

ABBOTS MORTON PARISH COUNCIL.

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 15th May 2014 at 8.35 pm
in Abbots Morton Village Hall. Meeting No: 215.**

Present:	Cllrs. Mr. Clapton, Mr. Humphries, Mrs. Ansell, Mr. Smith, Mr. Ernest, and Mr. Pemberton. In attendance: Mrs. N. Holland (Clerk) and Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Steel.
215/1	Election of Chairman: proposed by Cllr. Mr. Ernest, seconded by Cllr. Mr. Pemberton and resolved that Mr. Clapton be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year. Declaration and acceptance of office duly signed.
215/2	Apologies: Cllr. Mr. Holt (reasons accepted by Council), Dist. Cllr. Mr. Lee.
215/3	Election of Vice-Chairman: proposed by Cllr. Mr. Ernest, seconded by Cllr. Mr. Pemberton and resolved that Mr. Humphries be elected as Vice-Chair.
215/4	Declarations of Interest: a) Register of Interests: Cllrs. were reminded of the need to update their register of interests. b) Personal Interests: Nil. c) Prejudicial Interests: Nil.
215/5	Written requests from Councillors for the Council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) – nil received.
215/6	Documents reviewed and agreed : a) Terms of the Finance Group agreed. Members - <i>Cllrs. Mr. Clapton, Mr. Humphries, Mr. Ernest and Mr. Pemberton.</i> b) Resolved that urgent decisions required between scheduled meetings of the Council are delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council. c) It was agreed that planning applications that arise in between scheduled meetings will be dealt with by a Planning meeting of the full council. d) Terms of the Staffing Committee agreed. Members appointed <i>Cllrs. Mr. Clapton, Mr. Humphries, Mr. Smith and Mr. Pemberton.</i>
215/7	Members agreed to serve/take on responsibility of the following: a) Inspect assets owned by the Council and to report to Council quarterly. <i>Cllr. Mr. Clapton.</i> b) Wychavon CALC representative x 1 2014/15. <i>Cllr. Mr. Ernest.</i> c) Abbots Morton Parish Plan Steering Group. <i>Cllrs. Mr. Humphries and Mr. Pemberton.</i> d) Village Hall Committee – <i>Cllrs. Mr. Pemberton and Mr. Ernest.</i>
215/8	Resolved to adopt the following new policies: a) Standing Orders version 2013. b) The Council does not wish to implement electronic summons. c) Financial Regulations version 2014 with amendments.
215/9	The following policies and memberships for 2014/15 were approved: a) Risk Assessment. b) Asset Register.

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	<p>c) Complaints procedure.</p> <p>d) Insurance – annual charge of £272.95.</p> <p>e) Worcestershire CALC – annual charge of £66.66 inc. of VAT.</p>
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Public Question Time: Nil.

215/10	Minutes: resolved that the minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on 27.03.14 were confirmed as a correct record, duly signed by the Chairman.
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215/11	<p>Clerk’s report:</p> <p><u>Parish Lengthsman</u> – signed contract returned to the County Council and signed contract received from the Lengthsman.</p> <p><u>External Audit</u> to take place on the 16th June 2014.</p> <p><u>Parochial Church Council</u> – letter received thanking the Parish Council for the grant towards maintenance of the churchyard.</p> <p><u>Licensing Act 2003 review of Statement of Licensing Policy</u> – consultation can be viewed at www.wychavon.gov.uk/licensingpolicy. Hard copy available if required. Closing date for consultation is Friday 11th July 2014. Parish Councils invited to comment as they are considered to be representatives of businesses and residents in the area.</p> <p><u>New Homes Bonus</u> – funding available to April 2015 is £1083.</p> <p><u>West Mercia Police</u> – members invited to attend the South Worcestershire Community Safety Day between 11 am and 3pm on Saturday July 12th 2014 at Pitchcroft Racecourse.</p> <p><u>Badsey & Aldington Parish Council</u> –invitation received to attend a meeting on the 6th June 2014 at Badsey Remembrance Hall, Badsey commencing at 6.30pm. Sir Peter Luff MP will be attending with invitations being sent to members of Wychavon District Council Planning Committee, Worcestershire Highways, Severn Trent, Environment Agency, Evesham Journal, Evesham Observer, The Telegraph and District Councillor for Badsey & Aldington together with residents from Badsey.</p>
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215/12	<p>Reports received from representatives:</p> <p>a) Inkberrow ward rural communities’ workshop event. Attended by Cllrs. Mr. Clapton and Mr. Ernest. A folder containing details of organisations and local community facilities was given to the Parish Council. The folder is to be kept in a place accessible to the public. It was agreed to ask the Parochial Church Council if this could be kept in the Church as it is open most days.</p> <p>b) Parish Conference –no report as not attended.</p>
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215/13	Correspondence received:
13.1	Wychavon District Council is undertaking a periodic review of polling districts and polling places and invites any interested parties to make comments. The Parish Council responded fully supporting the present venue, Abbots Morton Village Hall, as it was felt that it was important to keep the facility in the local area.
13.2	Wychavon Sport – letter received requesting that the Parish Council support any entries to the 2014 Parish Games in order that payment maybe made promptly.
13.3	Email received from the National Co-ordinator for Local Works re: ‘More funds for parish and town councils’ regarding a proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act requesting that the Parish Council support the proposal “that the Government take the necessary action to allow a percentage of Business Rates to be paid direct to Town and Parish Councils for the benefit of local economic growth”. This was discussed and agreed that although Abbots Morton is a very small rural Parish Council it would in principle support the proposal.

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215/14	Planning matters:
14.1	a) W/14/00712/PP – Long Acres, Abbots Morton. WR 4NA. Proposal: Proposed single storey link block containing entrance hall, extension to garage and minor alterations to existing house. Comments: No objections.
14.2	Correspondence received duly noted: a) W/14/00271/PP – Morton Spiert Farm, Abbots Morton. Permission granted with 4 conditions.

215/15	Financial matters.
15.1	Resolved to approve accounts to 31.03.14.
15.2	The Internal Review of effectiveness reviewed and agreed.
15.3	Internal Auditor’s report received and duly noted. No action required.
15.4	Documents for approval for the external auditor were approved by the Council, duly signed by the Chairman and Clerk. a) Statement of Accounts b) Annual Governance Statement.
15.5	It was resolved to transfer funds from under spend 2013/14 to the following: a) £1300 to reserves and the following to budget headings b) £140 contingency. c) £50 Salary. d) £10 costs e) £200 to grants and donations. f) £300 to Parish Plan.
15.6	Resolved to approve the ‘Schedule of Payments’ as listed.
15.7	South Lenches Parish Council offering to print A3 documents for a small charge. Deferred to next meeting.
15.8	Resolved that the following will attend the training sessions below: a) Effective meetings and Chairmanship – County Hall 2nd July at 7pm with Elisabeth Skinner. Cllr. Mr. Humphries. b) Insurance and Risk – Came & Company, County Hall, 15th July at 7pm. Clerk.

215/16	Parish Councillors report and items for future agendas: Planning meeting to be held on the 29 th May 2014; Invoicing the District Council for printing costs; Grants to organisations in the wider community.
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Meeting declared closed at 9.50 pm.

Correspondence for distribution that does not require decision.

1.	Parish Matters – Spring 2014.
2.	Clerks and Councils Direct – May 2014.

Signed by the Chairman:Dated: July 24th 2014.

ABBOTS MORTON PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of the Planning meeting held on Thursday 29th May 2014 at 8.04pm in Abbots Morton Village Hall. Meeting No: 216.
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Present:	Cllrs. Mr. Clapton (Chair), Mr. Smith, Mr. Humphries, Mr. Holt, Mrs. Ansell and Mr. Pemberton. In attendance: Mrs. N. Holland (Clerk).
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216/1	Apologies: Mr. Ernest (reasons accepted by Council) and Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Steel.
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216/2	Declarations of Interest - nil declared.
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216/3	Dispensations: nil received.
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Public Question Time: Nil.

216/4	Planning Matters
4.1	It was agreed to comment on the following proposal: a) W/14/00656/PP – The Barn, Abbots Morton. WR7 4NA. Proposal: Proposed first floor alterations and extensions. Comments: Following discussion it was proposed, seconded and resolved by a vote of 5 for with 1 against to submit the following comments: Abbots Morton Conservation Area contains a number of historic farm buildings, some of which have been converted to dwellings and all of which make a positive contribution to the character of the Conservation Area, as detailed in the Conservation Area Review dated 2005. Simple, plain roofs are a feature of such buildings, 'The Barn' being no exception. Although the building was converted from a 'cart hovel' and outbuildings to a dwelling in the 20th century its former use is still evident in its simple appearance. The addition of dormer windows as proposed, particularly on the eastern elevation, would impact negatively on the character of the Conservation Area. Recommend refusal of the application.
4.2	Correspondence received duly noted: a) W/14/00712/PP – Long Acres, Abbots Morton. Permission granted.
4.3	A proposal from a member to request that the Parish Council invoices the District Council for printing costs of planning documents was discussed. It was agreed that the Head of the Planning Department should be invited to a suitable planning meeting to see the difficulties that the Parish Council experience when looking at large applications.

