

MINUTES OF THE ISLE ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024 AT 7.30pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL

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

24/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Richards; Somerset Council Cllr Dance.

24/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

24/18 MINUTES: Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were approved as a correct record and duly signed by the Chair.

24/19 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME & SOMERSET COUNCIL COUNCILLOR REPORT:

A resident queried whether letters to landowners with riparian responsibilities had been sent. It was confirmed that these had been agreed to be sent out in March and the letters have been written and were being hand delivered or posted as appropriate.

A question was raised regarding further discussions of how the precept will be spent for the next financial year. Cllr Lockley advised that this will continue to be reviewed as changes to Somerset Council services become clear.

Cllr Roundell Green reported that there has been a letter circulated regarding the Highways provision from Somerset Council outlining the changes to the service over the next 2 years. She advised that cost saving and capitalisation measures have meant the budget for 2024-25 has been balanced but future financial years are still uncertain. Cllr Roundell Green commented that the build of TATA Steel's new factory at the Gravity Business Park will not only create an estimated 4000 jobs in the area but also generate additional business rates income. She also advised that the A358 dualling scheme is currently not going ahead.

24/20 FINANCE.

a. FINANCIAL STATEMENT: The council approved the statement up to 29/02/24.

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

c. INTERNAL AUDIT: The Clerk recommended Mrs Morley who undertook the annual internal audit for the previous financial year. Councillors agreed unanimously to appoint Mrs Susan Morley as the internal auditor.

24/21 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.

24/22 HIGHWAY STEWARD: The Council considered the provisions on offer from both Somerset Highways (Kier) and Ilminster Town Council. Noting that Ilminster Town Council's potential scope of services was wider and likely more suited to requirements in Isle Abbots, Councillors agreed to submit a non-committal note of interest in their scheme.

24/23 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS (LCN) (LVD): Cllr Vaun Davis reported that the next LCN meeting has been delayed to the 25<sup>th</sup> March to allow the scheduled Highways Working Group to take place. This is being held on the 21<sup>st</sup> March. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

24/24 ROADS (LL): Cllr Lockley commented that the rain has undone much of the pot hole filling that had taken place and that while progress is being made with repairs, it is slow. She advised that Woodlands Lane has been closed for re-surfacing, with a resident commenting that the work has been done very well and it is in the best condition they have seen for many years. Drains on Woodlands Lane also need to be jetted but highways are waiting until the Badbury ditch is cleared before undertaking this work.

Residents are encouraged to continue reporting potholes and other road issues 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/>

- 24/25 FOOTPATHS (AR): There was no report due to Cllr Richards absence, but it is expected that the recent weather has affected progress of any ongoing matters.  
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>
- 24/26 FLOODING(TW). Cllr Westworth advised that ditches from Steamalong to the river will shortly be cleared.
- 24/27 VILLAGE HALL (AH): Cllr Hillman reported he attended the VH Committee meeting last month. A decision was taken not to supply childrens pads for the defibrillator as nobody is trained to use the equipment on children.
- 24/28 REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE:  
Cllr Hillman advised that he is happy to continue acting as the Webmaster for the Parish Council website and wished to note thanks to those who have supported and helped him refresh the site.  
It was noted that communications have been received from Wessex Internet who are in the process of liaising with landowners for installation works for fibre broadband. It is understood it is expected to be available in approximately June of this year.
- 24/29 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA: Dedicated Councillor email addresses; Fibre broadband update
- 24/30 DATE OF UPCOMING MEETINGS. Annual Parish Meeting followed immediately by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

ANNEX. 1 - PAYMENTS

Invoice date	Payee	Description	Amount
13/03/2024	K Larsson/HMRC	Clerk Salary & PAYE - February	£ 175.00
13/03/2024	K Larsson	Admin exps (stamps, printing, phone, DSE, stationery)	£ 26.28
31/03/2024	K Larsson/HMRC	Clerk Salary & PAYE - March	£ 175.00
05/03/2024	Zurich Insurance	Insurance Policy Renewal	£ 257.60
24/01/2024	TEEC	Website planning tracker	£ 28.80