

**Abbots Ripton Parish Council**  
**Annual Parish Meeting**  
**7<sup>th</sup> May 2019**  
**Minutes**

Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 7th May 2019 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Present:) Cllr Geoff Richardson (Chairman) Cllr John Leaver (Vice Chairman), Cllr David Brennan, Cllr Colin Miller, Cllr Terry Rogers (County), Mrs. Angela Papworth (Clerk);

There was one Member of the public in attendance:

**AP1/19. Apologies for Absence**

The Clerk had received apologies from Cllr Brown, Cllr Hemsley, Cllr Simon Bywater (County), Cllr Richard Tuplin (District Cllr), Abbots Ripton School, the Fishing & Gardening Clubs & the Church.

**AP2/19. Financial Report**

The Financial Officer was pleased to report that the unaudited End of Year Accounts & Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2018/19 otherwise known as the (AGAR) had been completed and were ready for approval by Members at the Council meeting to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019 following this meeting. 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 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

The uncommitted balance of £24,757.13 in the general fund is approx. £8,000 less than last year's balance but is considered more than adequate for current financial commitments of the Parish Council.

The Bank Balances of the Parish Council to be brought forward as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 are £55,257.13. The balances are made up as follows: -

General Fund 24,757.13, £20,000 in the village hall refurb solar account and £10,500 in various other holding accounts i.e. Highways & LHI Scheme, Elections, Village Defibrillator, Alconbury & Parish Plan associated works.

Full details of the Council's financial accounts 2018/19 can be viewed after the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 by contacting the Clerk on [abbotsriptonclerk@gmail.com](mailto:abbotsriptonclerk@gmail.com)

**AP3/19. 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

### **We out there**

Cllrs have attended meetings at the District Council with regards to traffic movements, noise control and general licensing advice for the proposed 4-day music festival which will be taking place in August.

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

The PC have made further representations from the Parish Plan and to this end made an application under the LHI initiative for grant funding to help pay for a new set of speed reduction indicators in Wennington. The Chairman was pleased to advise that the PC had been successful in its bid. However there has been a hold up of the implementation of the system in Abbots Ripton, which has been caused by the notices that have to be published to extend the speed limit. The PC are now awaiting confirmation from the contractors of when the work might start.

The PC have also progressed in the provision of a defibrillator in the village. Enquiries are being made with BT on the possible use of the village telephone box to house this. Funds have been earmarked for this, and as soon as the PC obtain possession of the telephone box this will proceed.

Last year and the year before the PC Chairman reported that the b1090 would be closed for 3 months for carriageway repairs however this has not taken place. The PC have been informed that it is likely to take place in the summer of 2019 and the PC are hoping to get confirmation of this prior to the meeting.

As you will have appreciated that in recent weeks the crossing of the railway in Rectory Lane has been closed and an alternative Bridleway put in to replace it. The Chairman reminded Members that the roadway to Home Farm from the railway is a permissive right of way if the alternative road becomes difficult for wheeled traffic in the winter.

The Chairman advised Members that the PC have been very well supported by the County and District Councillors throughout the year and he would like to express the Parish Council's thanks for their assistance,

Also, the Chairman thanked the Clerk for the excellent job she had done in the last year in difficult circumstances.

Finally, the Chairman thanked his fellow Councillors for the work they had done over the last year,

### **AP4/19. Report from Cambridgeshire County & District Councillor**

The following report was provided by Councillor Simon Bywater

As another financial year comes to an end, I thought it was timely to give you a brief overview of what has been, for me a very busy year. Most of you will have seen me around the ward tackling local issues that affect residents, such as pot holes, dangerous trees, road signs, fly tipping, liaising with Highways officers and assisting in the Local Highway initiatives. I have spent many hours with residents and community groups helping to address concerns and anxieties over large scale planning applications in Sawtry, Stilton, Holme and the 2x Crematoriums in Kings Ripton. I have attended many HDC District Planning committee meetings raising concerns over the impacts on our communities and in particular infrastructure pressures. I will continue to support Parish Councils and communities during this complex and very often frustrating process.

I have worked tirelessly to help many local residents with a variety of issues that are important to them which includes health and social care issues, housing worries, school places, school transport, special education needs care plan support and some very complex disputes involving a wide variety of agencies from Police, Environment Agency, Fire Service

Planning and the Health and Safety Executive. One such issue has taken me to the highest level of Government and was duly supported by our MP Shailesh Vara for which I and the residents are very grateful.

