

**Minutes from the Meeting
held on Thursday 3rd April at 19:00
at The War Memorial Hall, Abbots Ann.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS

	In Attendance	Apologies	Absent
Councillor Jordan		√	
Councillor Howard	√		
Councillor Heather	√		
Councillor Wallis	√		
Councillor Mitchell	√		
Vacancy	-	-	-
Vacancy	-	-	-

Also, IN ATTENDANCE:

Amanda Owen – Clerk, Borough Councillor Flood, County Councillor Drew, Ray Lucas – Abbots Ann Land Trust & no members of the public.

250401	To receive Chairman's opening remarks. Councillor Howard welcomed everyone to the meeting.
250402	To receive and accept apologies for absence. Apologies were RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Councillor Jordan and NOTED from Councillor Hasselmann.
250403	To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests relating to items on this agenda. No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were received.
250404	To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6th March 2025. The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6 th March were signed as a correct record of the meeting. Proposed by Councillor Heather, seconded by Councillor Wallis. This motion was passed on a vote of 3 FOR and 1 ABSTENTION .
250405	To receive updates already published and any further updates provided. Reports can be found at APPENDIX A . Councillor Heather advised that Hampshire Highways have cleaned the drains. Issue along Mill Lane are causing drains along Little Ann Road to require jetting two times a week. Councillor Heather is attending a meeting on 4 th April to discuss. A map has been submitted to Hampshire County Council highlighting pothole locations. Councillor Mitchell advised that she is still in discussion with Councillor Hasselmann with regards to the Cherry Trees. She will update the Parish Council when she has more information. Councillor Wallis advised that the sports pitches have dried out and are now playable. The New Street Robins have asked to start their training on Tuesday & Thursday evenings free of charge due to marking out pitches and grounds maintenance. Thanks were expressed to Benn Russell for the donation of a new padlock to the car park entrance. Councillor Howard ran through the action list and will circulate via the Clerk. Councillor Flood provided an overview of her report. Councillor Drew provided an overview of his report. It was noted Hampshire households facing financial difficulties will continue to receive significant support for the next 12 months as the County Council has secured a new allocation of £12,556,062.75 to sustain its Household Support Fund (HSF) programme. The HCC connect4communities web pages provide information for households seeking help and for organisations looking to deliver support. It was agreed that the Clerk would take action to draw parishioners' attention to the possible support available.
250406	To receive an update from Abbots Ann Community Land Trust. John Barlow from the Abbots Ann Community Land Trust provided the following update:

