

ABBOTS LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
Held at Village Hall, Abbots Leigh on Monday 09th February 2026 at 7.00pm

MINUTES

Present: Councillors S Talbot-Ponsonby (Chair), R Delany, J Ho Marris , M Walker.

Parish Clerk Nicola Rice

Public Participation – Sarah and Chris Wright who expressed concern about the fact that the NSC verge alongside their field boundary between the George and Harris Lane had not been maintained. Delay is caused by trying to establish the responsibility of a cable which appear to be BT on the surface which could be damaged.

12/26 To note the absence of councillors at the meeting.

K Das (Vice Chair),

13/26 To accept declarations of interest in accordance with the Adopted Code of Conduct September 2024.

There were no declarations of interest.

14/26 To approve the minutes of the council meeting held on Monday 12th January 2026.

It was resolved to approve the minutes.

The Chairman signed the minutes as being a true record of the meeting.

15/26 Planning, New Applications:

None

Approvals/Refusals/Withdrawn: -

25/P/2447/FUH	11 Church Road Abbots Leigh BS8 3QP	Demolition of existing single storey side extension pitched roof and proposed erection of a new first floor side extension above with pitched roof and rear dormer. Replacement of existing rear loft dormer and demolition of
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		existing rear first floor terrace and erection of a new single storey rear extension. Alterations to front driveway, and improvements to front and rear landscaping. <i>Approved</i>
25/P/2307/EA1	Land West Of Pill Road Abbots	Formal Screening Opinion request to determine as to whether proposed development is EIA development. Works Proposed: Residential development of up to 100no. dwellings and a 72-bed care home as well as associated access, landscaping and other works. THIS IS NOT A PLANNING APPLICATION. <i>Registered.</i>
25/P/2375/CRA	Kingcott Farm Beggar Bush Lane BS8 3TF	Application to determine if prior approval is required for the change of use of 3no. existing barns into office accommodation (Use Class E) <i>Registered.</i>
25/P/2007/FUL	Denny House Pill Road Abbots Leigh BS8 3QY	Conversion and extension to create 3no dwelling units including associated works. <i>Registered.</i>

22/P/2502/FUL Land adjacent to 7 Church Road, Abbots Leigh. The contractor constructing the foundations for the new build had started a 50m³ concrete pour at 6pm which continued until 1am. The PC had written to the enforcement team because they were not following the approved Construction Management Plan. The NSC enforcement officer had threatened the contractor with an enforcement notice, but withdrew it after assurances from the contractor, and will monitor very closely. The PC had expressed concern that they would continue to ignore such concerns.

16/26 Local Plan – Nothing to report.

17/26 To consider the approval and payment of the following monthly invoices.

Any invoices received after the publication of the agenda will also be considered.

Invoice date	Supplier	Description	Amount £	VAT £	Total £
None	Nicola Rice	Clerk's salary	612.04	0	612.04
None	Mick Dillon	Caretakers salary	850.00	0	850.00
None	HMRC	PAYE – Quarter 1. Due April 26		0	
30.12.25	Clerks Expenses	Printing	4.80	0	4.80

	M Dillon	Expense		0	
04.02.2026	J M Pepito	VH Deposit refund	50.00	0	50.00
02.02.2026	Hallmaster	Booking License	232.50	46.50	279.00
29.01.2026	GB Sports	Playaround Inspection	30.00	6.00	36.00
14.01.2026	ALCA	Walker & Das Training	35.00	0	35.00
03.02.2026	K Weeks	Dog Bins - January 26	55.00	0	55.00

It was resolved to approve the payments.

18/26 To receive the North Somerset Councillor report.

Pill Local Plan- no update, NSC is on target to submit to the Planning Inspector in March. Budget- no update, NSC is still waiting to hear back from the results of its application for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) to raise council tax above the statutory limit of 4.99%. Pill Library has successfully been recommended option B, but still awaiting approval from the Cabinet on Wednesday 11 February, followed by Council on 24 February. Many thanks to colleagues and residents who gave feedback in the consultation. Road closure on the A369, between the George Pub to Martcombe Road/ Pill Road junction for the Ash dieback, 2nd – 11th March, 9.15am until 15.00pm which avoids disrupting school hours. Speed Indicator Device (SID) update- NSC confirms that they are preparing at service level agreement that they can sign with parish councils, it is for street lights and also SIDs which would be managed by the same team. They are also working on the wording of a new policy to allow parish council funded permanent SIDs. We are invited to propose where we would want the SID(s) to be located and also any preferred model. Grey Belt- the Planning team are applying the new NPPF which designates some Green Belt as Grey Belt. Until the Local Plan is passed, NSC does not have a 5-year land supply which (together with a number of other considerations) opens a window for some local Green Belt to be considered Grey Belt. This is worrying and I have asked for Planning to explain this to Town and Parish Councils. Congratulations to our Parish Clerk for obtaining her CiLCA qualifications after many months of study. It was announced nationally, and we only became aware of it after the meeting, that several newspapers were reporting that NSC has been permitted to raise council tax by 9% (the same level as Worcestershire), and that its SEND debt is being written off.

19/26 To discuss village matters

Police Report – 1 Burglary reported in December

Village Hall – Electricity costs have increased by 60% for day rate to 48p per day and the unit rate has increase by 25% to 30.2p per unit. After 9 months usage the estimated Electricity Costs for the hall this year ex VAT are £2335 with an income ex VAT of £2562 which includes Tenants contribution of £1446 and export payments of £1117. For the record Imported electricity is estimated to be 7614 kWh, solar generated exported electricity 6972 kWh, total solar generated electricity 13047 kWh (95% of the total electricity used) Total electricity used 13689 kWh. The trip switch on the storage battery still needs sorting out, Action STP to chase the Electrical contractors, Roland Bell.

Former Skittle Alley – A mutually agreed rent increase of 7.43% for the additional rental space, representing an increase of £350.

Traffic Issues & Footpaths – No updates.

Verges – Community Payback had a successful session in Pill last week. This weekend, they will return to clear Abbots Leigh. We are planning to hold our annual litter pick on Sunday 22nd March 2026.

Playing Fields & Events - Nothing to report.

Abbots Pool - Nothing to report.

Civic Society - Nothing to report.

20/26 To receive the Chair's report.

Congratulations, to Nicola, our clerk, for passing her CiLCA

21/26 To receive Clerk's report.

The clerk has sent out training online courses to all councillors to complete.

22/26 To consider items for the next meeting agenda.

None.

23/26 The council is recommended to resolve that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following agenda item by reason of the confidential nature of the items of business to be transacted, in accordance with section 1(2) of the public bodies (admission to meetings) act 1980.

There were no members of the press and public at the meeting.

24/26 To consider and review the Clerk's salary following completion of CiLCA.

It was resolved that the Clerk's salary would be increased in accordance with the terms of her contract, and that she would notify payroll of the change.

The meeting closed at 20.13pm.

End of minutes.