

MINUTES OF THE ISLE ABBOTTS ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 19TH JULY AT 7.30pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs Lockley, Westworth and Vaun Davis, Somerset Council Cllrs Roundell Greene, the Clerk, and 3 members of the public.

- 23/34 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Richards, Somerset Council Cllr Dance.
- 23/35 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.
- 23/36 MINUTES: Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd May were approved as a correct record and duly signed by the Chair.
- 23/37 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: A resident raised concern over the use of obstructions such as large boulders and bollards on grass verges adjoining the highway, noting that they can be difficult to see in the dark and potentially cause damage to vehicles. The council commented that action on this matter would be dependent on who owns the verges and restrictions in terms of planning and/or highways stipulations. Cllr Lockley advised she would make enquiries on the matter.
A resident also expressed their appreciation for the work that has been done to improve the roads. Cllr Roundell Green gave an update advising agreement was reached with SUEZ and potential strike action by waste operatives has been called off. She commented that the process of budgeting for the next financial year is underway, and that it is not in good shape with cuts needing to be made. A written report from Cllr Dance and Roundell Green will be published on the parish council website.
- 23/38 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY: There is currently one vacancy on the parish council, and interest in the position had been declared by Mr Andy Hillman. Councillors voted unanimously in favour of Mr Hillman being co-opted to the council. In his absence, it was agreed to allow deferral of signing the declaration of acceptance of office, provided this is completed in advance of the September meeting.
- 23/39 FINANCE.
- The council approved the financial statements up to 30/6/23.
 - The council approved the list payments to be authorised, which is annexed at the end of the minutes.
 - Following continued difficulty with Lloyds updating online banking services, councillors agreed to amend the mandate to allow for a single authorisation by the Clerk/RFO, as at present, the previous RFO is still required to authorise payments. The council noted that all payments were reviewed and approved in advance already and agreed that a bank reconciliation, including review of statements would be carried out 3 times per year to further improve internal audit and risk assessment.
- 23/40 PLANNING APPLICATIONS: There were no applications to consider.
- 23/41 VILLAGE HALL REPRESENTATIVE: It was agreed to defer the item to the September meeting.
- 23/42 CORONATION CELEBRATIONS: Cllr Lockley provide a summary of the events over the Coronation weekend. A copy of which can be found annexed at the end of the minutes.
- 23/43 ROADS (LL) Cllr Lockley reported that reporting of potholes has been making a difference, with many having been attended to. She noted that Woodlands Lane, which is in a very poor state of repair, has been added to the highways list of roads to be repaired, but there is no date for this to be carried out. Residents are urged to continue to report issues via the Somerset Council online reporting tool.
- 23/44 FOOTPATHS (AR). Cllr Richards has agreed to take over responsibility for footpaths. There are a number of improvements planned, both short and long term, including new gates at Otterman Lane and Ball Lane, footpath access over the ditch at Waldrons and a footbridge for Otterman Lane over the next couple of years. Cllr Richards will provide regular updates on progress at future meetings. Residents again are encouraged to report any issues they find on the Somerset Council online reporting tool to ensure they are aware of any problems.
- 23/45 FLOODING(TW). Little to report. Drains at Bradbury and Gravel Lane have been unblocked recently.
- 23/46 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA. Village Hall Representative.
- 23/47 DATE OF NEXT MEETING. Next Ordinary Meeting - Wednesday 13th September 2023 in the Village Hall. There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8.05pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

ANNEX. 1 - PAYMENTS

Payments authorised - July 2023			
Invoice date	Payee	Description	Amount
31/07/2023	K Larsson	Clerk Salary - July	£ 140.00
31/07/2023	HMRC	PAYE	£ 35.00
14/07/2023	K Larsson	Admin exps. Including approved SLCC membership	£ 68.90

Payments made since May Meeting:			
Invoice date	Payee	Description	Amount
31/05/2023	K Larsson	Clerk Salary - May	£ 140.00
30/06/2023	K Larsson	Clerk Salary - June	£ 140.00
30/06/2023	HMRC	PAYE	£ 35.00

Report on the Coronation Celebrations 6th/7th/8th May 2023

Saturday 6th May was the day of the actual coronation and many stayed at home to watch the event on television. The sports planned for the afternoon were cancelled due to weather conditions. It was extremely wet.

The Bring and Share Coronation lunch was held on Sunday 7th May in the marquee, 122 people attended and a very enjoyable time was had by all.

Following the lunch, an entertainment was organised. The village community choir sang songs from the musicals, activity groups performed sketches and a rendition of Widecombe Fair by the gentlemen of the village was hugely enjoyed by the audience.

On Monday 8th May, Barbara Rickitt curated a history exhibition in the Jubilee Room. Archives of the village back over years were displayed and much appreciated. The church was open as usual, teas were served as visitors climbed the tower, inspected the bell chamber and completed a treasure hunt around the village.

Special thanks go to David Sutcliffe (representing the village hall) Barbara Rickitt (representing the Church council), and the Parish Council for organising and funding the celebrations which were entirely free to villagers. The coronation celebrations were a splendid example of the village organisations working together.