

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ISLE ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 13TH MAY 2026 AT 7.30pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL

- 26/24 ELECTION OF CHAIR
Cllr Hillman was nominated by Cllr Richards, seconded by Cllr vaun-Davis. There being no further nominations, Cllrs voted unanimously in favour and Cllr Hillman was duly elected as chair.
- 26/25 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY THE CHAIR
Cllr Hillman read and signed their declaration of acceptance of office, witnessed by the Clerk.
- 26/26 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR
Cllr Richards was nominated by Cllr vaun-Davis, seconded by Cllr Westworth. There being no further nominations, Cllrs voted unanimously in favour and Cllr Richards was duly elected as vice-chair.
- 26/27 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES
Present: Cllrs Hillman, Richards, Westworth, Watson and vaun-Davis; the Clerk.
Apologies: Unitary Cllr Roundell-Greene
- 26/28 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Cllr Richards declared an interest in minuted item 26/30 (planning application 26/00991/FUL) and will leave the meeting during discussion and vote.
- 26/29 MINUTES: RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 14th January were a correct record, and duly signed by the Chair.
- 26/30 PLANNING APPLICATIONS
- a) New applications:
26/00991/FUL: Land At Chapel Road Isle Abbotts Taunton Somerset TA3 6RR - Change of use of agricultural land to residential for the erection of 1 No. 1.5-storey detached dwelling with an associated garage and vehicular access
Cllr Richards left the room during discussions.
Members acknowledged concerns raised by members of the public present and explained that the decision on the council's response must be based on material planning considerations, and that residents should lodge their views and responses with SC Planning to ensure they are considered. After considering the details of the application, members RESOLVED to only submit comment that the design and access statement incorrectly states the location is served by two buses, numbers 901 and 904.
- b) Planning Updates and Enforcement:
The council received notification of the following planning appeal: Planning Inspectorate Appeal In Respect Of Application: 23/00404/FUL (6007760) - Location: The Stables Ashford Old Farm Isle Abbotts Road Ilton Ilminster Somerset (GR:335875/118693)
Proposal: Change of Use of land to a travelling caravan site consisting of 3 No. pitches each containing 1No mobile home, 1No touring caravan, 1No utility dayroom and associated works (partly retrospective)
Appeal Starting Date: 1 May 2026
Appeal Type: Hearing
Members noted that comments already submitted to the planning authority were to be considered during the appeal, and RESOLVED that no further comments would be made.
- Details of planning applications in the parish can be found on the Isle Abbotts website: <https://isle-abbotts-pc.gov.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.
- 26/31 POLICY/DOCUMENT REVIEWS
Draft documents were circulated to members in advance of the meeting.
- a) Standing Orders – RESOLVD to adopt the updated standing orders as circulated.
b) Financial Regulations – RESOLVED to adopt the updated financial regulations as circulated.

- c) Code of Conduct – RESOLVED to re-adopt the existing policy, noting that there were no changes to the model Somerset Council version.
 - d) Risk Assessment – RESOLVED to re-adopt the existing risk assessment
 - e) Schedule of policy reviews – RESOLVED to adopt the schedule of policy reviews as circulated. Policies marked as to be developed or in draft will be added to future agendas for consideration.
- 26/32 INDIVIDUAL AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY
Resolved for members to have the following specific areas of responsibility:
- Highways – Cllr Watson
 - Local Community Network – Cllr vaun-Davis
 - Footpaths – Cllr Richards
 - Flooding – Cllr Westworth
 - Village Hall liaison – Cllr Hillman
- 26/33 DELEGATION ARRANGEMENTS
Existing delegation arrangements are set out in the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. Additional arrangements may be made as required by resolution of the council.
- 26/34 MEMBERSHIP OF OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS
RESOLVED to continue with membership to SALC, to support the Clerk’s membership of SLCC and with registration with the Information Commissioners Office as required under the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018.
- 26/35 FINANCIAL MATTERS
- a) ASSET REGISTER: RESOLVED to approve the asset register as circulated in advance of the meeting.
 - b) FINANCIAL STATEMENT: RESOLVED to approve the financial statement to 31/3/26.
 - c) PAYMENTS: RESOLVED to approve the list of payments annexed at the end of the minutes.
- 26/36 INSURANCE
The council’s insurance cover was reviewed in advance of its renewal in February. There are no changes to the required cover since then.
- 26/37 UPDATES
- a) LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS (LCN): Cllr vaun-Davis continues to act as the representative at the LCN. Recent updates relate to independent living support, EA flood updates and additional funding of £5 million to support highways maintenance over the next 5 years. A link to the LCN pages on Somerset Council’s website will be added to the parish council website to aid access to information for residents.
 - b) HIGHWAYS: Cllr Watson has received a handover on highways matters and will follow up regarding damage at Two Bridges where stones have been knocked into the water. Information on how to report a problem on the road to Somerset Council can be found [here](#) Details of road closures in the area can be found at <https://one.network/en-gb>
 - c) RIGHTS OF WAY: Cllr Richards reported that progress has been slower than hoped on improvements, largely due to weather conditions. SC ROW have yet to clear from Garden Plot Hill to Woodlands where it has become impassable and this will be monitored. Growth of Hemlock has been reported, which is similar to cow parsley but more yellow. If noted, residents are asked to contact Cllr Richards with details so any necessary action to deal with it can be organised.
Any issues on the rights of way network can be reported directly to Somerset Council using the interactive map which can be found [here](#).
 - d) FLOODING: Cllr Westworth noted that ditches on curry mallet had been cleared by the landowner.
 - e) VILLAGE HALL: The hall AGM was held this week. Cllr Hillman reported that the hall is generating surplus income and there are lots of activities planned over the summer.

f) OTHER MATTERS:

- i) Members will raise awareness of the opportunity for organisations to apply for grant support from the council as set out in the 2026/27 budget.
- ii) It was reported that there is a loose tile on the roof of the bus shelter, which will be assessed and any necessary repairs arranged.

26/38 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA: None requested.

26/39 DATE OF UPCOMING MEETINGS:

RESOLVED for future meetings to continue on the second Wednesday bi-monthly. Next meetings:
Wednesday 17th June 2026: Additional ordinary meeting for approval of the AGAR, 6pm
Wednesday 8th July 2026: Ordinary meeting, 7.30pm

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 20.42

Signed.....A. Hillman, Chair.....

Date...17 June 2026.....

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ANNEX. 1 – PAYMENTS

| Invoice date | Payee | Description | Amount |
|---|-------------|------------------------|---------|
| 04/04/2026 | SALC | Annual affiliation fee | £ 95.62 |
| 23/04/2026 | AMAZON | MS365 RENEWAL | £ 69.99 |
| 31/03/2026 | K LARSSON | M12 BALANCING PAYMENT* | |
| 30/04/2026 | K LARSSON | M1 BALANCING PAYMENT* | |
| 31/03/2026 | HMRC | M12 PAYE | |
| 30/04/2026 | HMRC | M1 PAYE | |
| 30/04/2026 | K LARSSON | ADMIN EXPENSES | £ 12.42 |
| Payments since the last meeting | | | |
| 31/03/2026 | K Larsson | Salary (m12)* | |
| 30/04/2026 | K Larsson | Salary (m1)* | |
| 30/03/2026 | Lloyds Bank | Service Fee | £ 4.75 |
| 30/04/2026 | Unity Trust | Service Fee | £ 7.00 |
| 30/04/2026 | Lloyds Bank | Service Fee | £ 6.25 |
| * Note publication of staff salary and PAYE liabilities restricted under GDPR | | | |