

Hidden Stories in the Little Abington Parish books

Two account books and three Little Abington Parish meeting / Council (after 1946) minute books covering the period 1894 ~ 1992



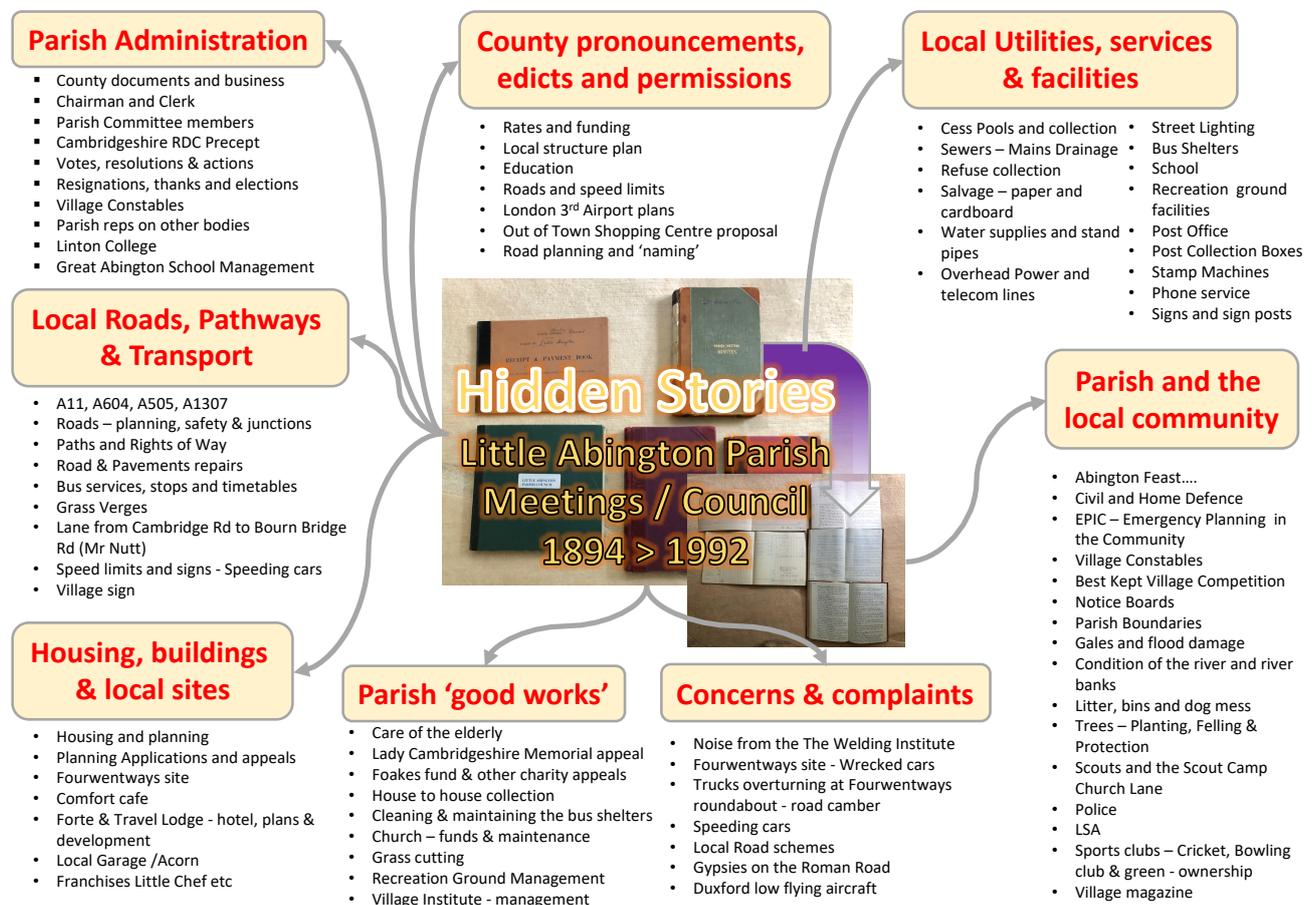
The parish Clerk was in the process of tidying up the archive for Little Abington Parish Council and had assembled a set of documents that were due to go for filing at the Cambridgeshire Archives at The Dock, Ely, CB7 4GS. Abington History Group was offered the opportunity to look at the books in September 2020 before they were sent for archiving.

