

ABBOTS LEIGH PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
Held at Village Hall, Abbots Leigh on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7.00pm

MINUTES

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

Parish Clerk Nicola Rice

Public Participation Verity Dad was in attendance

01/26 To note the absence of councillors at the meeting.

There were no absences to note.

02/26 To accept declarations of interest in accordance with the Adopted Code of Conduct September 2024.

There were no declarations of interest.

03/26 To approve the minutes of the council meeting held on Monday 08<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

It was resolved to approve the minutes.

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

04/26 Planning, New Applications:

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 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>No comment.</i>
25/P/2595/FUL	Land West Of Weir Lane	Proposed academy golf facility and creation of irrigation ponds – This is for Wraxall & Failand PC but we wish to comment.

		Object. The importation of 326,135 tonnes of fill resulting in an average of one 8-wheeler lorry movement every six minutes on Weir Lane which is a single track road with a 4 tonne weight limit would make the road unusable for two years for all of the pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders who use the road. The environmental impact on the local water courses with drain into the Abbots Pool Local Nature Reserve would have a disastrous effect on the local wildlife including the thousands of toads which breed in the ponds.
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## Approvals/Refusals/Withdrawn: -

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 Beggan 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/2280/LDE	Grangewood House Manor Road BS8 3RP	Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of land as residential curtilage associated with Grangewood House. <i>Approve (Lawful).</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>
25/P/1971/AOC	Roots Allotments Abbots Leigh Road Abbots Leigh	Request to discharge condition 18 (Landscaping Scheme) from application 24/P/1911/FUL. <i>Approve (discharge condition)(RDC)</i>
25/P/1739/AOC	Roots Allotments Abbots Leigh Road	Request to discharge conditions 8 (CCTV Posts), 9 (Entrance Gate), 12 (Vehicular Access Surfacing), 13 (Horse Box Removed), 14 (Solar Panels)

		Removed), 21 (Tree Protection Plan) and 22 (Remedial Works) from application 24/P/1911/FUL. Approve (discharge condition)(RDC)
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05/26 Local Plan – Nothing to report.

06/26 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	612.24	0	612.24
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	5.55	0	5.55
	M Dillon	Expense	0	0	0
06.01.2026	K Parsons	VH Deposit refund	50.00	0	50.00
02.01.2026	K & E Property	Bins	44.00	0	44.00
22.12.2025	GB Sports	Playground Inspection	30.00	6.00	36.00
06.01.2026	I Jama	VH cancellation	300.00	0	300.00
12.01.26	Art Group	VH Hire refunds	702.00	0	702.00

It was resolved to approve the payments.

To agree the Precept demand for the 2026/2027 financial year

It was resolved to apply for a Precept of £35000.

07/26 To receive the North Somerset Councillor report.

Regarding Libraries there is nothing new to report. Consultation should be out by the end of January with the decision by early February.

NSC has to set a balanced budget every year. They only find out how much they get from Government (provisional settlement) usually a week before Christmas. Last summer, the Government's Fair Funding Review suggested NSC would have a reduction of £17m over 3 years, to correct for historic imbalances. This proposal would be a significant budget cut, so NSC applied for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) to give them some flexibility over finances including how much council tax it charges and if it is allowed to sell its assets for income. NSC has been told the provisional settlement, which is £18.6m LESS over three years- worse than the £17m initially proposed. The way it is being reported is confusing. The Government has said that they are increasing real-terms funding to NSC. But the Government's calculations assume that every council's Band D council tax rates are £2,061. In fact, NSC's average Band D council tax is only £1,794. That's Government assuming that NSC gets 14.9% more council tax than it actually does then deciding the settlement. By law, councils cannot increase council tax by more than 5% each year. If they wanted to, they would have to have a referendum, or ask for Government approval under EFS. NSC won't hear the result of the EFS application until late Feb 2026. As a result, NSC has pushed back full council to decide the budget to 24 February.

I would like to welcome new Bridge Master of Clifton Suspension Bridge, Tristan Ralph, and also the new Vicar, Reverend Rosemary Radcliffe of the United Parish of Leigh Woods with Abbots Leigh.

08/26 To discuss village matters

Police Report – No crime reported for October and November 2025.

Village Hall – EON

Former Skittle Alley – The Council was advised of proposals from Fit Tank regarding taking over the council retained store room so that they can use it for spin classes. It was agreed in principle as it enhances the offering for the benefit of the parish. The Fit Tank should be charged an increase in rent in proportion to the increase in area rented. The Council will review various storage options to store the spare chairs, art display boards and long ladder elsewhere, including the shed opposite the entrance to the caretakers flat.

**Action** STP to agree terms with the Fit Tank

Traffic Issues & Footpaths - Minor works have been carried out at Clifton Sports Ground, outside the pub, and at Leigh Bank, including Cycleway edge markings r outside the pub and replacement of "SLOW" markings and a new junction warning sign approaching Denny View Road. There were no further updates to report on SIDs. The new Library electric vehicle has been put into use. The Parish has welcomed a new Bridgemaster, Tristan Ralph, and a formal welcome letter will be sent.

Verges - David Smith has cut all verges except the one opposite Harris Lane, due to a possible telecom "Blue Cable"; confirmation is awaited. Trees in the A369 highway verges between Sandy Lane and The George are scheduled to be cut, but no date has yet been confirmed.

Playing Fields & Events - Nothing to report.

Abbots Pool - Large trees need to be felled and one tree fallen into the pool needs to be removed.

Civic Society -

09/26 To receive the Chair's report.

Reported former Councillor Murray Stewart's passing and a tribute will be published in the Link magazine. The Reverend Rosemary Radcliffe will be inducted as the new vicar with the chair formally welcoming her on behalf of the Parish Council at the service.

10/26 To receive Clerk's report.

The Parish Clerk discussed clearing files and documents from the Resource Centre and the possibility of arranging a courier to transfer them to Somerset House in Taunton. A discussion was also held regarding training opportunities for Councillors, in line with Assertion 10.

11/26 To consider items for the next meeting agenda.

The meeting closed at 20.25 pm.

End of minutes.