Meeting declared closed at 8.40 pm.
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Signed by the Chairman:**Dated: July 24th 2014.**

Following the closure of the meeting the Clerk put a request to the Parish Council from OST Energy Ltd who have requested an opportunity to give a presentation to the Parish Council on Monday 9th June 2014 regarding a planning application for a solar farm on land to the south of Morton Wood Farm that they are processing. They would like to set up a small exhibition to invite the public to attend followed by a 30 minute presentation to the Parish Council.

At such short notice not all members can attend the meeting but were happy for the public exhibition to go ahead with the company to notify all households of the event and to contact the Village Hall Committee booking secretary for availability of the Hall.

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Minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 24th July 2014 at 8.07 pm in Abbots Morton Village Hall. Meeting No: 217.

Present:	Cllrs. Mr. Clapton, (Chairman), Mr. Humphries, Mr. Holt, Mr. Ernest, and Mr. Pemberton. In attendance: Mrs. N. Holland (Clerk) and Dist. Cllrs. Mrs. Steel and Mr. Lee.
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217/1	Apologies: Cllr. Mr. Smith and Mrs. Ansell (reasons accepted by Council).
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217/2	Declarations of Interest: a) Register of Interests: Cllrs. were reminded of the need to update their register of interests. b) Personal Interests: Nil. c) Prejudicial Interests: Nil.
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217/3	Written requests from Councillors for the Council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) – nil received.
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Public Question Time: Nil.

217/4	Minutes: resolved that the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 15.05.14 were confirmed as a correct record, duly signed by the Chairman.
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217/5	Clerk's report: <u>New Homes Bonus</u> – funding available to April 2015 is £1083. <u>External Auditor report</u> – the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to the attention of Grant Thornton giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. <u>Worcestershire Hub</u> – the website has recently been updated to be more interactive and user friendly. Please follow the link below if you wish to report a highways maintenance or defect issue online. https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/onlinereporting/ <u>Worcestershire NHS Trust</u> - Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust are offering a free Health Check Service. The service is relatively new and has been commissioned by Public Health to deliver health checks throughout the Worcestershire area. Details passed to Village Hall Committee representative.
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217/6	Reports received from County Cllr, District Cllrs. and the Police: <u>County Cllr. Mr. Holt reported:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment figures have dropped again in June by 485. • Liz Eyre, Cabinet member, has reported that 68 schools in the County have been inspected since 2013 and all show signs of improvement. • The Government has allocated £47 million to the Local Growth Fund for Worcestershire; £7.5 million allocated towards the new Norton-Parkway Railway project. • It was asked if money that is being allocated from the disbanded Local Strategic Partnership could be allocated to rural areas as well as Town Councils. <u>Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Steel reported:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A single Managing Director is to be appointed in October 2014 over Wychavon and Malvern District Councils saving each of them £50,000. The post will be advertised shortly. • The Government will assist with redundancy costs to the Council/s affected.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The three Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP's) have been disbanded. The Managers of each are to remain in post and continue to organise some of the events. Some of the LSP work will be given to the Localism Panel. • Wychavon District Council has now reached its 5 year land supply. The South Worcestershire Development Plan is still looking to supply an extra 3,000 houses. The next stage of the document is due out for consultation shortly.
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217/7	Reports received from representatives:
	<p>a) <u>Badsey & Aldington Planning event.</u> Cllr. Mr. Clapton reported: Well attended session with Peter Luff, MP in attendance. 25 Parish and Town Councils were represented. Members from the Planning department declined to attend. Outcome of the meeting was that very little can be done to stop the large amount of housing development applications being submitted to the planning authority. Many applications that go to appeal are being dismissed as the developers' solicitors are much more powerful.</p> <p>b) <u>Village Hall.</u> Cllrs. Mr. Ernest and Mr. Pemberton reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three new sets of fire doors have been installed. • Disabled access is being looked at along with a more efficient way of using electricity. • Facilities to be assessed i.e. commercial dishwasher/cooker. • Cleaners' contract has been terminated. • Looking at spending £100 on publicity. <p>c) <u>Report on condition of assets.</u> Cllr. Mr. Clapton reported that all were in a satisfactory condition.</p>

217/8	Matters raised at Annual Parish Meeting:
	a) Highway signs missing from poles as you approach Morton Speart from the Warwickshire side have been reported to Warwickshire County Council.

217/9	Planning matters:
9.1	Minutes: resolved that the minutes of the Planning meeting held on 29.05.14 were confirmed as a correct record, duly signed by the Chairman.
9.2	To note planning decisions received: a) W/14/00656/PP – The Barn, Abbots Morton. Application withdrawn as the works would significantly extend a barn conversion and are contrary to adopted Local Plan policies in this regard. It was noted that the original conversion of the building managed to avoid significant extension of this wing of the building and has retained some of its original character. The agent is looking at alternative ways of creating more first floor space in this part of the property. b) W/14/00712/PP – Long Acres, Abbots Morton. Permission granted.
9.3	Correspondence received considered: a) Briefing Session on the Wychavon Local Enforcement Plan and Planning Compliance Officer Role was discussed. It was agreed to arrange a meeting in September with neighbouring Parish Councils.

217/10	Financial matters.
10.1	Resolved to approve the 'Schedule of Payments' as listed and the bank reconciliation to 24.06.14.
10.2	It was agreed to accept South Lenches Parish Council offer to print A3 documents at 20p per copy.
10.3	Resolved to purchase a copy of 'Local councils EXPLAINED', National Association of Local Councils new book for local councils in England and Wales published on 4th October 2013 at a cost of £49.99 + postage & packing.

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217/11	<p>Worcestershire County Association of Councils Executive.</p> <p>A request for member councils to write to the County Council Chief Executive, to express their support for the Association and to raise the issue with their county councillors about the withdrawal of grant funding was discussed. The Parish Council decided by a vote of 4 for, 1 against to support the request as it was felt if funding was withdrawn this would put Worcestershire CALC existence in jeopardy. It was strongly felt that as the County Council is a stakeholder that it should be supporting Parish Council's by providing grant funding support , more so since the Localism Bill has come into place.</p>
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217/12	<p>Superfast Broadband.</p>
12.1	A written report from a meeting held in London with Minister responsible for Broadband Mr. Ed Vaizey, MP attended by Cllr. Mr. Smith and a resident was received by Council. The reason for the meeting was regarding concerns over the lack of rollout of Superfast Broadband to 10% of the County with no plan in mind to improve the 10% service. The outcome of the meeting was that the Minister charged his project manager to investigate the fact that BT has been awarded all contracts for the Country and yet was not fulfilling this to some areas.
12.2	The payment of expenses to a resident for attendance at a Broadband meeting in London was discussed at length. It was resolved to pay expenses of £125.77 from the contingency budget. (LGA 1972 s111).
12.3	<p>A report on a Broadband meeting held with representatives from Worcestershire County Council was duly noted. Cllr. Mr. Ernest reiterated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rollout areas agreed to 2016 – 90% population will be receiving Superfast Broadband. Unless the Government agrees to put further funding into the pot then it is unlikely that the remaining 10% of the population will received Superfast Broadband. • BT and Worcestershire County Council have signed a contract to agree that 90% of the County will received Superfast Broadband. BT will not divulge information to the County Council. • Advice is to wait until 2016 to then go back to Worcestershire County Council and ask them to look at the 10% area that does not get this service. Pressure still needs to be kept on relevant bodies with the constant change in technology.

217/13	<p>Parish Councillors report and items for future agendas: Jubilee tree plaque; Grant support to neighbouring parishes.</p>
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Meeting declared closed at 9.50 pm.

Signed by the Chairman:dated: 25th September 2014

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Correspondence for distribution that does not require decision.

1.	Clerks & Councils Direct – July 2014.
2.	Worcestershire County Council – Consultation on Statement of Community Involvement. Emailed to members 14th July 2014. www.worcestershire.gov.uk/planningconsultation
3.	Worcestershire County Council's draft consultation Planning Validation Document. Emailed to members 14th July 2014. www.worcestershire.gov.uk/planningconsultation
4.	Stratford -on-Avon District – proposed submission core strategy, prior to submission there will be a six week period from 5th June. Emailed to members 5th June 2014. www.stratford.gov.uk/corestrategy
5.	BUILDING DESIGN AWARDS 2014 - LAUNCH WEEK. Emailed to members 11th July 2014.
6.	WORCESTERSHIRE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN: CALL FOR SITES CALL FOR INFORMATION ABOUT PREFERRED LOCATIONS FOR AGGREGATE EXTRACTION IN WORCESTERSHIRE. Emailed to members on the 16th July 2014.
	If members feel that the Council should make comments on items 2 to 6 please let the Clerk know.