This paper highlights the nature of their content and some of the 'hidden stories' that were documented sometimes over many years in these books.

It covers some of the ground already documented in a paper called

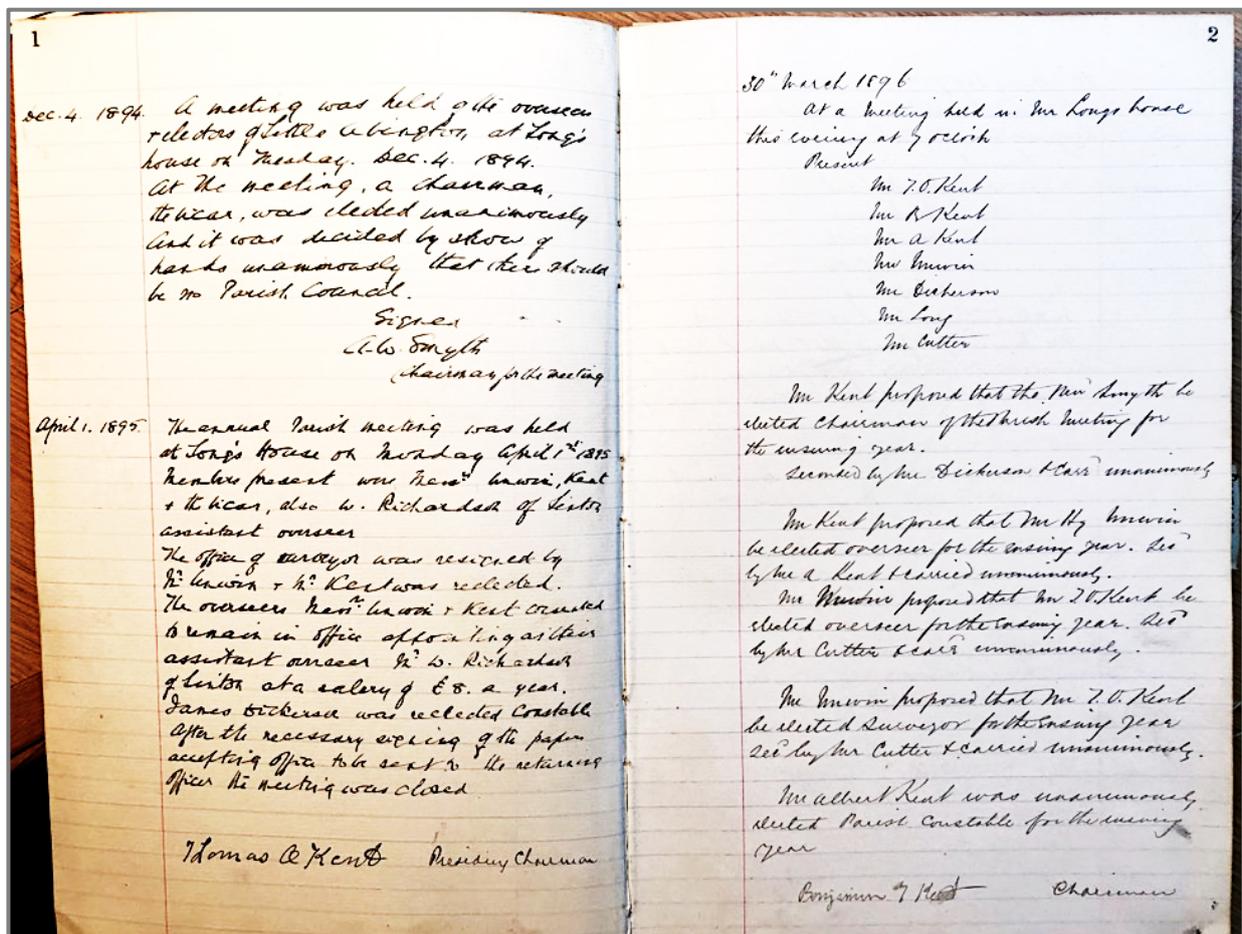
'Parish Council and Parish Meetings' written by Jennifer Hirsh in the AHG 2017 publication – Great and Little Abington – 1900 to 1930 – A Time of Change (Page 128) This was compiled using a copy of the Parish meeting / Council notes and lists the Chairmen, Overseers, Parish Constables and others named and attending meetings.