My County & District Councillor colleagues, Cllr Rogers, Cllr Criswell, Cllr Tim Alban, Cllr Marge Beuttell and Cllr Dick Tuplin have supported me with many issues this year and continue to work for their communities, for which I am very grateful.

At Cambridgeshire County Council as an elected member I hold additional roles and responsibilities.

**Chairman of the Children and Young Peoples Committee (CYP).**

This is by far my biggest commitment at the County Council, for which I was selected for by Full Council. It is a role I am very passionate about and take extremely seriously. It is a statutory and County wide responsibility for Children's Social Services and Local Authority Education services. This involves meeting a wide variety of partners and stakeholders to ensure the CC are doing their very best for all young people in Cambridgeshire.

You can see the work we have been doing in the committee here:

[https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/ccc\\_live/Committees/tabid/62/ctl/ViewCMIS\\_CommitteeDetails/mid/381/id/4/Default.aspx](https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/ccc_live/Committees/tabid/62/ctl/ViewCMIS_CommitteeDetails/mid/381/id/4/Default.aspx)

During the past 12 months the CYP committee has looked at and made a huge number of decisions relating to policy and strategy. One such complex item was the way CCC delivers Children's Social Care known as the Change for Children Programme, developed in order to address some long-standing challenges in delivering children's social care services in Cambridgeshire. Children's Social care is very expensive but also vital to those children requiring help. The change to a district-based model was implemented in December 2018. A recent Ofsted report of children's Social Care found Cambridgeshire to have "good leadership" but agreed that we required improvement in other areas which we had previously identified as part of the change programme. Following this report, and due to some great work by our officers, the Department for Education has awarded Trailblazer status to Cambridgeshire County Council. This will allow us to implement the Family Safeguarding model, which will allow us to share in a significant amount of additional funding to help us to implement the approach. This is fantastic news for the Council, our staff and, most importantly for our most vulnerable children and young people. (See more details here)

<https://www.fenews.co.uk/press-releases/28085-new-84-million-project-to-strengthen-families-and-safely-reduce-the-number-of-children-entering-care?fbclid=IwAR1gtpK9031Xc-IJ-VppV-1LqopsLFoA8AGA2C9GxeAKODCNN7MoCJM1HaU>

**Board member on Shared Services education Board**

This board looks at how we can work more effectively and collaboratively in education with Peterborough City Council and thus recommend improvements & savings where appropriate.

**Lead member on The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board (CPSCB)**

This is the key statutory body overseeing arrangements for safeguarding children and young people across the county

<https://www.peterboroughlscb.org.uk/children-board>

### **A Member of Cambridgeshire Fire Authority**

The Fire Authority is Responsible for delivering a fire and rescue service to the 805,000 people of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

<http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk/about-us.aspx>

### **Committee Member HDC Overview and Scrutiny Committee- Customers and Partnerships**

This is where I get the chance to monitor the performance of the Leader and Cabinet and scrutinize services and policies throughout the district and makes recommendations for improvement. More info here

<http://applications.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListMeetings.aspx?Cid=10234&Year>

Finally, without the commitment of parish councillors it would be impossible for the local issues that are important to us all get done. I really do appreciate this knowledge and support and on behalf of everyone in our community I wholeheartedly thank you.

County Cllr Terry Rogers advised Members that the Combined Authority had published its 10-year report looking at proposed projects for transforming Cambridge. The projects include a new bridge between Huntingdon and Cambridge, 6-9,000 houses at Wyton, a cross city cycle route increasing cycle routes in the area and a Cambridge Metro costing in the region of 4 billion pounds.

Transport investment plan are looking at schemes to improve transport.

3 Dragon Slayers are working to repair 120 pot holes a day.

1<sup>st</sup> April the County Council introduced a street lighting attachment policy, however this will not affect Abbots Ripton/Wennington as the street lights are not County Council owned.

The County Council are looking to lease out the old Shire Hall building at a 1.3M net income.

### **AP5/19. Reports from Huntingdon District Council**

The Clerk advised that no other reports had been received.

### **AP6/18. Reports from village groups**

Reports were received from the Village Hall committee, The Cricket Club, the School Council, the fishing club and the church. See hard copies of the reports attached to these minutes.

### **AP7/18 Questions from the Public Open Forum;**

There were no questions from the public.

**Meeting Closed 7.35**