

ABBOTS RIPTON PARISH COUNCIL

EXTRA ORDINARY SOLAR FARM FUNDING 2019 MEETING

**A MEETING OF ABBOTS RIPTON PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD on the 30th October 2019 at
Grange Farm, ABBOTS RIPTON at 7pm.**

MINUTES

01/11/19

Present: Cllr Miller (Chair), Cllr Brown, Cllr Hemsley, Cllr Brennan.
Angela Papworth (Clerk)

EOM01/19 To receive and approve apologies for absence:
No apologies received

EOM02/19 To receive declarations of interest:
No declarations received

EOM03/19 To consider and agree Solar Farm Grant Fund bid applications 2019.

The meeting was held for Members to consider & agree grant applications and ideas received from Parishioners and Voluntary Organisations regarding the remaining £20,000 Solar Farm grant fund.

The Committee were reminded that this was initially granted in 2015 to the Village Hall & Cricket Club towards a joint refurbishment project.

In June 2019 the Parish Council received a letter from the Village Hall committee retracting their original submission due to the total investment required to complete this project would be unachievable. They advised they would be submitting a new realistic proposal for the funding.

Cllrs agreed at a full council meeting held on the 16th July 2019 (min 08/07/19) that a new bid should be made available for redistribution and that the remaining grant fund of £20,000 should be distributed within the best interests of the Parish and its population. Parishioners were made aware of the new grant bid invitation via a poster on the village noticeboards, the PC website, a Facebook link and the Little Ran magazine; the closing date for receipt of bids was 1st October 2019.

Bids were received from the Village Hall Committee, the Cricket Club, The Post Office/Village Store, the Fishing Club, the St Andrew's Church and STARS (Support Team for Abbots Ripton School). Ideas were received from Parishioners.

The Parish Council Committee looked at each application to establish if it met the legal criteria, if it was a Capital or Operational request, would the funding benefit a broad cross section of Parishioner, is the project well costed and credible to be delivered if a grant is approved and to consider partial & multiple applications.

The Committee agreed that it would be more beneficial to the village if the grant was approved for Capital projects as opposed to running/operational costs.

The Parish Council Committee were unable to approve any grant funding to the Church as per the 1894 Local Government Act.

“The Powers in the 1894 Local Government Act prohibit Council’s involvement in property relating to the affairs of the church e.g. the maintenance or improvement of buildings or land or contributing to the costs”.

The Parish Council Committee were unable to approve a grant to the Post Office/ Village Stores as it did not meet the grants policy criteria due to it being a business and not a voluntary organisation.

The Parish Council Committee agreed not to allocate funds to STARS as they had previously been allocated £5,000 from the original grant fund and the Events the grant was applied for are not a capital investment.

There were ideas received from Parishioners for outdoor furniture/picnic benches for the village. The PC were already aware of this as it was one of the proposals in the Parish Plan.

The Committee discussed in length each grant application and considered the benefits for the village and its Parishioners, two options were proposed: -

Option 1

£16,500 Village Hall

£ 3,500 to set aside for picnic benches in the village.

Option 2

£14,800 Village Hall

£ 700 Fishing Club

£ 1,000 Cricket Club

£ 3,500 to set aside for picnic benches in the village.

The Parish Council Committee approved Option 2 by a majority vote. It set conditions for the village hall refurb grant and agreed the PC would need to know which capital projects the grant money would pay for and would need copies of all receipts/invoices of the expenditure showing an audit trail.

The PC would also need an estimated timescale and timeline of the allocated projects. The conditions set for the Fishing Club were to provide proof of purchase of the fish, and the Cricket Club conditions were to advise the PC of the equipment it would be purchasing and produce copies of receipts /invoices for the total expenditure.

It was **Resolved** that the remaining £20,000 Solar farm grant money should be redistributed as per Option 2 and the conditions set.

Please see below the list of grant applications received for your information.

Name of applicant	Amount applied for	Breakdown of Project	Amount Approved	Comments
Village Hall Committee Refurbishment & Energy Reduction Project	£20,000	Kitchen£15,000 Men's & Ladies Toilets £4,000 Lighting £800 Air Conditioning £8,000	£14,800	This proposed project is a realistic project and is achievable together with the approved grant and raised funds.
Cricket Club	£11,666	30kg cricket square grass seed, 5 tonnes of Broughton County loam, hire of turf aerator £1,293 Non turf pitch £8,394 3.6x10.8 Mobile Net£1,480 8x6 security shed £499	£1,000	£500 for the shed and remaining £500 towards equipment
Village Stores	£3,600	Outdoor Furniture & new purpose Illuminated sign	Not approved	As the village store is a business it does not meet the grant policy criteria
Fishing Club	£983	Restocking Brookland Lake with 500 small bream £700 Water improvements, Tonne of chalk £283	£700	The club is keen to get children interested in the fishing sport and to keep them interested they need to catch fish, by restocking the lake will help ensure they catch fish.
STARS (Support Team for Abbots Ripton School)	£4,000	Each event £500 Wreath making Pantomime Christmas Fair Easter Floristry Course Cream teas Outdoor Cinema Well-being event Summer Fair	Not approved	Stars received £5,000 grant from the original Solar farm fund. These events are operational and not capital investment.
St Andrews Church	Any donation	Install new digital electronic bell ringing system£10,000	Not approved	The Powers in the 1894 Local Government Act prohibit council's involvement in property relating to the affairs of the church e.g. the maintenance or improvement of buildings or land or contributing to the costs.
Single Parishioner Proposal (Idea)	No cost specified	Community Garden Improvements		This is in the Parish Plan and the PC are looking at this as part of that. It was approved to set aside £3500 for picnic benches to be installed in the village

Single Parishioner Proposal (Idea)	No cost specified	School Car Park	Not approved	This falls under the school remit.
Single Parishioner Proposal (Idea)	No cost specified	Outdoor furniture		This is in the Parish Plan and the PC are looking at this as part of that. It was approved to set aside £3500 for picnic benches to be installed in the village

Close of Meeting 9.15pm