The figure below illustrates the breadth of topics that were covered by the members of the Parish Meetings (4th Dec 1894 - up to 1946) and then the elected Parish Council to 23rd March 1992. At the end of the paper there are three summary timeline diagrams of some interesting events together with a list of photos from the five books.



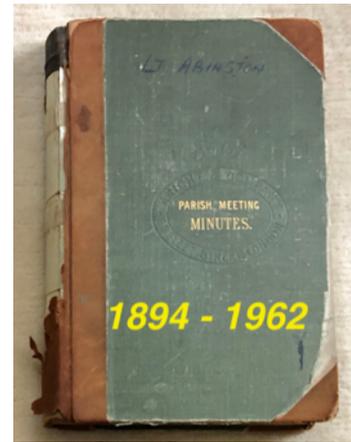


The period covered by each book is shown above and the very first entries for the Little Abington Parish Meeting are shown below for December 4th 1894 with Rev A W Smyth elected as chairman. At this meeting they decided unanimously that there should be **“no Parish Council”**.



Many familiar parish names served as chairman of the Parish Meetings which up to 1945 dealt mainly with the local oversight of civic duties, appointment of parish officials (constables, overseers and trustees) and parish representatives on other bodies such as school managers.

After 1945 many new parish issues appear with more lengthy minutes leading up the wide range of topics addressed at the Annual Assembly of the Parish on 28th March 1946 and the first meeting of the newly constituted Parish Council on 17th September 1946.



Chairman of the parish meeting

1894 & 1897 & 1899
Rev A W Smyth

Signed
A. W. Smyth
Chairman for the meeting

1895 - Thomas A Kent

Thomas A Kent

1896 & 1897 & 1898 - Benjamin Kent

Benjamin J Kent

1900 - 1916 - J A Wootten

J A Wootten
Chairman
March 11th 1903

1916 - Thomas Nesbitt

Thomas Nesbitt
Chairman

1916 - W Henry Unwin

W H Unwin
Chairman

1917 - Samuel Edgar Franklin

S E Franklin
Chairman

1918 - 1938 F Brandon Whittington

F Brandon Whittington
Chairman

Gap with no meetings until 1944

1944 - Alan Stevenson

Elected - Parish Council

1945 J K Taylor
1947 L W Conder
1947-49 J K Taylor
1949- 1962 L W Conder

J. K. Taylor
Chairman
15/4/47

L. W. Conder
Chairman
29th March 1950

The Little Abington Parish Meeting becomes a Parish Council

From 1894 Little Abington was represented by a Parish Meeting and did not elect a Parish Council until 1946. A Parish Council is a civil local authority that acts as the lowest tier of local government. Civil parish councils were formed in England under the Local Government Act 1894 to take over local oversight of civic duties in rural towns and villages from the vestry committee.

They are an elected body with variable tax raising powers and they 'represent the local community, deliver services to meet local needs and aim to improve the quality of life and well-being of the local community'.

The following is taken from the minutes of the Parish Meeting for the 28th March 1946

Establishment
of a Parish
Council

The necessary 14 days notice having been given the Meeting considered the advisability of forming a Parish Council for the parish. The Clerk explained the legal position from which it appeared that the County Council should establish a Parish Council for the parish as it was thought that the population of the parish now exceeded 300. The population was in any case well over 200 and it was proposed, seconded and resolved unanimously that the County Council be asked to establish a Parish Council for the Parish.

