



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting – Held Monday 25th April 2016

Abbotskerswell Parish Rooms – Meeting commenced @ 7.00pm

Present – Cllr K Eales, Cllr P Marino, Cllr B Chambers, Cllr Mrs W Grierson, Cllr K Farrelly, D Cllr D Smith, C Cllr A Dewhirst.

Attended by - David Munden, Margaret Crompton, 1 member of the public.

Apologies –Cllr Mrs M Colclough,Cllr R Whiffin.

1) Chairman’s Report – Cllr K Eales.

Abbotskerswell and its Wellbeing - This year has been yet another productive year for Abbotskerswell Parish Council and its elected representatives. My duty and that of my fellow councillors is to act on behalf all Abbotskerswell’s parishioners in a fair and equitable manner and to be as open as possible in all that we do. You will hear shortly from the chairmen of our five standing committees: the Abbotskerswell Recreation Association (ARA), the Emergency Planning Group (EPG), the Planning Committee, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) and the new Communications Advisory Group (CAG). I shall not dwell long other than to state my admiration for the excellent performance and quality of work of these committees. A lot of work goes in to making the end result appear simple and seamless, but this often belies the truth. I offer my thanks to all involved, councillors and their teams, for the time they voluntarily give to Parish wellbeing and for the considerable skill and diligence they bring to the table. They dedicate their time to continuously improve the quality of life we experience here in Abbotskerswell Parish. The important Neighbourhood Plan is progressing and with the assistance of AbbTalk, your monthly parish Newsletter, and your upgraded Abbotskerswell Website, www.abbotskerswell.org.uk. the Parish has been kept well informed at all stages of its development. Of particular note, the Parish website has received thousands of hits since its re-launch and has proved to be a rich source of information about the place you live, what has happened in the past, what is happening now, and what may be happening in the near future.

Weather-wise - Another winter of abnormally wet weather left our roads potted and cracked again. However, improvements have been made, especially in Odle Hill Grove where the whole road was extensively refurbished, Our County Council representative, County Councillor Alistair Dewhirst has proved to be particularly adept at taking Parish issues back to Devon County Council Highways with fruitful results. Thank you, Cllr Dewhirst.

Flooding has proved to be troublesome again on several occasions this last winter, affecting people and properties. Unusually, in December 2015, we had excessive flooding at the top of the village along Manor Road and Laburnum Terrace. I would encourage residents to directly report highways and flooding issues on the Devon County website (see <https://new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>). The more people that report a problem, the greater the priority it has, and the quicker it is likely to be addressed.

Flooding issues in Abbotskerswell are recognised within the Neighbourhood Plan and referenced in planning applications. Whilst accepting that little can be done about the effect of thousands of litres of water passing flowing around a house or around vehicles, the Council will continue to argue that it is not acceptable for any new development to exacerbate the situation.

The Parish Council Team Structure Special thanks must go to Sharon, Clerk to the Council, for her support and guidance to the Parish Council and with the ARA for securing £100K+ of funding for the initiative which Cllr Bob Chambers will mention shortly.

The Council has three Standing Committees and one Steering Group:

Planning Committee	Bob Chambers, Mary Colclough, Kevin Eales, Kevin Farrelly, Wendy Grierson, Paul Marino (Chair), Richard Whiffin
Abbotskerswell Recreation Association	Bob Chambers (Chair), Ann Down, John Whitehead, Dave Collins, Kevin Farrelly, Paul Marino
Emergency Planning Committee	Bob Chambers, Simon Crawshaw, Kevin Farrelly (Chair), Dave McNee, David Munden, Dave Wilds
Neighbourhood Plan (AbbPlan) Steering Group	Ian Arrow, Tim Collins, Charles Down, Kevin Eales, Wendy Grierson, Trevor Howard, Alex Lessware (TDC), Brian Mackness, David Munden (Chair), Jan Ray, Paula Simmons, Stuart Todd, Richard Whiffin
Communications Advisory Group	Richard Whiffin, Liz Clowes, Kevin Eales

The Council also has Councillors undertaking the following duties:

Liaison - DCC Environment & Highways	Richard Whiffin
Footpath Co-ordinators	Bob Chambers supported by Kevin Eales
School Governor	Richard Whiffin
Stoneycombe Liaison	Bob Chambers
Website and AbbTalk	Communications Advisory Group (as above)
AbbPast Liaison	Kevin Eales
Teignbridge Association of Local Councils	Kevin Farrelly

In addition, the Council is supported by:

Allotments Association	Mrs Margaret Crompton
Tree Warden	Mr John Lewis.

