

PARISH OF ABBOTS LEIGH
Meeting of Abbots Leigh Parish Council
Held in the John Butler Room of the Village Hall, Church Road
Monday 09th December 2024 at 7.30 pm

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Talbot-Ponsonby, Ho Marris, Walker, Delany, Das, N Rice (Clerk)
Apologies:

1 Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

- None

2 Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 11th November 2024

- The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th November, previously circulated, were signed as a true record.
Action Clerk.

3 Matters arising

- None except those covered under following items

4 Planning

Applications:-

None

Approvals/Refusals/Withdrawn:-

23/P/2527/FUH	Mere Green Glen Avenue Abbots Leigh 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. AWAITING DECISION.
24/P/1911/FUL	Roots Allotments Land Off Abbots Leigh Road BS8 3QB	Retrospective application for the siting of a storage container, the installation of 2 no. CCTV cameras, installation of 4 no. solar panels, and the formation of an access and access track involving the laying of a gravel hardstanding TBC
24/P/1999/ADV	Roots Allotments Land Off Abbots Leigh Road BS8 3QB	Retrospective Advertisement Consent for the placement of 1no. non-illuminated Sign TBC

Other Planning Matters

Applications 24/P/1911/FUL and 24/P/1999/ADV for Roots allotments. A revised application form has been submitted by Roots correcting a number of errors, but also including parking of 30 cars. It was agreed that a further objection to that submitted to NSC on 4th November should sent raising concerns about the car parking and lack of supporting information . **Action Clerk.**

23/P/2527/FUH, Mere Green ,Glen Avenue. JHM reports planning is being waited upon for bat friendly lighting to be taken to the property. **JHM**

5. Ward Councillor's Report

- NSC Budget- The financial situation remains challenging and there is a real possibility that we will need to make a section 114 declaration that we cannot balance the budget. Officers at NSC have been working very hard to

reduce the worrying in-year overspend of £24m by around 2/3rds, but the £8.2m budget gap remains. We are awaiting the outcome of the Government financial settlement, which is usually expected a week before Christmas, sometimes on Christmas evening.

- Local Plan- The Executive Committee agreed on the 4 Dec meeting to consult on the "additional sites" needed to meet the Government's new mandatory housing targets of 23,805 homes over the next 15 years, which is around 9,000 more homes than was planned in the previous draft Local Plan. Where will the 9,000 new homes go? Developers and landowners have been invited to put forward plans. NSC is considering 1,100 new homes in and around Green Belt in Pill and Easton in Gordano. The map can be accessed here: <https://n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/planning-building-control/planning-policy/our-local-plan/local-plan-2040/pre-submission-plan-2040-reg-19-july-2024>. (As at 16 Dec 2024, the consultation has not yet launched. The consultation should last for 6 weeks.) Action: JHM will arrange, for all to join a working group to review the additional sites and agree ALPC response.

6. Neighbourhood Plan Implementation

Awaiting the new local plan

7. Financial

- Approval of Accounts for Payment for November 2024 – The updated accounts for payment for November 2024 have been circulated. MW proposed approval, KD seconded. Agreed. **Action Clerk**
- Precept – Clerk and MW put together the budget for 2025/2026. It has been suggested the precept is raised by 5% from 2024/2025 in order to be able to contribute towards services, such as verge maintenance, PROW support, minor highway improvements, etc needed for the parish which NSC will no longer be able to provide. It was been decided to wait until NSC writes to us with the figures and the PC's will then be advised. New figures will be discussed and decided upon before the next PC Meeting. **Action Clerk and MW**

8. Village Matters

I. **Police Report** – No reports of crime in October 2024.

II. **Village Hall -**

- a. Solar Panels – National Grid given approval for G99 application for feed in connection.
- b. Tesla Battery and panels are not going to be delivered until 16th December 2024.
- c. 2 weeks work we have a suggested start on site from 13th January 2025. Roland Bell Electrical need to complete another job by 10th January 2025. Scaffolding to be erected by the end of the week before.
- d. We have received a quote from Roland Bell for Installing 25mm 3 core SWA sub-main to the caretaker's electrical position routed from the Village hall main intake position. Connecting via a switch fuse. This will be run through a check meter for monitoring of usage. Reroute the supply cable for the gym to under the floor and reconnect and Install a 3-phase check meter on the whole installation for monitoring of usage. The quote came through at £2,235. £2,000 is allocated in the budget, but, does include extra meter for the hall to monitor usage and also rerouting the Gym supply to tidy up the outside of the hall. In the bid, the survey was £1000, as a minimum amount but it was £500 which is why the rewiring was put in as £1500. This was approved to be instructed.
Action STP
- e. The Link survey is currently being delivered.
- f. Lailis Brooke has emailed in regarding the hourly charge for the Village Hall. It was agreed STP would reply. **Action STP**
- g. Civic Society, the charge for the Christmas Party had been agreed at £30.
- h. A 'comments' suggestion should be made available for the Hire of the Village Hall. Maybe feedback to be sent to the Clerk to log. A response to a letter of complaint received about the preparation and operation of the Village Hall has been drafted and agreed.

III. **Former Skittle Alley** – Nothing to report.

IV. **Traffic Issues & Footpaths**

- a. KD is still waiting for NSC to come back to us regarding smiley SID. Abbots Leigh are hoping to have a permanent SID.
- b. STP has applied to NSC for yellow lines No Parking to be introduced at the junction of Manor Road by the A 369 on safety grounds and also resulting restriction for emergency vehicles. This could take out up to 5 spaces

V. **Verges** –

- a. The Community Payback Team came on 23rd November and continued to clear the footway between Church Road and Home Farm Road. They doing a great job. This works should be complete on their next visit They have been booked in for the first Saturday of the month for the foreseeable few months to work on recovering the width of more footways through the parish where the arisings can be disposed of, and within easy reach of welfare back up for the team.
Action STP

VI. **Playing Fields & Events –**

- a. The annual inspection report of the play equipment identified a number of maintenance items that need attention. This includes replacing beam on hanging bars, and replacing the climbing net. Additionally, movement in the big swing, the swing is too close to the tree and the swing hanger support plate is bent. Maybe it is time to replace the whole swing and reorientate it so that the swing is away from trees
A quote for repairs has been requested from GB Sport and Leisure. We are waiting for the quote to be sent through. **Action Clerk/STP**

VII. **Abbots Pool –**

- a. The fence alongside the steps protecting the neighbours has been erected by the owners in discussion with MW.

9 Civic Society

Their AGM is coming up in January/February and they are looking for a new Chair. There is nothing else to report.

10 Communications

Nothing additional to report

11 Clerk's Report

Nothing to report.

12 AOB

- Ros Daleny is now the Chair of Abbots Leigh Charities.
- Regarding the 'RED WARNING' via our phones due to wind Darragh. JHM is suggesting maybe thinking/looking into emergency planning. Jenna is suggesting a procedure to incorporate a village hall closure if we get a red warning again.

13 Next Meeting - 13th January 2025

NR -09th December 2024