The first Little Abington Parish Council then met on 17th September 1946

69 71
14 Sept. 1946.

The first meeting of the newly constituted Parish Council was held at the School, Great Abington on Tuesday the 17th day of September 1946 at 7.30 pm.

Present.

- Miss M. F. L. Dyball
- Mr. J. K. Taylor
- L. W. Condon
- T. A. W. Stevenson.

Chairman. Mr. J. K. Taylor was unanimously elected chairman to hold office until April 1947.

Acceptance of Office. The Statutory Declarations of acceptance of Office were handed to the Clerk.

What did the Parish Meetings and Parish Councils do ?

The first diagram in the paper illustrates the breadth of topics that were covered by the members of the Parish Meetings (4th Dec 1894 - up to 1946) and then elected Parish Council to 23rd March 1992.

These come broadly under eight themes:

- Parish administration and procedural items
- County pronouncements, edicts and seeking permissions
- Local roads, pathways and transport
- Local utilities, services and facilities
- Housing, building, planning and local sites and locations
- Parish 'good works' and charities
- Concerns and complaints
- The Parish and the local community needs and well being

There are many themes that come up again and again - water supply, main drains, street lighting, poor roads and paths, rights of way, bus shelters, speed limits, trees - (planting, preserving and cutting down), committee membership and roles, and later detailed local planning applications and appeals.

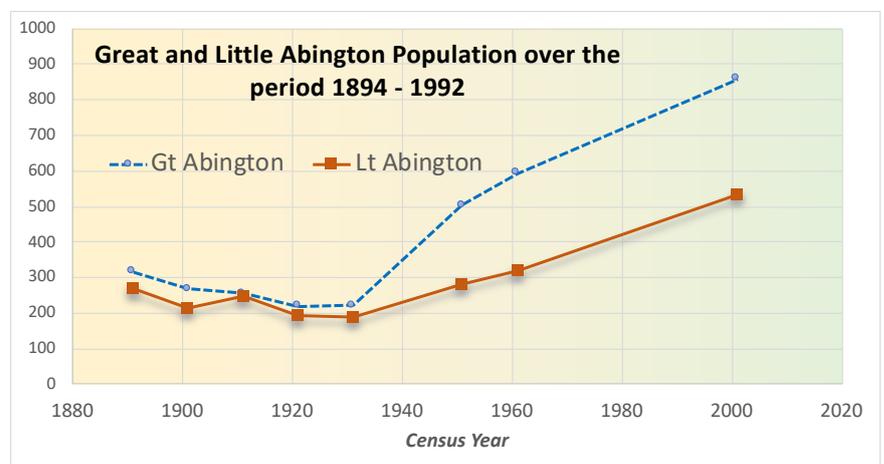
There are many familiar issues we would recognise and are still discussing today – speeding cars (starting in 1910), noise from The Welding Institute (1971), rights of way, the recreation ground, The Institute Management, appointment of and reports from school managers, village development and planning criteria (1962 November) etc.....

Some themes also tell some hidden stories that develop over time with successive entries over a number of years.

Utilities and Services

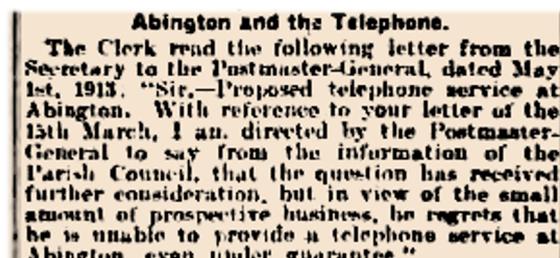
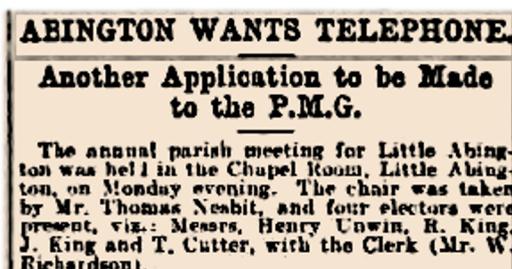
Around the Start of the period – 1894 the population of the villages was low and declining and did not start