	<p>“I am pleased to report some progress in relation to the Housing project. Working closely with the Vendor’s agent and their land consultant we have agreed the document which is the invitation to Developer Partners to submit their Tender to acquire the land and build the properties. The Tender invitation has gone to 13 building companies, all in Hampshire or Wiltshire. The Tenders are expected back by early May and the CLT will scrutinise the proposals and take part in the selection process.”</p>																																																
250407	<p>To note the VE Day 80th Anniversary update.</p> <p>Following discussion, the Parish Council agreed they could not organise the event, but would be willing to support the Eagle with the hosting of an event and supporting. It was noted that the Clerk would advise the Chairman so that he could discuss the matter further with the Eagle and if appropriate then apply for the £500 grant available.</p>																																																
250408	<p>To agree the play area design and quote from Sovereign at a cost of £42,032.96.</p> <p>It was AGREED to proceed with option two from Sovereign with the removal of some items, to allow the installation of the quoted fence and subject to a successful CAF grant application.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Heather.</p> <p>All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.</p> <p>It was agreed that Councillor Mitchell would circulate the updated quote once received and that the Clerk would then inform Sovereign that the Parish Council were prepared to proceed with the project, subject to receiving a successful CAF grant from TVBC, and would apply for that CAF Grant.</p>																																																
250409	<p>To consider the Church clock works at a total of £1914.00.</p> <p>It was AGREED that with other Parish Council commitments, the Parish Council could not commit to the suggested works on the Church clock.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor Heather.</p> <p>All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.</p>																																																
250410	<p>To confirm no conflicts of interest with BDO.</p> <p>It was NOTED that there were no conflicts of interest with BDO.</p> <p>Councillor Howard and the Clerk signed the form.</p>																																																
250411	<p>To note the current financial situation and the reconciliation of the bank balance.</p> <p>The current financial situation and the reconciliation of the bank balance were NOTED with the bank balance at 31st March 2025 being £60,418.46. The bank reconciliation can be found as APPENDIX B.</p>																																																
250412	<p>To approve the requests for payments for April.</p> <p>The payments as listed in the table below were APPROVED for payment.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor Heather.</p> <p>All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.</p> <table><tr><th colspan="4">April 2025 Payment Requests</th></tr><tr><th>TO</th><th>FOR</th><th>INVOICE NO</th><th>AMOUNT</th></tr><tr><td>Staff</td><td>Salary</td><td>April</td><td>£1,190.33</td></tr><tr><td>Staff</td><td>Expenses</td><td>March</td><td>£36.15</td></tr><tr><td>Lloyds</td><td>Bank Charge</td><td></td><td>£4.25</td></tr><tr><td>Scandor</td><td>Grounds Maintenance</td><td>Inv 20615</td><td>£852.67</td></tr><tr><td>CPRE</td><td>2025 / 2026 Membership</td><td>11/03/2025</td><td>£60.00</td></tr><tr><td>SSE</td><td>Pavilion Electricity - 04 Dec 24 to 02 March 25</td><td>IV02594471</td><td>£274.45</td></tr><tr><td>Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall</td><td>Hall Hire - Jan - March 2025</td><td>Inv 1599</td><td>£57.00</td></tr><tr><td>Business Stream</td><td>Pavilion Water</td><td></td><td>£45.07</td></tr><tr><td>Mid-Hants Fire Protection</td><td>Fire Extinguisher Servicing</td><td>129/25</td><td>£54.00</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>£2,573.92</td></tr></table> <p>Misgivings were again expressed with regards to the Parish Council being charged for hiring the War Memorial Hall for their meetings. An action was left with the Chairman and Clerk to resolve the matter.</p>	April 2025 Payment Requests				TO	FOR	INVOICE NO	AMOUNT	Staff	Salary	April	£1,190.33	Staff	Expenses	March	£36.15	Lloyds	Bank Charge		£4.25	Scandor	Grounds Maintenance	Inv 20615	£852.67	CPRE	2025 / 2026 Membership	11/03/2025	£60.00	SSE	Pavilion Electricity - 04 Dec 24 to 02 March 25	IV02594471	£274.45	Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall	Hall Hire - Jan - March 2025	Inv 1599	£57.00	Business Stream	Pavilion Water		£45.07	Mid-Hants Fire Protection	Fire Extinguisher Servicing	129/25	£54.00				£2,573.92
April 2025 Payment Requests																																																	
TO	FOR	INVOICE NO	AMOUNT																																														
Staff	Salary	April	£1,190.33																																														
Staff	Expenses	March	£36.15																																														
Lloyds	Bank Charge		£4.25																																														
Scandor	Grounds Maintenance	Inv 20615	£852.67																																														
CPRE	2025 / 2026 Membership	11/03/2025	£60.00																																														
SSE	Pavilion Electricity - 04 Dec 24 to 02 March 25	IV02594471	£274.45																																														
Abbotts Ann War Memorial Hall	Hall Hire - Jan - March 2025	Inv 1599	£57.00																																														
Business Stream	Pavilion Water		£45.07																																														
Mid-Hants Fire Protection	Fire Extinguisher Servicing	129/25	£54.00																																														
			£2,573.92																																														
250413	<p>To consider the following planning application(s):</p>																																																
250413.01	<p>25/00458/TREEN</p> <p>T1 - Cherry - Reduce crown by no more than 3-4 metres. T2 - Cottoneaster - Prune to base. T3 - Cherry – Fell. T4 - Laurel - Reduce crown by 1 metres. T5 - Cherry – Fell. T6 - Laurel - Reduce crown by 3 metres</p>																																																

