

Minutes of Abthorpe Parish Council Meeting held on 6 March 2023
Held in The Old School Hall Abthorpe

Present: M Greenhalgh, R Stevens, F Noble, E Humphrey, P Berry, C Zachar, Parish Clerk T Emerton and Ward Councillor Bambridge and one resident

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence

No apologies were received

2. Members declaration of interest for items on the agenda

No declarations of interest were raised

3. To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2023

The minutes were agreed and signed

4. To note any matters arising from the minutes

Action No.	Description	Action
November 008 002	Abthorpe crossroads	Ward Councillor Bambridge will investigate with the Community Liaison Officer to see if the hedges and trees can be cut back, if not the council will contact the owner Chairman Greenhalgh and Councillor Berry will discuss with the owners The road markings have been updated to make it clearer of the junction
November 008 003	Road surfaces	Ward Councillor Bambridge will follow up about the pothole on the road from Abthorpe to Silverstone and the accident that happened due to it
March 005	Public Forum - Planning consultation/Information for application reference WNS/2023/0234/FUL at Land South West Of Brackley Lane, Abthorpe, Northamptonshire	The council had no objection or comments. They were surprised this was not permitted development
March 007 002	Recruitment of a councillor	Sarah Jones has been co opted. Clerk will invite her to the next meeting and provide the documentation that needs to be completed and signed
March 007 003	Litter Picking	Ward Councillor Bambridge will organise the equipment. An article will be placed in Abtalk and Facebook
March 007 004	Community Speed Watch	An article to be placed in Abtalk to get volunteers and Facebook
March 007 006/7/8/9	Financial Control	Internal Control, Risk Assessment and Standing Orders were completed and adopted Risk Management was completed by Chairman Greenhalgh and the Clerk
March 007 010	Parking on the paths in the village	An article to be placed in Abtalk to remind residents to be mindful of others to leave enough space for others to walk on the path when parking
March 007 012	WNS/2021/1819/EIA at Land North Of The Bell Plantation Watling Street Towcester	There was no comment from the council. The Clerk will respond

March 007 013	Celebrating Volunteers and Freedom of the Village	The council will nominate a resident for both. Councilor Berry will write the article for the Celebrating Volunteers and Chairman Greenhalgh will complete the Freedom of the Village
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5. Public Forum

Opportunity for residents to bring along points they would like to discuss with the council

Planning consultation/Information for application reference WNS/2023/0234/FUL at Land South West Of Brackley Lane, Abthorpe, Northamptonshire

There was no objection to this planning application, The council commented that they were surprised that it wasn't classed as permitted development

6. Finance

1. Cash in bank as of 6/03/23 Total £5337.95

- Treasurer's Account - £945.09
- 30 Day Business Account - £4392.86
- The balances were agreed

2. Invoices for payment

Item no.	Payment to	Description	Net	VAT/TAX	Total
6.2.1	Tina Emerton	Clerks Salary including back pay	305.20		305.20
6.2.2	HMRC	Tax for Clerks Salary		203.20	
6.2.3	Old School	Village Hall Hire	190.00		190.00
6.2.4	Abthorpe PCC	Donation	75.00		75.00
6.2.5	Graphics Direct	4 x village signs (2 paid)			380.00
6.2.6	R Tolson	Petrol for mower repair	7.08	1.42	8.50
6.2.7	Tina Emerton	Ink cartridge for printers			15.99
6.2.8	TexPrep	Village Newsletter			108.40

The invoices were agreed to be paid

7. Specific items for discussion

1. Ward Councillor Bambridge update

West Northamptonshire Council Budget 2023 - 2024 - A week last Wednesday WNC held its annual budget meeting at which council tax was set for the West Northamptonshire. The budget is a balanced one, which is not easy to achieve under the current economic climate, as unfortunately there will be rising costs due to a great extent to children's services and adult social care, not to mention increasing salaries and other costs. The average Council Tax will rise by 4.99%, significantly below current inflation rates and in line with the Government's allowance, crucially generating extra funding of around £12m towards bridging the shortfall – with 2% of the increase going towards funding adult social care. This represents an average increase on a Band D property of £86.02 a year, the equivalent of £1.65 a week for properties in south Northamptonshire.

This year's council tax amounts will also see households in the former Daventry, Northampton and South Northants areas all paying the same Council Tax charges. This is following a three-year plan to harmonise them and something we are required to do by law and means that both this area and Daventry will have to pay more but Northampton comes down.

The budget follows a commitment to making services as efficient as possible and reviewing income streams to maintain and protect services, with £32.3m of savings proposals put forward, primarily through productivity

gains and savings in operating costs. There are also plans to increase discretionary fees and charges in areas where residents can choose if they wish to use the service, including aligning fees with national averages and raising charges, which have not been reviewed for years, to ensure they fairly reflect today's operating costs.

This brings me to the cost for green bin collection going up to £55, which is a discretionary charge. Having been free under South Northants District it went up to £42 last year and now to £55. As you can guess I have had a lot of complaints about this. I and the other councillors for South Northants argued against this for several good reasons but sadly to no avail and I reluctantly paid my £55 on Tuesday. In fact the £55 cost is in line with most other authorities' charges and indeed some are even higher. Having said all that, to pay £1.06 a week for this service, 26p more than last year, is a very fair price if you consider how much it would cost to take your garden waste to a recycling centre with the cost of running a car for one mile today reckoned to be 46 pence, making the round trip from here to the Towcester tip and back £3.31.

