

Abbots Leigh Annual Parish Meeting

Held in the Village Hall, Church Road
Wednesday 17th May 2017 at 7.30pm

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Talbot-Ponsonby, Anderson, Butler, Stewart & Telling, Ward Cllr Davies, J Smart (Clerk) and 10 parishioners.

STP welcomed those present.

1. Apologies

Various.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were read to the meeting by STP, and signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

John Blain asked about the village hall stage. STP advised this would be covered in the Village Hall report.

4. Chairman's Annual Report

STP read his annual report (attached).

5. Community Award

STP reported that this year's award was going to Paul Whitehouse, for keeping the village website, and for Chairing the Civic Society.

6. Parish Council Reports:-

- a) Planning – AT reported on this (annual summary attached).
- b) Village Hall – JB reported on this.
- c) Financial – JS reported on this.
- d) Neighbourhood Plan – Information about the Neighbourhood Plan had been distributed to those present, and MS explained the content.

- e) Community Land Trust – DD reported on this.
- f) Abbots Leigh Charities – MS read the 2017 report from Steve Livings.

7. Any Other Business

DD – Pill Library was being reconfigured and would reopen in mid-July. The mobile library would still operate but with only one member of staff. DD would complain to BCC about the state of the cycle path along the river. The opening of the passenger rail line had now been put back to 2021 – new costings were due out next month. Planning enquiries – NSC Enforcement Department staff had been cut, so getting officers on site was proving difficult.

Robert Narracott asked if there were any plans for the Skittle Alley. Another group had expressed an interest through the Civic Society and were going to look at options. Parking was an issue, but the building could possibly be used as office space for short term lets. This could be a way of making money to improve the village hall, (toilet facilities were inadequate).

STP reported that the next meeting of the Abbots Leigh Heritage Group would be held on Thursday 8th June at Penny Brohn gardens. 6.30pm for a walk around the gardens, with a 7.30pm start (with drinks in between). There would be a talk about the history of the estate.

AL History Group – MS had erected a couple of display boards with information about Church Road.

Mr McFeat was disappointed that the PC had not driven a harder bargain for more sustainable transport links.

STP thanked all for coming. The meeting closed at 21:09.