	<p>G7 - Conifers x2 – Fell Badgers Corner, Duck Street, Abbots Ann. The Parish Council had NO OBJECTION to this application. Proposed by Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor Heather. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.</p>
250413.02	<p>25/00525/TREEN G1 - Portugese Laurel - Dismantle and fell the front boundary hedges. Chestnut Tree Cottage, 38 Duck Street, Abbots Ann. The Parish Council had NO OBJECTION to this application. Proposed by Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor Heather. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.</p>
250413.03	<p>25/00569/FULLN Single storey rear extension. The Laurels, Old Salisbury Road, Abbots Ann, Andover. The Parish Council had NO OBJECTION to this application. Proposed by Councillor Heather, seconded by Councillor Howard. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.</p>
250413.04	<p>25/00629/TREEN T1 - Common Lime - Reduce vertical growth of lowest primary branch on northern radius by up to 5 meters, remove 3 branches from western radius, raise remaining drip line up to 5m from ground level, G2 - Common Yew x6 - Reduce canopy spread on south eastern radius by up to 1m, G2 - False Acacia x2 – Fell. The Old Rectory, Church Lane Footpath, Abbots Ann. The Parish Council had NO OBJECTION to this application. Proposed by Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor Mitchell. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.</p>
250413.05	<p>25/00596/TREEN T1-T3 - Ash – Fell Pitt House, Duck Street, Abbots Ann. The Parish Council had NO OBJECTION to this application. Proposed by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Wallis. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.</p>
250414	<p>To receive an update with regards to the Parish Assembly. The Clerk addressed the meeting and provided a list of confirmed speakers.</p>
250415	<p>To agree the date of the next meeting as Thursday 1st May. The date of the next meeting was AGREED as Thursday 1st May.</p>

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20:38.

APPENDIX A

Borough Councillor Report

Cllr Maureen Flood and Cllr Susanne Hasselmann April 2025

Grant scheme to mark historic VE Day anniversary

A reminder that communities across Test Valley are being encouraged to mark the special Victory in Europe (VE) Day anniversary in May.

Thursday 8 May 2025 will mark 80 years since Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces, bringing the end of World War Two in Europe.

A VE Day 80th Anniversary Grant Scheme has been set up to enable communities to apply for up to £500 towards local celebrations to mark the historic event.

Not for profit organisations, clubs and societies, parish and town councils and schools can all apply for a share of the pot.

The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday 25 April and all activities must take place within two weeks of 8 May 2025.

For more information, please see the [website](#).

New riverside park draft designs published

Since adopting the masterplan, the council has been working with Hampshire County Council, Southern Water and a team of renowned landscape, highways, and ecological specialists, to deliver on the community's aspirations for more green space in Andover town centre.

The new park, which will follow the current eastern highway of the Western Avenue gyratory, will open up new views of the River Anton, which is currently hidden by the large expanse of tarmac and provide pedestrian and cycle links to Town Mills park.

The draft designs for the new riverside park at Western Avenue have been published and the proposals can be viewed at

<https://www.thinkandovertowncentre.co.uk/western-avenue>

Opening of Monxton and Ampport Village Hall

Monxton and Ampport Village Hall was opened by Caroline Nokes MP and Andy Ferrier, Chief Executive of Test Valley Borough Council, on Saturday 29th March 2025.

This Village Hall is a wonderful example of how two parishes and their communities worked together to raise the money and deliver a beautiful oak framed building that is not only spacious and light but also zero carbon, benefiting from an air source heat pump and solar panels.

If you are part of a community organisation and have a project requiring funding that you'd like to discuss, then please contact your Community Engagement Officer www.testvalley.gov.uk/CEOfficers

You can watch highlights from the open event, including community interviews here:

<https://youtu.be/ccY0gc1SXcU>

Hall bookings can be made [here](#) (due to parking restrictions special arrangements have to be made for non-residents).



Cllr Susanne Hasselmann, cllrshasselmann@testvalley.gov.uk

Cllr Maureen Flood cllrmflood@testvalley.gov.uk

Update from Hampshire County Council – April 2025

County Council Chief Executive sets out retirement plans

Hampshire County Council's Chief Executive will step down later this year, having today announced plans to retire in July 2025, after more than 40 years of service in the public sector

Carolyn Williamson joined the County Council in 2010 and has held the post of Chief Executive for the last four years – as the Authority's first female Chief Executive. Her previous roles have included Deputy Chief Executive; Chief Financial Officer and Director of Corporate Resources.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20250321ChiefExecutive>

County Council Cabinet gives green light to first steps towards Local Government Reorganisation

Interim proposals towards major changes in the way local government is structured and operates in future have been agreed by Hampshire County Council

At a meeting of the Full County Council on Thursday 20 March, followed by the Authority's Cabinet held today (Friday 21 March), outline plans for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) have been approved and will be jointly submitted to central Government today on behalf of all 15 councils in the Hampshire and Solent area: Hampshire County Council, 11 district and borough councils and three unitary councils covering Southampton, Portsmouth and Isle of Wight.

This initial plan towards LGR forms part of wider Government ambitions to replace the current two-tier structure of local government that operates nationally, with a smaller number of unitary (all-purpose) councils.

For Hampshire and the Solent region, this means unitary councils will deliver all services currently provided by the 15 councils in the area.

