

PARISH OF ABBOTS LEIGH
Virtual Meeting of Abbots Leigh Parish Council
Held on Monday 16th November 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 19th October 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19th October 2020, previously circulated, were signed as a true record. STP to provide the Clerk with the signed minutes when convenient. **Action STP.**

3. Matters arising

STP had emailed Dave Venables regarding the problems with The George septic tank but had not received a response.

The Abbots Pool Cycle Route had been agreed by all parties. DD had received a complaint about the bridleway route being blocked. STP would send a plan showing where the footpath and bridleway was, and DD would forward this to the complainant. **Action STP/DD.**

STP had added the Barn Conversion policy to the Neighbourhood Plan – Clerk to send this to Celia Dring. **Action Clerk.**

Manor Road hedges – STP had contacted the owner of the hedges, who had advised that their contractor would soon be carrying out the hedge cutting. If the works could not be carried out soon due to the field being too wet, the owner would ask David Smith to cut them.

4. Planning

Applications:-

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. **No objections.**

20/P/2434/FUH - 28 Church Road, BS8 3QP. Raise and replace rear garden terrace and landscape works to front and rear garden. **Both neighbours were concerned about this application. Ask the Planning Officer to take notice of their concerns. The slate roof seemed an anomaly to the rest of the street scene.**

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). **Check if Leigh Woods (Long Ashton Parish Council) had a view on this application.**

Approvals:-

20/P/1482/FUH – Tanglewood, Ashgrove Avenue. Proposed erection of single storey extensions to front and rear of dwelling, demolition, and replacement of existing garage.

20/P/1496/TPO – West Gateway, Abbots Leigh Road. T1 – Sycamore – Reduce branches around BT lines to give 1.5m clearance. Remove first 4 branches back to main stem marked with orange dot on field side. T3 – Ash – Fell limb leaning towards the road marked with orange dot.

20/P/1437/FUL – Leigh Court Farm, Pill Road. Retention of timber chalet dwelling for farm manager for a 5-year period or on cessation of the farm enterprise.

Other Planning Matters

8 Dennyview Road - The PC had asked for more information on this application, but NSC had responded saying that no more information was available or required by them. The response from NSC to the neighbour's concerns had been dismissive. DD would contact the NSC Planning Department to advise that the PC had met following its response, and that there was still concern that better drawings should have been provided. **Action DD.**

RN reported that a high fence had been erected on Manor Road. As the property was on a road, it should be no higher than 1.00 metre. Clerk to check if there had been a planning application for this and report it as a planning breach if there was not. **Action Clerk.**

5. Ward Councillor's Report

DD had spoken to the Police last week, who advised that crime levels had increased during Covid-19 lockdown. There were plans to restructure how they dealt with the North Somerset area.

He had been in correspondence with NSC about the blocked gulleys on the A369 – works were to be done at Ashgrove Avenue and Leigh Warren. STP – added the one at the bottom of the dip past the George, and one opposite the end of North Road.

WECA – all the opposition groups in Bristol had called an extraordinary meeting in January to consider the matter of the Local Plan. NSC would have to cooperate with the WECA plan but would not be beholden to it.

6. Neighbourhood Plan

MS reported that the NP had now been submitted and NSC Executive, who would look at it in early December, then there would be another consultation, then it would go to the Examiner in January.

The NSC Local Plan 'Choices' Consultation – MS had prepared and circulated a paper on this. There was a large housing requirement and four choices to accommodate this. The PC should put together a joint response with Pill & EIG. There were some things that were not good in all four options. A meeting had been arranged with Pill & EIG PC later this week to talk about the issues. The response should be based on the conclusions of the Neighbourhood Plan. No one proposal is our preferred options but a mix and match with exception of large developments in our plan area.

There was a sub-district corridor of Portishead, Portbury, EIG & Abbots Leigh. Any development here would have a major impact on the A369.

A response was to be submitted by 14th December. MS would draft and circulate a response following the meeting with Pill & EIG. **Action MS.**

MW had spoken to John Chaplin of the Bristol Port Company, who was interested in obtaining more planning permission in Portbury (Sheepway). It would be good to say that the PC had discussed its submission with BPC.