AGDs - I noted the letter your Chair sent to the planning department underlining his concerns about the validity of this application as I have done as well. I have also flagged up my concerns about the sudden appearance of other local AGD applications – that is Agricultural Permitted Development – in the area. The latest was brought to our attention by Litchborough Parish Council for the same reason that yours has in that it made no sense to build such a building in that place. I fear that it may be step one towards the building becoming a barn conversion because generally speaking you do not need to seek planning permission in such a case as it is permitted development. However, you do need to apply to the local planning authority to check whether approval will be needed in relation to factors including transport and highways impacts, noise impacts, contamination risks and flooding risks.

Update on Shacks Barn and DHL applications - Shacks Barn is still progressing very slowly and currently National Highways has requested time to consider traffic further. DHL is awaiting final highway modelling information and re-consultation is to be sent out very soon to parish councils and others. There are still other matters awaited including those related to the football pitches and the visual impact study, which is awaiting a review of changes including information on the tree planting on the bunds. There is a possibility that this and Shacks Barn might come to committee in March but more likely it will be later, possibly June.

Truck Stop application. - Just to update you on the planning application for a truck stop at Syresham. There is a strong case building against this application, which you can imagine is being strongly opposed by the parish council.

The main objections relate to noise affecting the properties adjacent to the site at High Cross and in particular the effect on meetings and services held in the Meeting Hall that was granted planning consent in March 2020. And also WNC Highways Authority (WNC), which has many concerns and requires more information in several areas. In fact this is the longest report that the planning officer has seen from Highways.

In addition, I submitted the results of investigation work I carried out because my biggest safety concern is the proximity of the A43 junction from the proposed entrance to the site. That investigation shows that a vehicle coming off the slip road from the A43 onto Welsh Lane travelling at 40 mph, in wet conditions, could not stop in time to avoid a collision with a vehicle entering or leaving the proposed entrance to the site. There are other technical issues that support a refusal as well.

A43 road surfacing - A reminder that northbound A43 from Silverstone to Towcester is scheduled for resurfacing with the road markings refreshed and work done on the laybys. Work will take place between 13 March and the end of June. It will involve road closures which will take place only between 8pm and 6am on weekdays.

Lastly, I would just like to mention fellow Silverstone Ward councillor Charles Manners. A couple of weeks or so ago he returned from The Ukraine, where he and three others, had delivered two 4x4 vehicles laden with urgently needed supplies to help with humanitarian relief. They travelled into the country in the vehicles to Lviv and a bit beyond, where they were shown where some of the Russian atrocities took place. They handed the vehicles over to two young ladies who drove them to the front where the fighting was taking place and where they were needed. The ladies were not only delivering the aid but also hoped to be able to see their husbands who were fighting there. Charles and the others returned to Poland by train and flew back from there.

2. Recruitment of a Councillor

Max Kellner decided to give his notice of being a councillor due to other commitments, the council would like to thank Max for his valued contribution. Sarah Jones has applied for the role, the council unanimously voted to co-opt Sarah into the role. The Clerk will invite Sarah to the next meeting and send her the documents needed to be completed and signed

3. Litter Picking

The Litter Picking event will be held on Sunday 2nd April. This will be included in Abtalk and put on the village facebook page. Ward Councillor Bambridge will organise the equipment

4. Community Speed Watch - Saturday 27th May to Saturday 24th June

The village will take part in this again this year due to the success last year. Equipment will be issued along with training and an article will be put into Abtalk and Facebook to recruit volunteers

5. Interim Audit

There were no issues raised from the interim external audit

6. Internal Review - Financial Control and Risk [here](#)

This was reviewed and adopted

7. Risk Management [here](#)

This was completed by Chairman Greenhalgh and the Clerk and no issues found

8. Financial Regulations [here](#)

This was reviewed and adopted

9. Standing Orders [here](#)

This was reviewed and adopted

10. Parking on The Green

It was discussed about cars parking covering the whole path in the village and not allowing space for pedestrians. It was noted this is illegal. A note will be placed in Abtalk to remind residents to be mindful of others

11. Footpaths through the field / Brackley Lane land

It was discussed that the footpaths will be returned once the harvesting is completed

12. WNS/2021/1819/EIA at Land North Of The Bell Plantation Watling Street Towcester [here](#)

There was no comment. Clerk to respond

13. Celebrating volunteers [here](#)

It was discussed to nominate a resident for their outstanding contribution to the village. We will also put them forward for Freedom of the Village. Councillor Berry will put an article together for the Celebrating Volunteers and Chairman Greenhalgh will complete the Freedom of the Village Award

8. Village Green Project

1. Village Gates, paths and Kerbing of the Green update

There had been a lot of positive feedback on the installation of the new gates and village signs.

We are waiting for WNC to remove the old village sign. There is a small amount of concreting to be completed on the kerbs, once this has been done the grass will be replaced. This will be completed before the Coronation of the King, Big Lunch

9. Correspondence - There were no correspondence

10. Any other business

1. Woodburner use

It was raised via an article stating that fines will be issued for people who are using their Log Burners who are not following regulations. Ward Councilor confirmed this is not applicable for this part of Northamptonshire

2. A summary of the King's Coronation Big Lunch was outlined. Flyers will be sent out soon detailing the event

11. Close The meeting closed at 20.45

Signed *Tina Emerton*

Abthorpe Parish Council Clerk

Meeting dates

22nd May Annual Parish Council and ordinary meeting (5 weeks)

Tuesday 30th May Annual Village Meeting

17th July

4th Sept

30th October

11th December

29th January

11th March