The County Council has worked in partnership with council Leaders and Chief Executives from across the Hampshire and Solent area to develop the interim plan, based on Government-set criteria, as well as principles to which all 15 Hampshire and Solent councils agree. Alongside these, the County Council is also working to a set of guiding principles which reflect its own key duties as the largest local authority in the area, responsible for the delivery of the vast proportion of local government services and budgets in the region. With the considerable economies of scale that County Council services also benefit from in Hampshire, data shows that the greater the number of smaller councils created under LGR, the more expensive it would be to taxpayers, whereas larger scale councils deliver immediate and ongoing efficiencies for the public purse and make local government more sustainable.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20250321LGRInterimplanapproved>

Over £12.5 million in further cost of living support announced for Hampshire households
Hampshire households facing financial difficulties will continue to receive significant support for the next 12 months as the County Council has secured a new allocation of £12,556,062.75 to sustain its Household Support Fund (HSF) programme

The HSF is a national programme, created during the cost-of-living crisis to provide relief to those struggling to afford essential items such as food and warm bedding, as well as recurring household bills. Previous rounds of funding have enabled Hampshire County Council to work with local organisations such as charities, education providers and community groups as well as district and borough councils to provide much-needed relief to families and individuals.

Proposals are due to be considered by Councillor Chadd at her [Decision Day in June](#).

The Household Support Fund and the Department for Education-funded [Holiday Activities and Food](#) programme in Hampshire are both administered through Hampshire County Council. Our dedicated [connect4communities](#) web pages provide information for households seeking help and for organisations looking to deliver support.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20250319HSFupdate>

Residents' views sought on proposals for future services in Hampshire
Hampshire County Council has launched a public consultation today (12 March 2025) inviting people to provide their views on proposals for savings in four service areas, as part of steps by the Authority to help meet a remaining budget shortfall of at least £97.6 million for 2025/26

The Future Services Consultation – Spring 2025 runs from 12 March to 7 May 2025 and signals the next stage in County Council plans to ensure it continues to support the people who are most in need in Hampshire, while meeting its legal obligations to deliver a balanced budget.

The consultation follows the previous Future Services Consultation which ran from January to March 2024, seeking views on proposals for savings in 13 service areas.

In the absence of any fundamental change to how central Government funds social care pressures, we continue to seek greater savings ourselves, so we can keep delivering core services (those which we are required to provide by law) to those in Hampshire who need our help the most.

Therefore, a number of further savings options are on the table and we are inviting residents to provide their views on these proposed service changes, their potential impacts, as well as whether there are any other ways in which the savings might be made."

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20250312FSCSpring2025>

Hampshire County Council's HAF Programme confirmed for an additional 12 months
Children eligible for benefits-linked free school meals (FSM) across Hampshire will continue to enjoy free holiday clubs for another year, thanks to a renewed grant of £3.6 million from the Government

Hampshire County Council's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme supports around 8,000 children during Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays. As well as children who receive benefits-linked free school meals, 15 per cent of funded places on the programme are also available for other vulnerable children and young people.

First piloted in 2018 and rolled out nationally in 2021, the HAF programme aims to alleviate the pressures faced by low-income families during school holidays. It provides around 150 schemes across the county, all ensuring that children have access to healthy food and engaging experiences outside of the school term.

In addition to holiday clubs, the funding will also support the delivery of holiday activities by Hampshire's Library Service and the Short Breaks programme, which enables children and young people with disabilities or additional needs to join in with safe and fun activities, giving parents and carers a short break from their caring responsibilities.

Parents can register now for HAF places at [Family Information and Services Hub](#) and applications for the Easter provision will open during the week commencing 10 March.

For more information about the Holiday Activities and Food Programme and other cost of living support available, visit the County Council's [connect4communities](#) web

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20250307HAF2025>

David Drew

Test Valley Central Division, HCC

APPENDIX B

Date:01/04/2025	Abbotts Ann Parish Council	Page 1	
Time: 10:58	Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31/03/2025 for Cashbook 1 - Lloyds Treasurers Account	User: AMANDA	
<u>Bank Statement Account Name (s)</u>	<u>Statement Date</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Balances</u>
Lloyds Treasurers Account	31/03/2025		60,418.46
			<u>60,418.46</u>
<u>Unpresented Payments (Minus)</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			60,418.46
<u>Unpresented Receipts (Plus)</u>			
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			60,418.46
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	60,418.46
		Difference is :-	0.00