

**PARISH OF ABBOTS LEIGH**  
**Meeting of Abbots Leigh Parish Council**  
Held in the John Butler Room of the Village Hall, Church Road  
**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.30 pm**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Cllrs Talbot-Ponsonby, Ho Marris, Walker, Delany, Das,  
**Apologies:** N Rice (Clerk)

Matt Richards, new resident from Manor Lane was present.

1 Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

- None

2 Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024

- The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October, previously circulated, were signed as a true record.  
**Action Clerk.**

3 Matters arising

- None except those covered under following items

4 Planning

**Applications:-**

None

**Approvals/Refusals/Withdrawn:-**

24/ P/ 1132/ AOC	Clifton College Sports Club Abbots Leigh Road Abbots Leigh BS8 3QD	Request to discharge condition numbers 5 (LEMP and Bemp) 16( bicycle parking) and 23 (community use agreement) on application 22/ P/ 2 030 FUL <b>APPROVE</b>
23/P/2527/FUH	Mere Green Glen Avenue Abbots Leigh BS8 3SD	Proposed refurbishment of existing detached house to include:- Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a replacement new single storey kitchen-dining room extension. Dormer roof extensions at first floor level to enlarge and improve bedroom accommodation with 2no. dormers to the front (South-West) elevation and 1no. large box dormer to the rear (North-East) elevation. Partial demolition of existing garage and erection of a new flank wall and new pitched roof over the garage to create 1no. bedroom within the roofspace, solar panel array to the rear roof and other minor internal and external alterations. <b>AWAITING DECISION.</b>
24/P/0227/FUL	Land Adjoining, Leigh Warren Bungalows, Abbots leigh Road BS8 3QD	Proposed creation of new vehicular access from Abbots Leigh Road. <b>REFUSE.</b>
24/P/1911/FUL	Roots Allotments Land Off Abbots Leigh Road BS8 3QB	Retrospective application for the siting of a storage container, the installation of 2 no. CCTV cameras, installation of 4 no. solar panels, and the formation of an access and access track involving the laying of a gravel hardstanding <b>TBC</b>
24/P/1999/ADV	Roots Allotments Land Off Abbots Leigh Road BS8 3QB	Retrospective Advertisement Consent for the placement of 1no. non-illuminated Sign <b>TBC</b>

Other Planning Matters

Applications 24/P/1911/FUL and 24/P/1999/ADV for Roots allotments had been agreed at previous meeting, letter of objection based upon legal advice available from lawyer employed by local residents was agreed by email by councillors on 4<sup>th</sup> November and submitted  
23/P/2527/FUH, Mere Green ,Glen Avenue. JHM had discussed this case with the planners as to it is taking so long to resolve and will follow up to find out what no decision has yet been reached. **Action JHM**

## 5. Ward Councillor's Report

- NSC Budget, £20m deficit reduced to £12m and there remained significant budget pressure with all Directorates being subject to spending panels and hiring freezes. We need to be prepared for slower services and cuts to services.
- Fair Deal for North Somerset Petition. NSC has created a petition for residents to sign which asks that the Government provide a fair settlement to allow NSC to continue to provide essential services. If NSC had followed council tax rates of neighboring councils over the years it would have £50m more income per year. It was agreed that the Parish Council would sign up to the petition. JHM to draft response for Clerk to send. **Action JHM/Clerk**
- Local Plan. No update yet.
- Fostering and Children's Social Care. NSC is seeking foster carers, they currently have around 100. The alternative is that children in care need to be sent to residential care homes, often far from their family, friends and support networks, and in NSC there are 11 children with complex needs whose care costs exceed £400,000 per year. JHM will include this in The Link.

## 6. Neighbourhood Plan Implementation

Awaiting the new local plan

## 7. Financial

- Approval of Accounts for Payment for November 2024 – The updated accounts for payment for November 2024 have been circulated. MW proposed approval, RD seconded. Agreed. **Action Clerk**

## 8. Village Matters

### I. **Police Report** – 1 Burglary reported

### II. **Village Hall -**

- a. Solar Panels – The planning application has for prior approval for the installation of Solar panels on the roof of the Village reference 24/P/1764/SJA has been approved.
- b. The REPF grant for £13,325 has been confirmed
- c. An invoice has been requested and sent to PS renewables for their £10k grant
- d. The structural survey report has been received
- e. After email agreement with councillors on Roland Bell Electrical Contractors were awarded the contract for £20,825 for installation of 32 Solar Panels and inverter, Tesla Powerwall 2.0 battery system and scaffold, on 27<sup>th</sup> October based on the lowest quote dated 5<sup>th</sup> August. G99 power export application submitted to National Grid.
- f. A further quote for connecting the caretakers flat supply to the hall supply with additional sub meters for the flat and the hall has been requested. Covered by grant. **Action STP**
- g. REPF grant team require details of before and after community engagement surveys. **Action JHM/STP.**
- h. New Electricity supplier– letters to be sent to various suppliers for the best price available for a new contract with variable tariffs to enable batteries to be charged with off peak electricity. Difficulty getting a response. **Action Clerk/MW.**
- i. Septic tank has been emptied and there was a fault with the motor discovered. Andersons have been instructed to fix it. Still awaiting a date from Andersons for this to be fixed. **Action STP**
- j. Koala Tree Care–Koala have been instructed on the hedge cutting work down to 6' and plan to do the work by the end of November
- k. Meeting to be held between Clerk, Caretaker and STP to explore ways of getting supplies to ease on expenses claims and other Village Hall admin matters. **Action STP/Clerk**
- l. Abbots Leigh Artists have agreed a preferential rate to be able to use the Village Hall for North Somerset Arts week in May,
- m. Hall charges. Once we finalise what the true running costs of the Village Hall will be we will be able to consider running costs. There will be large savings in electricity costs, but the standing charge has increased from 25p per day to £1.50/day. It was agreed to defer the decision until the system is up and running, hopefully by the beginning of the year.
- n. A replacement glass washer has been sourced by the caretaker for £600 and should be in place by the end of the week

