

**PARISH OF ABBOTS LEIGH**  
**Meeting of Abbots Leigh Parish Council**  
Held in the John Butler Room of the Village Hall, Church Road  
**Monday 13th May 2024 at 7.30 pm**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Cllrs Talbot-Ponsonby, Walker, Das, Delany, Ho Marris & Nic Rice (Clerk)  
**Apologies:** None

Also present PC James Coglan prior to the formal meeting

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

Cllr Ho Marris nominated Cllr Talbot-Ponsonby for the position of Chair, Cllr Walker seconded. Cllr Talbot-Ponsonby was elected Chair of the Parish Council for the forthcoming year. **Action Clerk.**

Cllr Delany nominated Cllr Das, Cllr Ho-Marris seconded. Cllr Das elected Vice-Chair of the Parish Council for the forthcoming year. **Action Clerk.**

2. Declarations of Acceptance to Office

All present signed their Declaration of Acceptance to Office. **Action Clerk.**

3. Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

None.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 08<sup>th</sup> April 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 08<sup>th</sup> April 2024, previously circulated, were signed as a true record. **Action Clerk.**

5. Matters arising

None.

6. Planning

**Applications:-**

<b>24/P/0671/FUL</b>	<b>Oaklea Lodge Blackmoor Road Abbots Leigh BS8 3RH</b>	Proposed conversion of the existing single storey detached Garage to a 1no. self-contained residential unit. The conversion of existing non agricultural building and outbuildings into new dwellings buildings within the green belt is a controversial issue and should only be carried out in accordance with current planning policies. <b>Object</b>
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**Approvals/Refusals/Withdrawn:-**

24/P/0573/FUH	12 Knightcott Road Abbots leigh BS8 3SB	Demolition of the existing detached Garage and proposed erection of a replacement detached Garage with guest accommodation at first floor and 1no. dormer to the front roof slope and solar panels to the rear (southwest) roof slope. Blocking up of the existing vehicular access and formation of a new access to the south-eastern boundary together with a set of 1.8-metre high sliding gates to the entrance. <b>On the understanding that no separate planning unit is being created, we have no objection. TBC.</b>
24/P/0227/FUL	Land Adjoining, Leigh warren Bungalows, Abbots leigh Road BS8 3QD	Proposed creation of new vehicular access from Abbots Leigh Road. <i>Object, The new access creates a danger for cyclists, they cite Clifton College exit as an example which is known to be dangerous with several collisions with cars exiting the site, but this site has a narrower grass verge to be able to divert cyclists away for the wall and they propose taking out half of the cycle way making it narrower with "give way" markings in the middle. No extra entrance is needed. The existing exit with better visibility splays could be improved to accommodate the existing house and the new houses whilst also arriving a solution to ease the flooding at the exit, which is made worse by all the rainwater running off the existing property into the highway. Furthermore, the original application for a permitted development for an extension to the "front" of the bungalow was granted on appeal after a refusal decision without an additional entrance and subsequent applications which applied for an additional entrance were turned down. The applicant knew that this was the case when they started the building works, so no new concessions should be made. TBC.</i>
24/P/0073/FUL	<b>Denny House BS20 3QY</b>	Conversion and erection of a single storey extension to north elevation of existing dwelling to create 3no. new dwelling units (2no. flats and 1no. house) including associated works. <b>No objection in principle, but PC notes the concerns of the neighbour about the effect of the impact of them extension on the views from their adjacent kitchen and upstairs windows REFUSE.</b>
24/P/0103/AOC	Leigh farm BDS20 OHG	Request to discharge condition numbers 6 (Construction Environmental Method Statement), 9 (Construction Method Statement), 12 (Drainage Scheme) and 13 (Archaeological written scheme) from application 22/P/0060/FUL. <b>No Comment TBC..</b>
23/P/2527/FUH	Mere Green Glen Ave BS8 3SD	Proposed refurbishment of existing detached house to include:- Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a replacement new single storey kitchen-dining room extension. Dormer roof extensions at first floor level to enlarge and improve bedroom accommodation with 2no. dormers to the front (South-West) elevation and 1no. large box dormer to the rear (North-East) elevation. Partial demolition of existing garage and erection of a new flank wall and new pitched roof over the garage to create 1no. bedroom within the roofspace, solar panel array to the rear roof and other minor internal and external alterations. <b>TBC</b>

Other Planning Matters

JHM reported . NSC has announced that a new consultation would be launched for the Local Plan. The Executive Committee will hold a special meeting in June to agree the revised Local Plan and publish it for consultation. The LP would then be submitted to the Planning Inspector hopefully to pass in January 2025. For residents this means there will be an opportunity to submit comments and to make representations in the inspection period. This has now been made public. New consultation to be launched for Local Plan | North Somerset Council (n-somerset.gov.uk). **Action JMH** will keep us updated.

8. Neighbourhood Plan Implementation

None.

9. Financial

i. Approval of Annual Governance Statement 2023-2024

The Annual Governance Statement for 2023-24 had been circulated to all members. STP signed the statement.  
**Action Clerk**

ii. Approval of Accounts Statements 2023-2024

The Annual Accounting Statements for 2023-24 had been circulated to all members. STP signed the statement.  
**Action Clerk.**

iii. Approval of Internal Auditor 2024-2025

The Clerk advised that the current Internal Auditor had not confirmed whether he would be willing to continue for 2023-24. Clerk to chase. **Action Clerk.**

iv. Approval of Accounts for Payment for May 2024

The Accounts for Payment for May 2024 had been circulated to all members. Approved. **Action Clerk.**

10. Village Matters

Police Report given verbally by PC James Cogle prior to the meeting commencing – Beat Manager – James is based in Nailsea. Covers through from Hewish to Pill to Failand. Aeysha and Nick Gough, Matthew Hawkins are colleagues. Redwood area covers LA, Pill, Windford, and Nailsea.

