

Abbots Ripton Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting
22nd May 2018
Minutes

Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22nd May 2018 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Present:) Cllr Geoff Richardson(Chairman) Cllr John Hemsley, Cllr John Leaver (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Steve Brown, Cllr David Brennan, Cllr Colin Miller Mrs. Angela Papworth (Clerk);

There were no Members of the public in attendance:

AP1/18. Apologies for Absence

The Clerk had received apologies from Cllr Rogers (County Cllr) & Cllr Bywater (District Cllr).
Abbots Ripton School, Abbots Ripton Village Hall Committee, the Fishing & Gardening Clubs
& the Church.

AP2/18. Financial Report

The Financial Officer was pleased to report that the unaudited End of Year Accounts &
Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2017/18 otherwise known as the (AGAR)
have been completed and are ready for approval by Members at the Council meeting to be
held on the 22nd May 2018. Once approved they will be sent to the internal auditor for audit.
The approved documents and the completed internal auditors report along with the Notice of
Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return
will be on public display from 2nd July 2018.

The uncommitted balance of £32,870.79 in the general fund is slightly less than last year's
balance but is considered more than adequate for current financial commitments of the Parish
Council.

The underspent LHI & Highways budget of £1,000 was transferred from the general fund into
a holding account ready for when the work commences.

The Village Hall refurb Solar Reserve Account holds £20,000 and the School Activities for
the village community Solar Reserve holds £700.00.

The Bank Balances of the Parish Council to be brought forward as at the 31st March 2018
were £54,570.79

Full details of the Council's financial accounts 2017/18 can be viewed after the 2nd July 2018
by contacting the Clerk on abbotsriptonclerk@gmail.com

AP3/18. Chairman's Report to include the Year's Activities

The parish council has met approximately every six to eight weeks during the last year
dealing with, the financial position of the council and having its balances verified at every
meeting. Other items that are discussed on a regular basis are Health and Safety issues
surrounding assets that are owned by the Parish Council, plus any Police matters that have
come to our attention since the previous meeting.

We continue to make recommendations to the District Council on all planning applications.

SGP

We continue to attend meetings at the District council with regards to traffic movements, noise control and general licensing advice for the secret garden party.

We continue to attend regular meetings together with other Parishes to discuss the development by Urban and Civic on the Alconbury Weald development,

During the last year we have started to consider the contents of the Parish Plan and to this end made an application under the LHI initiative for grant funding to help pay for new set of speed reduction indicators together with a plan to extend the speed restrictions around the village, and I am pleased to say we were successful in our bid

Last year I reported that the b1090 would be closed for 3 months for carriageway repairs however this has not taken place, but we are informed that it is likely to take place in the summer of 2018

We have held talks with network rail over the closure of the crossing in Rectory lane and held joint meetings with Wood Walton Parish Council regarding the issues that are likely to occur when the east coast main line is increased to four tracks to alleviate the disruption to the residents to as little as is necessary

As reported last year Victoria Pryce had resigned due to commitments elsewhere and we are very grateful to her for continuing in the role until we were able to appoint a new clerk, Angela Papworth This has allowed a smooth transition and we thank both for the excellent job they have done for us in the current year.

We also had the resignation of Robert Pickard and Chris Wilkinson during the year and these were replaced by Colin Miller and Steve Brown after extensive advertising of the posts. In May we had Parish and District council elections and I am pleased to say that all the Parish Council were returned without an Election.

Our District Councillor for many years Robin Howe stood down at the recent election and we are now part of the Sawtry Ward where Dick Tuplin and Simon Bywater were elected to represent us, and we look forward to working with them in the coming years.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for the work they have done over the last year, plus our county and District Councillors for their assistance

AP4/18. Report from Cambridgeshire County & South Cambs District Councils

The following report was provided by County Councillor Terry Rogers

Cambridgeshire County Council at their Annual Meeting last Tuesday selected Alconbury Weald as the base for their new headquarters. The major contentious issue was the question of transportation in comparison to the other candidate Northstowe. However, this was outweighed by build timing, outright land purchase compared to leasehold and the fact that the Mayoral Combined Authority staff already worked from the site. This move will save the County over £40M in the long term. The new Headquarters will only need to accommodate around 320 officers, as by completion the change in the delivery of service to the Hub and Spoke model will have taken effect. In the future personnel will be integrated into the public domain and not ensconced within the large edifice of Shire Hall. As to Shire Hall it is the Council's intention to lease it to a developer, possibly for conversion into a hotel.

Following the bad winter, the Council policy towards pot holes has been updated. Firstly, may I state that as soon as you see a pot hole developing report it as soon as possible and keep on reporting it until action is taken. In future pot holes will be scored as to their severity and marked and recorded accordingly. Those that have yellow lines around their perimeter will be filled within 5 or 21 days. Those with white lines could take up to 2 months. Deep severe pot holes will be cold-filled as

soon as possible and then repaired in due course. All pot holes should be cut out rather than just filling the existing hole. In addition, the Council has invested in 2 more Dragon Slayers bringing the total up to three. These machines can repair up to 120 pot holes in a day.

Talking of highways, the local highway improvement funding scheme for FY 19/20 has just been announced and applications must be in by 31st July 2018.

With regards to the budget the Council still has to find a further £100M pounds in savings over the next few years, so austerity is still with us. Finding this sum is going to prove difficult especially as the cost of Child and Adult Care is significantly rising. Government funding is decreasing, and the Council will have to look further afield to generate income. Hence commerce and investment will come to the forefront.

Finally, the Council has adopted a new policy with regards to the use of plastic in both the local environment and throughout the County. Everyone will be asked the question to do you really need to use plastic and if so have you thought as to its disposal.

AP5/18. Reports from Huntingdon District Council

The Clerk advised that no reports had been received.

AP6/18. Reports from village groups

See attached

AP7/18 Questions from the Public Open Forum;

There were no public present.

Meeting Closed 7.30