### III. **Former Skittle Alley** – Nothing to report.

### IV. **Traffic Issues & Footpaths**

- a. KD had reported the damage to highway opposite Orchard Lodge at junction of Manor Road and Weir Lane on NSC website.

- b. STP is getting a price and sketch for possible brackets to support the canopy of Leigh Bank which obstructs the footway and once this has been received will approach the landowner. **Action STP**
- c. STP to investigate payment from Clifton College to NSC to improve the cycleway at the exit of the sports ground and also find out when CCS will carry out the improvement works agreed inside the site. **Action STP**
- d. Fixed SID – RD has applied for funding towards the purchase of a permanent SID (Speed Indicator Device) from the Tarmac Landfill Communities Fund as we are within 7-mile radius of a Tarmac site. Waiting to hear back from them. **Action KD & RD**
- e. Community Speedwatch. A meeting was held on 23 October with Steph McKenna, Chief Inspector with Avon and Somerset Police with overall responsibility for with the Police Community Speedwatch to discuss various matters.
- f. The Community Speedwatch Team will be standing down during December, but hoping to start again in the New Year. Oliver Delany is relinquishing his role as Co-ordinator and CSW team are looking for a replacement.
- g. Play Street – After the trial in August JHM is still awaiting further information. Action JHM
- h. Request to be submitted to NSC to include with 6 monthly TRO review for the extension of Double yellow lines by 22 metres on the left side of Manor Road to enable cars to turn off A369 and also for 7 metres on right hand side opposite Applehaze, where there is a restriction in the width of the road. **Action STP**

#### V. Verges –

- a. The Community Payback Team will be coming back on 23<sup>rd</sup> November to continue clearing the footway between Church Road and Home Farm Road. STP will be meeting Hannah Elmi and Gary Tester of the probation Service on 12<sup>th</sup> November to discuss possible site safety issues. Once that has been completed there are several other footways and cycle ways that would benefit from having the edges scarped back to recover the full width of the paths. **Action STP**
- b. David Smith has done the annual verge cut of the A 369 in places, additional cutting of boundaries on Manor Road as well as the verges and Manor Lane verges.
- c. The situation with regards to the tipped over timber bollards needs to be resolved, and then we can consider putting an access to Poundbatch only sign of the first timber bollard. **Action STP**

#### VI. Playing Fields & Events –

- a. The annual inspection report of the play equipment had identified a number of maintenance items that need attention. Quote for repairs still required from JB Sport and Leisure. **Action Clerk/STP**
- a. Fireworks and Bonfire – The Civic Society held a very successful fireworks event on 5<sup>th</sup> November and the site has been fully tidied and reseeded. The PC will need to see the insurance cover. **Action Clerk/STP**

#### VII. Abbots Pool –

- a. Nothing to report.

#### 9 Civic Society

As reported the CS are congratulated for holding a very successful firework display for the village.

The CS are looking for a new Chair as Mel King is moving away from the area.

#### 10 Communications

Nothing additional to report

#### 11 Clerk's Report

Nic is back on light duties to ensure that her recovery continues to progress well.

#### 12 AOB

- No further suggestion have been made to support NSC cutback other than more verge and boundary cutting back has been carried out along the highway verges in the parish.
- Book swap – It was agreed that this initiative should initially be followed through by the pub/café
- Jenna referred to the Climate and Nature Emergency, pointing out that the carbon footprint calculated for residents of Abbots Leigh is 21.3 tonnes per household per annum, presumably because there is no gas for heating. This was following Bristol's Centre for Sustainable Energy Impact Calculator (see [Impact | Community carbon calculator](#)). Under the REFP Grant, we are required to do a before and after survey of the village about their perceptions of the Village Hall and this would be a good opportunity to include a question about what energy efficiency measure residents have, which might change the CSE results. **Action JHM**

- Jenna reported that Pill & EiG PC are carrying out a disaster planning exercise and we could learn from their experience and consider carrying out a similar exercise, for example, where there is serious storm/ flooding leading to loss of electricity and Internet.
- Abbots Leigh Charities. MW had chaired the AL charities meeting before the Parish Council meeting. RD has taken over as chair. We are looking for a new trustee or two as Steve Livings, Mike Crabtree, John Butler and John Walke have now retired

13 Next Meeting - 9<sup>th</sup> December

The draft precept will be discussed at the next meeting, MW will meet with the Clerk to draft the figures. **Action Clerk/MW**

STP -12<sup>th</sup> November 2024