Public Relations - Village Website, Parish Notice Boards and AbbTalk,

The Parish Council seeks to keep Parishioners informed about all its activities: minutes, notices and posters placed on the five Parish notice boards and published on the village website (www.abbotskerswell.org.uk) and through articles sent to AbbTalk.

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 set out a new audit framework for local public authorities which are currently covered by the Audit Commission regime. The Communications Advisory Group, formed in Oct 2015, was given the responsibility for ensuring the Parish Council facilitated the new "Transparency code for Smaller Authorities". Our new website, a key component in open government, was launched on schedule on 4th December 2015. It was an extraordinarily complex project with a tight delivery schedule and the Parish Council were grateful for the support and leadership provided by Liz Clowes to deliver the project on time and to budget.

AbbTalk continues to go from strength to strength and Ann Allen, a parishioner, has taken on responsibility for editorship.

Association members comprise Ann Allen (Editor), Carol Bickley (Treasurer), Felicity House (Secretary) with support from Andy Rose, John Whitehead, Tim Collins and Peter Bickley. Supporting the AbbTalk Association are, of course, the dedicated distributors, our parishioners who ensure copies are posted to every house in the village. This enterprise has been invaluable to the Parish and the Council and proved essential to advancement of APC Neighbourhood Plan and many other parish initiatives.

And much more....

I and my fellow Councillors remain committed to representing all those residing and working in the Parish to the best of our ability, as fairly and as equitably as possible. Councillor names, telephone numbers and email addresses are published in AbbTalk and on the website.

Finally, may I thank you, Abbotskerswell residents and business organisations, for your support to the Parish Council and to many parish sports and social groups over the last four years. The Parish Council is profoundly grateful.

As the new Parish Council takes shape in May, extra hands, young and not so young, are always needed and volunteers will be warmly welcomed. To become a councillor, please contact our Parish Clerk, Sharon Raggett.

Thank you all for attending our Annual Parish Meeting.

2) ARA Report (Cllr R Chambers)

Another fairly successful year for the ARA. The M.U.G.A Courts are well used and continue to bring in a very welcome income source, but on a less pleasing note they are a magnet for

some of the youth of the village who persist in illegally entering the courts and cause distress to the immediate neighbours. So I am proposing that we install a live CCTV system to try and counter this incursion. Other methods have so far failed, barbed wire etc., it is so reasonable to hire the courts, so why don't they save all the heartache and expense and just rent them for an hour?

The annual firework show was visually a great success, but financially sadly not, due in no small part to adjacent villages having their own shows, supported financially by their locals P.C. s. It does not help that certain members of the public watch from across the road from the park, and seem to think it is ok to watch and not pay. Another crowd gathers at Priory Road, obviously not aware that it costs a lot of money to stage, and all the profits go to helping village causes and events.

At this juncture I would like to appeal to any village based business who would like to help sponsor the fireworks to please contact me, details in Abbtalk or the village website.

On closing I would like to thank the committee for all their support and hard work throughout the past year. Thanks must also go to the dedicated door to door sellers of the annual ARA draw – Thank you. If any villagers would like to assist and help us in any way this would be warmly welcomed.

3) Emergency Planning Report (Cllr K Farrelly)

The Committee was successful with an application for a grant of £1900 which will be used for new salt and sand storage facilities sited to the rear of the Village Hall Hopefully this will be in place by summer's end.

Last winter was almost snow and frost free year but we must always be prepared and with the exception of flooding, which occurred over the Xmas/New Year period, action by locals and volunteers kept any potentially serious problems to a minimum. Consequently, the winter was free from serious incidents.

The Emergency Planning Group met on a quarterly basis throughout the year to monitor and make any necessary adjustments to the plan and procedures. Special thanks to Sue Collingsworth. As secretary on the committee she was responsible for updating our emergency leaflet which was published in the March edition of Abbtalk.

The leaflet is also on the emergency planning pages on Abbotskerswell's website (www.abbotkserswell.org.uk/index.php/council/committees/emergency-planning)

The roles of flood and snow wardens are filled on a voluntary basis. In particular, Dave Wild's contribution has been invaluable again and well done to the whole team.

