

**Minutes of the Isle Abbotts Parish Council meeting held on  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs.Habberfield, Rickitt, Humphry, & Herbert. D.C. Sue Steele and one member of the public. (Mr. Stone)

**1. APOLOGIES** for absence were received from Cllr.Jay, Elaine Guest and County Councillor Derek Nelson.

**2.** There were no **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

**3.** The **MINUTES** of the meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2008 were read and approved after amendment to Item 11. Mr.Barden had not been told not to build wall, but had decided to defer building wall until catchpit situation resolved.

**4. MATTERS ARISING:** **1) Jubilee Room:** Cllr.Habberfield reported problems had been resolved. **2) Baptist Chapel:** Cllr.Humphry reported notice board had been moved, access to graveyard had been altered, but was still unsatisfactory. Unsafe gravestones have been secured. Vehicular access had been made, and flooring slabs have been moved. It was queried if either of these actions was allowed under planning stipulations. Cllr.Steele had talked with SSDC enforcement officer who will be making regular visits. **3) Insurance:** Clerk to be requested to finally resolve this issue with a £2M liability limit. **4) Trees:** There had been no communication between Cllrs.Jay and Humphry. Arrangements to be made when Cllr.Jay returns from holiday.

**5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:** Mr.Stone asked if there is a map of properties in Isle Abbotts as Sandra is a first response medic. Cllr.Rickitt said he had a list of properties/occupants and suggested DHL driver might be persuaded to part with a copy of his location map. Mr.Stone also mentioned blocked drainage pipe outside his property – Cllr.Humphry noted this to action. D.C. Sue Steele reported on recent flooding; this led to a general discussion, and it was generally agreed that the very exceptional conditions experienced would not probably recur for very many years, and little could be done to mitigate such exceptional rainfall. Cllr.Humphry had walked the ditch from Badbury to the river and said it was clogged with debris in places, although even if it had been fully cleared, it would not have coped with the volume of water on this occasion.

**6.** No agenda item.

**7. FINANCE:** Report attached. Generally agreed finances were satisfactory.

**8. ROADS & FOOTPATHS:** Cllr.Humphry reported he was impressed with communication with Kim Sharpe's new assistant, Keith Rendall. The drainage pipe had been blown out at Cuffs Orchard. Paul Barden had agreed to clean the ditch alongside his property. Woodlands Lane should have been dealt with but had not been to date. Potholes were bad in Blind Lane. Steamalong had been attended to at last. **Footpaths:** The planking on the footbridge over the River Rag had been replaced by SSDC. Cllr.Humphry had further footpath meetings scheduled for the spring. It was hoped the question of the misleading finger posts could be resolved.

**9. VILLAGE HALL APPEAL FOR FUNDS:** D.C.Steele said a grant of £3000 was expected from S.C.C. P.C. discussed matter thoroughly and thought a detailed business plan was required before any grant could be made. Moreover it was thought that the small amount that could be allocated from our precept (which is levied from parishioners) would not be significant. However, if match funding was required from the Parish Council before funds could be released from elsewhere, then a grant might be appropriate. Clerk to request further information on plans from V.H. committee.

**10. RIGHTS OF WAY SURVEY:** Cllr. Humphry offered to respond by end of January as required.

**11. CORRESPONDENCE:** 30<sup>th</sup> January, Police “Surgery”. Clerk to renew CPRE subscription at £29.00. South Somerset Bridleways Association: concerns expressed over damage to footpaths by horses, offer of their representative to attend parish meeting declined.

**12.ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:** Cllr.Herbert agreed to attend flood awareness meeting and report back to next Parish Council meeting.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 7.30 p.m. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20.50.

Signed A.R.Habberfield.....Date ...4<sup>th</sup> March 2009.....