Following closure of the meeting it was decided to invite Andrew Allen from the company 'Sun & Soil' to return and answer further questions on the Solar Farm planning application by holding a Public meeting.

ABBOTS MORTON PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of the Planning meeting held on Monday 18th August 2014 at 8.03pm in Abbots Morton Village Hall. Meeting No: 218.

Present:	Cllrs. Mr. Clapton (Chair), Mr. Smith, Mr. Humphries, Mr. Holt, Mrs. Ansell, Mr. Ernest and Mr. Pemberton. In attendance: Mrs. N. Holland (Clerk), Dist. Cllr. Mr. Lee and 14 parishioners.
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218/1	Apologies: Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Steel.
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218/2	<p>Declarations of Interest.</p> <p><u>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:</u> Cllr. Mr. Smith in item 218/4.1 as he resides within the lane and is part owner of land to the site.</p> <p><u>Other Disclosable Interests:</u></p> <p>Cllr. Mr. Smith in item 218/4.1 as he is a member of;</p> <p>a) Abbots Morton Resident Association Committee who is involved in objecting to the application</p> <p>b) Secretary to the Village Hall Committee which has made enquiries about possible funding from the applicant.</p> <p>Cllr. Mr. Pemberton in item 218/4.1as he is:</p> <p>a) Member of the Village Hall Committee which has made enquiries about possible funding from the applicant and</p> <p>b) Secretary to the St. Peter’s Parochial Church Council and Chairman of Abbots Morton Bell Tower Committee which has since ruled out any interest in funding.</p>
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218/3	<p>Dispensations received:</p> <p>a) The Council agreed to grant a dispensation to Cllr. Mr. Smith to speak on any item of business concerning the proposed solar farm application at Morton Wood Farm as it is the interests of people living in the Council’s area.</p> <p>The Council also decided to grant him a dispensation, by a vote of 6 for with 1 against, to allow him to vote. The dispensation was given for the meeting only.</p> <p>b) The Council agreed to grant a dispensation to Cllr. Mr. Pemberton to speak and vote on any item of business concerning the proposed solar farm application at Morton Wood Farm as it is the interests of people living in the Council’s area for the meeting only.</p>
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<p>Public Question Time: notes appended to these minutes. Meeting suspended at 8.18pm, reconvening at 8.46 pm.</p>

218/4	Planning Matters
4.1	<p>It was agreed to comment on the following proposal:</p> <p>a) W/14 /01549/PN - Morton Wood Farm, Morton Wood Lane, Abbots Morton.</p> <p>Proposal: 4.85MW solar farm with ancillary buildings, deer fencing, CCTV, access tracks and landscaping.</p> <p>Comments from members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary hedges and trees should be retained – concern over how the splay at the entrance to Morton Wood Lane is handled. • Traffic along Alcester Road with restrictions at Morton Spirt and the management of traffic along Morton Wood Lane. • Construction traffic could be using the site in the dark during October through to April.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variation in the number of vehicles travelling along the Lane. • Visibility when exiting onto the Alcester Road due to blind bends either side with traffic travelling at 60mph. • Width of the highway/Lane: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) No footpath on road or bridleway; is regularly used by cyclists, horse riders, and walkers. Concerns over the health and safety of all users if the application is approved. b) Low overhanging trees in adjacent fields and hedges owned by different landowners. c) No turning point for HGV. d) The width of the Lane is inadequate to take the vehicles proposed as it is only 2.84m in most areas up to a maximum of 3m. e) Culverts close to the road surface prior to Morton Wood Stables. f) Blind bends restricting view prior to Morton Wood Stables. g) Bridleway is not built to take the weight of the loads that are expected. h) Obligations of Right of Way must be protected. • <u>Site</u> – well hidden, visible from footpath/bridleway. Government Policy following a directive to planning in April 2014 is to move away from using high quality agricultural land for solar farms to brownfield, buildings and industrial areas but planning legislation does permit for a site to be accepted. Concerns raised over the grading validity of the analysis of the soil assessment. The development is not in a highly sensitive area, evidence of badger activity in Long Wood but this will not affect the site. • Fencing will affect the wildlife habitat i.e. noise from equipment. <p>A proposal was then put forward by Cllr. Mr. Holt, seconded by Cllr. Mr. Humphries for the Council to recommend refusal on the grounds of siting a solar farm in a rural location; road and access to the site including hedgerows and trees; environmental impact, agricultural class of land; and ecological issues with a request to Dist. Cllr. Mr. Lee that the application be submitted to the Planning Committee for decision along with a site visit.</p> <p>Further discussion took place on the advantages for the site i.e. renewable energy required, energy for the village, would not significantly impact on the area.</p> <p>Other points raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characteristics of the site causes a concern along with the access • The site area links together the three Conservation areas that surround this site which all offer a visual and social aspect. • Not conducive to ENV1 sub section 4.21 Landscape Character. <p>The proposal, as above, was put to the vote. It was resolved to recommend refusal by a vote of 5 members for with 2 against.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Clerk should summarise the refusal recommendations into a reply to the Planning Officer with agreement by all being confirmed by email with comments under the following headings: Industrial site in a rural location; Access to site (visibility; safety; suitability of road, impact on ROW); Environmental impact (contrary to ENV 1 section 4.21); Hedgerow and Trees; Visual Impact (industrial; ROW; Rough Hill); Agricultural and Ecological (damage to local environment; wildlife habitat).</p>
4.2	<p>Correspondence received duly noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) – invitation to attend one of the Parish and Town Council briefing sessions either on Monday 22 September or Thursday 25 September from 6pm – 7:30pm at the Council Chamber, Pershore. This is in advance of the Wychavon Council meeting on 30 September 2014 that will be taking the SWDP forward to the next stage. (Up to 3 members may attend). Cllr. Mr. Clapton to attend on the 22nd September. Cllr. Mr. Ernest to

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confirm if he is able to attend.

Meeting declared closed at 10 pm.

Signed by the Chairman:Dated: 4th September 2014.

Public Question Time.

14 parishioners in attendance.

Objections made regarding the Solar Farm planning application:

- Site – security fencing/CCTV/ adjacent to Registered monument/ancient hedgerows/overlooked by house which will overlook the site in the winter months when vegetation dies back /months of construction/ residential amenity lost.
- Agricultural – excellent arable yield since 1950's/Government policy looking to divert to brownfield sites and roof tops away from arable land/field graded as 3 b so is the majority of Worcestershire/
- Morton Wood Lane – security compromised/sightseers/vandalism
- Bridleway – adjacent to site affecting walkers, cyclists/ horse riders
- Road access - disruption of traffic/ huge HGV/large amount of traffic movements over 6 week period/road and Lane inadequate/safety issue to all users/lane width 2.84m to 3m so will not take large vehicles/security of properties will be compromised.
- Visual aspect – bridleways/footpaths affecting local residents and visitors/Rough Hill property
- Planning – against policies NPPF 28, 75, 97, and 109.
- Heritage – historic farmstead 400m from proposed site.

ABBOTS MORTON PARISH COUNCIL.

**Minutes of the Planning meeting held on Thursday 4th September 2014 at 8.02pm
in Abbots Morton Village Hall. Meeting No: 219.**

Present:	Cllrs. Mr. Clapton (Chair), Mr. Smith, Mr. Humphries, and Mr. Pemberton. In attendance: Mrs. N. Holland (Clerk).
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219/1	Apologies: Cllrs. Mrs. Ansell, Mr. Holt and Mr. Ernest (reasons accepted by Council) and Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Steel.
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219/2	Declarations of Interest: Nil declared.
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219/3	Dispensations received: Nil.
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Public Question Time: Nil.

219/4	Planning Matters
4.1	Minutes: it was put to the Council that minute 218/2a wording be amended to “which has made enquiries about possible funding” and 218/2b be amended to “which has”. This was agreed by all and then resolved that the minutes of the Planning meeting held on 18.08.14 be confirmed as a correct record, duly signed by the Chairman.
4.2	It was agreed to comment on the following proposal: a) W/14 /01795/PP - The Barn, Abbots Morton. WR7 4NA Proposal: Proposed first floor extension. Comments: No objections.

Meeting declared closed at 8.15 pm.
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Signed by the Chairman:Dated: 25th September 2014.

ABBOTS MORTON PARISH COUNCIL.

**Minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 25th September 2014 at 8.05 pm
in Abbots Morton Village Hall. Meeting No: 220.**

Present:	Cllrs. Mr. Clapton, (Chairman), Mr. Humphries, Mr. Smith and Mr. Pemberton. In attendance: Mrs. N. Holland (Clerk) and Dist. Cllr. Mr. Lee and PCSO Keeley Hawkes.
220/1	Apologies: Cllrs. Mr. Holt, Mr. Ernest and Mrs. Ansell (reasons accepted by Council) and Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Steel.
220/2	Declarations of Interest: a) Register of Interests: Cllrs. were reminded of the need to update their register of interests. b) Personal Interests: Nil. c) Prejudicial Interests: Nil.
220/3	Written requests from Councillors for the Council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) – nil received.
Public Question Time: Nil.	
220/4	Minutes: resolved that the minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on 24.07.14 were confirmed as a correct record, duly signed by the Chairman.
220/5	Clerk's report: <u>New Homes Bonus</u> – funding available to April 2015 is £1083. <u>Worcestershire Hub</u> - the website has recently been updated to be more interactive and user friendly. Please follow the link below if you wish to report a highways maintenance or defect issue online. https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/onlinereporting/ <u>Reclassification of footpaths/bridleways</u> – following the Council's request the Countryside Officers have agreed to keep AM-555 as a 'B' rating, as they did not think that there was enough justification to make it an 'A' route. They have upgraded bridleways AM-556, AM-557 and AM-558 from 'C's to 'B's following comments received from the Parish Council concerning the directions that users travel. <u>AM-501/502</u> –agreed that these footpaths should be given a 'B' rating. However, following the Council's comments also decided to upgrade the whole route from Abbot's Morton to Inkberrow to 'B' rated footpaths. The online map has been updated. <u>Parish Conference</u> - to be held in the Council Chamber, County Hall on Wednesday 29th October 2014. The information market place will be outside the Council Chamber from 5.30pm and the conference itself will commence at 6.30pm. <u>Briefing Enforcement session</u> – to take place on Monday 13th October 2014 at 7.30pm, Church Lench Village Hall. Cllrs. Mr. Clapton and Mr. Humphries to attend. <u>CALC training programme</u> – circulated to all members by email. If anyone wishes to attend please notify the Clerk.
220/6	Reports received from District Cllrs. and the Police: <u>Dist. Cllr. Mr. Lee:</u> a) Garden waste service extended to give additional availability. If anyone is interested in joining the scheme please contact 01386 565005 from November onwards. b) Consultation due on proposed changes to planning policy regarding Gypsy and Travellers.

ABBOTS MORTON PARISH COUNCIL.

	<p><u>PCSO Keeley Hawkes:</u></p> <p>a) No incidents reported in Abbots Morton.</p> <p>b) In surrounding rural areas farm machinery and horse boxes are being targeted.</p> <p>c) With winter approaching advised to put timer switch in place so property is not left in darkness. Risk again of oil thefts, advice is to get an alarm in the house that will be triggered if the fuel level drops suddenly.</p> <p>d) Following the merger of Warwickshire and West Mercia Police Forces there will be no drastic changes; if an incident is reported the closest unit will respond.</p>
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220/7	<p>Reports received from representatives:</p> <p>a) <u>Village Hall</u>. Cllr. Mr. Pemberton reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding the Solar Farm application the Committee decided that they would not consider applying for any community benefit until the application has been decided by Wychavon District Council. • Higher agreement/First Aid box to be revamped. • Parochial Church Council now pay a hire fee. • Maintenance – Floor covering treatment completed; Commercial dishwasher to be bought either out right or on lease; Locked into 2 year electricity deal with supplier but looking at tenders to remove the meters; window cleaner appointed; outside walls need attention; interior to be painted. • Publicity – advertising in local free magazines. • Events – musical evening on the 29th November 2014. <p>It was asked what feedback had been received by improving kitchen facilities would be more appealing to hirers. None received but the Committee agreed in principle to purchase the Dishwasher.</p> <p>b) <u>Tree Warden report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jubilee tree well established. • Approached by resident who offered to plant bulbs around the tree and at the entrance sign to the village. Letter of thanks to be written. • Tree stakes and ties required urgently. Two quotes put to the Council who agreed that they could be purchased at a cost of £14.92. • Commemorative plaque deferred to next meeting. <p>c) <u>Update on the Broadband Campaign</u> – deferred to next meeting as member not present.</p>
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220/8	<p>Standing Orders: following the introduction of the ‘Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014’, which came into force on 6th August standing order No: 3 (l) at present refers to the ability to record meetings only with the council’s permission. It was resolved to revise standing orders by deleting the wording of SO 3(l), leaving the number in place, and adding in “Deleted following the implementation of the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014”.</p>
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220/9	<p>Planning matters:</p>
9.1	Minutes: resolved that the minutes of the Planning meeting held on 04.09.14 were confirmed as a correct record, duly signed by the Chairman.
9.2	To consider a member speaking at the Planning Committee meeting on behalf of the Parish Council in regard to application W/14/01549/PN and content in the 3 minute slot. Item deferred as amendment to application received.

220/10	Financial matters: Resolved to approve the ‘Schedule of Payments’ as listed and the bank
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ABBOTS MORTON PARISH COUNCIL.

	reconciliation to 24.06.14.
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220/11	It was agreed that the Council would write a letter to Melanie Clarke to congratulate her on a successful performance whilst representing Great Britain in the World Triathlon Grand Final in Edmonton in Canada.
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220/12	To consider financial grant support to neighbouring parishes. Item deferred as member not present.
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220/13	Finance Group meeting: Clerk to circulate dates to members.
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220/14	Parish Councillors report and items for future agendas: Commemorative plaque; Budget; Purchase of plant bulbs; Email protocol; Parish Paths Warden report. NB: Planning meeting 6 th October 2014.
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Meeting declared closed at 9.00 pm.	
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Signed by the Chairman:Dated: 27th November 2014

Correspondence for distribution that does not require decision.

1.	Site Allocations Plan for Stratford-on-Avon District: Intention to Prepare a Local Plan - Regulation 18 Consultation and Stratford-on-Avon Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule Consultation. Emailed to members 23rd August 2014.
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ABBOTS MORTON PARISH COUNCIL.

**Minutes of the Planning meeting held on Monday 6th October 2014 at 8.02pm
in Abbots Morton Village Hall. Meeting No: 221.**

Present:	Cllrs. Mr. Clapton (Chair), Mr. Smith, Mr. Humphries, Mr. Ernest, Mrs. Ansell, Mr. Holt and Mr. Pemberton. In attendance: Mrs. N. Holland (Clerk), Dist. Cllr. Mr. Lee and 4 parishioners.
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221/1	Apologies: Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Steel.
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221/2	Declarations of Interest: Prejudicial interest declared by Cllr. Mr. Smith in item 221/4.1b as he resides in area and is part owner of private drive to the site.
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221/3	Dispensation received: The Council agreed to grant a dispensation to Cllr. Mr. Smith to speak on any item of business concerning the proposed solar farm planning application at Morton Wood Farm as it is in the interests of people living in the Council's area. The Council also decided to grant him a dispensation to allow him to vote. The dispensation was given for a period of 2 months.
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Public Question Time: notes appended to these minutes. Meeting suspended at 8.05pm, reconvening at 8.07 pm.

221/4	Planning Matters
4.1	<p>It was resolved to comment on the following applications:</p> <p>a) W/14 /02027/PP - The Barn, Abbots Morton. WR7 4NA Proposal: Proposed single storey extension and alterations to existing outbuildings. Comments: The Parish Council requests that the glass screening replacing the existing garage door is not detrimental to the front aspect in respect of the affect on the street scene, and is conducive to Article 4(2) directions within the Conservation Area Appraisal 2005 document for Abbots Morton.</p> <p>b) W/14/01549/PN – Morton Wood Farm, Morton Wood Lane, Abbots Morton. Proposal: 4.85MW solar farm with ancillary buildings, deer fencing, cctv, access tracks and landscaping. Amendment: to the site area (red line) to include the proposed access track. Comments: The Parish Council would reiterate that all previous correspondence remains valid in respect of this application.</p> <p>The following comments are in regard to the amended plans:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is believed that the "private access track" should be referred to as a private drive as it is a metalled surface. 2. The enlarged site boundary encompasses a large area of bridleway and private drive. It is noted that the amended plan may include a larger area to the north west of the site; therefore, the settings of all designated heritage assets within 2km of the site in the Heritage and Archaeology Assessment/Morton Wood Sensitive Sites would need to be addressed again. 3. The lorry/car parking area is not shown on the amended plan. If vehicles are to be parked on land the other side of the bridleway they will have to access the site by crossing the bridleway adjacent to the site. (Drawing No: 00011-36-102-A). 4. It is understood that access to the site along the private drive is in dispute.
4.2	It was agreed that Cllr. Mr. Humphries would speak at the Planning Committee meeting on behalf of the Parish Council in regard to application W/14/01549/PN reiterating the Council's comments

ABBOTS MORTON PARISH COUNCIL.

	submitted to the District Council.
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Meeting declared closed at 8.50 pm.
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Signed by the Chairman:Dated: October 30th 2014.

Public Question Time.

4 parishioners in attendance.

Objection made in regard to the Solar Farm planning amendment application:

Concern raised over applicants referral to access track as it is a private drive.

ABBOTS MORTON PARISH COUNCIL.

