

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ISLE ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 12TH MARCH 2025 AT 7.30pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL

25/11 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Present: Cllrs Lockley, Westworth, Vaun Davis and Hillman; the Clerk

Apologies: Cllr Richards

25/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

25/13 MINUTES: RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 8th January 2025 were a correct record and duly signed by the Chair.

25/14 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

a) APPLICATIONS: There were no new applications to consider.

b) UPDATES/ENFORCEMENT MATTERS:

i. An increase in the number of caravans has been noticed at the traveller site in Fivehead, which councillors believe is likely to be a breach of the planning consent for the site. The issue has already been reported to enforcement and Fivehead parish council will be contacted to see if they have taken any actions with regards to the matter.

ii. To note a letter was sent to MP's Sarah Dyke and Adam Dance regarding concerns of residential development in Ilminster, with objection also submitted to planning.

Details of planning applications in the parish can be found on the Isle Abbots website:

<https://www.isle-abbotts.org.uk/planning> This links directly to the Somerset Council planning portal where the full responses from the parish council can be seen along with decision notices from Somerset Council.

25/15 FINANCE.

a) FINANCIAL STATEMENT: RESOLVED to approve the financial statement to 28/2/25.

b) PAYMENTS: RESOLVED to approve the list of payments which are annexed at the end of the minutes.

c) BANKING: The Clerk advised that the existing account with Lloyds will be subject to a £4.25 service fee per month, though they are also applying charges for depositing of cheques which may impact the council. Having investigated various banking providers, the Clerk advised that there were few suitable options for parish councils, and that monthly service fees were now commonplace. The recommended options were to remain with Lloyds or transfer to Unity Trust Bank, however, the Clerk was concerned with the poor service received by Lloyds previously with regards to making changes to the mandate and online banking access issues.

Moving banking arrangements to Unity Trust and opening their instant access savings account would increase the interest earned and more than offset the additional £1.75 monthly fee.

The Clerk is in the process of moving other councils to Unity Trust, and it was agreed to re-visit the matter once feedback on the switch service can be given.

25/16 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS: Draft was circulated to councillors which is based on the NALC model Financial Regulations updated in 2024 and has been adapted where allowable to suit the councils circumstances and processes. Councillors to review in preparation for consideration at the May meeting.

25/17 INTERNAL AUDITOR: RESOLVED to re-appoint Susan Morley as the internal auditor, with her fee remaining at last year's rate of £50.

25/18 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK: Councillors discussed the LCNs generally and concluded that it was not felt to be necessary to attend all of the meetings either in-person or online, but would attend when the agenda items were relevant to the parish or of interest and use the published minutes as reference to for other matters. Members of the public are able to attend any meetings and information on the LCN's can be found at following link: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/local-community-networks/>

- 25/19 FLOOD PREVENTION & MANAGEMENT: Following a meeting with the SRA they advise they could attend a general meeting in the parish with regards to flood planning for the village. There's also opportunity to apply for a grant via the SRA to aid with desilting shared drainage channels to aid flood prevention. Permission will be required from land owners where drainage ditches are located before any works could take place. The grant application will be progressed prior to arranging a local meeting with the SRA.
- 25/20 COUNCILLOR REPORTS / UPDATES
- a) LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS (LCN): As minute 25/18.
 - b) ROADS (LL): Notification of pre-surface dressing patching works has been received. Issues on the roads should continue to be reported directly to Somerset Council so they can assess and repair as quickly as possible. <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/>
 - c) FOOTPATHS (AR): No updates to report. With weather improving it is expected that gate repairs and replacements will start to take place. Issues with 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>
 - d) FLOODING(TW). No additional updates.
 - e) VILLAGE HALL (AH): The Village Hall Committee met in February. The annual income generated isn't covering the outgoings, which are forecast to be more than £2000 for the coming financial year. The solar panel export credits have still not appeared into the Village Hall bank account. These are essentially the payments received from Scottish Power for the excess electricity the solar panels generate and sent back to the grid. The committee are still chasing this issue. There's a call out for volunteers to undertake a spring clean and general maintenance.
 - f) OTHER MATTERS: Invitations for speakers at the Annual Parish Meeting to be sent by the Clerk.
- 25/21 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA: SRA Grant; Banking; Annual Governance and Accountability Report for 2024/25.
- 25/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 14th MAY 2025 in the Village Hall: Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm, followed immediately by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.17pm.

Signed.....*Liz Lockley*.....

Date.....*14th March 2025*.....

ANNEX. 1 – PAYMENTS

Invoice date	Payee	Description	Amount
29/01/2025	K Larsson	SLCC CiLCA qualification fee (reimbursement)	£ 40.50
31/12/2024	K Larsson	Admin Expenses - Print & phone (Jan/Feb)	£ 5.94
05/03/2025	Zurich Municipal	Insurance Renewal	£ 264.00
Payments since the last meeting			
28/02/2025	Lloyds Bank	Service Fee	£ 4.75