

Abbotsham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Abbotsham Parish Council held on Tuesday 06 December 2016 at 7.30 pm at the Old School Rooms, Abbotsham

1. Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies for absence – Jenna Tolley, Paul Street, Cllr Boyle
- 1.2 Items raised by members of public

2. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda and Minutes

- 2.1 Declarations of interest by Councillors – Martin interest in 8.1
- 2.2 Minutes of previous meeting held on 01 November 2016 – amendments made to minutes
 - 2.2.1.1 Matters arising - none

3. Report by Councillor Robin Julian

4. Report by Councillor Alison Boyle

Cllr Boyle not present but sent the following report:

The first is the formation of the Bideford, Northam and Rural Parishes Area Advisory Group. The initial meeting for this was held on 25th October at Bideford Town Hall.

As you will know this is something on which I have been working for some time and have held meetings with parish councillors at Woolsery. Abbotsham has always been very good at supporting this and I was able to organise a meeting with the Leader of TDC, Councillor Whittaker. There will be four meetings a year of this group, three of which will be located within the Bideford Area with the fourth being located in one of the rural parishes.

The second item concerned the discussions which have recently been held regarding proposed changes in ward and constituency area.

Boundary Commission proposed a reduction in the number of wards in Torridge. As I understand it there would be seven fewer wards, and Kenwith would disappear, with Parkham going to Hartland and Abbotsham and Alwington being placed in the new Monkleigh and Putsford. If the ward sizes were changed to achieve a fairer representation based on number of voters, only four of the original wards would remain unchanged, of which one would have been Kenwith. Torridge District Council voted to stay with its original suggestion of maintaining the number of councillors but adjusting the geographical area of the wards such as Appledore to reduce to one councillor. We are waiting to hear back.

Then, whilst we were trying to understand this, there came the proposal of 'Devonwall'. Devonwall is not a true name but is a term that has been played upon

by the media. A name has not yet been decided but, if this were to happen, I understand that Torridge would become part of a new constituency that followed the coastline down past Bude. I think that this would exclude Torrington. I have seen maps on the computer but these maps cover such large areas it is not easy to understand precisely where the lines come and what the proposals include. For instance would such a large constituency be served by existing district councils, and if so the number of residents would provide one numerical figure but the geographical area to be served would be disproportionate. I feel that rural areas would suffer. The second submission was to the Boundary Commission and advised that full Council does not support the proposal to alter boundaries to include part of Cornwall and remove Torrington. We are also waiting to hear back on this, although the closing date for the consultation was only yesterday.

5. Planning

- 5.1 1/0977/2016/FUL – Retrospective application for retention of camping pitches and amenity block, Westacott Farm Camping Site, Abbotsham – Approved
- 5.2 1/1141/2016/COU – Change of use of shop/post office to residential, 1 Carnbrae, Abbotsham – no objections

6. Clerks Report

- 6.1 TAP funding – Still awaiting response from Alwington Parish Council
- 6.2 County Council Grant - £300 received
- 6.3 Big Sheep Overflow car park – Nick to email dates to clerk
- 6.4 Date of next year's meetings – agreed to be published to website and notice board
- 6.5 Police speed checks – forward email from PCSO Rendle
- 6.6 Kenwith Flood Defence – submit Philips comments to Environment Agency

7. Chairs Report

- 7.1 VIPS/maintenance in the Village – cutting back tree not been done yet. Leaves blocking drains so reported to DCC HW. Pump Lane – loose stones in dry stone wall where there are springs coming out, tidying up needed in future.
- 7.2 Hospital Services – contacted Will Austin to show parish support
- 7.3 Road safety through village – what can be done – maybe chicane on road coming from Westward Ho! Direction. Flashing sign at top of village. Write to highways how much it would cost for flashing speed signs at each end of village. Ask if possible to make 20mph through centre of village
- 7.4 Monitoring development activities in the parish – monitor Ultimate High as progress being made and tree planting. Monitor activity on land behind St Helens
- 7.5 Welcome to village sign- carry forward to next meeting
- 7.6 Reallocation of snow warden areas – revisit original list, include in next agenda

8. Finance

- 8.1 Grant applications –
Request for grant for church from this current year – Nick proposed and Roger seconded that £1000 be given for repairs to window, agreed by Graham
Requests from

Pre school
PCC
Village hall

8.2 Half year accounts – to be included on next agenda

9. Correspondence

9.1 Round Robin Items – email sent

10.0 Any other business

10.1 Roger spoke to David Lomas re flooding of road at Coombe Walter and danger when frosty. David going to look into it.

10. Items raised by Councillors for inclusion on the next agenda