

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ISLE ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 8TH JANUARY 2025 AT 7.30pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL

25/1 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Present: Cllrs Lockley, Richards, Westworth, Vaun Davis and Hillman; the Clerk
Apologies: None

25/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

25/3 MINUTES: RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 13th November 2024 were a correct record and duly signed by the Chair.

25/4 FINANCE.

- a. FINANCIAL STATEMENT: RESOLVED to approve the financial statement to 31/12/24.
- b. PAYMENTS: RESOLVED to approve the list of payments which are annexed at the end of the minutes.
- c. BUDGET: The Clerk had circulated a draft budget in advance of the meeting, based on final forecast for the current financial year and estimates of expenditure for the upcoming financial year. The Council are expecting reactive services to be affected in relation to some highways works, frequency of drain/gulley clearing, and rights of way maintenance. The provision of services from Somerset Council remains uncertain and Councillors agreed it was necessary to maintain a general contingency fund for the potential loss of services. Considering these factors, the council RESOLVED to approve the 2025-26 budget, which is annexed at the end of the minutes.
- d. PRECEPT: Considering the agreed budget, the council RESOLVED to set the precept for 2025-26 at £9,525; an increase of 3%, equating to £2.18 per year on a band D property.

25/5 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- a. 24/02206/FUL: Ashford Old Tractor House Ashford Lane Isle Abbots TA19 9ED - Erection of general purpose agricultural barn.
RESOLVED to submit a response of No Objection, on the basis that the structure is used only for the purposes defined within the application.
- b. 24/03017/TCA: 2 Church Street Isle Abbots TA3 6RJ - Notification of intent to Fell No. 1 Tree within a Conservation Area.
The council had no comments to make on the application.

Details of planning applications in the parish can be found on the Isle Abbots website: <https://www.isle-abbotts.org.uk/planning> This links directly to the Somerset Council planning portal where the full responses from the parish council can be seen along with decision notices from Somerset Council.

25/6 DITCH MAINTENANCE: Councillors considered how to address issues with ditches that require clearing, and agreed that landowners with riparian responsibilities would be sent a further letter where issues have been identified. If no action is taken to clear the ditches this would be referred to the Lead Local Flood Authority at Somerset Council who are able to take additional action if necessary. The possibility of grants to assist with works was discussed, but it was noted that the council could not undertake works on private land which was not within its ownership and that applications will need to have a community benefit.

25/7 ENHANCED HIGHWAYS SERVICE: No specific requirements were decided, but the service offered by Kier would be investigated as needs were identified and the contingency fund established as part of the budget is available for this purpose.

25/8 COUNCILLOR REPORTS / UPDATES

- a. LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS (LCN): The last meeting was focussed on Health & Wellbeing. There is a Highways working group next week.

- b. ROADS (LL): Condition of the roads continues to be a problem. It was noted that pot holes on Blind Lane were filled after being reported. Issues should continue to be reported directly to Somerset Council so they can assess and repair as quickly as possible. <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/>
- c. FOOTPATHS (AR): No updates to report.
- d. Issues with 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>
- e. FLOODING(TW). Wessex Water are currently monitoring weekly for outflows at present.
- f. VILLAGE HALL (AH): No updates to report. The next meeting is in February.
- g. OTHER MATTERS: None raised.

25/9 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA: Drainage clearance.

25/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 12th March 2025 in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

ANNEX. 1 – PAYMENTS

Invoice date	Payee	Description	Amount
11/12/2024	L Sutcliffe	Batteries for defib	£ 50.00
31/12/2024	K Larsson	Admin Expenses - Print & phone (Nov/Dec)	£ 5.94

ANNEX. 2 – BUDGET 2025-26

ACCOUNT	BUDGET 25/26
CLERKS SALARY	2150
ADMIN COSTS (INCL SOFTWARE)	185
AUDIT	60
VILLAGE HALL RENT	160
VILLAGE WEBSITE	206
INSURANCE	375
SUBSCRIPTIONS & MEMBERSHIPS	100
DONATIONS & GRANTS	250
YOUNG PERSON AWARDS	25
LOCAL WORKS	300
MISCELLANEOUS/CONTINGENCY	400
TRAINING	200
DEFIBRILLATOR (INCL. TRAINING)	250
SOMERSET COUNCIL LOSS OF SERVICES	4837
GRIT BINS	100
DRAIN/GULLEY CLEARANCE	1000
RIGHTS OF WAY MAINTENANCE	
ENHANCED HIGHWAYS SERVICES	
VAT	1470
TOTAL OPERATIONAL COSTS	12068
<u>EARMARKED RESERVES</u>	
CLERK IT EQUIPMENT	100
PROJECTS	
EVENTS	500
Total Reserves/Projects	600