Population		
Year	Gt Abington	Lt Abington
1891	317	268
1901	267	216
1911	255	247
1921	219	194
1931	221	188
1951	503	280
1961	593	321
2001	858	534



to increase until the 1940's.

On several occasions requests for services, such as a telephone for the village, were rejected due to the relatively small population and limited demand as reported in the Newspaper in 1914 and in the minute book on 23rd March 1914.



Although the Linton exchange was in operation from 1922, it was not until 12 years after the original request that the Abington Post Office had a telephone in 1926.

This is one example of an issue being raised and then appearing in different forms with additional actions for many years. (see the later story of **'The Bus shelter'**)

Post box requests first started in 1945 and appear several times but it is the requests for mains services that take up many pages in the minutes.

March 1946 66

Post Office
Box: It was unanimously resolved to write again to the Head Postmaster asking him to furnish his reasons for refusing to erect a post box. And in the event of further dissatisfaction it was resolved to write to the local Member of Parliament.

Cesspools and sewerage

A Cambridge Independent Press item in 1905 stated "the only village in the district that has a proper sewer is Sawston, the others all rely on sufficient garden ground on which the sewage can be disposed of." A similar statement is made regarding house refuse where the occupiers remove their own and dispose of it in their gardens or allotments.

In July 1947, a meeting was held that was described as "probably unique in the history of Great and Little Abington", at the Village Institute with representatives of Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Council addressing a joint Great and Little Abington meeting with 40 people attending. The statements covered education; no road improvements to be completed this year; a request for eight Airey Houses and an update on sewerage. The meeting was told "Abington is not in the first scheme proposed to be carried out but the SCRDC consulting engineer had been instructed to prepare a report" covering all the parishes in the district.

Nearly sixty years after the issue was first raised, the Little Abington Council minutes for 25th March 1964 are expressing concern over the poor cesspool emptying service and again the issue of the limited number of houses does not yet qualify the village for mains drainage.

A report to the meeting implies a wait of a further 3 or 4 years.

Mrs Rogers told the meeting that Great and Little Abington are next on the list on Group 1 for main drainage, and that it should be available in three or four years. The Abington

Even when the cesspool service is operating, all is not well for the occupants of Bourn Bridge Road.

Cesspool Disposal The Clerk was asked to inform the South Cambs R.D.C. that their lorries continue to discharge the contents of cesspools on to the fields beside Bourn Bridge Road within sight and smell of residential housing.

.... cesspool or septic tank emptying service from SCRDC was still a reoccurring issue in May 1966.... and onwards throughout all the minute books

Mains sewerage discussions continue through 1964, 1965, 1966 and in 1968 an entry reports on progress with the sewer routing and a plan to commence in 1969.....

Refuse collection

In March 1946 this action was raised to ask SCRDC for a general scheme for refuse disposal

Refuse
Collection

It was unanimously resolved to ask the South Cambridgeshire Rural District Council to proceed with a general scheme of refuse collection.

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Annual Parish Meeting (Continued)

Salvage

It was resolved that a request be made to the South Cambs. R.D.C. to institute a properly organised scheme for the collection of waste paper and ~~scrap~~ cardboard.

Refuse Collection

Satisfaction was expressed with the Scheme but it was felt that it would be even more so if the dates of collection were more generally known and that collections were actually made on the scheduled dates.

J. K. Taylor

Chairman

16.3.49.

In 1949 there was a service, but it appeared to be random with no timetables for 'bin day'.

There was also a request for a properly organised scheme for the collection of paper and cardboard – not quite recycling but quantities of paper and cardboard were clearly an issue in 1949.

