

PARISH OF ABBOTS LEIGH - NOTICE OF MEETING
Meeting of Abbots Leigh Parish Council
Held in the John Butler Room of the Village Hall, Church Road
Monday 15th April 2019 at 7.30 pm

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Talbot-Ponsonby, Butler, Stewart, Telling, Ward Cllr Davies & J Smart (Clerk)
Apologies: Cllr Watkins

1. Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

None.

2. Previous meeting held on 18th March 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on Monday 18th March 2019 (previously circulated) were signed as a true record.

3. Matters arising

MS reported that there would soon be an Abbots Leigh Charities meeting with Steve Livings. The future of the Abbots Leigh Charities would be discussed at this.

4. Planning

i. Applications:-

19/P/0563/FUL – Leigh Warren Bungalow – Sub-division of existing bungalow, garage and consented conservatory and consented lawful development extension and other associated works to create 2No. 4 bedroom dwellings. **OBJECT – The existing Lawful Development Certificate consent was a loophole, arguing that the front of the house was the back has now been exploited resulting in a ridiculous shaped building which is wholly inappropriate in this Green Belt setting. To change the consent further, to permit more development and allowing a permitted “extension” to become two large houses makes the folly of what has already been granted even worse.**

19/P/0547/FUL – Acres Holt, Valley Road, Leigh Woods – Erection of a dwelling with a detached garage and swimming pool, and construction of a new access and driveway following the demolition of existing house and garage. **OBJECT – The proposal is very large, bigger even than the adjacent Wood House and Wood Lodge together. There are no details in the application of the additional building noted on the plans, (referred to as the Annex). The building would not be sympathetic to its surroundings. It would be too large for the Green Belt site, and should be no larger than the adjacent house.**

19/P/0784/CQA – Atcost Barn, Glen Farm, Sandy Lane – Prior approval for the change of use of an agricultural building (Sui Generis Use) to 1No. dwelling house (Use Class C3) with operational development consisting of replacement of existing corrugated asbestos roof with metal roof; new timber cladding and insertion of windows and doors. **No objections.**

19/P/0791/CQA – Cowshed, Glen Farm, Sandy Lane – Prior approval for the change of use of an agricultural building (Sui Generis Use) to 1No. dwelling house (Use Class C3) with operational development consisting of the insertion of windows and doors. **No objections.**

iii. Other Planning Matters

MS updated all on the current situation with the Neighbourhood Plan.

STP advised that there were concerns with the state of the towpath alongside the River Avon running through the Gorge, which is the cycle path from Pill into Bristol. Whilst this is within the Bristol boundary and runs along the border of Abbots Leigh, it is the responsibility of Bristol City Council. It should be highlighted in the Neighbourhood Plan as being an important part of the cycling infrastructure affecting the parishes.

5. Ward Councillor's Report

DD reported that a further £32million of Government money had been found for the funding gap on the new passenger line.

6. Financial

Approval of Accounts for Payment - MS proposed approval of the Accounts for Payment for April (previously circulated), JB seconded. Agreed. **Action Clerk.**

The Clerk had circulated the latest end of year accounts, although there were a couple of VAT invoices still to arrive prior to finalisation. **Action Clerk.**

7. Leigh Court Farm

MS had circulated a paper from Chris Loughlin of Leigh Court Farm explaining the situation of the National Trust wanting to land to be grazed by cattle, rather than produce organic vegetables. It was suggested that the PC should write a letter of support for the Farm to the National Trust. Leigh Court Farm was an employer in the Parish, it also has a historical walled garden. MS would write something for the website and The Link. **Action MS.**

8. Climate Change Emergency

MS had circulated a paper regarding this. Pill & EIG Parish Council had adopted a state of emergency regarding climate change, and MS asked if ALPC should do the same. MS would put this in The Link and it would be an item at the Annual Parish Meeting. **Action MS.**

9. Village Matters

- i. Police Report - The Clerk reported that there had been three crimes reported in February. One in Manor Close and two in or near Blackmoor Road. Police had told DD that the current spate of burglaries was targeting small businesses.
- ii. Village Hall – STP agreed to write to Robert Narracott to update the advert for the VH hall in The Link. **Action STP.** Clerk to call Paul Hares about installation of the extractor fan in the bathroom of the flat, and the heater in the kitchen (same model as in the toilet). **Action Clerk.** STP would investigate the drains. **Action STP.** JB was concerned that the light bulbs required for the village hall would soon no longer be available. There were enough bulbs for the near future, but would need to look at this again when they were running low. **Action JB.**
- iii. Former Skittle Alley - The Clerk reported that The Fit Tank had paid its first instalment of the rent for 2019-2020.
- iv. Traffic Issues & Footpaths – STP reported that the damaged gabion wall on the A369 had still not been replaced, but Phil Bush (NSC) was investigating. It was unknown who had caused the damage. NSC had carried out some gully clearance. DD reported that residents of Sandy Lane were campaigning about the road surface. The Clerk had received a further email from Oliver Delany,

which had been circulated to all members. Speed limit in the village – following discussion the Clerk would request NSC to investigate the possibility of a 20mph on the side roads of Abbots Leigh (this could possibly be done at the same time as Pill & EIG). **Action Clerk.**

Problem parking had been discussed previously. Following a suggestion that all vehicles should be parked on one side of Church Road, it was decided that doing this would allow vehicles to drive faster along the road. There had never been any evidence that recycling and refuse lorries were unable to access properties due to parking.

Speed monitoring – STP suggested borrowing Pill & EIG's 'Smiley Sid' vehicle activated sign. **Action Clerk.** The last 50 yards of Church Road remaining unadopted was nothing to do with the Parish Council. This was a NSC matter.

STP reported that Hi-Line had cut back overgrowth around the street lights in Sandy Lane.

- v. Verges - STP reported that the village litter pick had been a great success, with approximately 30 residents in attendance.
- vi. Playing Fields & Events – STP had received no response from Gigaclear regarding damage to the wall. **Action STP.**
- vii. Village Orderly – Nothing to report.

10. Communications

STP to put an item in The Link about the Annual Parish Meeting, to be held on Thursday 16th May. **Action STP.**

MS to put items in The Link about Leigh Court Farm and the Climate Change Emergency. **Action MS.**

STP reported that it was slightly random that some houses had been connected to the Gigaclear equipment and others had not. It was working well where connected. STP to let DD have Gigaclear NSC contact, so he could chase up the inspection of the reinstatement works at Blackmoor Road. **Action STP/DD.**

STP would put an item in The Link regarding the vacancy for a Parish Councillor to be filled by co-option. **Action STP.**

11. Clerk's Report

The Clerk had met with Came & Company, the Parish Council's insurance brokers, who would compile three quotations for the forthcoming year.