7. Conservation Area

RN advised there was nothing substantial to report. He was seeking authority from the Civic Society to use its 15 year old document. No response had yet been received. STP suggested an item should be put in The Link regarding this. MS advised that there had previously been widespread support for the Conservation Area in the NP responses. **Action RN/MS.**

8. Financial

STP reported that in the past, the PC had always followed the NALC recommendation for the Clerk's salary. The latest recommendation was for an increase £3.67 for 2020-2021, back dated to 1st April. Proposed by STP, seconded by MW. Agreed.

Approval of Accounts for Payment – November 2020

STP proposed approval of the Accounts for Payment for November. MW seconded. Agreed.

All to prepare to discuss next year's budget at the December meeting.

8. Village Matters

- i. Police Report - The Clerk reported the following crimes had taken place in September. 1 x Criminal Damage & Arson – Glen Avenue; 1 x Anti-social Behaviour – Manor Lane; 1 x Anti-social Behaviour – Ashgrove Avenue; 1 x Violence & Sexual Offences – Ashgrove Avenue; 1 x Anti-social Behaviour – Sandy Lane; 1 x Violence & Sexual Offences – Sandy Lane.
- ii. Village Hall - JB reported that bookings were at a standstill. JP and Jan had been self-isolating last week and would be this week. Both were well. MS suggested the PC contact John and Jan to make a gesture. STP reported that Andersons had done the percolation tests. He had asked for a proposal of how the works would be carried out, and this was expected quite soon, with a drainage proposal and a price for carrying out the works.
- iii. Former Skittle Alley - STP reported that the ventilation would be installed in the next week or two during lockdown. The cost would be a bit approximately £1k, and the PC had agreed to pay half.
- iv. Traffic Issues & Footpaths - STP reported the cycle path had been cleared last week. This would probably need to be done again in another month. RN asked if electric scooters were not able to be used on the cycle path. DD advised that they were not permitted to be used in public places, with the exception of Bath, where there was a trial currently taking place.
- v. Verges - STP reported that David Smith had cut the verges, with the exception of the ones requested to be left by the Verges Group. MS reported that the Verges Group verges had also been cut by a small gardening and maintenance company. MS asked if the PC was willing to make a contribution. STP advised the PC had agreed to contribute approximately £100. Wait until David Smith's invoice arrives to see what the difference was to the previous year.
- vi. Playing Fields & Events - The Clerk advised that the dog bin should be emptied once per week, as it was getting too full being emptied fortnightly.
- vii. Village Orderly - Nothing to report.

9. Communications

Cat Abel – had asked for PC support to a tree planting scheme. STP suggested promoting it in conjunction with the Civic Society to ask local landowners and gardeners to plant more trees. STP Encourage and support it – in The Link.

DD explained the NSC scheme for rewilding with donated trees on North Somerset land. MS advised there was also an item in the Neighbourhood Plan regarding this.

Tom Walmsley had requested that the PC declare a Climate and Ecological emergency. DD reported that NSC had just done this.

STP proposed to rephrase the PC Climate Emergency to Climate & Ecological Emergency. It was unanimously agreed that it should be stated that Abbots Leigh Parish Council has declared a Climate & Ecological Emergency.

Conservation Area item in the PC news in The Link.

STP – pool and car park now re-opened, and the bollard was down. DD reported that PSPOs had been delayed due to Covid-19. The Orders were currently going through legal process which should end in January or February.

DD trying to get a proper 'Clearway' on Beggar Bush Lane. DD requested that this needed to be looked at in conjunction with Abbots Pool parking.

MW reported many cars parking on Manor Road again and asked if this could be made a Clearway. STP stated that the road was not wide enough to park in. DD covered by Clearway Legislation on main roads. MW would help if road markings saying 'Passing Place'. DD suggested that the PC make the request of what was required, and he would pass it on to NSC. **Action STP.**

STP advised that Abbots Pool litter bin would be put on the regular emptying round again now that it had reopened.

No Swimming in the pool would be part of the PSPO, so this could then be enforced.

Brief update in The Link.

10. Clerk's Report

First draft budget discussion for 2021-2020 at December meeting. Clerk to provide MW with first draft.

Meetings to be held on second Monday of the month from January 2020 (put item in The Link).