**Minutes of the Planning meeting held on Monday 30th October 2014 at 8.00 pm
in Abbots Morton Village Hall. Meeting No: 222.**

Present:	Cllrs. Mr. Clapton (Chair), Mr. Smith, Mr. Humphries, Mr. Ernest, Mrs. Ansell, Mr. Holt and Mr. Pemberton. In attendance: Mrs. N. Holland (Clerk).
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222/1	Apologies: Nil.
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222/2	Declarations of Interest: Nil declared.
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222/3	Dispensation received: Nil received.
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Public Question Time: Nil.

222/4	Planning Matters
4.1	Minutes: resolved that the minutes of the Planning meeting held on 06.10.14 were confirmed as a correct record, duly signed by the Chairman.
4.2	It was resolved to comment on the following application: a) W/14 /02147/CU - The Barn, Abbots Morton. WR7 4NA Proposal: Proposed stables and change of use of land for keeping horses. Comments: The Parish Council has no objections to the proposal subject to the following being addressed: a) Waste Management: no details given of collection/storage of manure waste and access to collect. If manure is to be stored in close proximity of the site, water runoff from the area will be contaminated by the manure and could be concentrated in one area. Concerns raised where this runoff would settle as properties nearby. b) Consultation with the County Council as a Right of Way can be seen where proposed site is planned. c) Tree Survey to include an arboricultural methods statement and tree protection plan which details necessary tree works and tree protection during construction. d) There is no mention as to whether utility services, i.e. electricity, will be supplied to the proposed site.
4.3	Correspondence received duly noted: a) The Proposed Modifications to the Submitted South Worcestershire Development Plan will be available for comment from Monday 6th October 2014 until 5.00pm on Friday 14th November 2014. No comment.

Meeting declared closed at 8.20 pm.
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Signed by the Chairman:Dated: 27th November 2014.

ABBOTS MORTON PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 27th November 2014 at 8.00 pm in Abbots Morton Village Hall. Meeting No: 223.

Present:	Cllrs. Mr. Clapton, (Chairman), Mr. Humphries, Mr. Smith, Mr. Ernest, Mrs. Ansell and Mr. Pemberton. In attendance: Mrs. N. Holland (Clerk) and Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Steel and 1 parishioner.
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223/1	Apologies: Cllrs. Mr. Holt (reason accepted by Council) and Dist. Cllr. Mr. Lee.
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223/2	Declarations of Interest: a) Register of Interests: Cllrs. were reminded of the need to update their register of interests. b) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests: Cllr. Mr. Smith declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest re item 10.5 as he carried out the work. Member left the meeting whilst the matter was under discussion. c) Other Disclosable Interests: Nil declared.
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223/3	Written requests from Councillors for the Council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) – nil received.
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Public Question Time: Nil.

223/4	Minutes: resolved that the minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on 25.09.14 were confirmed as a correct record following alteration to min.no:220/7a to read ‘consider’ applying’, duly signed by the Chairman.
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223/5	Clerk’s report: <u>Wychavon Area CALC meeting</u> – to take place on 4th December 2014. <u>Annual General Meeting</u> of the Worcestershire County Association of Local Councils will be held on Wednesday 26th November 2014 at 7pm in the Council Chamber at County Hall, Worcester.
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223/6	Reports received from District Cllr.: <u>Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Steel:</u> a) Jack Hegarty has been appointed as the Managing Director over Wychavon and Malvern District Councils. He will take up the appointment from the 1 st December 2014. By having a joint post it will save the District Councils £60,000. b) Comments on the Parish Council’s objections to the Solar Farm application was discussed in order that Mrs. Steel had full information for the site visit to take place.
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223/7	Reports received from representatives: a) <u>Village Hall.</u> Cllr. Mr. Pemberton reported the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial dishwasher installed; bookings increased; Parochial Church Council now pay hire fees; looking into responsibilities for disability needs as per Equality Act 2010; Secretary has resigned. The Committee have contacted the Highways Department re a ‘Village Hall’ directional sign to be placed at the road junction with Low Road. b) <u>Public Path Warden report:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right of Way to be opened up adjacent to Morton Spiert Farm and replacement of a directional fingerpost. • Recent report of water pouring from a hole near a stile close to Tudor Cottage has been attended to. c) <u>Update on the Broadband Campaign:</u>
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ABBOTS MORTON PARISH COUNCIL.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr. Mr. Ernest has been highlighting the plight of superfast broadband in Worcestershire by discussing the problem on various local and countrywide radio stations. • On the 17th November 2014 Worcestershire County Council published a list of areas to next 'Go Live' with Superfast Broadband. • Confirmed on the map that Abbots Morton is not in the 'Go Live' phase. • The Government is giving extra funding to Worcestershire County Council (WCC) to increase superfast broadband from 90% to 95%. WCC has to identify additional funding. • Officer at WCC is being asked the question of what will happen to the 5% that will not receive Superfast Broadband.
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223/8	Protocol for emails: Chairman has contacted Worcestershire CALC over the legality of dealing with emails. Members are reminded to be professional, to rely on integrity and to apply the Code of Conduct as emails would be classified as a legal document.
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223/9	Planning matters:
9.1	Minutes: resolved that the minutes of the Planning meeting held on 30.10.14 were confirmed as a correct record, duly signed by the Chairman.
9.2	Correspondence received from the Planning Authority duly noted: a) W/14/02027/PP – The Barn, Abbots Morton. Permission granted with 5 conditions/reasons. b) W/14/01795/PP – The Barn, Abbots Morton. Permission refused. c) W/14/02147/CU – The Barn, Abbots Morton. Permission granted with 6 conditions/reasons.

223/10	Financial matters.
10.1	Resolved to approve the 'Schedule of Payments' as listed and the bank reconciliation to 21.10.14. Current A/C £4160.05; Business A/C £9898.86.
10.2	A proposal to give financial grant support to neighbouring bodies, i.e. First responder, Church Lench, Inkberrow Lunch Club, was discussed. It was agreed in principle to see if this would be of a direct benefit to the village and to bring to the next meeting.
10.3	It was agreed that the Clerk could purchase a laptop with contributions from all other Parish Councils she is employed by, maximum cost of £600. The laptop would be depreciated over a period of 5 years. The Village Hall Committee would discuss the idea of purchasing a projector.
10.4	Resolved that the budget to form the precept for 2015-16 is £5764. (LGA 1072 s150).
10.5	Resolved that the maintenance work carried out to the Notice Boards be paid.

223/11	Speed Limit: a proposal to launch a fresh speed limit campaign following the release of the Department of Transport video campaign about dangerous driving on rural roads was discussed. Members would attend a presentation from the Manager of the Safer Roads Partnership in Rous Lench next week.
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223/12	Quotes for the purchase and inscription of a plaque for the Jubilee Tree. Three quotes received. It was agreed by all to accept the quote from Brunel Engraving for a 10"x 8" plaque on a wooden background at a cost of £100.
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223/14	Parish Councillors report and items for future agendas: Nil.
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Meeting declared closed at 9.35 pm.	
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ABBOTS MORTON PARISH COUNCIL.

Signed by the Chairman:Dated: January 29th 2015.

Correspondence for distribution that does not require decision.

1.	Controlling Street Trading in Wychavon –Wychavon District Council is currently reviewing the way that it controls street trading in its area. As part of this process, the Council has published a consultation document. Responses need to be received by 31 December 2014. Emailed to members 10th October 2014.
2.	Clerks & Councils Direct – November 2014.

ABBOTS MORTON PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of the Planning meeting held on Monday 8th December 2014 at 8.28 pm in Abbots Morton Village Hall. Meeting No: 224.

Present:	Cllrs. Mr. Clapton (Chair), Mr. Smith, Mr. Humphries, Mr. Ernest, Mrs. Ansell, and Mr. Pemberton. In attendance: Mrs. N. Holland (Clerk) and Dist. Cllr. Mr. Lee.
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224/1	Apologies: Cllr. Mr. Holt (reason accepted) and Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Steel.
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224/2	Declarations of Interest: Cllr. Mr. Smith Disclosable Pecuniary interest declared in item 224/4.2 as he resides in the area and is part owner of private drive to the site to which the application refers to.
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224/3	Dispensation received: Cllr. Mr. Smith dispensation in place to be allowed to speak and vote in regard to item 4.2.
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Public Question Time: Nil.

224/4	Planning Matters
4.1	<p>It was resolved to comment on the following application:</p> <p>a) W/14 /02570/CU – Morton Spiert Farm, Abbots Morton. WR7 4NA. Proposal: Conversion of existing cattle shelter to form office together with associated works. Comments: The Parish Council would like to raise the following concerns:</p> <p>a) The site in question is on an existing flood plain. b) Following the change of use of the residential agricultural dwelling to a calving barn and cattle shelter constructed in 2010 it is requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A detailed building and structural survey be carried out following the alterations to the building in accordance with Wychavon District Local Plan (Adopted June 2006) Policy RES 3.3.6. • The bat survey submitted was carried out in 2008. A new survey is requested due to the alterations made to the building and its use. <p>c) If the application is approved a condition be revoked with regard to Wychavon District Local Plan (Adopted June 2006) Policy RES7 3.3.11 <i>“Where a proposal involves the re-use or conversion of agricultural buildings, permitted development rights may be withdrawn for new farm buildings on the relevant part of that particular agricultural unit or holding, to control the proliferation of such buildings and safeguard the landscape”.</i></p>
4.2	Update on application W/14/01549/PN: application recommended for approval at the Planning Committee meeting on the 4 th December 2014. Minutes of that meeting not received to date. Cllr. Mr. Smith read out a report on his opinion of the proceedings.