4) Planning Report (Cllr P Marino)

Apart from dealing with domestic and business applications for minor alterations, extensions and tree works, the primary focus of the Planning Sub-committee this year has been the appeal lodged by Linden Homes following Teignbridge District Council's decision to refuse planning permission for the erection of up to 53 new homes on the field adjoining the Old Cider Works.

This decision which mirrored the Planning committee's original recommendation was reached after great length and careful consideration because the site is outside the development boundary of the village (and remains so in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan), is contrary to the policies of the Local Plan, would cause increased traffic congestion along the narrow network of lanes leading into Manor Road and would also be harmful to the biodiversity of the locality, as it forms part of the strategic flyway for Greater Horseshoe Bats associated with the South Hams SAC.

As a precursor to the appeal hearing the Parish Council nonetheless sought the opinion of Parishioners at an open meeting held at the Church House which was both well attended and, bar one person, all were in support of the Planning committee's original stance. However, despite being given an indication by the Appeal Inspector that a decision would be handed down within 5 to 6 weeks of the hearing (which was held on the 26th of January), this is now significantly overdue and nevertheless eagerly awaited because of the potential implications on our developing Neighbourhood Plan.

Due to funding changes affecting Housing Association's introduced late last year, the proposed development of the exception site adjacent to Hillside Cottages, has sadly stalled. The Parish Council are aware nonetheless that the current landowners are still keen to promote the site which would meet the identified current and future social housing need.

Similarly, no further approaches have so far been made by the Heavitree Brewery in respect of developing the vacant Butchers Arms' site.

Finally, Teignbridge District Council is currently engaged in 2 major initiative which will impact on our parish: the first is a Screening Opinion for "Land at Wolborough", which has been requested by a developer; and producing an NA3 Wolborough 'Development Framework Plans', which is considered to be a more accurate description of what will be required, with the creation of a framework of key infrastructure requirements, land uses and design principles. Both initiatives will have a direct bearing on Abbotskerswell Parish and its neighbourhood planning over the next two decades.

To summarise, the Committee has dealt with 20 applications (17 decided and 3 current) and 3 appeals (2 dismissed and 1 is current). All 23 documents are readily available through

Abbotskerswell's web site pages (www.abbotskerswell.org.uk/index.php/neighbourhood-planning/planning-latest).

5) Communications Advisory Group (Cllr R Whiffin)

This group was set up as a standing committee of the Parish Council to improve the Parish Council's communications with Parishioners other organisations and the wider public under agreed Terms of Reference.

Achievements to date:

Designed and introduced new Parish Council logo to add authority and common style to all Parish Council documents.

Introduced a new common font (Calibri) for all Parish Council documents.

Commissioned a new web site www.abbotskerswell.org.uk design and launch. Uploaded many council documents and historic data, including the data base for the developing Neighbourhood Plan. The site is designed to act as a conduit to other village organisations and events and a first stop for all village information supplementing the valued village magazine Abbtalk which is published monthly and distributed to all homes in the village and surrounding hamlets.

We are working to ensure all the statutory information for compliance with the "Transparency Code for Smaller Councils 2015" is available.

Our new more professional approach has received many positive comments and makes the considerable work rewarded. We are delighted the web site is regularly receiving approximately 1000 hits per month.

What next:

The remaining three challenges are:

- To ensure continual and timely village news in the web content.
- Developing a responsible Social media presence.
- Training other members of the Parish Council to be able to add content and edit the web site

The Parish Council would like to thank Liz Clowes for her very considerable effort and help in getting us this far in a short timescale and taking on the role of our Webmaster.

6) Neighbourhood Plan (Mr D Munden)

In the last year, significant progress has been made towards the production of our Neighbourhood Plan – residents views have been sought, evidence gathered and much consultation undertaken, including regular update articles in Abbtalk and on Abbotskerswell's new website. The Workshop held in February, although not well attended, gave a considerable vote of confidence to the key issues identified for the Parish that the Steering Group are pursuing in the Plan.

Recently, members of the Steering group attended a local conference on Neighbourhood Planning and it was encouraging to note that the Government are continuing to promote and support this new local planning concept. However, at the same time, the Government are pressurising all Planning authorities to release as much land for housing as possible because of the National housing shortage. It is this latter policy which could bedevil our Plan as we await the outcome of the Manor Road Planning Application Appeal. An adverse decision would at best mean a total rethink of what has gone before, as the Steering group believes that it would be totally contrary to the spirit of our recently published Vision Statement.....

