

ABBOTSKERSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held Monday 20th May 2013 at
Parish Rooms, Abbotskerswell
Meeting followed the AGM**

Present Cllr K Eales (Chair), Cllr Mrs J Kniveton (Vice-Chair), Cllr R Whiffin, Cllr Mrs W Grierson, Cllr Mrs M Turner, D Cllr D Smith, C Cllr A Dewhurst.

In Attendance 3 members of the public, John Lewis (Tree Warden), Margaret Compton (Allotments Chairman).

Apologies for Absence – Cllr D McNee, Cllr B Chambers, Cllr Mrs M Colclough.

- 1) Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – Monday 29th April 2013.
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 29th April 2013.
Minutes of the Planning Meeting – Wednesday 15th May 2013.

The above minutes have been distributed and read - proposed by Cllr R Whiffin & seconded by Cllr Mrs W Grierson with all in agreement and duly signed by the Chairman – Cllr K Eales.

2) **Public Time (Limited to 15 Minutes)**

- a) Police Report – no report given.
- b) Objections to Planning Application by Perryman - any security fence should go along the boundary of use and not along the agricultural site as proposed. Regards the drainage which has been carried out - DCC have confirmed that this all has to be removed, this would then block the proposed access for the new gateway. Flooding - this has become a problem because of the backfilling and this will become worse if the plans go ahead.
- a) Parking at the top of the Village, this could be people going into town and leaving the car and taking the bus in or car sharing for work.
- b) Stonemans Hill - noted that lots of work has been done repairing the road in this area.
- c) Double Doors on the shed at the allotments the shed door has been broken and the side of the shed wants repairing. Ask Bob Chambers to meet Margaret Crompton on site as soon as possible before the 15th June 2013 when the allotments have an open day.

3) **Planning Applications & Decisions**

Applications received from Teignbridge District Council

- a) Application no 13/01233/FUL – Mr M Perryman – Denbury Diesels, Totnes Road – Relocate existing access, new boundary fencing and gates. This application must not be considered further until a related certificate of lawfulness application to determine the boundary of Mr Perryman’s commercial premises is resolved and the serious matter of enforcement action by DCC on the unlawful drainage works, which has been carried out by Mr Perryman without authority, has been reinstated. It is totally unsuitable to site the fence and gate as suggested around agricultural land in the countryside. The siting of any such fence should only be considered in relation to commercial premises certificate of lawfulness, which remains to be determined. The Parish Council therefore strongly object to this application - proposed by Cllr R Whiffin and seconded by Cllr Mrs J Kniveton with all in agreement.

Decisions Received from Teignbridge District Council

Planning Matters

- a) Landscaping has occurred at Emmetts Place and TDC have been notified. They have confirmed that this is a landscaping issue. This will be monitored by the PC as it has been reported that it will be put back to its original state.

4) Matters Arising

- a) Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr R Whiffin reported that an application has been submitted to TDC to notify them of intention to prepare a plan - this will be advertised for 6 weeks by TDC. A grant application is also being prepared.
- b) Core Strategy update – Local Plan – Chairman – Cllr K Eales reported a meeting was held with Anne Marie Morris MP and Wolborough Residents. No feedback on this meeting has been heard as yet. Comments have also been submitted to TDC on the CIL proposals.
- c) Community Right to Bid - matter carried forward to the next meeting.
- d) Court Grange Lane Works - see planning application above.

5) Correspondence

- a) Letter from Abbotskerswell Church Council - Cllr R Whiffin has declared an interest. The Church has requested a donation towards general maintenance and grass cutting. Further information on the accounts including funds held and bank balance to be asked for. It may be possible to use the probation service for general maintenance work, this to be suggested to them.
- b) 1 Manor Close - problem of building rubbish around the property, this will be monitored when work has finished it should be removed.
- c) Matt Hallett from Devon & Cornwall Fire Service e-mail regards changes which are occurring in the Fire Service – noted by Cllrs.

Matters not requiring discussion placed in the folder to be circulated.

6) Main Agenda.

- a) Report from County Cllr A Dewhirst – Two weeks last Thursday I stood as Liberal Democrat candidate in the County Council elections for Teignbridge South which I am pleased to say I won. Firstly I would really like to say thank you to Cllr Dennis Smith for his term of office and for joining in with the democratic process – I am sorry that there has to be a loser, but that is life – I am sure he feels sore, I know I did when I stood and lost in 2009. I feel I have to say that I do not think that the democratic process is furthered by other candidates who put their names forward and then do nothing – much has been made in the press of a party who did particularly well in these elections, but really to put your name forward and not canvass, not deliver a leaflet and not even turn up for the Count is a pretty cynical thing to do and I am pleased that the majority of the electors of the Division were not impressed by this candidate. I would also like to say a huge thank you to the Chief Returning Officer and her deputies for a brilliantly well organised Verification and Count – we were home by 1:30 am after the election – is that a record? The various Presiding Officers and their teams did a magnificent job of running the Polling Stations in Teignbridge South on the day and so I would also like to thank them. Finally the voters of Abbotskerswell – thank you!
The results were Keith Clements, the Green Party 139 votes; Jacqueline Stewart, Labour Party 161 votes; Susan Doige, UKIP, 683 votes; Cllr Dennis Smith 1001 votes; and myself with 1,396 votes. There were three unmarked voting slips, and a turnout of 37.13%.

