

PARISH OF ABBOTS LEIGH
Virtual Meeting of Abbots Leigh Parish Council
Held on Monday 21st December 2020 at 7.00pm via Zoom Meetings

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 16th November 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16th November 2020 (previously circulated), were signed as a true record. STP to provide signed copy to Clerk as soon as convenient. **Action STP.**

3. Matters arising

STP reported that changes to the cycle network had now all been finished.

4. Planning

Applications:-

None.

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Approvals:-

20/P/1882/FUL – Flat at The Barns, Church Road, BS8 3QU. Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of replacement dwelling.

20/P/2266 – Drybridge, Manor Road, BS8 3RP. Lawful Development Certificate for a building extension and conversion of two out-buildings for residential ancillary use.

20/P/2270/HHPA – Orchard Lodge, Manor Road, BS8 3RS. Prior approval request for the erection of a single storey rear extension with a pitched roof that would:- 1) extend beyond the rear wall of the original house by 8 metres; 2) have a maximum height of 3 metres; and 3) have eaves that are 2.5 metres high. **Prior approval not required.**

20/P/2419/AGA - Parkwood Barn, Sandy Lane, Lower Failand, BS8 3SF. Increase height of walls and erection of roof to existing silage storage area. **Prior approval not required.**

20/P/2328/FUL - Acres Holt, Valley Road, Leigh Woods, BS8 3PZ. Addition of attic and basement and changes to elevations to dwelling under construction (previously approved under application 19/P/0547/FUL – Erection of a dwelling with a detached garage and swimming pool, and construction of a new access driveway following demolition of existing house and garage).

Other Planning Matters

28 Church Road – The Planning Consultant had agreed that Adrian Watkinson had a case. DD had spoken to the Planner at length, who advised there was no case with the dormer as it did not count as material. Because of potential overlooking a 1.3m fence would be required. This was on top of the revised height for the ground floor. DD suggested take as offered with the screening. RN reported that Adrian Watkinson had registered a complaint, as the dormer was very intrusive.

8 Dennyview Road - Neither RN, DD nor the Clerk had heard anything more from the NSC Planner following requests for better plans. NSC had heard nothing back from the Agent. DD would need to be informed prior to a final decision.

The Orchard - RN had circulated information about a proposed application at The Orchard at Weir Lane/Manor Road. Members had no problem in principle, but DD stressed that the new building could increase by no more than 50% of the original footprint of the building. The property was also in the Green Belt.

The Clerk had reported the new high fence at The Spinney on Manor Road to NSC Enforcement.

5. Ward Councillor's Report

DD – The Local Plan consultation was working well, with a good level of responses. NSC was trying to make it a lot more inclusive, not just housing this time.

Regarding Council Tax – given permission to go to 9.99% without a referendum. Adult Social Care increases would be coming from Council Tax. The impact of the shortfall would fall on the collection of Council Tax. More people were claiming benefit, and this would impact on the Parish Council Precept.

Overall budget numbers would be somewhere near balancing this year, and next year was not looking as drastic as first thought.

The next National Covid Tier Review was planned for 30th December 2020.

When the Tier changes happened, NSC was initially offered free Government advice prior to having to notify residents, but this did not actually happen.

MS asked if DD had received any news about the change in the formula for housing numbers. DD – go back to the 2017 number, approx. 1,300 per year. Because numbers were going to be concentrated around cities, Bristol numbers had gone up significantly, but it could not cope with this, so housing would have to go out to surrounding areas. MS suggested that this was more likely to affect AL as it was closer to Bristol.

6. Neighbourhood Plan

MS had circulated the latest progress on the NP. All now submitted and moved ahead with tying in the plan for the Northern Corridor. The NSC Executive had agreed that this should go for submission to the Inspector. A lot of the issues would come back. MS had sent DD a possible draft to send to the Committee Clerk, saying that the submission that was made by the complainant to the Executive was factually wrong.

7. Conservation Area

RN reported there had been no real movement on the plans, as he not heard back from the Civic Society. RN & MS would ask that the CS respond with its views prior to the next PC meeting on 11th January 2021. **Action RN/MS.**

8. Financial

Approval of Accounts for Payment – December 2020

The Accounts for Payment for December had been circulated to all members.

STP proposed approval of the Accounts for Payment for December. RN seconded. Agreed.

Budget for 2021-2022

The Clerk had circulated the draft budget/actual figures for the current year. This would be further discussed and agreed at the January 2021 meeting.

Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2019-2020

The Annual Return had been complete by PKF Littlejohn.

“Except for the matters reported below, on the basis of our review of Sections 1 & 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 & 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review. Please that amendments are corrected in the prior year comparatives when completing next year’s AGAR:-

Information received from the smaller authority indicates that assets purchased during the year have not been included in Section 2, Box 9. Box 9 should read as £787,329.”

The Clerk reported that this was due to the purchase of 2 x new notice boards purchased in 2020 not being added to the list of assets, in error. **Action Clerk.**

9. Village Matters

- i. Police Report - 1 x Burglary in Manor Road, 1 x Anti-Social Behaviour at Leigh Court.
- ii. Village Hall - JB reported that the hall had not reopened since the last meeting, and there had been no new enquiries. JB suggested perhaps putting a Christmas tree up outside the Village Hall next year. STP suggested planning this early and add an amount to the budget.
- iii. Former Skittle Alley - STP reported that the ventilation had now been installed in the gym, for which the PC paid half of the total cost.
- iv. Traffic Issues & Footpaths - There had been no action by NSC on clearing the blocked gullies on the A369. DD had requested that Terry Bridgewood of NSC get these cleared ASAP. JB reported that the Abbots Leigh sign on Haberfield Hill had been hit again. **Action Clerk.** DD reported that the brambles had been cleared on The Gordano Round footpath.

MW reported that due to the wet weather, mountain bikers and horse riders were churning up the footpaths.

STP – ‘Please stay on the footpath’ signs needed to be erected in particular places. **Action STP.**

- v. Verges - STP reported that the Wildlife Group would not contribute to cutting the verges. The Clerk was still waiting for the invoice from David Smith for his hedge and verge cutting. Abbots Pool and parking on Manor Road (Clearway). DD had suggested to NSC that it make a Clearway on Beggar Bush Lane, Longwood Lane, and Weir Lane for about 100 metres. Should the PC be looking at legislation for Passing Places, but this would need to be enforceable. STP suggested putting a proposal together for NSC. **Action STP/MW.**
The PSPO comments had now been submitted and accepted by NSC. The Civic Society was now discussing this issue. MS would also chase this up with the CS. **Action STP/MS.**
- vi. Playing Fields & Events - The Clerk reported that the dog bin was now being emptied weekly.
- vii. Village Orderly - Nothing to report.

10. Communications

Nothing to report.

11. Clerk's Report

Nothing to report.