Meeting declared closed at 9.05 pm.
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Signed by the Chairman:Dated: 29th January 2015.

ABBOTS MORTON PARISH COUNCIL.

**Minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 29th January 2015 at 8.07 pm
in Abbots Morton Village Hall. Meeting No: 225.**

Present:	Cllrs. Mr. Clapton, (Chairman), Mr. Humphries, Mr. Smith, Mr. Holt, Mrs. Ansell and Mr. Pemberton. In attendance: Mrs. N. Holland (Clerk) and Dist. Cllrs. Mrs. Steel and Mr. Lee and 2 parishioners.
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225/1	Apologies: Cllrs. Mr. Ernest, PC Tony Carter and PCSO Kathryn Hearnden.
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225/2	<p>Declarations of Interest:</p> <p>a) <u>Register of Interests:</u> Cllrs. were reminded of the need to update their register of interests.</p> <p>b) <u>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:</u> Cllr. Mr. Smith declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest re item 9.2 as he is part owner of private drive and is a member of Morton Wood Farm Association.</p> <p>c) <u>Other Disclosable Interests:</u> Cllr. Mr. Pemberton declared an Other Disclosable Interest in item 12.2 as a member of a public body, Village Hall Committee.</p>
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225/3	<p>Written requests from Councillors for the Council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) – two dispensation requests received:</p> <p>a) <u>Cllr. Mr. Smith</u> - the Council agreed to grant a dispensation to Cllr. Mr. Smith to enable him to speak on any item of business concerning the solar farm application as a part owner of drive that leads to the solar farm site and as a Member of Morton Wood Farm Association as this will be in the interests of people living in the Council's area. The Council decided also to grant him a dispensation which would allow him to vote (5 in favour; 1 against). The dispensation was granted for this meeting only.</p> <p>b) <u>Cllr. Mr. Pemberton</u> - the Council agreed to grant a dispensation to Cllr. Mr. Pemberton to enable him to speak on any item of business concerning the Village Hall Committee as this will be in the interests of people living in the Council's area. The Council decided also to grant him a dispensation which would allow him to vote. The dispensation was granted for this meeting only.</p>
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Public Question Time:	meeting suspended at 8.10 pm, reconvening at 8.20pm. Notes of which are appended to these minutes.
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225/4	Minutes: resolved that the minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on 27.11.14 were confirmed as a correct record, duly signed by the Chairman.
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225/5	<p>Clerk's report:</p> <p><u>Laptop</u> - ACER Aspire V3-572 15.6" purchased at a sale price of £499.99 inclusive of VAT. Three Parish Councils to be invoiced for their contribution of £104.17.</p> <p><u>2015 Wychavon Community Grants scheme</u> - Grant Application Packs are available, the closing date for all grant applications is NOON on Friday 27th March 2015.</p> <p><u>Abbots Morton Village Hall Committee</u> - The Village Hall Committee would ask that the following statement be kept on the Parish Council files and introduced into any debate whenever, if at all, any issue of the management of the Village Hall is discussed by Abbots Morton Parish Council.</p> <p><i>Under the Constitution of the Village Hall, the Village Hall Management Committee is a "stand alone" Charity with Trustees running it independently of the Parish Council. Its running costs should not be financed by the People of the Parish (i.e. via a parish precept). The Parish Council has no say in the policy or running of the Village Hall and has no responsibility for it, other than paying the mortgage for another 2 years and responding to any grant requests from the Village Hall Management Committee."</i></p> <p><u>Wychavon District Council</u> - are holding a 'Strong Communities' event on Wednesday 25th March</p>
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ABBOTS MORTON PARISH COUNCIL.

	<p>from 6-8.30pm in the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre. Topics to be included: New Homes Bonus, Rural Communities Programme, intelligence and trends about the District and the latest update about what is happening at Wychavon District Council.</p> <p><u>District and Parish Council Elections</u> – prospective candidate’s seminar to take place on 12th February 2015 (District) and 19th February (Parish Council) both taking place at 6.15pm in the Civic Centre, Pershore. If interested in attending please contact the Electoral Service Department at Wychavon District Council on 01386 565000.</p>
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225/6	<p>Reports received from County and District Cllrs. and Police:</p> <p><u>County Cllr. Mr. Holt:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A further reduction of 141 in the claimant count for job seekers allowance. • Worcestershire Schools are performing above the national average. More students are achieving higher GCSE results than students across the country. 5% exceeded above the national average. • Budget. Proposals to be put to the Cabinet and then to the County Council for approval on the 12th February 2015. Likely to increase the Council Tax by 1.94%. This will give £4 million towards looked after children. • Work to start soon on the Norton & Parkway station. Planned opening May 2017. • County Cllr. Divisional Fund is being proposed to go forward for approval in 2015-16. <p><u>Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Steel:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project initiative ‘Grow, Save, Change’ is proving to be successful. Three large companies have located to the Wychavon District in Droitwich, Evesham and Pershore. Savings have been made by appointing one Managing Director over Wychavon and Malvern Hills District Councils. • Council Tax likely to increase by 1.94%. • New Homes Bonus is likely to cease if the Labour Party win the election according to recent reports in the newspaper. <p><u>Police</u> – two burglaries recently taken place in Inkberrow.</p>
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225/7	<p>Reports received from representatives:</p> <p>a) <u>Village Hall</u>. Cllr. Mr. Pemberton gave a concise report of the activities of the Village Hall Committee covering the appraisal carried out by Community First, Development priorities of the Committee, Events, Finances, Maintenance, Community Benefit from Sun & Soil Ltd and the status of the Village Hall Committee. The Annual General Meeting will be held on the 23rd February 2015. A copy of the full report can be obtained from the Clerk.</p> <p>b) <u>Public Path Warden report:</u> Cllr. Mr. Smith reported that a new directional finger post has been installed at Morton Spiert Farm, repairs have taken place on two stiles on the main path to Inkberrow and that there has been an unauthorised repair to an unauthorised stile adjacent to Whites Close which he has reported to Countryside Services. A specialist team from the County Council will be clearing footpath AM512. With regard to AM555 verification of suitability of the bridleway to take extra traffic for the planned Solar Farm is unsure. Cllr. Mr. Holt has offered to contact the Rights of Way Officer over this matter. A copy of the full report can be obtained from the Clerk.</p>
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225/8	<p>The report from meeting held with the Projects Manager from the Safer Roads Partnership scheme was discussed. It was agreed to bring this item back to a future meeting.</p>
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225/9	<p>Planning matters:</p>
9.1	Minutes: resolved that the minutes of the Planning meeting held on 08.12.14 were confirmed as a correct record, duly signed by the Chairman.
9.2	A proposal to answer questions from Cllr. Mr. Smith in regard to the Planning Committee decision

ABBOTS MORTON PARISH COUNCIL.

	<p>on application W/14/01549/PN was discussed at length with regard to the following:</p> <p>a) Why could the Planning Committee make a decision while legal planning issues remained unanswered? The legal issues refer to a private drive that is on the access road to the solar farm application site. Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Steel reiterated that this is a civil matter between the residents affected and the applicant. Suggested that the residents approach a legal advisor or contact the Ombudsman. Cllr. Mr. Smith reported that a resident had written to the Planning Officer regarding legal issues which the Officer had passed onto the Legal Department at Wychavon District Council. The resident concerned had not received a response. It was agreed by all that the Council should write on the residents behalf subject to information being received from the resident. Depending on response to bring back to the March meeting.</p> <p>b) Why no condition has been placed on the repair to the private driveway over which all construction traffic must pass? It is not clear with regard to condition/reason 7 stated on the approved document W/14/01549 if the whole length of the road/bridleway is to be inspected or just the public highway section. Cllr. Mr. Smith was asked to forward an email he had received from the Planning Officer in regard to this to County Cllr. Mr. Holt who would discuss the matter with the Highway Officer.</p> <p>c) Why a District Councillor was not silenced in his 'off topic' address? This question was not debated as an answer had already been received by the Planning Department through Abbots Morton Residents' Association. It was reiterated that the Chairman of the Planning Committee allows members to speak freely.</p>
9.3	<p>Correspondence received from the Planning Authority duly noted:</p> <p>a) W/14/01549/PN – Morton Wood Farm, Morton Wood Lane, Abbots Morton. Permission granted with 20 conditions/reasons.</p>

225/10	Financial matters. Resolved to approve the 'Schedule of Payments' as listed and the bank reconciliation to 16.12.14. It was also approved to pay to Harvington Parish Council the sum of £104.17 for the contribution towards the laptop. Current A/C £2848.14; Business A/C £9900.10.
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225/11	Date of the Annual Parish meeting. Clerk to circulate dates to members.
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225/12	Correspondence received considered.
12.1	It was agreed to respond to an extract from a statement made, 18 December 2014, by Local Government Minister, Kris Hopkins, on the subject of increases in Council Tax precepts as it was felt that a proposal to place a 2% cap on the precept for Parish Councils is contrary to Localism.
12.2	A request from the Village Hall Committee asking that the Council addresses the question of the 'Community Fund' that 'Sun & Soil' offered at a public meeting on August 5 th 2014 was discussed. It was agreed that initially the Clerk would contact 'Sun & Soil' to inquire what fund was available, in what form and how can it be used.

