

ABBOTS LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
Held at Village Hall, Abbots Leigh on Monday 10th November 2025 at 7.00pm
MINUTES

Present: Councillors S Talbot-Ponsonby (Chair), K Das (Vice Chair), R Delany, J Ho Marris, M Walker.

Parish Clerk Nicola Rice

Public Participation – Cat Abel.

31/25 To note the absence of councillors at the meeting.

No absences.

32/25 To accept declarations of interest in accordance with the Adopted Code of Conduct September 2024.

There were no declarations of interest.

33/25 To approve the minutes of the council meeting held on Monday 13th October 2025.

It was resolved to approve the minutes.

The Chairman signed the minutes as being a true record of the meeting.

34/25 Planning, New Applications:

25/P/2007/FUL	Denny House Pill Road Abbots Leigh BS8 3QY	Conversion and extension to create 3no dwelling units including associated works. <i>No Objections.</i>
25/P/2035/AOC	Rise 1 Harris Lane Abbots Leigh BS8 3QX	Request to discharge condition 7 (Construction Method Statement) on application 25/P/1477/FUL. <i>No Comment.</i>

Approvals/Refusals/Withdrawn:-

25/P/1729/FUH	Briarwood Home Farm Road Abbots Leigh	Proposed conversion of the existing attic space to include raising of the ridge height and the addition of 2no. dormers.
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	BS8 3QF	Internal reconfiguration of the ground floor and relocation of the main entrance. Demolition of the existing single garage and proposed erection of a replacement garage and driveway. <i>Registered</i>
25/P/1971/AOC	Roots Allotments Abbots Leigh Road	Request to discharge condition 18 (Landscaping Scheme) from application 24/P/1911/FUL. <i>Registered</i>
25/P/1971/AOC	Roots Allotments Abbots Leigh Road	Request to discharge conditions 8 (CCTV Posts), 9 (Entrance Gate), 12 (Vehicular Access Surfacing), 13 (Horse Box Removed), 14 (Solar Panels Removed), 21 (Tree Protection Plan) and 22 (Remedial Works) from application 24/P/1911/FUL. <i>Registered</i>

35/25 Local Plan – The final consultation period will run for four weeks and closes on 12th December. All previously submitted comments will be disregarded, and only the new responses will be considered and fed directly into the planning process. There is some uncertainty around what is meant by assessing whether the Local Plan is “sound.” In theory, all aspects of the plan are open for consultation. There also appears to be a lack of a supplementary planning document, which could contain points we might wish to challenge. It has been suggested that a working group be formed, possibly in collaboration with Pill and Easton-in-Gordano Parish Council. In addition, we may wish to consider holding a public meeting with Abbots Leigh residents, potentially on 3rd December at the village hall. JHM reported that she and STP had attended a meeting with Waddeton Park the promoters of the scheme on Alvis land opposite St Katherines together with representatives of Pill & EiG Parish Council, to hear about their proposals for the site for which they intend submitting a planning application soon. They were advised that we considered that they should wait until the local plan has been approved with the specific supplementary local planning document.

36/25 To consider the approval and payment of the following monthly invoices.

Any invoices received after the publication of the agenda will also be considered.

Invoice date	Supplier	Description	Amount £	VAT £	Total £
None	Nicola Rice	Clerk's salary	703.59	0	703.59

None	Mick Dillon	Caretakers salary	850.00	0	850.00
None	HMRC	PAYE	307.55	0	307.55
31.10.25	Clerks Expenses	Printer, new mouse, 2 x memory sticks.	54.47	0	54.47
13.10.25	M Dillon	Expense – 5 months	155.24	0	155.24
None	Nest	Pension	24.62	0	24.62
20.10.25	Audiovisual Direct	Microphone system	695.00	139.00	834.00
31.10.25	K & E Property	Bins and Grass cutting	605.00	0	605.00
29.10.25	GB Sports	Playground Inspection	30.00	6.00	36.00
30.10.25	J&S Bell	VH Deposit refund	50.00	0	50.00
30.10.25	M Donoghue	VH Deposit refund	50.00	0	50.00
01.10.25	NSC	Annual Liquor Licence	70.00	0	70.00
19.10.25	S Talbot-Ponsonby	Hall Wi-Fi network	99.96	19.99	119.95

It was resolved to approve the payments.

37/25 To receive the North Somerset Councillor report.

Ward Councillor Report (Pill Ward) from Councillor Jenna Ho Marris.

Library Consultation - The library consultation closed on 24 October and officers are reviewing the approximately 4,500 replies that were received across the district. STP and JHM joined several meetings of the Friends of Pill Library group who are trying to increase footfall and ultimately hold events and raise money to support the library. Their aim is to keep the library open but they do not wish to take on the community managed model that NSC is trying to encourage due to concerns about volunteer capacity and sustainability. Pill Parish Council are also reluctant to endorse a community managed model. Abbots Leigh Parish Council have offered to contribute to the costs of running the library. During the discussions we have also suggested a transfer of the leaseholder from NSC to a Pill based non-

profit, so that the library would be eligible for business rates relief saving some £2,500 per year. JHM is aware of the cost pressures on NSC but it does not seem fair that the libraries in the most socio-economically deprived and geographically isolated parts of the district have to close, with only 30 mins earlier closing times for the towns. JHM has meetings the following week with officers together with the councillor for Winscombe, and also with our MP Sadik to explore options.

38/25

To discuss village matters

Police Report – No reports since August

Village Hall

The new headset microphone has been delivered, installed, and is working well. Gigaclear is now live, with the router connected and performing reliably. A couple of additional Wi-Fi boosters have also been installed. The electrical safety certificate for the village hall is due for renewal and will be tested next week, and the issue causing the solar panel power to trip occasionally needs to be investigated and resolved. Action: STP

Former Skittle Alley - nothing to report.

Traffic Issues & Footpaths

Kamala is looking into the costs of a 'Smiley SID'. We are currently waiting to hear back from NSC to confirm whether we are permitted to install a SID within the village. Once we have approval, we will identify the preferred locations for its placement. Action Kamala DAS

Clifton Bridge, will be closed on the 27th November 2025 from 04.30pm until 1am due to TV filming.

Verges

David Smith will be asked to flail the verges on the east verge of the A 369 from Harris Lane towards the George. STP has instructed David Smith. STP has spoken to Jason Cox at NSC regarding the trees. Some trees will be removed from the verges of the A369 between Sandy Lane and the George by NSC in the next few months. It is hoped that the Community Payback initiative will be shared with Pill and Easton-in-Gordano Parish Council. STP has been in touch with Cllr. Bob Buck from PEIG PC regarding this.

Playing Fields & Events

The Civic Society did an excellent job on the fireworks this year.

Abbots Pool - Nothing to report.

Civic Society - Nothing to report.

39/25 To receive the Chair's report.

Nothing additional to report.

40/25 To receive Clerk's report.

The Parish Clerk highlighted the importance of Assertion 10 to the Councillors and explained the work required in preparation for the AGAR in April. It was noted that GDPR compliance forms a significant part of Assertion 10. Cllr. Walker has been in contact with the website designers to determine whether they can bring the parish website up to the required standard to meet these obligations.

41/25 To consider items for the next meeting agenda.

The meeting closed at 20.19pm.

End of minutes.