“Over the lifetime of this plan, Abbotskerswell will be a place which keeps its strong sense of community and wellbeing and its excellent environment. Its natural environment and rurality will be protected and its distinction between it and adjacent urban places will be maintained. At the same time, we will support measured, realistic, timely and sustainable development to meet local identified community needs, while encouraging and promoting a flourishing local economy.”

Given a rejection of the Appeal, we would hope to see our Plan out to Referendum in the Autumn.

At the meeting I reported the following:-

- 1) That the website is fully up to date with all the documentation relating to the Neighbourhood Plan including the proposed policies for its implementation.
- 2) That our Planning Consultant, Stuart Todd, is currently producing a first draft of the Plan which should be ready by early May.
- 3) That TDC has appointed a fulltime Neighbourhood Planning Officer to assist parishes with their Plans and the Steering Group will be meeting him on 5th May. He has already looked at the progress on our Plan and provided many valuable comments.

Thanks to all the members of the Steering Group who have helped with the Plan.

7) Police Report – no report given.

8) County Councillors Report (County Cllr A Dewhirst)

The award winning £110m South Devon Highway project is finally coming to an end. The project opened to traffic last December and with the exception of some additional work involving earth moving and landscaping the project is now all but complete. The next major project to affect this

District will be the £28.5m scheme to improve the A382 between Newton Abbot and Drumbridges – this should come to Development Management in the early autumn. The project involves straightening the road, two roundabouts at Whitehills and Forches Cross, a pavement and cycle lane, a bridge at Forches Cross and a new link road from the hospital to Forches Cross.

Ofsted, in an unannounced inspection last year of Devon's Children's Services judged them as "Requiring Improvement" – this is actually an improvement on the last Inspection which declared them "Inadequate". The Report declared that children who need help and protection services were requiring improvement, Adoption services were rated Good, Care Leavers were rated "Inadequate" – (the Council had lost touch with Care Leavers within a year) and most worryingly of all the Leadership and Management of the Service was declared "Requires Improvement". As part of my work of the People Scrutiny Committee we have set up a Children's Services Standing Committee and I am involved in closely monitoring the whole of the Service with a remit to expect and require the best practice from the whole of the Service. I have been on task groups who have specifically reported on Child Sexual Abuse, Care Leavers and School Exclusions.

As you know I visit the Atkinson Secure Children's Home on a monthly basis and after a huge amount of lobbying and many reports I am pleased that we have secured a large investment in the grounds of the home, with play equipment, an all-weather running track, additional security fences, improvements to the Forest School and greatly improved children's bedrooms. I have received a commitment to improve the staff areas of the home and after lobbying from all involved in the Home we have secured a seven figure commitment from the DfE for major improvements to the buildings. I heard last week that a new school regime will start in September with a maximum of three week holidays - something I have long advocated – these teenagers have almost always been absent from school during their lives and the intensive work done by the school is truly amazing.

The prospectus for the HOTSU Devolution Agreement was submitted to Central Government at the end of February. At Council I described it as a document that has a complete paucity of ambition. I believe it will lead to additional layers of bureaucracy with a combined Authority and probably a Regional Mayor as well! And being highly parochial there is no mention of Teignbridge at all and nothing for small businesses – the backbone of our South West economy. Although I passionately support the devolution of power I cannot support this proposal for poor quality jobs, yet more houses, the Hinkley Point Chinese/French Nuclear power station and a greater concentration of jobs in the Exeter area. We all await the outcome of negotiations with the Minister.

Not to be outdone by the Chancellor's recent "U" turns County Council leader John Hart "U" turned on plans to ask schools to pay for their own lollipop men and women.

The authority had planned to save £250,000 out of the service cost of £350,000 as part of its £26 million budget cuts for 2016/17. This meant that the patrols would go but the administrators who controlled them would stay! However Lib Dems asked how Cllr Hart intended to pay for the service considering his comments that there was "no more money" only thirteen days previously. The answer was simple, just as they have dealt with the £8m+ cost overruns on Children's Services they will simply take the money from Reserves.

Finally after two pre-Budget scrutiny meetings, with recommendations to Cabinet about concern at the continuing scale of budget reductions, we set a Budget.