225/13	Parish Councillors report and items for future agendas: Cllr. Mr. Holt re information from the Highways Officer on planning conditions re the access road from Morton Wood Lane to the solar farm site.
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225/14	Resolved to exclude the public and press in the public interest for consideration of the following items:
	<p>a) Personnel issues relating to the NALC recommended salary award. It was resolved to approve the salary award as recommended by NALC.</p> <p>b) Parish Lengthsman review of contract and fee. It was agreed that no changes be made.</p> <p>c) Internal Auditor contract for 2015-16. Agreed to renew the agreement at the same fee as last</p>

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year. d) A pension scheme for the Clerk following recent legislation for automatic enrolment by the Pensions Regulator was considered. Letter to be written to the Clerk giving her details and options on the legislation.
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Meeting declared closed at 10.05 pm.

Signed by the Chairman:Dated: 26th February 2015.

Correspondence for distribution that does not require decision.

1.	Parish Council Matters – December 2014. Circulated to members.
2.	Clerks & Councils Direct – January 2015.

Public Question Time – 2 parishioners in attendance.

Members of the public raised concerns during Public Question Time regarding the following:

- *Solar Farm application – no conditions placed on the private drive for the Solar Farm Application. Would the Council consider supporting the ban of use of heavy vehicles as it did with the trucks accessing the C2010 from the Quarry site?*
- *Disappointment over District & Council members supporting the solar farm application.*
- *Matters relating to the Village Hall Committee.*
- *'Sun and Soil' regarding the use of a Community Fund if one should be received.*

ABBOTS MORTON PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 26th February 2015 at 8.00pm in Abbots Morton Village Hall. Meeting No: 226.

Present:	Cllrs. Mr. Smith, Mr. Humphries, Mr. Holt, Mrs. Ansell, and Mr. Pemberton. In attendance: Mrs. N. Holland (Clerk).
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226/1	Election of Chairman following the resignation of Mr. Clapton. It was proposed by Cllr. Mr. Pemberton, seconded by Cllr, Mr. Holt and resolved that Cllr. Mr. Humphries be elected as Chairman. Declaration of duly signed. Cllr. Mr. Pemberton proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Chairman who he had felt had been a diligent Chairman and member who had steered the Council through a difficult period, who had acted with integrity in the best interests of the Council. His experience and knowledge particularly in planning matters would be greatly missed. This was not seconded.
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226/2	Apologies: Cllr. Mr. Ernest (reasons accepted by Council) and Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Steel.
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226/3	Declarations of Interest. <u>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:</u> nil declared. <u>Other Disclosable Interests:</u> nil declared.
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226/4	Dispensations: nil received.
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Public Question Time: notes appended to these minutes. Meeting suspended at 8.07pm, reconvening at 8.15 pm.
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226/5	Resolved that the minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on 29.01.14 were confirmed as a correct record, duly signed by the Chairman.
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226/6	Planning Matters
6.1	Following discussion it was agreed not to comment on the following proposal: a) W/15/00341/PP – The Barn, Abbots Morton. WR7 4NA. Proposal: Proposed replacement of 13no existing windows and installation of 2no, roof windows.
6.2	Correspondence received duly noted: a) W/14/02570/CU – Morton Spiert Farm, Abbots Morton. Permission granted with 6 conditions/reasons.

Meeting declared closed at 8.20 pm.
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Signed by the Chairman:dated: 26th March 2015.

Public Question Time.

County Cllr. Mr. Holt reported the following:

a) He has spoken to Mr. Pilcher, Highways Department, from Worcestershire County Council in regard to the planning application for the Solar Farm. He is arranging a meeting with Mr. Pilcher, and an Officer from Countryside Services, to look at the condition of the public highway and the public right of way. Cllr. Mr. Smith would also attend that meeting on behalf of the Parish Council.

b) Waiting to hear of the cost of providing a directional sign for the Village Hall to be erected at the crossroads of 'The Low'.

ABBOTS MORTON PARISH COUNCIL.

**Minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 26th March 2015 at 8.05pm
in Abbots Morton Village Hall. Meeting No: 227.**

Present: Cllrs. Mr. Humphries, (Chairman), Mr. Smith, Mr. Holt, Mr. Ernest and Mr. Pemberton.
In attendance: Mrs. N. Holland (Clerk) and Dist. Cllrs. Mrs. Steel and Mr. Lee and 1 parishioner.

227/1 Apologies: Cllrs. Mrs. Ansell. (Reason approved by Council).

227/2 Declarations of Interest:
a) Register of Interests: Cllrs. were reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
b) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests: Nil.
c) Other Disclosable Interests: Cllr. Mr. Pemberton declared an Other Disclosable Interest in item 227/10.2 and 227/10.3 as a member of a public body, Village Hall Committee.

227/3 Written requests from Councillors for the Council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) – one dispensation request received:
Cllr. Mr. Pemberton - the Council agreed to grant a dispensation to Cllr. Mr. Pemberton to enable him to speak on any item of business concerning the Village Hall Committee as this will be in the interests of people living in the Council's area. The Council decided also to grant him a dispensation which would allow him to vote. The dispensation was granted for this meeting only.

Public Question Time: meeting suspended at 8.07 pm, reconvening at 8.13pm. Notes of which are appended to these minutes.

227/4 Minutes: resolved that the minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 26.02.15.were confirmed as a correct record, duly signed by the Chairman.

227/5 Clerk's report:
2015 Wychavon Community Grants scheme - Grant Application Packs are available now and the closing date for all grant applications is NOON on Friday 27th March 2015.
May Elections - Election pack available from the Clerk or by contacting the electoral Roll Office at Wychavon District Council – Tel: 01386 565437; Email: elections@wychaovn.gov.uk. Nomination forms can be submitted between 23rd March and 4pm on the 9th April (being aware that Easter falls in the middle of this period). Candidates need to be aware of the new deadline time of 4pm and the fact that the close of withdrawals is the same time which is a change in law from previous elections. Nominations must be delivered by hand either by the candidate, or a person they trust, to The Showell Room, Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore between 9am and 5pm on normal working days Monday – Friday (excluding Bank Holidays and weekends).
Parish Lengthsman scheme – funding to be maintained at the same level as last year, £1655.33. Agreement signed between the County Council and the Parish Council.
External Audit – to take place on the 1st June 2015.
The Trustees of Cookhill Village Hall have agreed to host an open 2015 General Election Debate at the Hall on the 24th April to enable the rural areas of the Redditch Constituency to hear what our prospective parliamentary candidates have to offer the community. For more details and to submit questions prior to the event contact 07732 600883 or email cookhill.vh@gmail.com.

227/6 Reports received from County and District Cllrs. and Police:
County Cllr. Mr. Holt:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget approved with an increase of 1.94% in the Council Tax. Adding in the Education funding the County Council spends 1 million per day on services in Worcestershire. • Members' allowances frozen for the 7th year. • £900,000 allocated towards road and footway repairs. • Worcestershire Economy 3rd fastest growing in the country for the last two years. • Village Hall signs – two signs to be installed, one by the Low crossroads and the other outside the Hall. The Parish Council may be asked to assist with funding. • Solar Farm – meeting still to be arranged with the applicant, Rights of Way Officer, Highways Officer, and Cllr. Mr. Smith from the Parish Council. <p><u>Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Steel:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing the cost in the appointment of one Chief Executive over Wychavon and Malvern District Councils has saved £60,000. • Economic Development Officer at Wychavon will also be shared with Malvern District Council. This saves each Council £45,000. • Cllr. Mr. Pemberton proposed a vote of thanks to District Cllr. Mr. Lee for all his work and support in the Parish over the past 16 years. This was seconded by Cllr. Mr. Ernest and agreed by all. <p><u>Police</u> – nil.</p>
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227/7	Reports received from representatives:
	<p>a) <u>Village Hall</u> – three meetings recently held plus the Annual General Meeting where 6 elected members were appointed plus 2 representatives each from the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Homes Bonus application submitted to the Parish Council for approval in regard to programme for exterior painting of the Hall and phase 1 of the paving outside of the Hall. • Applied to the Parish Council for a grant to make up a full set of crockery placements. • Maintenance work taking place. External lights – replaced with LED bulbs which are more expensive but use less consumption of electricity. • From January 1st income has risen due to an increase in hire of the Hall. • Various events to take place over the next few months e.g. Tap dancing/ballet classes for the over 3's. <p>b) <u>Public Path Warden report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theft of stile and repair to drainage damage in Slade Wood. Replacement stile has been ordered.

