

ABBOTS RIPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes 1st March 2022

A Meeting of Abbots Ripton Parish Council was held on 1st March 2022 at 19.15pm in Abbots Ripton Village Hall.

Present: Cllr G Richardson (chairman), Cllr S Brown, Cllr C Miller, Cllr S Bywater (District) , Cllr R Martin (Standing for District Cllr in May elections), Cllr S Corney (County)

Emily Pacey – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Abbots Ripton Parish Council.

03/03/2022

- 01/03/22** **To receive declarations of interest.**
Cllr C Miller – Matters pertaining to the Estate.
- 02/03/22** **To receive and approve apologies for absence.**
Cllr J Leaver & Cllr J Hemsley sent their apologies.
- 03/03/22** **Public Participation.**
No members of the public joined the meeting.
- 04/03/22** **Reports from County and District Councillors.**
- There has been a rise in Council Tax for the financial year 2022-2023.
 - Cllr Corney advised he has been in touch with Urban and Civic and the Environmental Agency regarding flooding and he advised there is still no update on flooding.
 - Cllr Bywater advised Huntingdon District Council's precept budget has had a 3% increase. He also advised HDC have advised there will be no cuts on staffing for the next financial year.
 - Online hate crimes have risen in the last year.
 - A draft paper on Committee Areas meeting will be published in March 2022. Cllr Bywater advised he will be opposing this as he fears it will be an un fair balance on the smaller PC's.
 - Cllr Miller raised his concerns regarding the ponds on Alconbury Weald. He advised there is significant regrowth in the ponds and only a 1/3 of the ponds are being cleared. Cllr Corney advised he will look into this.
 - Cllr Bywater advised he will look into setting up again Neighbourhood Meetings after the May elections.
- 05/03/22** **To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th January 2022.**
All were in favour and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th January 2022.

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06/03/22 Financial Officers Report.

Appended is a budgetary control statement for the Revenue (Precept) Account as at 22/02/2022 showing expenditure of £12,947.72 and income of £11,419.57 (includes a full year's precept income) compared with budgets, along with a bank reconciliation statement and a summary statement of reserves and funds balances.

It was **Resolved** that the Financial Officers report was approved, and **All** were in Favour.

07/03/22 To approve accounts for payment.

Payee	Description	Total
Havenpower	Energy Charges - January 2022	£66.50
Clerk	Payroll - January 2022	£323.56
Clerk	Payroll - February 2022	£323.56
Clerk	Stationery reimbursement	£48.30
Zen Internet Ltd	Annual charge	£98.24
AR Farming Company Ltd	Lawn Feed	£23.97
Total		£884.13

It was **Resolved** that the above payments were approved to be paid, and **All** were in Favour.

08/03/22 Planning Application Update.

21/01167/S73 – 2 Rectory Farm Close, Abbots Ripton – this planning application is still going through the appeal process.

<https://publicaccess.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/online-applications/>

09/03/22 Financial Review.

[1] The purpose of this report is to review the Council's financial activities, as required to be undertaken annually under the Financial Regulations Clause 1.5, prior to approving the Annual Governance Statement and in preparation for the 2021/22 audit.

[2] Financial Regulations

As part of the Financial Review & the Councils Standing Orders, the Financial Regulations are required to be reviewed from time to time and when necessary.

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The current Financial Regulations for the Council were approved with amendments at the full council meeting held on 26th February 2019 (Min No 08/02/19) adopting Capalc/Nalc's most recently updated financial regulations.

It was **Resolved** that the Financial Regulations was approved, and **All** were in Favour

[3] Insurances

The Financial Officer obtained a best value quotation from Zurich Municipal. The insurance runs from 1st October 2021 -30th September 2022. Payment of £167.44 was approved by Members at the full council meeting held on the 24th August 2021. (Min 07/08/21).

It was **Resolved** that the Insurance was approved, and **All** were in Favour

[4] Internal Controls

As part of the Financial review the Internal Controls are reviewed and approved every year before approval of the Annual Governance Statement. Members' are reminded of the Council's Financial Regulations & Standing Orders and its contents therein.

