

PARISH OF ABBOTS LEIGH - NOTICE OF MEETING
Abbots Leigh Parish Council
Held at Abbots Leigh Village Hall on Monday 13th June 2022 at 7.30pm

MINUTES

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

Public Participation

Ian and Joy Mcfeat were present

1. Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

None.

2. Previous meeting held on 9th May 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th May 2022, previously circulated, were signed as a true record.

3. Matters arising

Minute 7 - Forestry England have responded to the Parish Councils comments on the future of local woods – acknowledging that most of the woods fall in Abbots Leigh Parish and thanking the Parish Council for its positive engagement. Policy matters will be passed on to the appropriate team.

4. Planning

Applications:-

<p>22/P/0986/TPO</p>	<p>Road running between Home Farm Road and Ashgrove Avenue BS8 3QD</p>	<p>Felling of Ash dieback trees for public safety.</p> <p>This refers to trees on Wills Estate land running alongside the A369 from Home Farm Rd to the Leigh Woods entrance road. The works will be co-ordinated with the works on various Clifton College sports ground trees (22/P/0853/TPO) and will be managed by temporary traffic lights rather than road closures.</p> <p>No objections</p>
<p>22/P/0972/FUL</p>	<p>Greenwood Stables Beggar Bush Lane BS8 3TF</p>	<p>Proposed conversion of existing barn to a 1no. residential dwelling (C3) to include the erection of a single storey wrap-around extension and dormers to the North-West and South-East elevations; provision of garden and ancillary works. Repeat application of 21/P/1807/FUL which was withdrawn. The Planning Consultant for the neighbour at Upper Farm have advised the PC that they object strongly to the scheme.</p> <p>Object on same principles as previous application <i>The application is more than a conversion of an existing stable building. It proposes to significantly extend the building, retaining very little of the existing building.</i> <i>The proposal to convert a recently used stable building into potentially a three bedroomed house in the Green Belt does not justify the argument for “making use of a redundant building, and, with a high quality and creative design solution, including landscape design proposals will lead to an enhancement of the environs.”</i> <i>The materials and design are not in keeping with the immediately adjacent stone and tiled roof farm buildings.</i></p>

		<p><i>The application would involve the removal of several mature trees and have a significant impact on the immediately adjacent, frequently used public bridleway linking Ashton Court and Abbots Pool, which is part of many widely promoted circular walks.</i></p> <p><i>In addition</i></p> <p><i>This is reinforced by our Neighbourhood Plan (page 18 para 5.9) approved November 2021 which states “There is a growing incidence both in the more rural parts of the area but also within Pill of the conversion to residential use, often without recourse to planning permission and often of poor design quality, of stables, outbuildings etc. Where this is ‘infill’ it may damage the character and appearance of neighbouring buildings. Where it takes the form of the conversion of an existing barn or other outbuilding it needs to be done in a manner that respects local character and avoids inappropriate design”</i></p>
22/P/1076/LDE	13 Dennyview Road BS8 3RD	<p>Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing side/rear extension for use as a garage and games room.</p> <p>No objections.</p>

Approvals/Refusals/Withdrawn:-

22/P/0741/FUH	Windrush Sandy Lane Abbots leigh BS8 3SF	<p>Move an existing greenhouse and construct a new swimming pool with a retractable hardwood timber cover. Approved.</p>
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Other Planning Matters

Atcost Barn, Sandy Lane – there have been two planning applications and now an appeal.

5. Ward Councillor’s Report

The Bus service issue was progressing with the likely restoration of the quarter hourly service to the village.

Campaigners were due to hold a rally on the lack of progress on the Portishead rail passenger service on Saturday 18 June at the Pill Viaduct. There is a challenge to the MP to try to get him to take some action.

Health and Wellbeing strategy – concern that while the strategy was focussed on major centres such as WsM and Portishead, villages such as AL might lose out on the provision of adequate resources.

6. Neighbourhood Plan

Sub-group working parties continuing – due to report back at a meeting on 6 July.

