

MINUTES OF THE ISLE ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 1ST MARCH 2023 AT 7.30pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs Richards, Lockley and T Westworth, County Cllr Roundell Greene, the Clerk, and 4 members of the public.

- 23/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Cllr J Westworth, County Cllr Dance and District Cllr Cavill.
- 23/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS. None.
- 23/18 The MINUTES of the Ordinary meeting held on Wednesday 4th January were approved as a correct record and duly signed by the Vice Chair.
- 23/19 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY. There was one vacancy on the parish council. An application was received from Ms Vaun-Davis which was circulated to all councillors in advance of the meeting. Councillors voted unanimously in favour of Ms Vaun-Davis being co-opted to the council. Ms Vaun-Davis duly signed the declaration of acceptance of office, witnessed by the Clerk, and was invited to join the meeting.
- 23/20 MATTERS ARISING. No matters were brought forward for discussion.
- 23/21 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT. Cllr Roundell Green advised that the final SSDC meeting was held today, which was a sad time for many. Time now will be spent tying up loose ends before vesting day. She reported that there will be a total of 18 Local Community Networks (LCNs), for which the frequency of meetings has yet to be finalised but it is expected they will not commence until around September. She advised that she will be attending LCN meetings, as will Cllr Dance. Planning will not be included in LCNs but will be split into areas, with Isle Abbots being part of the "South" planning authority. Cllr Roundell Greene reported she was pleased to see a number of the potholes filled, thanks to the efforts of Cllr Lockley.
- 23/22 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME. A member of the public enquired with regards to blocked drains being attended to. Cllr Roundell Greene advised she would try to arrange a site visit with SCC Highways to assess the issues. Cllr T Westworth offered to attend the meeting to assist with identification of the location of issues.
A member of the public enquired with regards to renovation of the dis-used phone box in the village. Cllr Richards advised that the phone box is privately owned, and whilst the parish council have offered to informally speak to the owners, it will be their decision as to whether they wish to take any action. He will liaise with Cllr J Westworth to see if there is an update.
- 23/23 FINANCE.
The Clerk produced the financial statement up to 28/2/23, and list of payments for March, which were both approved. These are annexed at the end of the minutes.
- 23/24 PLANNING DECISIONS:
a. 22/02060/COU Land at Woodlands Farm, Woodlands Lane, Isle Abbots TA3 6RT – Change of use from agricultural to equestrian. APPROVED with conditions.
b. 22/02793/HOU The Conifers, Manor Road, Isle Abbots TA36RL – Erection of a carport, removal of existing gates and associated works to the front of the property. APPROVED with conditions.
Full details of the applications and associated conditions of approval can be found on the SSDC planning portal.
- 23/25 PLANNING APPLICATIONS: 23/00331/COU The Conifers, Manor Road, Isle Abbots TA3 6RL – Change of use of land from equestrian use to domestic garden. Having reviewed the application, councillors had no comments and voted unanimously in support of the application.
- 23/26 INSURANCE. The clerk presented costs from the current insurer, Zurich and a specialist council insurer BHIB. The renewal, due on 5/3/23, from Zurich was more competitively priced at £257.60, with BHIB quoting £372. Whilst the offering from BHIB was very comprehensive, the Clerk felt that much of the cover would not be utilised by Isle Abbots due to the limited facilities in the village, and recommended renewing with Zurich. Councillors voted unanimously in favour of the recommendation to renew with Zurich at £257.60.
- 23/27 COMMEMORATIVE CORONATION GIFTS. Cllr Lockley had previously circulated a proof and costs of providing a commemorative mug to every under 16 within the parish. The total value of the order (35 mugs) would be £390. It was suggested that orders for further mugs could be placed for any residents who wished to purchase, with the additional sales priced to contribute towards the costs of those for t

he under 16's. Cllrs voted unanimously in favour of both proposals. Cllr Lockley will liaise with the supplier for costs of additional mugs and further communication will be sent out to the community in due course.

- 23/28 SOMERSET STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CONSULTATION. Details of the consultation were circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting by the Clerk. The consultation is looking for views in relation to the draft Statement of Community Involvement (local planning policy). It was agreed that a consolidated response would be submitted by the parish council with the following comments: As a statutory consultee, councillors agreed that comments submitted in relation to applications should be considered with more weight. Parish councils are asked to represent their communities, and often make comments on the basis of feedback from the residents, some of whom may not have the means to utilise the online planning portal. In addition, parish councils have a wealth of in-depth knowledge of their area and local issues which could be affected by planning decisions. Councillors agreed that local knowledge was a key factor in the process and was necessary to facilitate appropriate decisions.
- 23/29 ROADS (LL) As reported by Cllr Roundell Greene, Cllr Lockley advised a number of potholes had been filled, although there is still further work required. Cllrs Lockley and T Westworth have been in contact with SCC Traffic Management with regards to the flooding signage at Two Bridges. This has been referred to a specialist for review, and Cllr T Westworth has volunteered to undertake additional training for operation of additional signage if this progresses.
- 23/30 FOOTPATHS (JW). In Cllr J Westworth's absence, Cllr Lockley reported that an SCC Rights of Way officer has been in contact and is looking to walk the parish footpaths to assess their condition. This will be referred to Cllr J Westworth to liaise with the officer.
- 23/31 FLOODING(TW). As reported under roads regarding flooding signage at Two Bridges. In addition, a site visit will be carried out to assess any additional signage that can be put into place.
- 23/32 REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.
Following Cllr Roundell Greene's update regarding LCNs, the Clerk provided a brief update on LCNs. The Clerk advised that although services have not been defined, it is understood there will be local 'contact centres' within LCNs, likely to be larger parish/town councils who may, in some cases, be offering services such as grounds maintenance to other parishes within the LCN areas. The Clerk advised that the council will be required to nominate a councillor as the representative at LCN meetings, and Cllr Vaun-Davis agreed to take on this role.
- 23/33 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA. None raised.
- 23/34 DATE OF NEXT MEETING. Next Ordinary Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting - Wednesday 3rd May 2023 in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Isle Abbotts Parish Council

Income, Expenditure & Balances as at 28/2/2023

Current account activity since 01/01/2023	Credit	Debit	Balance
Opening Balance			£1,662.42
Clerk Salary Dec '22	BACS	175.00	
Clerk Salary Jan '23	BACS	175.00	
SALC Training	BACS	25.00	
Jubilee Coin Contribution	CHQ	120	
Current balance			£1,407.42
Outstanding Liabilities			
Deposit account activity since 01/01/2023			
Opening Balance			£4,590.57
09-Jan-23 INTEREST (GROSS)	1.96		£4,592.53
09-Feb-23 INTEREST (GROSS)	2.34		
			£4,594.87
Total			£6,002.29

Payments March 2023

Payments authorised:

Invoice date	Payee	Description	Amount
28/02/2023	K Larsson	Clerk Salary - Feb	£175.00
31/03/2023	K Larsson	Clerk Salary - Mar	£175.00
28/02/2023	K Larsson	Clerk Admin Expenses	£19.18
08/01/2023	Zurich Municipal	Annual Insurance Renewal	£257.60

Additional payments made since Jan meeting:

Invoice date	Payee	Description	Amount
03/02/2023	K Larsson	Clerk Salary - Jan	£175.00