

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 20th May 2019 at 7.30 pm

MINUTES

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

Apologies: Cllr Walker

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Parish Council

MS proposed STP as Chair of the Parish Council, seconded by JB. There being no further nominations, STP was elected Chair of the Parish Council for the forthcoming year.

STP proposed MW as Vice-Chair of the Parish Council, JB seconded. There being no further nominations, MW was elected Vice-Chair for the forthcoming year.

Clerk to investigate training for new Councillors. **Action Clerk.**

2. Declarations of Acceptance to Office

All members present signed the Declarations of Acceptance to Office.

3. Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

None.

4. Previous meeting held on 15th April 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15th April 2019 (previously circulated) were signed as a true record.

5. Matters arising

MS reported that Leigh Court Farm had been permitted by the National Trust to remain and continue with the tenancy for organic farming, rather than the land being linked to the grazing of cattle in Leigh Woods. All members were pleased at the outcome.

6. Planning

i. Applications:

19/P/0734/FUL - Leigh Warren Bungalow, Abbots Leigh Road. Demolition of the bungalow, garage and goathouse and erection of 2No. four bedroom dwellings and associated works.

Councillors OBJECTED to this application. The applicant has already been granted permission on 2nd May 2019 (application 19/P/0563/FUL) for sub-division of the existing bungalow, garage and consented conservatory and consented lawful development extension and other associated works to create 2No. 4-bedroom dwellings.

This new proposal is for two large two-storey detached houses within the Green Belt, the size and scale of which would appear to be materially larger. The development would be inappropriate and unacceptable within the Green Belt, and not in line with NSC policy.

Please also see Louise Grover's Delegated Report of December 2017 – REFUSAL of planning application 17/P/2279/F – Demolition of existing bungalow, garage and goathouse and erection of 2No. 4-bedroom dwelling. The proposal then went to Appeal, which was dismissed. Parish Councillors fully support the comments in the Delegated Report and the Appeal decision.

19/P/0848 – Leigh Court Activity Centre, Pill Road. T824 – Sycamore – fell tree to monolith at 3m, T825 – Beech – fell tree, T826 – Sycamore – remove major deadwood (over 25mm), T827 – Ash – Remove major deadwood, T828 – Ash – remove major deadwood, T829 – Sycamore – fell tree, T830 – Ash – remove major deadwood, G331 group of Elm – fell tree, T832 – Sycamore – fell tree, T833 – Elm – fell tree, T834 – Sycamore – fell tree, G836 – Elm – fell tree, T837 – Cherry – fell tree.

Jacon Cox (NSC) to decide.

19/P/0707/FUH & 19/P/0708/LBC – Leigh Lodge, Church Road. Replacement windows with double glazed units to the side and rear on the main house. Remove existing external door and balcony, raise cill and insert new window. Improve extraction to the bathrooms with additional external venting. Installation of solar panels to roof.

No objections – the proposal did not alter the building, and the PC supported use of solar panelling.

19/P/1087/LDE – Oakfields, 15 Church Road. Certificate of lawfulness for existing use of an area of land as part of garden for Oakfields.

No comments.

ii. Approvals:

19/P/0563/FUL – Leigh Warren Bungalow, Abbots Leigh Road. Sub-division of existing bungalow, garage and consented conservatory and consented lawful development extension and other associated works to create 2No. 4 bedroom dwellings.

iii. Other Planning Matters

7. Ward Councillor's Report

The Joint Spatial Plan was going forward for examination in public in July. NSC should get information back by the end of the year. The JSP would then be adopted. If more houses were required, the Green Belt would have to be reviewed. The JSP was also being used for the infrastructure bidding.

Parking – DD had received lots of complaints received parking in Leigh Woods. He would be meeting with the new Executive Member for Parking to discuss parking generally in the area. There could possibly be a residential parking scheme, administered locally. There could be a problem with Forestry Commission now charging to park at Leigh Woods. All members were happy to look at a scheme.

8. Neighbourhood Plan

MS had updated all on the NP at the Annual Parish Meeting. There was a larger paper that MS would circulate in the next day or two. The Plan was moving forward, and the steering group was coming together on the different topics. (See attached). In July and August the group would have to state what actions were to be done.

