

MINUTES OF THE ISLE ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER AT 7.30pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs Lockley, Richards, Westworth, Vaun Davis and Hillman, Somerset Council Cllrs Roundell Greene, the Clerk, and 6 members of the public.

23/63 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Somerset Council Cllr Dance.

23/64 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

23/65 MINUTES: Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th September were approved as a correct record and duly signed by the Chair.

23/66 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: Cllr Roundell-Green advised that a financial emergency has been declared by Somerset Council, with adult and children's social care being the biggest influencer on the situation. She advised that the Council are doing everything possible to improve the situation, but Town and Parish Councils are being asked to increase their precepts to provide services at a local level.

Cllr Roundell-Greene also advised that a new Highways contract has been agreed to start in 2024, which should improve the services and quality of repair and improvement works.

A member of the public commented on what they felt was an excessive spend on creation of a bridge to cross a ditch on a footpath. As representative for footpaths, Cllr Richards commented that such works were decided and arranged by the Somerset Council Rights of Way teams, but that any improvements to make footpaths accessible were a positive improvement.

23/67 FINANCE.

a. The council approved the financial statements up to 31/10/23.

b. The council approved the list payments requiring authorisation, which is annexed at the end of the minutes.

c. A draft budget was circulated to councillors, but with the newly emerging information relating to Somerset Council's financial situation, it was felt this needed further consideration and will be revisited in January.

23/68 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

23/00961/FUL: Land Os 8356 Isle Abbotts Road Fivehead Taunton Somerset

Proposal: Change of Use of land to 5 No. Gypsy/Traveller pitches including 5 No. day rooms, 5 No. mobile homes, 5 No. touring caravans, and associated works

Councillors reviewed the application and agreed unanimously to OBJECT to the application. Reasons for the objection were, unnecessary development of agricultural land, increased risk of surface water flooding, concerns septic tank and package treatment plant are insufficient for proposed occupancy with potential for pollution from discharges, lack of biodiversity checklist and plans for mitigation or habitat loss, existing space at other local traveller sites with provision already exceeding requirements of the Local Plan. It was also noted that there has been no notices posted at the site or letters to neighbours notifying them of the application.

The full response will be submitted to Somerset Council Planning and will be available on the [Planning section of the Somerset Council website](#)

23/69 NEW PARISH NOTICEBOARD: The clerk presented some indicative costs for varying styles of noticeboards, ranging from £600-£1300 + vat. It was agreed to defer making any decisions until the position was clearer with the 2024/25 budget and precept, and would be looked at as part of this process in January.

23/70 DEFIBRILLATOR PADS: It was agreed unanimously that the council would cover the costs of any required replacement defibrillator pads on an ongoing basis. Currently, purchase of child pads is required, which is estimated to be £50-60, there is no current requirement for replacement adult pads. When purchased, this will be reported at the next possible council meeting, with details of the costs.

23/71 LAPTOP AND SOFTWARE PURCHASE FOR CLERK: A sum of £600 was agreed in the 2023/24 budget for the purchase of dedicated IT equipment for the Clerk. The Clerk proposed purchase of laptop, MS Office and anti-virus to a sum of £330, which was agreed unanimously.

23/72 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS (LCN) (LVD): Cllr VaunDavis reported that the last LCN meeting had 53 attendee, with Isle Abbotts being one of the smallest parishes in the area. Two priorities were agreed: Active Travel, which aims to link cycle and walking routes bring communities together; and Wellbeing, which although not a main theme from the first meetings, but one councillor was extremely keen to run the group.

The next LCN meeting is Monday 13th November, where there will be a Police representative in attendance to present and answer questions.

- 23/73 ROADS (LL): Cllr Lockley reported that previously repaired pot holes have started to open up – it seems that the lack of sealing edges now means they don't last as long. Any issues on the roads should continue to be reported on the Somerset Council online reporting tool to ensure they can be attended to as promptly as possible. <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/>
- 23/74 FOOTPATHS (AR): Cllr Richards reported there is a new bridge at Waldrons giving access to the adjacent field. Gates at Otterman Lane and Ball lane are due to be installed and this is being worked on with the landowners. Old Drove at Northalls Farm is due to be cleared this year, but will be dependent on weather conditions.
Any issues on footpaths/rights of way should be reported using the Explore Somerset interactive map which also shows any existing open issues. <https://roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map>
- 23/75 FLOODING(TW). It was reported that Bradbury ditch is filling with silt and was due to be dredged by the Somerset Rivers Authority. A resident is following this up and will keep the council informed. A message will be sent out on the Whatsapp flooding group requesting extra caution when driving through the village in wet conditions, in particular being aware of people waiting in the bus stop and the properties suffering from surface water washing onto outside walls as vehicles are passing. It was agreed to send a polite reminder/request to landowners again this year regarding clearance of drainage ditches to help alleviate the problems of flooding.
- 23/76 VILLAGE HALL (AH): Cllr Hillman reported that the next Village Hall meeting is next week. He will provide an update at the next parish council meeting.
- 23/77 REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE:
- 23/78 Cllr Hill provided an update regarding the bus service advertised in the resident information on the website; The service is run by Isle Valley Transport and is scheduled to stop at 9.45am in Isle Abbots. Ther service is running, but if you wish to use the service you need to call to request they stop at Isle Abbots. There is also a service to Langport on a Tuesday.
- 23/79 It was reported that Wessex Internet have been carrying out surveys in relation to fibre broadband installation.
- 23/80 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA. 2024/25 Budget, Somerset Council devolution of services.
- 23/81 DATE OF NEXT MEETING. Next Ordinary Meeting - Wednesday 10th January 2024 in the Village Hall. There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting

Signed.....

Date.....

ANNEX. 1 - PAYMENTS

Isle Abbots Parish Council

Payments authorised - November 2023			
Invoice date	Payee	Description	Amount
02/10/2023	SALC	Annual Affiliation Fee	£ 54.62
30/11/2023	K Larsson	Clerk Salary - November	£ 144.80
30/11/2023	HMRC	PAYE	£ 30.20
03/11/2023	K Larsson	Admin exps.	£ 9.60

Payments made since September Meeting:			
Invoice date	Payee	Description	Amount
31/10/2023	K Larsson	Clerk Salary - October	£ 173.80
31/10/2023	HMRC	PAYE	£ 1.20
27/09/2023	TEEC	Website hosting	£ 151.19

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