

Abbotsham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Abbotsham Parish Council held on Tuesday 19 January 2021 on Zoom

Present: Councillors Wilson, Mullins, Lilly, Marlow, White, Mrs Tolley, Bone

Cllr T Inch (DCC)

Apologies: Councillor Pennington (TDC)

1. To Register Members New Interests - none

2. Items raised by members of public

Broadband Presentation by Airband High Speed Internet – Tony Watkins, what do we want to achieve from higher speed internet. Services, and Airband milestone history, and then what are the next steps and any questions. Take away questions and come back with the answers.

Questions – Hugh do we have any PIA or fibre in Abbotsham. Tony – yes they are aware, but cant give details on civils team are doing. Internet speed – currently 1.5 will be getting 40mbps to 100mbps. Need to register interest so that details can be sent on when available.

Stephen – is it going to be available outside of the village – yes will be looking at outlying area and if can bring a spine in then they will.

Monthly costs – not available yet, but will be advising nearer the time. Looking around £30 per month.

Won't stop Openreach from serving the village.

Roger – likely date of when it will all come together – within 6 months. Its in the planning stage this quarter.

Hugh – thought Airband was radio wave. Yes do both.

What sort of numbers need to sign up – scheme all ready in plan. Nothing to lose to register interest

Stephen – does it include telephone – Vonage – allows you to retain existing number and then put calls over VOIP. Will email VOIP provider details.

Philip upload speed – 25mbps, then strategy looks to increase that speed

Stephen – is there a limit to data usage. No limit and no increase in charge.

Philip – how do you get fibre into houses – use existing infrastructure that you have. Existing chambers/poles/infrastructure. Survey for individual properties – they will find work around to get it to you and avoid digging up.

365 day ongoing service with a regional office and backup.

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

- 3.1 Declarations of interest by Councillors within agenda – Jenna grant application, Martin - Rose Cottage planning application

- 3.2 Minutes of previous meeting held on 15 December 2020 defer to next meeting
- 3.2.1 Matters arising not covered by Agenda – Philip completed on climate change, Grass high cut been carried out, waiting for invoice

4. Report by Councillor Philip Pennington or Robert Hicks

5. Report by Councillor T Inch

Salt bins – yes all ok

School meals not being up to scratch – national news. DCC have done well and only had one complaint. Giving out £15 a week for caterer food parcel or £15 voucher for parent to purchase food.

Free laptops – if any child learning from home and need device contact the school as they have devices to give out and DCC have them. Any problems go back to Tony Budget decided on 18 February guessing council tax will have to go up again, bad for rural areas as they don't see benefits of it going up. Social services major element of the money. Likely Torridge will follow suit.

DCC elections still going ahead in May at the moment. Difficult for canvassing. May be put back to the Autumn

Hugh – Rotary Club doing good job marshalling the leisure centre. Pothole repaired on link road/Buckleigh Road, why don't they repair more when they were there.

Probably due to red tape, just have to keep complaining

Pothole at Silford Cross keeps getting filled every 3 or 4 weeks, big accident happened and the person is claiming from DCC

6. Planning

- 6.1 1/1197/2020/FUL - Erection of a single storey service centre to provide dining and recreational facilities` 11 for the residents of the existing and proposed Care dwellings, Kenwith Castle, Abbotsham – Hugh – reason they put it in was initially included in the bigger scheme but considered too small to serve all residents. This one will allow 60 people so much better size. Present crisis emphasised that there is no where else to go. This facility be able to be used for restaurant and meeting room. Only concern that any vehicles need accommodate for disabled and motability scooters/buggy. Internally no cupboards for dvds, books etc. Comments – provision of parking for blue badge users and disability buggies – all agreed
- 6.2 1/0002/2021/FUL - Extension to existing garage to create first floor accommodation above, proposed terrace to rear and associated alterations to dwelling, Rose Cottage, Pump Lane, Abbotsham – Philip – in keeping, seems sensible, not increasing footprint, looks in keeping with character with Pump Lane. No objections – all agreed
- 6.3 1/1012/2020/FULM - Change of use of land from agricultural to recreation for the purpose of camping and retrospective works of on site tracks (Additional Information) | The Ultimate Adventure Centre Abbotsham Bideford Devon EX39 5AP - Rationale now provided – all hillside for camping, not for the area that they used previously. Philip thinks you could get 200 – 300 pitches.

Stipulation about number of pitches and the traffic that would generate – advise planning support that we will be discussing it at our next meeting on 23 February

7. Clerks Report

- 7.1 Defibrillators – Jenna completed form to register but needs the serial number. All information is in the cabinet
- 7.2 Highway issues – correspondence circulated from Roger. Meeting with Kieran over the year ago still not been actioned. Hedge cutting by Big Sheep overflow car park not been done but he is doing where he wants to do his own cutting. Gullies not being cleared along the road down by Big Sheep. Approach Kieran again to see if he's had an update. Write to Rick – has he responded to Kieran and express our concerns over the safety issues on the corner
Underground spring runs down to the drain, water there for more than 24 hours – like an ice rink when freezing weather. This was a repaired drain and something needs to be done.
Snow warden – Colin Harris will take it on from Roger
- 7.3 Dog bins – Request for dog bin – Wag Cross to Cornborough to Lake. No dog bin – Abbotsham cliffs to ** no verge along that road, is there an alternative location. Field at junction old Abbotsham station. Right hand bill Moase or at top of Rocky Lane. No problem with PC paying but need to agree siting. Jenna at top of Rocky Lane
- 7.4 Co-option of parish councillor – advertise for co-option

8. Chairs Report

- 8.1 Bus stop swap shop – invoice from Micky
- 8.2 Village hall damage – gone through insurance, window fitted yesterday, just need to block it off in some form, just not certain yet
- 8.3 Rural broadband – dealt with in open session.
- 8.4 VIPS – maintenance around the village – Philip – said Micky suggest 2 sessions a month and if he is given list of jobs – Village maintenance on next agenda and how it can be added to list. Litter picking can be added to list.
- 8.5 Village Grass cutting 2021/2022 – Northam Town Council happy to consider cutting the verges but want the clerk to speak to their maintenance team. She will come back to when she has an update. Steve Harding cuts grass in Woolsery Parish contact clerk to see if he does grass cutting outside area. Verge below village on right hand side privately owned.

9. Finance

- 9.1 Grants
 - 9.1.1 Grants in 2020/21
 - 9.1.2 Grants in 2021/22
- 9.2 Precept 2021/22 – Ready reckoner – if left the same it will result in a decrease of £0.02 on a band D property. Grants not yet given from current years budget or the high cut by Ian Woollacott. Unknown what Northam Town Council will charge. All other expenses will remain the same. Contingency amount will

remain. Hugh proposed that we keep it the same for this next year, Sharon seconded, all agreed.

9.3 Clerk Expenses (Laptop battery and zoom subscriptions)

10. Correspondence

10.1 Round Robin Items – emails sent

11. Any Other Business

Hugh attended meeting on Woodland assessment, good to identify any woodland that needs assessment. Are there any other woodlands in parish, not really any inland. Just doing what Phil suggesting. One mile stretch by quarter mile wide is that woodland – more what is in it. Shamlands/Cornborough. Kenwith area to be looked at first.

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