9. Climate Change Emergency

MS had written a piece for The Link on this. It was agreed at the APM that the PC would declare a climate change emergency.

10. Financial

i. Approval of Annual Governance Statement 2018-2019

The Annual Governance Statement for 2018-2019 had been completed by the Clerk and circulated to all members. All present approved and STP signed the statement. **Action Clerk.**

ii. Approval of Annual Accounting Statement 2018

The Annual Accounting Statement for 2018-2019 had been completed by the Clerk and circulated to all members. All present approved, and STP signed the statement. **Action Clerk.**

iii. Approval of Internal Auditor 2019-2020

Clive Marshall had again agreed to act as Internal Auditor for the forthcoming year. All agreed.

Approval of Accounts for Payment for May 2019 – JB proposed approval, seconded by STP. **Action Clerk.**

11. Village Matters

- i. Police Report – The Clerk had circulated the latest crime statistics.
- ii. Village Hall – JB reported two fluorescent lights were not working in the hall. The problem was getting up to replace them. STP suggested getting an electrician to look at this. Paul Hares had agreed to attend to install the extractor fan in JP's bathroom. JP had requested an under sink water heater in the bathroom. There is an electric shower in the bathroom, and a very old water cylinder (no jacket). This was costing a lot of money to heat the water. STP thought the cylinder should be replaced with a modern energy efficient one. The Clerk would get a quote to replace with new cylinder with timer. Also install a small water heater under the sink. STP had met with JP today, and discussed various matters. The Clerk was to investigate how JP's payment had been worked out previously. STP was still keen to start using the website for hall bookings, so all could see when the hall was available. STP also suggested purchasing a phone that could be dialled into externally to pick up messages. STP would also contact Sean Dorrington regarding the drains. **Action STP/JB/Clerk.**
- iii. Former Skittle Alley – STP had suggested that he and the Clerk meet with James for an annual review. **Action STP/Clerk.**
- iv. Traffic Issues & Footpaths – The Clerk had met with Shelley Lee who had confirmed that most of the Sandy Lane road surface defects would be repaired within the next month using a spray injection patcher. The problem with the ford was currently with the NSC design team, and Shelley had advised that this work was scheduled to be carried out in August, when the road would be shut for one week. STP suggested asking NSC to move the litter bin from the telephone box to outside the George. Clerk to arrange for ALPC to trial Smiley Sid (vehicle activated sign). **Action Clerk.**
- v. Verges – Ask Shelley Lee for the 4' strip of cutting the verges and grass at junctions. **Action Clerk.**
- vi. Playing Fields & Events – Nothing to report.
- vii. Village Orderly – Clerk to obtain the list from Audrey (also ask for key back to the VH – ask STP). **Action Clerk/STP.**

12. Communications

Nothing to report.

13. Clerk's Report

The Clerk would be on leave from Thursday 30th May until Thursday 6th June.

14. Charities

Steve Livings had made the proposal at the APM. They would have their two meetings per year prior to a Parish Council meeting – MS to Chair the meetings which would be held in April and October.

15. Co-options

Two people had shown an interest in joining the PC. Robert Narracott (interested in planning and the Conservation Area). He had been chair of the Civic Society and was involved in the production of the character statement.

Cat Abel had also shown an interest in environmental issues.

Following discussion, all agreed that Robert Narracott be co-opted onto the Parish Council. STP suggested that Cat Abel attended meetings on when environmental issues arose. The Clerk was to provide Robert with relevant paperwork for signatory. **Action Clerk.**

PC Roles

Simon Talbot-Ponsonby – Chair - Cycle & Footpath Network, Highways, Verges, Recycling & Rubbish, Skittle Alley, Communications and Website.

Martin Walker – Vice-Chair – Public Footpaths, Old School Field, Open Spaces, Abbots Pool and Transport Links.

John Butler - Village Hall, Public Relations and Street Lighting.

Murray Stewart – Community Groups, Neighbourhood Plan, Abbots Leigh Charities and Civic Society Liaison.

Robert Narracott – Planning and Conservation Area.