

PARISH OF ABBOTS LEIGH
Virtual Meeting of Abbots Leigh Parish Council
Monday 15th June 2020 at 7.00 pm

MINUTES

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

Apologies: None.

1. Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

None.

2. Previous meeting held on 18th May 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th May 2020 (previously circulated), were signed as a true record. STP to

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Planning

No applications, approvals or refusals received.

Other Planning Matters

62 Church Road – PC response to application.

No relevant response had been received from North Somerset Council or the Architect for the application to the comments that the PC had made. The Clerk and Cllr Narracott were asked to contact Ellena Fletcher (NSC Case Officer) to advise that the PC's questions had not been answered. **Action NR/Clerk.**

5. Ward Councillor's Report

DD reported that the M5 J19 slip road works were due to start on 29th June. The works were due to continue until the end of October.

St Katherine's School had opened to some this week. There were numerous issues around this, including how the children were going to get to and from the school. There were not enough buses and coaches in North Somerset to take them all, due to capacity. This would probably have an impact on traffic on the A369. This may also have implications in September. Schools may have to use community buildings. STP suggested that schools could possibly use marquees in outside spaces.

Abbots Pool –DD was trying to emphasise to NSC Officers and A&S Police that they needed to make sure that people know that the roads were closed and that there was no parking in the area. It would be better if drivers were advised of this on the A369 rather than when in the village itself. STP advised that when the new PSPO was issued in September/October this would give NSC the legal power to prosecute offenders.

Grangewood House – MW advised that electric gates were being installed at the property today, and it now appeared to be up and running as an Airbnb. DD advised the PC should monitor this, and the similar property at The Avenue.

6. Neighbourhood Plan

MS had put forward a proposal for the PC comments for the Neighbourhood Plan. STP was not sure that the NSC Rights of Way Improvement Plan was part of the NP process.

STP suggested that the PC should produce a draft policy proposal about converting agricultural buildings into residential accommodation by using permitted development rights, and that this should not be permitted. This would be for the NP and a suggestion for NSC to adopt. **Action MW.**

7. Financial

i. Approval of Accounts for Payment for June 2020

STP proposed approval of the accounts for payment, seconded by JB. Agreed.

ii. Approval of Annual Governance Statement 2019/20

This would be carried forward to the July meeting.

iii. Approval of Accounting Statements 2019/20

This would be carried forward to the July meeting.

8. Village Matters

i. Police Report – Crime statistics had not yet been updated for May.

ii. Village Hall - JB was not expecting much to happen until September, and users had confirmed this. The class that was run by Jinny Owen may stop. JP had received no enquiries at all. Clerk to try to contact plumbers/electrician to arrange for water heater to be removed/replaced. STP had contacted Andersons regarding the car park drainage and asked them to design, not install a solution, so the PC could come up with a cost. STP would chase this up. JB advised that James was planning to reopen the gym in early July. He was keeping the emergency door open and gym users come out into the garden to use their phones. STP advised this should not be happening and he would contact James about this.

iii. Former Skittle Alley - STP advised that the PC had received a notification from the Valuation Office and new Rate bills from NSC. The PC would now need to reapply for rate relief for this year. There were also bills for the skittle alley which were James responsibility – he could check if he could get rate relief.

iv. Traffic Issues & Footpaths - Traffic issues around Abbots Pool – see 5.

MW had circulated footpath and stile improvements information. Improve the path from the Church to Freeways. No evidence of anybody using it as a footpath over the last 30 years, but there was a track shown on the 1951 map. RN had written to George Christadoulou when he was part of the Civic Society regarding this, but never received a reply. Blackmoor Lane to St Katherine's School (behind the houses). JB advised that Upper Farm (Margaret Young) may be able to advise. MW – paths should be submitted to NSC in priority order – Church Road, School Field to Leigh Woods, Upper Farm Path. He suggested having a section in the NP for footpaths. He did not think the chances of getting these agreed was strong. The extra path would create a non-road circular path. **Action MW.**

v. Verges - See comments above regarding Manor Road.

vi. Playing Fields & Events – The new dog bin had been received and Kevin Weekes would install this on his return to work – planned for 1st July.

vii. Village Orderly - STP advised that Nigel Mail had returned to work and had cut the playing field today.

9. Communications

There had been a lot of people doing litter picking at Abbots Pool. STP asked MW if there was a lot of litter since the bins had been removed. MW reported that late afternoon yesterday that was virtually no litter by the dam. Jason Cox – would leave the car park litter bin insitu until dog bins had been installed.

MS had written an item about 'A House in our Time', which would go into The Link.

10. Clerk's Report

The Clerk had formally cancelled the free of charge for one-year contract with Gigaclear.