7. Financial

7.1. Approval of Annual Governance Statement for 2021-2022 – (STP Proposed, MW Seconded) Agreed. **Action Clerk**

7.2. Approval of Accounting Statements for 2021-2022 (STP Proposed, MW Seconded) Agreed. **Action Clerk**

7.3. Approval of Accounts for Payment – June 2022 (STP Proposed, MW Seconded) Agreed. **Action Clerk**

8. Village Matters

- i. Police Report - April’s crime figures 1 x Anti-Social Behaviour – Glen Avenue, 1 x Vehicle Crime – Sandy Lane.
- ii. Village Hall - no clarity yet on when the flat might be finished to enable the caretaker to move in – latest ‘to completion’ estimate of costs to be reviewed by RN on his return. **Action RN**
There has been no pushback on increased rental rates now being charged.

- There is need to strengthen the system between the caretaker and the clerk for invoicing and for cancellation of bookings where the deposit is not paid within a week as there have been a couple of no-shows. **Action Clerk**
- iii. Former Skittle Alley - STP still to speak to James, as complaints had been received about the noise coming from the gym. **Action STP.**
Caretaker needs to check meter readings for the Skittle Alley. **Action Clerk.**
Rental rates to be reviewed as the initial 3 year period will be up in the next few months.
- iv. Traffic Issues & Footpaths - STP had received a response from David Bailey (NSC) who said that they will consider amending the lining in the area to change driver behaviour when the opportunity arises.
MS is analysing the data from the speed survey with a view to preparing a report for the Parish Council so that it can be shared with civic society once it has been agreed. **Action MS/STP.**
Bristol Water has been fined for inadequate traffic light controls during their works on the A369
As Bristol City Council are delaying their clean air zone until the Autumn, (because of moving traffic responsibilities being passed to local councils) the village will have a few more months respite from traffic diverting from the Portway.
Flooding is still an issue on BBL and North Road (both issues in LA Parish) and outside Leigh Warren on the A369 where a new soakaway needs to be constructed within the wide verge on the other side of the road.
MW reported that there is still parking on Manor Road within the red route zone. DD said that he has been advised that the enforcement officers are patrolling and requested that people send him pictures of parking issues contravening the Red Route Clearway on Beggar Bush Lane and Manor Road.
- v. Verges - Nothing to report.
- vi. Playing Fields & Events - A successful and much appreciated event at Abbots pool over the Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend organised by The Abbots Pool Volunteers Group and the Wildlife group with support from the Civic Society
In response to the North Somerset Council Improving Play Spaces 50% grant funding opportunity the Parish Council have approached and met the mothers using the school field on site to look for ideas for improvement. Their initial response was for spring riders and possibly a sand pit. In discussion with the Civic Society, they have suggested that they could match the grant offer by offering 25% of the cost with the PC providing the other 25%. Two initiatives have come forward
New play equipment – Sand Pit and Springy Riders – estimates of costs needed for grant application – (from GB Sport and Leisure) – the PC re-approved a £1000 contribution (Proposer MW, seconder MS) to go with the Civic society contribution of £1,000 which should trigger a matching grant of £2,000.
The Civic Society have suggested the potential need for a graded path (possibly at or better than 1 in 20) to allow the ‘less able’ access to all parts of the field. STP will take measurements to establish what gradient can be achieved. The question of whether it should be a surfaced path grasses.
- vii. Village Orderly - School Field grass being cut as necessary as the field is evaluated on a weekly basis when the dog bin is emptied. Generally fortnightly, but weekly when conditions dictate.
- viii. Abbots Pool - very disappointing that no PSPO notices in place more than a year after PSPO came into force. Generally supportive article on Bristol Live – but unfortunate comment about lack of enforcement. NSC need to get on board with both issues. STP will take this up with John Flannigan. **Action STP/DD.**
- ix. Civic Society - Nothing more to report.

10. Communications

At the Annual Parish Meeting Ian Mcfeat raised a number of concerns about the financial reporting of the Parish council which he followed up in a letter dated 15th May. MW had drafted a response which had been circulated for comment to all the Parish Councillors before the meeting. The Councillors confirmed that the response now reflected the comments of all Councillors, and that MW would issue the letter to IM tomorrow. **Action MW.**

11. Clerk's Report

The Clerk was not present at the meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.52