

Abbots Leigh Civic Society (ALCS)

Minutes of the Committee Meeting

1900 Wednesday 27 January 2021 by Zoom

Present: Paul Thompson (PT) – Chair, Pip A’Ness (PA’N), Rachael Doherty (RD), Jane Gibbons (JG), Paulina Gillespie (PG), Ian Larthe de Langladure (ILdL) – Treasurer, Debbie Nelmes (DN), Drew Smith (DS), Murray Stewart (MS), Paul Whitehouse (PCW) – Secretary

Apologies: Anoo Jain

1. **Appointment of Chair**

We thanked Paul Thompson for his four years of service as Chair and agreed to appoint Jane Gibbons and Debbie Nelmes as joint Chairs.

2. The **Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 September 2020** were agreed as a correct record.

3. **Matters Arising:**

a) **Traffic Calming:** MS reported that discussions continue at the Parish Council about the best place to visit. He agreed that Council would include the Civic Society in discussions about suggested measures and their locations, etc.

Action MS

b) **Abbots Pool Handrail:** MS reported that an estimate has been sought but not yet received.

c) **Compostable Toilet:** MS suggested that an onsite discussion would be helpful as soon as regulations permit.

d) **Storage for the Society’s Equipment:** This would be for the barbecue and other similar equipment. PG offered to store the material in her garage. We thanked her for this generous offer and agreed to move it there as soon as the weather improves. DS undertook to check with the Poples when it would be convenient.

Action DS

e) **EcoBricks:** PT reported that Simon Talbot-Ponsonby needed more information about the size of bin required. JG suggested that we should seek permission from *The George* to put a bin on their car park for two months and then assess its use. We agreed that:

- PT will check with *The George* that this is OK;
- ILdL will purchase a blue wheelie bin; and
- This should be publicised through the email and WhatsApp group

Action PT, ILdL, PCW JG

4. **Committee Membership:** We noted PT’s resignation. PCW will ask Gabi Watson, the mother of a three year old and founder of the preschool WhatsApp group, if she is willing to join. JG will sound out members of the WhatsApp group.

Action PCW JG

5. **Aims of the Society:** We agreed to review the constitution at a future committee meeting devoted to that subject.

6. **Treasurer's Report:** ILdL reported that after insurance and expenses, principally for the Christmas Party, total funds were **£8,847.63** of which £5,073.83 was on deposit. He

requested that the Committee authorise him to use internet banking at HSBC. We noted that our current arrangements are for the Treasurer to be the sole signatory on all cheques, and agree that he should be authorised to be the sole internet banking user. We authorise our Secretary to sign the application form, in accordance with Clause 3(xiii) of our constitution.

7. **Application for financial assistance for the Verges:** We agreed to grant £50 to Ros McBeth towards the additional costs of cutting the verges.
8. **Proposal to establish a Conservation Area in the village:** we agree that we have insufficient information to make a decision on this but are not opposed to the concept. We look forward to learning more.
9. **Setting dates for Events in 2021:** We agree that the earliest event could be the Summer Drinks in July, but we should plan for the remainder of the year. We had a long discussion about how to encourage everyone to get involved with their neighbours and will return to the subject at a future meeting.
10. **Helping isolated villagers:** We agreed that
 - a) PA'N would check with Simon Talbot-Ponsonby if the existing group is functioning or needs to be resurrected in the current lockdown.

Action PA'N
 - b) We would advertise existing local community groups via the Civic Society email list. JG offered to contact these groups to confirm their status and invite them to put a little advert together. PCW will then circulate details by email.

Action JG, PCW
11. **Improving Civic Society communication and consultation with the village:** We agree that all Committee members would review
 - a) The village website to understand what is offered there and to suggest what could be improved; and
 - b) The Welcome Pack and offer additions and corrections.

Action ALL to email suggestions for discussionWe also agreed that JG would post the website address on WhatsApp groups and how to add oneself to the Civic Society email list.

Action JG
12. **Village Treasure Hunt:** PA'N kindly offered to build a Village Treasure Hunt family walk to take in some of the interesting and historical features of the village. When it is complete it will be advertised on the Website and through the our email list and WhatsApp groups.

Action PA'N
13. **AGM Arrangements:** We agreed that
 - a) We should like a presentation on Abbots Pool at the AGM and ask PCW to approach Jo Chiverton [*Secretary's Note: Jo's work is suffering from Brexit, and she would love to do this in 2022, but not this year.*]
 - b) Murray Stewart should have a slot to talk about the Neighbourhood Plan.