

MINUTES OF THE ISLE ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2nd MARCH 2022 AT 7.30pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Cllr Habberfield welcomed Liz Lockley as our new Parish Councillor and hoped that she would stay a member for many years.

PRESENT: Cllrs Habberfield (Chair), Bradshaw, Lockley, Richards, the Clerk , CC Adam Dance and 10 member of the public.

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** None
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None
- 3. The MINUTES of the last meeting held on Wednesday, 5th January 2022 and the Extraordinary meeting held virtually on Wednesday, 26th January 2022 were approved as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.**
- 4. MATTERS ARISING.** a) Broadband. Cllr Bradshaw had made no progress with Airband and the views were that the update for faster Broadband would not be in fibre. b) Replacement Clerk. The Clerk reported that there had been 2 applicants. Two Councillors plus the Clerk had interviewed one of the applicants on Tuesday afternoon with the other being interviewed Friday morning. Council approved that whoever was the preferred candidate chosen by the interview panel should be offered the position. c) Resignation of Councillor + Co-option. Bob Pix, after giving years of wise counsel, resigned on the 18th February 2022 and Councillors thanked him for his contributions during his term of office. The Clerk had instigated the due process for a replacement Councillor and should have a response from the SSDC Elections Officer on the 9th March advising that we have to have a by-election or we can go ahead and co-opt. It was approved by Council that if we were able to co-opt, then the Clerk approach Tony Paterson for the office of a Parish Councillor. Regarding the possibility of increasing the number of Councillors from 5 to 7, the Clerk had studied the Government Guidance and the submission by Yeovilton Parish Council for increasing their number of Councillors. He had come to the conclusion, that at present, we would be hard pressed to make a case for Isle Abbots. The details concerning this had been sent to existing Councillors and those who had expressed an interest in becoming members of the Parish Council in May.
- 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.** CC Adam Dance gave an update on matters concerning the formation of the unitary council and the problems he could foresee in the future. He confirmed that it was his intention to stand as a County Councillor in the forthcoming elections. A member of the public raised the issue concerning an orange glow that appears in the sky early mornings and evenings. The Clerk with the Chairman had visited Bradon Fruit Farm where they were assured that the

glow would seriously diminish when screening was in place, which had been delayed in transit. Another member of the public raised an issue concerning the position of the Parish notice board which at present is housed in the bus shelter. It was decided that this matter would be deferred to the new Council in May.

6. **PLANNING DECISIONS.** 21/03410/FUL. Erection of 3 dwellings etc, on land adjacent to Thimble Hall – Refused. 21/03722/S73A. Removal of Condition 4 (agricultural tie) at Stoneford Farmhouse – Granted.
7. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS.** None.
8. **ROADS.** The Clerk had reported various potholes and road damage around the village. Some have been repaired. The Clerk to progress further a particular defect he had reported, but Highways had rejected.
9. **FOOTPATHS (AH).** Cllr Habberfield had nothing to report.
10. **FLOODING(AH).** Cllr Habberfield asked Cllr Richards to update Council on ditch clearance. Cllr Richards had walked the complete route to the River Isle and in conjunction with Geoff Colenso, would speak to all the landowners concerned, which had been carried out. A programme for works had been drawn up. Council plus members of the public wished it to be recorded that thanks should be given to Cllr Richards for his excellent work in clearing the ditches around Cox's Pit and Geoff Colenso for the loan of his mini digger.
11. **FINANCE.** Cllr Bradshaw produced the financial statement up to 02/03/22 which was approved. Current a/c £202.09. Deposit a/c £4,588.30.Total £4,790.39. Payments: Clerk – printing supplies £62.33: Zurich Ins £257.60: Village Hall rent £60.00: Clerk's Salary £99.20: HMRC £24.80. £500.00 had been transferred from deposit a/c to current a/c.
12. **REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.** The formation of Local Community Networks meeting scheduled for the 23rd February had been postponed until after the May elections. Parish, Town and Unitary Council elections date is 5th May. The present Parish Council retires 4 days after election day ie. Monday 9th May with the new Parish Council coming into office the same day. At present, we have 5 persons who are interested or wish to continue on the Parish Council. If this number stays the same, the election will be uncontested. Nomination packs are now available. The Clerk has to deposit these at SSDC by Tuesday, 5th April. The statement of persons nominated, will be published on the 6th April.
13. **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA.** 1) Parish notice board. 2) Replacement Clerk.
14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** Wednesday, 11th May 2022 in Village Hall. 1) Annual Parish Council Meeting @ 7pm. 2) Parish Council Meeting @ 7.30pm. 3) Annual Parish Meeting @ 8.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Before dispersal, the Clerk brought to the attention of all the people in the hall that this was Tony Habberfield's last Parish Council meeting and felt that it was appropriate for all to thank him for his 46 years of loyal service on the Parish Council, which included 25 years as Chairman. The Clerk continued by saying there were many people in the village, past and present, who were greatly appreciative of his help and kindness during his time in office. However, a minority tended to forget that the position of Chairman and Councillor is voluntary and that Tony had been a well respected figurehead for the Parish and community.

' On behalf of past and present Councillors, plus members of the village, please accept this small gift as a token of our appreciation and we wish you all the best for the future'.

Tony duly replied and thanked everyone for their good wishes.

Signed.....

Date.....

Isle Abbotts Parish Council

Income, Expenditure & Balances as at 02/03/2022

Current account activity since 05/01/2022	Credit	Debit	Balance
Opening Balance			£206.02
31-Jan-22 From Reserves TFR	500		
31-Jan-22 Clerk Printing Supplies		62.33	
31-Jan-22 Zurich Insurance		257.60	
18-Feb-22 Village Hall Rent		60.00	
01-Mar-22 HMRC		24.80	
01-Mar-22 Clerk Salary		99.20	
Current balance			£202.09
Deposit account activity since 05/01/2022			
Opening Balance			£5,088.22
09-Jan-22 INTEREST (GROSS)	0.04		
29-Jan-22 To Current		500	
09-Feb-22 INTEREST (GROSS)	0.04		
			£4,588.30
Total			£4,790.39