Crimes recently – these are put on the public website. Dec 3 burglaries, Jan 1 burglaries, 1 ASB, Feb 1 Crim damage 4 ASB, March, 2 burglaries, 2 violence or sexual offence and 2 asb. April and May will possibly go up due to bikes and Roots but haven't been issued to the public yet.

There have been an Increase in calls since March, due to Siron Bikes, young kids whizzing around, coming from Suspension or Avonmouth bridge. Luckily, as we are on the A369, there is not so much an increase in crime, which is good.

All incidents should be reported. James advised the police cannot chase youngsters in case of accidents happening. Police have teams to deal with specifically, so they must have the data. Otherwise, teams will not come if the data isn't there. Identifying them is tricky, no reg on bikes and riders wear masks.

Regarding, Abbots pool, patrols are now being made. There is a PSPO. James talked to Harry Mills at NSC regarding ticketing people but this may not work due to the mix of people that go there, a lot of them are

not from around here. We were advised if there are large groups of people, call 999, not 111, in case it's a rave.

Community speed watch team can report abuse, such as hand gestures, aggressive horn-tooting shouting, to an online form. Click on report and then threats.

Roots allotments – James has been involved since Oct 2023 in Roots. Police have been used by both sides as weapons and this mustn't happen. Crime reports will increase in April and May. Wildlife offences are being investigated. The Northern side (Area B) cannot be used currently due to nesting Skylarks. . This has taken a vast amount of Police time. Traffic officers being called due to blocking access, the police are trying to be fair but it's taking a lot of time on account of Roots . Police aren't told anything by roots, so they are blind. Obstructing vehicles were moved in the end. Criminal damage has occurred to trucks, such as glued locks. People standing in front of trucks= Therefore other issues may suffer as there isn't the time.

- i. Village Hall - We have had some solar panel quotes. STP and MW will look into these further. The neighbours have complained about the hedge not being cut. The hedge should be cut to 4ft. but, can not be done currently due to nesting season.  
Car club, option possibly to be located near to VH. JMH has a call with them this week. STP will join in meeting
- ii. Former Skittle Alley - Invoiced for services 2023-2024, all paid. From now on invoicing for electricity charges to done quarterly.
- iii. Traffic Issues & Footpaths - STP has had correspondence with Lucy Bernard a Dennyview Road resident about the danger of at the junction with the A369. Consider concealed entrance sign put in. See if we can have 30mph marking on the road. STP to follow up with NSC Highway engineers. **Action STP**

The log bollards agreed at the previous meeting have been put in at Pound Batch over on a trial basis. Some have some how been knocked over, possibly deliberately. Options to fix them more robustly with digging in to avoid services. **Action STP**

Jenna has had a request from residents of Markham at the junction at Markham Villages a new path to be put in on the wide verge on the south side of the A369 between the junction to Pill and Markham Brook bridge (the boundary of Abbots leigh) to provide access to bus services. It has been suggested that BSIP funds could be used to create the path.

Sandy Lane closure – It had been reported that NSC insurance team hasn't made contact with the owners of the field. Jenna has contacted Phil Bush to establish the facts.

- iv. Verges - Community Payback – NR Rice had met Peter Mellen in Kamala and Ros' absence and had to rearrange the working days on Thursday as the Village Hall would not be suitable on account of existing weekly bookings for teaching sessions in the meeting room. KD and RD felt that Saturdays would not be suitable as it might displace more lucrative party bookings. The first session had been booked for Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June. KD and RD to discuss options with Peter Mellen having liaised with Mick Dillon about suitable dates. STP said that he had discussed an additional work programme with Peter clearing the footway between Church Road and Home Farm Road. That footway has a huge build up of gravel and Peter had thought that it would be a good project, subject to the agreement of the team supervisor. KD and RD said that they have a list of projects which they will share. **Action KD and RD with STP and NR**
- v. Playing Fields & Events - Proposal for path construction, Quote circulated in advance by STP for £4385.00 + VAT from Safety Green. MW proposed, all agreed. **Action STP to instruct Safety Green**

Replacement tree seat has been delivered, Kevin will be asked to install the seat. **Action STP to instruct Kevin**

- vi. Abbots Pool - Murray and Di Stewart are planning a joint community event between Civic Society, Wildlife Group, AP Volunteer Group and Parish Council for village children at Abbots Pool on 9<sup>th</sup> June and have requested confirmation that it will be covered under the Parish Council. – it does.  
Major structural work needs to be done in the Carpark with a quoted cost of £20k. Jason Cox is aware.

viii. Civic Society - Nothing to report.

11. Communications

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held next Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

12. Clerk's Report

The Parish Council insurance policy with Hiscox is due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> June with a premium of £3,630.39. Proposed to accept MW seconded STP.

A proposal has been received for next year's Parish Council Internal Audit should be carried out by Tony Jay, Parish Council Internal Audit Services of Kewstoke for £100 plus collection costs. He is the clerk for Wraxall & Failand Parish Council in North Somerset, and Wembdon Parish Council in Somerset. He is also the South West Region ALCC union representative. He is an experienced auditor, having carried out this role for the Police Federation for many years. He is also an experienced CiLCA qualified Parish Clerk having ten years' experience in the role, during which time I have completed over twenty AGARs. He has just enrolled in the SLCC internal auditor course which will be completed in the next few months. He has been appointed also for Pill & EiG parish Council. MW proposed that he should be appointed, seconded by STP