So after a four and a half hour debate the Council confirmed that the final tally was a requirement Budget of £335.553m being an increase of £18.422 m on the previous year – this is topped up by Grants of £575.029m. This will be spread over 277,846 Band “D” properties with an average collection rate of 98.13%. This comes down to £1,207.62 per Band D property.

With my Locality Budget I disbursed the following :-

£1,000.00	Abb Talk for Computers
£400.00	Abbpast book publishing
£1,103.00	Defibruliser for Abbotskerswell
£600.00	Denbury Allotments Legal Aid
£500.00	Ipplepen Cricket Club
£455.00	Devon Finds Liaison Office
£723.00	Defibruliser for Ipplepen
£536.00	Ipplepen Football Club
£180.00	Kingskerswell Natural History Society Tools
£2,000.00	Kingskerswell Community Centre Curtains
£250.00	Kingskerswell Under 9s Football Kit
£1,103.00	Defibruliser for Kingskerswell
£500.00	Kingskerswell Scouts tents
£1,000.00	HITS Food Bank
£1,200.00	NA Community Transport to help start a local “Village” service
£400.00	NACT for Wheelchairs

9) District Councillors Report

(District Cllr M Colclough & District Cllr D Smith)

D Cllr D Smith

The District Council has had a busy year since the elections in May and despite political differences members are working together to keep costs down whilst dealing with the myriad changes in legislation that are visited upon us by central government. The result of the elections was such that the political make-up of the council is 30 Conservative; 11 Liberal Democrat and 5 Independent members one of whom, Mike Hocking, has been the chairman for the past year.

The success of the Council in keeping costs down by working with our neighbouring districts is still very encouraging. The Devon Building Control Partnership is continuing to prove very successful as well as the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. The council have been working alongside Exeter City Council and East Devon District to try to keep the costs of Information Technology down. Exeter City and Teignbridge have both agreed to invest in the Radio 1 Big Weekend which is to take place at Powderham at the end of May. The University of Exeter have predicted that the financial benefits to the area will be in the order of £3.5M

With the Teignbridge Local Plan now embedded and many developments being brought to the planning committee, officers and members have been working hard on development framework documents that can become supplementary planning documents thus allowing the sites identified in the local plan to come forward. Not an easy task I can assure you.

Generally the Council has been hitting its targets however as with all things the closer you get to the target the further it moves away. Despite the difficult times members and officers are very conscious of their responsibilities. A recent peer review indicates that and we await the written report which will show where we are falling down if at all.

In view of the fact that from 2020 central government are removing the revenue support grant the Council unanimously took the decision to invest in the Market Walk in Newton Abbot, the income from which will reduce the effect of losing the support grant. Further investment that has come to fruition as recently as last month is the opening of the new Teignmouth Pavilions.

As one of your Councillors I am pleased to say that I have not had one complaint about TDC directed through me in this past year and I believe that response times have improved in regard to the Parish Councils requests although there might still be room for improvement. By far the greatest number of complaints directed at TDC still relate to bins and boxes, but when you consider that over a quarter of a million are collected each month the amount of complaints is minimal. The new recycling system was rolled out through September-November and has largely been successful – the 12 month review will tell us more. Dog fouling is becoming an issue in our communities and although the warden does his best some people refuse to listen and have been prosecuted.

D Cllr Mrs M Colclough

A district council election fell on the same day as the general election last May. The result produced a considerable change in the make up of the council. In line with parliamentary success the conservatives won a large majority there being 30 conservatives, 11 lib dems & 5 independents. Nicola Bulbeck remains as chief executive & the chairman has been Independent councillor Mike Hocking. The leader continues to be Jeremy Christophers. There has been a rise in Council Tax agreed at the February budget meeting, the first rise following a five year freeze. The Teignbridge band D council tax for 16/17 is increased by 3.33% or £5 to £155.17 per annum. The revenue budget

