

ABBOTSBURY PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly

held at Strangways Hall on Monday 11th March 2024

Present: Cllr K Donnelly (KD), Cllr L Dalley (LD), Cllr Mark Hardway (MH) and 4 members of the public.

In attendance: Mrs M Harding (Clerk) and Ward Cllr Mark Roberts.

Apologies: Cllr G Roper (GR)

- 1. Welcome and Housekeeping**-KD welcomed all to the meeting.
- 2. To Elect a Chair for Abbotsbury Parish** - Cllr Kevin Donnelly was nominated and agreed to stand as Chair for Abbotsbury Parish. This was proposed by LD and seconded by MH and agreed by all at the meeting.
- 3. Parish Elections 2024 update- Your Council Needs You!**
KD announced that Graham Roper will not be standing for re-election, necessitating the search for a new candidate for Abbotsbury. Graham was thanked for his dedicated service to the community. Nomination forms for prospective candidates were made available at the meeting, and the Clerk would submit completed forms to the Dorset Council offices on March 19th on behalf of councillors. Alternatively, candidates could submit their forms directly by April 4th.

KD also noted changes resulting from the recent community governance review, which determined the number of councillors per parish: Abbotsbury x 4, Fleet x 2, Langton Herring x 2, and an increase of 1 councillor for Portesham x 7. This allocation is based on the number of electors per councillor, as decided by Dorset Council.

- 4. The minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2023** - It was agreed that the minutes were an accurate record.
- 5. Matters arising from the minutes-**
A resident raised concerns regarding the potential implementation of a 20mph speed limit in the village and questioned why the village did not meet the necessary criteria. KD elaborated that for such a limit to be effective, it must be enforceable by the police, and evidence, such as speed surveys and community speed watch initiatives, needs to be gathered to support an application for the 20mph limit. It was explained that despite advertising the need for volunteers in the Chesil magazine, during PC meetings, and on social media, no volunteers had come forward. It was unanimously agreed to re-advertise the need for volunteers to initiate a Community Speed Watch (CSW) team in Abbotsbury, specifically in the Chesil magazine. Additionally, concerns were raised regarding vehicles mounting the pavement on West Street. It was decided to report this issue to the highways authority and request the installation of bollards.

Consideration of Speed Reduction- Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of reducing the speed limit to 20mph. However, concerns were raised regarding the potential emissions pollution and the feasibility of enforcement. After deliberation, it was agreed that enforcing a 30mph speed limit would be more practical and effective in addressing the issue.

During the parish meeting, a resident raised concerns about the progress of installing Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points in the village. It was explained that the Parish Council (PC) had been contacted about a Dorset Council initiative to install EV charging points in villages. Following this,

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discussions with Ilchester Estate took place as it was identified as the only suitable car park in the village. However, further follow-up with Heritage England is needed since the car park is a protected site. Abbotsbury Councillors were asked with taking the lead on this initiative.

6. **Public discussion period- Your issues** -The grit bin by the Church needs to be replaced as it is being used as a dog poo bin and the broken bin on the road to the Gardens needs to be removed.
7. **Millenium project update- Bus Shelter** – The Millennium project update regarding the Bus Shelter was discussed during the meeting. MH reported that plans have been supplied by the group leading the project. The next steps involve applying for planning permission, with funds from the Parish Council (PC) reserves, particularly from the Hamper raffle, allocated for paying the planning fees. There is already £1000 in reserves for the bus shelter, and an additional £4000 was agreed by the PC, contingent upon match funding being sought by the Millennium/Bus Shelter group. Some residents raised questions about the necessity of a bus shelter and inquired about the members of the bus shelter group. It was agreed that this information would be shared with the village by the working group responsible for the project. LD highlighted the longstanding desire for a bus shelter in the village, particularly in the location opposite the Swan Inn on land owned by Ilchester Estate. This project has been discussed in previous community groups and is now being led as a Millennium project.
8. **Highways & Rights of Way issues** – During the meeting, councillors discussed the repair work being undertaken in Dorchester, noting that the B3157 road also requires attention. LD reported that yellow lines and a roundabout on Burton Road have been repainted, and repair work is scheduled for Bishops Road. Additionally, there is significant shingle accumulation on Burton Road due to sea erosion, and culverts along the road need clearing to prevent flooding.
9. **Recreation** –
 - a. **Abbotsbury Recreation Ground Play area and Abbotsbury** – Regular inspections of the recreation ground have revealed mole issues and the need for replacement of dog fouling signs. Grass cutting is ongoing, but there are also rotten fence rails that need replacing, which LD will inspect, and the contractor will be tasked with the necessary work.

The treasurer of Chesil Bank Preschool inquired about placing an advertisement or sign for the preschool on the Abbotsbury recreation gate, with the request that the Parish Council cover the cost. It was clarified that such a decision would require approval from the full Council. The preschool was advised to submit a formal request, which would be added to the agenda for consideration along with quotes.
 - b. **Chesil Recreation Ground** – KD provided an update on the proposals for the Chesil Recreation Ground, indicating that plans and costs are being compiled to upgrade the site. This initiative was prompted by issues with the lease at the Glebe play area in Portesham. A plan was made available for viewing during the meeting. Additionally, it was mentioned that the pavilion project has been postponed for the time being.
10. **Date of next meeting** – The next meeting will be held in June 2024.
11. **Close and refreshments**- meeting closed at 19.50 and refreshments served.