It was **Resolved** that the Internal Controls were approved, and **All** were in Favour

[5] Internal Audit

Under current regulations, an annual review of effectiveness of internal audit is no longer required. It is, however, still necessary to re-appoint an Internal Auditor annually. The current Auditors are called Evolve Accountancy. They have confirmed they would be willing to carry out the internal audit for 2021/22 at a cost of £75.00 + vat.

It is recommended that Members approve engagement of Evolve Accountancy to carry out the 2021/22 audit.

It was **Resolved** that Evolve Accountancy would carry out the internal audit for 2021/22 , and **All** were in Favour.

10/03/22

Queens Platinum Jubilee.

The Queens Green Canopy - The parish council are arranging for 105 trees to be planted in the Village. The planting of the trees should take place in November 2022. The parish council are hoping for the school children of Abbots Ripton to be apart of this and more details will follow in the up coming months.

11/03/22

Correspondence and Communications.

- **Elections** – Elections for the District & Parish / Town Councils are being held on 5th May 2022. The clerk advised members they will need to fill in the nominations forms and deliver these forms by hand to the Council Office in St Mary's Street, Huntingdon. These forms can be delivered from Monday 28th March – Tuesday 5th April 2022.
For more information on the elections please visit - <https://huntingdonshire.gov.uk/elections/upcoming-elections/>
- **We Out Here 2022 Festival** – The We Out Here Festival 2022 will take place from the 25th – 28th August 2022 at Grange Farm. A zoom meeting will be held on 13th April at 11:30am to present and discuss plans for the festival. Cllr Brown, Cllr Richardson & Cllr Miller are hoping to attend this meeting.

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- **Alconbury Weald No Construction Access Signage** – An email had been received from Rachel Arnold (Urban & Civic) advising it has been proposed to allow additional No Construction access to Alconbury Weald signage to be installed at Clay Lane and Rectory Lane (to the North of Alconbury Weald.) Members of the PC support this proposal.
- **Local Highways Improvement 2022/2023** – Cllr S Brown will be attending the panel meeting that is being held on 2nd March 2022.
- **Local Highways Improvement 2020/2021** – Members of the council asked for an update regarding the weight limit in Abbots Ripton village. The clerk advised she will email Karen Lunn (Project Engineer) for an update.

12/03/22 Health and Safety Update.

A Health & Safety report was completed on the 23rd January 2022. – the following items were reported:

- Salt bin in Wennington opposite empty. What 3 words (W3W) location <https://w3w.co/trades.steer.songbirds>
- Salt bin at Post Office beyond useful condition. It is full of salt but is dire need of replacement. W3W <https://w3w.co/shine.liver.forgives>
- Anglian Water pump in Wennington requires fence repair. W3W just <https://w3w.co/just.cabbies.tricky>
- Road surface in Wennington unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists and requires resurfacing. W3W <https://w3w.co/rejoiced.overture.bongo>
- 7.5t limit Road Sign deteriorated and no longer has red circle visible. Sign need replacing W3W <https://w3w.co/foreheads.dialect.cage>
- Same problem with same sign at W3W <https://w3w.co/dinner.undivided.pirate>
- S bend sign twisted and ineffectual at W3W <https://w3w.co/curiosity.thumbnail.eats> . Needs repair to straighten the two posts used.
- Pothole in at entrance of Moat Lane road near The Elm pub needs filling. W3W <https://w3w.co/unfounded.bunny.grocers>
- Pothole down Moat Lane W3W <https://w3w.co/figure.accordion.status>
- Road condition has undulations and many areas of broken pavement that are not safe for pedestrians, cyclists or cars on Wennington Road. W3W <https://w3w.co/resurgent.lake.bleach> to <https://w3w.co/nametag.fuses.steadier>

The clerk advised members these issues have been reported to Huntingdon District Council.

13/03/22 Proposed 2022 dates for Parish Council meetings.
5th April, 10th May, 28th June, 2nd August, 13th September, 8th November.

14/03/22 Items for next agenda.

CLOSE OF MEETING – 20:00