is £16.7 million & includes an assured 1% annual pay increase from 1st April 2016 where lower than the national living wage increase, an increase in parking income of £142,000 partly to fund a programme of related capital investment over the next three years & rural aid continuing at £40,000 plus the ongoing £25,000 Dartmoor grant fund for Teignbridge villages in the Dartmoor national park. The Capital programme includes increasing jobs & homes through continuing support for housing whilst backing business and encouraging community led planning and infrastructure delivery plan investment contribution to improving education, transport links and sports and open spaces. Teignbridge District Council are allocated just 9% of the Council Tax, with DCC getting 72% Police 10%, Fire 5% & the parish average being 4%. Planning is led by the local plan as adopted last year, and by adopted Neighbourhood Plans. Around 1400 planning applications are dealt with by officers. Some need to be dealt with by the Planning Committee which meets 12 times per year. These include applications involving council land, applications by officers and members and major developments from the development plan. The appeal process used by applicants who are not satisfied with a decision resulted in 76% of appeals being refused. Planning enforcement officers rely on the public notifying them of unauthorised and non complying developments in the district. The council has purchased the market walk shopping centre in Newton Abbot. Teignbridge believes the purchase will enable it to reinstate in the town as both a retail and tourist destination centre. As a bid to do more for young people in the district the council have ventured into partnership with Exeter city council towards the radio one big weekend event to take place at Powderham Castle. The updated collection of refuse seems to have settled in well. The old fleet of vehicles have been replaced. The fortnightly garden waste scheme has been adopted satisfactorily. The council continues to be committed to providing affordable housing and employment opportunities for those residing in Teignbridge. As talks on devolution continue to take place I think the next twelve months will prove to be interesting & hopefully beneficial and one that I face optimistically. Whatever the outcome it is important that TDC provide its residents with the best possible services at the best value for money.

10) Tree Wardens Report (Mr John Lewis)

My report this year will be very brief.

This last year, when you think of the periods of prolonged heavy rain, the extremely high winds over the autumn / winter months Abbotskerswell only had one tree blown down and that was at the allotments, no damage occurred. Some trees on Court Grange Lane were taken down by DCC for safety.

Teignbridge D C ask all Tree Wardens to look out for problems with Oaks, Chestnuts and Ash die back. I am pleased to report that Abbotskerswell has been free of these problems this last year.

The usual applications for the removal of badly located trees were received and dealt with on approval by TDC.

A quiet year all round!

11) Allotment Association Report (Mrs M Crompton)

The allotments are now made up of 24 plots of various sizes, we lost three members but gained four, there are two families with young children and eight ladies and the rest men, so a good cross section of the village.

After last years outgoings for water meter, new pipes and other miscellaneous items and the water bill of £185-10 the starting balance this year is £466-72. being monies in the bank and petty cash, to this will be added this years rents which should amount to £327.00.

Some maintenance work needs doing to the main path this year and thanks to counsellor Bob Chambers and his liaison with Stonycombe Quarry they have very kindly donated 2 tonnes of path gravel this will help and we hope to complete the project this season.

We will be opening the allotments again this year for The National Open Garden Scheme. This year its on Saturday/Sunday May 28th/29th.

12) Village Hall Report (Mr Kevin Eales)

This year we have built on the successes of previous years. Items of note were:

- The village May Day event was, for the second year, run successfully by the PTFA and enjoyed by the attendees and many thanks to the Maypole dancers and their trainers.
- The Garden Show was run successfully by the Show Steering Group, led by David Wilds. Again the early engagement with the School contributed significantly to its success this year. The Garden Show cuisine was a well-presented feast assembled and delivered by Maggie and Leo Gibbs and their support team.
- Apart from the contribution all the Trustees make to the wellbeing of our community by maintaining an important facility for sports and social activities, we also support the Parish Council by accommodating sandbag storage, salt storage and salt gritter on behalf of the Emergency Planning Group. In 2016 a defibrillator will be put on an outside wall for emergency use. Hopefully, it will not be needed.
- Project Clean Sweep, a collaborative project between Short Mat Bowls and the Village Hall Trust to level and renew the main hall floor, was successfully delivered by Kevin Farrelly. The end result is impressive and certainly has improved the ambience of the main hall. A job well done.
- Not all is always smooth in the running of the Hall but day to day problems are quickly resolved with the assistance of our hall manager and caretaker, David Wilds, who has contributed significantly to the Village Hall's well-being once again this year.

What does go unnoticed, and often un-thanked, is the myriad of small tasks and duties that are essential to the smooth running of Abbotskerswell's community hall. Thanks to all who have helped over the last year. Lynn Howard now has taken sole responsibility for booking.

So, 2015 was another good year and although we made a trading loss due to the major refurbishments, our successes remain highly visible.

I am sure 2016 will be equally successful.

13) Annual Report to all Parishioners – this will now be circulated in Abbtalk.

14) Parishioners' Questions – no points raised.

Meeting closed @ 7.55pm