227/8	The poor condition of the public highway along Morton Wood Lane following repairs carried out by the Highways Department at Worcestershire County Council was discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Head of the Highways Department, Jon Fraser.
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227/9	Website: the Abbots Morton website is not managed or owned by the Parish Council. It has been run by Cllr. Mr. Smith on behalf of the Community for the past 6-7 years with very little input. It was felt that the website does give an idea of what is happening in the village. Subscription has been paid for the next 2 years amounting to £68.39. It was agreed by all that the Council should reimburse Mr. Smith the subscription fee on behalf of the community and that he should not have to pay for this out of his own account. Mr. Smith was asked to look at the procedure in keeping the site up to date. For review at the July meeting.
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227/10	Financial Matters.
10.1	Resolved to approve the schedule of payments and bank reconciliation to 20.03.15.

ABBOTS MORTON PARISH COUNCIL.

10.2	The New Homes Bonus application on behalf of the Village Hall Committee was discussed. It was noted that once the rendering is seen to it is likely to require attention more frequently. All members in support of the application and agreed to submit to the District Council for decision.
10.3	Grant application received from the Village Hall Committee requesting support to purchase further placements of crockery to make up a full complement. Resolved to grant the full amount of £385.36.
10.4	Cllr. Mr. Ernest proposed that the Council should consider a donation to Inkberrow First Responders, a local body that covers the community. This was seconded by Cllr. Mr. Holt. Resolved that £150 be donated to be used to replenish and provide equipment used in their role.
10.5	Why Don't We Youth Project' - David Shortell, Chair of the Children's Kayak Charitable Trust, has requested financial support from all of the Wychavon Parish Councils in the launch of this project. It was felt that this project would not be an advantage to Abbots Morton.
10.6	The annual report on the Effectiveness of Internal Audit Service was considered and approved for 2015-16.

227/11	Emailing agenda and papers: the Local government (Electronic Communications) (England) Order 2015 came into force on 30 th January 2015 which amends paragraph 10(2)(b) of schedule 12 to the 1972 Act to permit email service of the summons and agenda. Councils must obtain a Councillor's consent to email service and to the email address used which can be withdrawn at any time. Council agreed to amend standing Orders to show this.
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227/12	Correspondence received considered.
12.1	Response received from 'Sun & Soil' in regard to the enquiry for a Community Fund in regard to the Solar Farm application reports that the community may benefit from the installation of the solar farm by carrying out on the village hall or perhaps local school for solar PV to be installed or perhaps energy efficiency studies with Sun & Soil carrying out some of the improvement works recommended in the report. Any such project revolves around the cost of doing the works. The Parish will need to decide on where our expertise and money is best spent. When the funds are released to us for the installation of the solar farm we can direct some of those funds to whatever project we decide is in the best interest of the Parish. It was agreed that the Clerk should respond with the following: At the Public Exhibition and at the Public Meeting a commitment was made by Sun & Soil to provide a community fund for the residents of Abbots Morton. Ideas that were mentioned at that meeting were a community schools solar programme, Vehicle Activated signs, Solar panels Village Hall and the Bell Tower Fund. In order for the Council to poll the Village it is requested that a ball park figure be provided on the funds available to Abbots Morton for the community fund.

227/13	A proposal put forward by Cllr. Mr. Ernest that the Parish Council trials the funding of the hire of the Village Hall for a 2 hour monthly slot to provide a drop in event on a monthly or two weekly basis for older persons or for anyone else in the community was discussed. It was resolved that a budget of £100 should be allocated for a six month period towards the cost of hiring the Hall. Project to then be reviewed in October.
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227/14	Parish Councillors report and items for future agendas: LiberTea street party to take place on Sunday 14 June at 3pm as the whole nation sits down to tea to celebrate, debate or reflect on their liberties. Monday 15 June marks the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta. Sir Peter Luff, MP, has forwarded an email asking the nation to take a moment to celebrate, debate and reflect on those
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	rights which we very often take for granted but which people throughout history have campaigned to make happen or fought to preserve. The Village Hall Committee will be arranging an event.
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Meeting declared closed at 9.35 pm.

Correspondence for distribution that does not require decision.

1.	Parish Council Matters – December 2014. Circulated to members.
2.	Clerks & Councils Direct – January 2015.

Signed by the Chairman:Dated: 21st May 2015.

Public Question Time:

a) Resident thanked Cllr. Mr. Pemberton in regard of the statement made at the last meeting (26/02/15 226.1.)
b) Councillor wished to place the record straight regarding a statement made by a resident at the January meeting as follows:

- Solar Farm application – comments made was own personal view.
- He has not colluded with the applicant or anyone else.
- He did visit Dudley’s coaches to hire a coach for a singers’ trip between public performances raising funding for cancer.
- At the Parish meeting on the 5th August 2014 the applicant did state that there would be a Community Fund to benefit the Parish. The Village Hall Committee voted not to contact the applicant until a decision was made in regard to the planning application. Following this the Committee approached the Parish Council on the 8th January 2015 asking them to contact the applicant re the Community Fund.
- Solar energy is required in the County.
- Appreciate all the work carried out by the old Village Hall Committee.

ABBOTS MORTON PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of the Planning meeting held on Tuesday 5th May 2015 at 8.00pm in Abbots Morton Village Hall. Meeting No: 228.
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Present:	Cllrs. Mr. Humphries, (Chair), Mr. Smith, and Mr. Pemberton. In attendance: Mrs. N. Holland (Clerk) and 1 parishioner.
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228/1	Apologies: Cllrs. Mrs. Ansell and Mr. Ernest (reasons accepted by Council) and Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Steel.
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228/2	Declarations of Interest. <u>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:</u> Nil. <u>Other Disclosable Interests:</u> Nil.
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228/3	Dispensations received: Nil.
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Public Question Time: Nil.

228/4	Planning Matters
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4.1	It was agreed to comment on the following proposal: a) W/15/00891/PP - Morton Wood House, Morton Wood Lane, Abbots Morton. Proposal: Two storey side extension. Comments: No objections.
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4.2	<u>Responses received from the New Homes Bonus consultation.</u> A total of 8 responses received from 72 flyers delivered to households. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 residents supported the Village Hall Committee proposal of improving paving and the exterior painting of the building. <u>Action:</u> Comments on feed back received from 2 residents to be forwarded to the Village Hall Committee. Suggestions for future ideas if funding continues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 residents suggested improvement to the access to the churchyard and to put in place a disabled access. Member of the Parochial Church Council stated that the access is under active consideration. Due to the topography of the site there are complex issues, efforts are being made to try and move this forward. A Working Party has been in place for a year and they are currently seeking advice from the Church Architects. <u>Action:</u> Feedback received to be forwarded to the Parochial Church Council. • 1 resident suggested the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>Home security for the elderly</u> – it was felt that this suggestion would not be supported by the New Homes Bonus scheme as the funding was meant to benefit the community as a whole and not private households. b) <u>Adoption of the verge</u> around the Diamond Jubilee Cherry Tree. It was agreed that this would be of no benefit. At present the area around the tree is trimmed by parishioner on a regular basis. c) <u>To provide kissing gates</u> on parish rights of way. Co-operation would be required between the County Council and local landowners. <u>Action:</u> Further investigation would take place if the funding was to continue e.g. number of paths involved. d) <u>History of the Village</u> – it was agreed that this would be a good project but it requires a group of people to take this forward. This has been discussed previously with no volunteers coming
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	<p>forward.</p> <p>e) <u>Adoption of the listed red telephone box</u> – Rural Communities Programme Manager is interested in this suggestion and may have funding available towards the project. He will be attending the May meeting to discuss his proposal.</p>
4.3	<p><u>Solar Farm application:</u></p> <p>a) The response from applicants in regard to the Community Fund was considered. Information received by telephone whereby the applicant could not confirm the amount of money available in the fund but did stress this would be a separate pot to the residents in Morton Wood Lane. He suggested ideas for the Community Fund e.g. would contribute to a project in the village, possibility of setting up a Community Energy Organisation that members of the public could invest in and solar panels to community buildings. The Council agreed that the Clerk should respond requesting that the offer be put in writing as the Council wishes to canvas the Parish but require an indication as to whether a project would be fully/partially funded.</p> <p>b) Meeting confirmed to take place on Wednesday 6th May 2015 with County Cllr. Mr. Holt, Highways Officer, Rights of Way Officer, Parish Council representative and the applicant/representative to discuss the access issues along Morton Wood Lane.</p>

Meeting declared closed at 8.50 pm.

Signed by the Chairman:Dated: May 21st 2015.