

MINUTES OF THE ISLE ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2024 AT 7.30pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs Lockley, Richards, Westworth, Vaun Davis and Hillman, Somerset Council Cllr Dance, the Clerk, and 5 members of the public.

24/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Somerset Council Cllr Roundell Greene.

24/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

24/3 MINUTES: Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th November were approved as a correct record and duly signed by the Chair.

24/4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

Cllr Lockley updated the Council and members of the parish who were in attendance to advise that Dave Bradshaw has after a number of years, decided to step back from his role as Webmaster for Isle Abbots. Cllr Andy Hillman has agreed to take over the role moving forward. The Council wished to record their thanks to Dave for the time he has dedicated to undertaking this role.

Residents raised concern regarding flooding which has occurred 3 times in the preceding three weeks.

Cllr Lockley commented that she continues to work with Highways on the issues. Grips from the bus shelter to Chapel Road have been cleared. In addition the Council are arranging letters to landowners in relation to riparian responsibilities.

Condition of the roads around Steamalong was raised including cars grounding due to rutting along Steamalong, this will be raised with Highways.

Comment was made regarding smell of gas at Steamalong, which Cllr Richards commented has been communicated and is under investigation to resolve.

Cllr Dance commented on the well-publicised financial crisis at Somerset Council. He advised the decision to issue a section 114 notice will be down to a single officer at Somerset Council to make. He noted that services such as Council funded pools and recreation would no doubt experience cuts should a notice be issued. There are a variety of cost saving measures already undertaken and many more proposed, which will be considered in February.

24/5 FINANCE.

a. The council approved the financial statements up to 31/12/23.

b. The council approved the list payments requiring authorisation, which is annexed at the end of the minutes.

c. The Clerk presented proposed budget figures, based on previous costs and estimates for the upcoming financial year. In addition, provisions for a contingency for loss of services currently provided by Somerset Council were considered. The Council expect services which are affected to be in relation to highways works such as verge cutting and frequency of drain/gulley clearing. As the provision of services from Somerset Council remains uncertain, Councillors agreed to allocate a general contingency fund for such services, noting that if under control of the Parish Council, these funds could be focussed on the areas needed most, such as drain and gully clearance.

Having reviewed the budget, including the estimated costs and recommended levels of reserves, Councillors agreed unanimously to set the precept at £9,248 for 2024/25.

24/6 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

There were no applications to consider.

Details of planning applications in the parish can now be found on the Isle Abbots website:

<https://www.isle-abbotts.org.uk/planning> This links directly to the Somerset Council planning portal.

24/7 INSURANCE RENEWAL: The Clerk recommended continuing with the current provider at their offered renewal of £257.60. Councillors agreed unanimously to the renewal.

24/8 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS (LCN) (LVD): Cllr Vaun Davis reported that the last LCN meeting was around 8 weeks ago and mostly focused on the financial crisis. There was a Police representative from Somerton, which is not Isle Abbots area as the parish sits just over the border. A resident has expressed an interest in the Active Travel working group and Cllr Vaun Davis understands the first Wellbeing working group meeting has been held. The next LCN meeting is Monday 13th January.

- 24/9 ROADS (LL): Cllr Lockley reported that while pothole filling had been progressing, the recent rain has lifted some of those repairs and suspects upcoming frosts will likely cause further damage. Cllr Lockley commented that contractors had attended Woodlands Lane to attend to the road surface, but following a confrontation with residents, left the site without carrying out the works. Potholes and other road issues should continue to be reported on the Somerset Council online reporting tool to ensure they can be attended to as promptly as possible. <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/>
- 24/10 FOOTPATHS (AR): Cllr Richards reported that due to the weather there hasn't been any progress with planned works. It was noted that the footpath behind Pitts Cottage floods – it is hopes that this will be addressed as part of the letters to landowners regarding riparian responsibilities. Any issues on footpaths/rights of way should be reported using the Explore Somerset interactive map which also shows any existing open issues. <https://roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map>
- 24/11 FLOODING(TW). No additional information to report.
- 24/12 VILLAGE HALL (AH): Cllr Hillman advised that the hasn't been a meeting yet, but expects this to be in February now. He will provide an update at the next parish council meeting.
- 24/13 REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE: Nothing to report.
- 24/14 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA: Highway Steward.
- 24/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING. Next Ordinary Meeting - Wednesday 13th March 2024 in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.43pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

ANNEX. 1 - PAYMENTS

Isle Abbots Parish Council

Payments authorised - January 2024			
Invoice date	Payee	Description	Amount
31/12/2023	K Larsson/HMRC	Clerk Salary & PAYE - December	£ 175.00
31/12/2023	K Larsson	Admin exps.	£ 6.60
31/01/2023	K Larsson	Clerk Salary & PAYE - January	£ 175.00
14/08/2023	Ilton Parish Council	Clerk Audit Training (% of total)	£ 8.75