However, Council does not sit until Thursday and so to date I have only had one official visit to County Hall for an induction day for new Members.

It looks like I will be on People Scrutiny, Farms' Estates Committee, Devon Education Schools Forum, Development Management and Teignbridge HATOC and the Stoneycombe Quarry Liaison Committee. I would like to assure all Parishioners that I can be contacted by phone, email, and text at the numbers on my election literature or just come and knock on my door in Ipplepen. I will of course be delivering a leaflet in the near future which will have my official County email address on it.

- b) Report from District Cllr M Colclough & District Cllr D Smith – Cllr D Smith reported - On 8th May I attended the last Overview and Scrutiny meeting of the year when a Mr Don Lang of The Land Society Community Interest Company gave an update on the number of self – build projects around the district and explained how they are funded. He advised that in this area there had been up to 70 expressions of interest and that the first start up project for 6 properties in Broadhempston was almost through the planning process. He explained that a contract is entered into that usually involved a £5000 deposit and payments of £600 per month for 25 years. The properties are built to a high standard of energy efficiency and a demonstration home is being built at South Devon College to which members are invited to monitor progress. If a self-build owner wishes to move on, only 75% of the equity is available to him and the house remains in the affordable scheme in perpetuity. The Annual Meeting of the Council took place on Tuesday 14th May. At this meeting Cllr Rosalind Prowse (Dawlish South West) was elected to the chair and will be supported by Cllr Joan Lambert (Kingsteignton West) as vice – chair. A review of the constitution took place and the items affecting the planning Committee were referred to the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee. Membership of the various Committees were determined and approved. I still remain as vice chair of the Planning Committee and a member of the O&S Committee. The Chief Executive has been charged with conducting a review of the Senior Management Structure. This is almost complete, the result being that the number of senior posts is to be reduced and it is expected to yield savings of £400,000 per annum. Interviews have been conducted and three of the new posts have been filled from within the existing staff - further interviews are being carried out to determine who will fill the remaining post. This will mean that some of the staff you may have had contact with in the past will no longer be with us going forward. Tracey Higgs from our Leisure Services Department has already moved on and I understand that John Cocker and Simon Barnes will be leaving us by the end of the year.
- c) Emergency Planning Committee report – Cllr Mrs J Kniveton reported that Steve Ellyatt is standing down from the Committee.
- d) Abbotskerswell Recreation Association report - grant applications are still be pursued for the Tennis Courts. Carl Bloxidge has agreed to do the litter picking for a 3 month trial period.
- e) Allotments Report - nothing to report.
- f) P3 Report – no report given.
- g) Village Hall Report - Mayday had good weather for a change and all went well.
- h) Tree Warden Report – Mr John Lewis reported - Oak Tree in Court farm triangle has a branch broken off by vandals. Ash dieback visible in Wales now and coming down through the country.
- i) Reports from Parish Councillors of any external meetings or Committees.
- 1) TALC. None
 - 2) Parish Cluster meeting. None
 - 3) Stoneycombe Liasion. None
- j) DCC, Highways, Potholes, Roads & Hedges.
- 1) Cllr R Whiffin reported that he met with Emma Nicks and pointed out potholes noted from last meeting, they have been added to the list and will be dealt with asap. Water leak in village noted as being marked around in blue. Flooding on the A381 will be looked at once the surfacing has been done.

k) Primary School Report – Cllr R Whiffin reported that the Head Teacher recruitment process is now underway, school is now full in terms of pupils with a waiting list being started. New school website now up and running.

m) Volunteer Action Group – Village entrance tidy up required - ask Cllr D McNee to visit site with Celia Rose to see what can be done and report back at the PC at the next meeting.

r) Abbtalk – PR – Annual Parish meeting minutes to go in.

s) Consultations.

7) Cheques for Signature/Finances – A copy of May 2013 financial report (Minute reference 99) has been distributed – Proposed by Cllr Mrs W Grierson and seconded by Cllr R Whiffin with all in agreement.

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

9) **ARA Draw April & May 2013.**

April 2013

£50 - 920 - Colin Bovey – 3 Abbotswell Cottages

£20 - 318 - Mr K Shaw – Longmeadow, Vicarage Road

£5 - 224 - Mr A Bowhay – Willow Grove, Slade Lane

£5 - 911 - Mary Austin – 6 Hillside Cottages

£5 - 625 - Mr C Down – Ruby Farm, Totnes Road

£5 - 119 - Mr D Brook – 35 Wilton Way

May 2013

£50 - 776 - Mr D Trueman – 9 The Orchard

£20 - 602 - Mr Hawkes – The Thatches, Priory Road

£5 - 33 - Mr K Broughton – 12 Grange Road

£5 - 817 - Mrs S Congdon – 8 Manor Road

£5 - 311 - Mrs S Knight – 22 Wilton Way

£5 - 331 - Miss C Nicholas – 48 Wilton Way

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.26pm.

Next Parish Council Meeting Abbotskerswell Parish Rooms – Monday 24th June 2013 @ 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 644109