vandalized a second time and then another visit by a DCC engineer. The drain remains blocked and the water is now running down the road. We have to hope it does not freeze and cause an accident. The cost of all this has been met by DCC and ultimately by the tax payer. The drain remains blocked and the matter is now with Devon County Council's Legal Department.

The Priory – It has been noted that just opposite the entrance there maybe a blocked drain as flooding is occurring, this will be reported to Alistair Dewhirst.

Litter Pick in the Parish this coming Sat at 10am start, meet at the Village Hall.

e) Economy and Employment.

f) Community, Facilities and Assets

- a. Abbotskerswell Recreation Association report – First stage of grant has been applied for from Viridor to start the first phase of the project, now awaiting further news from the Lottery regards the grant for the 2nd phase.
- b. Village Hall Report – Cllr P Marino reported that building regs have been applied for the kitchen works, half of the monies are in place and another grant will be applied for.
- c. Consultations.
- d. Communications Committee Report.

g) Reports from Parish Councillors of any external meetings or Committees.

- a. TALC.
- b. Stoneycombe Liasion.

7) Cheques for Signature/Finances

Parish Council

Cheque no 1681 = £111.90 (vat £9.59) – EDF Energy (Pavillion).
 Cheque no 1682 = £152.19 (vat £11.49) – EDF Energy (Tennis Courts).
 Cheque no 1683 = £150.00 – David Wilds (Street Cleaning).
 Cheque no 1684 = £50.00 – C Bloxidge (Litter Pick February 2019).
 Cheque no 1685 = £48.00 (vat £8.00) – Clystnet (Web Support).
 Cheque no 1686 = £91.62 (£4.36) – EDF Energy (Parish Rooms).
 Cheque no 1687 = £36.00 – CPRE (Annual Sub).
 Cheque no 1688 = £506.36 – Sharon Raggett (Wages February 2019).
 Cheque no 1689 = £184.05 – Kath Roscoe (Cleaning February 2019).

Abbotskerswell Recreation Association

Cheque no 1225 = £1,810.40 – Abbotskerswell Village Hall (3rd Party Viridor Payment)
 Cheque no 1226 = £50.00 – ARA Draw.
 Cheque no 1227 = £20.00 – ARA Draw.
 Cheque no 1228 = £5.00 – ARA Draw.
 Cheque no 1229 = £5.00 – ARA Draw.
 Cheque no 1230 = £5.00 – ARA Draw.
 Cheque no 1231 = £5.00 – ARA Draw.

Bank Balances

ARA Account Balance February 2019 = £9,144.68
 Village Events Account - £551.28 (held within ARA Account)

Parish Council Bank Balance February 2019 = £39,015.29
 P3 = £700.00 (held within Parish Council Account).

Proposed by Cllr P Marino & seconded by Cllr Mrs A Allen with all in agreement.

8) **Any Items to go onto next Parish Council meeting Agenda.**

9) ARA Draw – February 2019

£50.00 – 411 – Mr & Mrs J K Thomas – 24 Manor Close
 £20.00 – 345 – Mr D Hedge – Hedgeland, Manor Gardens
 £5.00 – 701 – Mrs Bushby – Southpoint Cottage, Slade Lane
 £5.00 – 876 – Ms Skaith – 21 Grange Road
 £5.00 – 383 – Mr F Brown – 53 Wilton Way
 £5.00 – 791 – Mr J Harrison – The Cottage, Court Grange

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm
Next Parish Council Meeting Abbotskerswell Parish Rooms – Monday 25th March 2019 @ 7.30pm.
ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAS SPECIAL NEEDS AND REQUIRES A COPY OF THESE
MINUTES SENT TO THEM – PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK – 01364 654607