Electricity

Although electricity was installed in the village in 1937/38 there were still issues regarding 'electrical power'. In November 1953 - "it was agreed that the Electricity Board be asked to look into the matter of the supply to certain parts of Little Abington, where it appears the supply is very low at times"

Water

In 1946 water was being provided though the provision of standpipes and some households were still using their own wells.

Water Supply

The question of providing a standpipe in Church Lane to serve the Church and two cottages was discussed and the Clerk was directed to write to the South Cambs. Rural District Council on the matter.

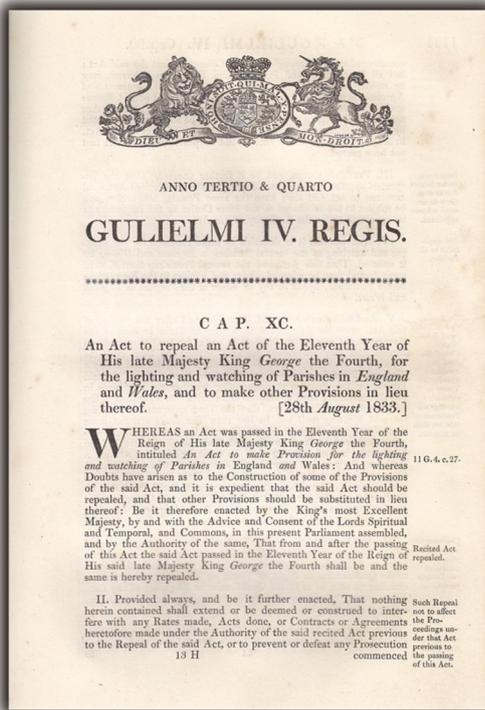
This was a potential health issue since there was still no mains sewerage and cesspools were being emptied on adjacent land.

Street Lighting

The issue of street lights first appears in November 1945 (still a Parish Meeting) with a request for Rev Balley to contact Great Abington Parish council "with a view to obtaining an estimate for street lighting from BCH Electricity Co in the two villages – the number of lights in Little Abington not to exceed six."

At the Parish Meeting in March 1946, the procedures for adopting the 'Lighting and Watching Act 1833' were explained. At this same meeting the preparations for establishing an elected Parish Council were underway which would then involve raising funds through the rates levied on the Little Abington residents.

Lighting and Watching Act. 1833 In accordance with the notice given the Chairman explained the procedure necessary for the adoption of the Lighting and Watching Act, 1833 and it was unanimously resolved that the Lighting and Watching Act, 1833 be adopted for the Parish of Little Abington.



The '**Lighting and Watching Act of 1833**' allowed groups of property owners to form committees and organise local street lighting. [It also allowed for the creation of local police forces - the 'watching' part of the Act]. These 'committees' [which for Little Abington, would shortly move from a Parish Meeting to a properly constituted Little Abington Parish Council], would then be **empowered to levy a rate** on other householders to pay for the lighting (or policemen).

By July 1946 it was established that the cost of the street lights would require levying of a rate of approximately 9d in the £ for a full year. It was agreed that this proposal should be publicised throughout the village and views sought.

This came up again in September 1946 and then at the 28th October 1946 Parish Council meeting it was reported that 93 people were in favour of proceeding with 43 against. The following action was then proposed.....

The Council hereupon resolved to accept the tender of the B.C.H. Electricity Co., to supply, erect and maintain the lighting fittings and other equipment, comprising 6 lamps (1-200 watt and 5-100 watt), clean and renew the lamps when necessary and light the lamps all the year round for the "half night" period for the annual sum of £29.2.4. The sum to be payable in four equal quarterly instalments and subject to a contract for a period of seven years.

The street lights were eventually switched on by councillor L W Condor at 4:45pm on 15th January 1949 – as reported in the council minutes for 9th Feb 1949

Street lighting and issues arising continue to feature in many of the meetings throughout the period and are reflected by entries in the account books.

State of the Roads and pathways

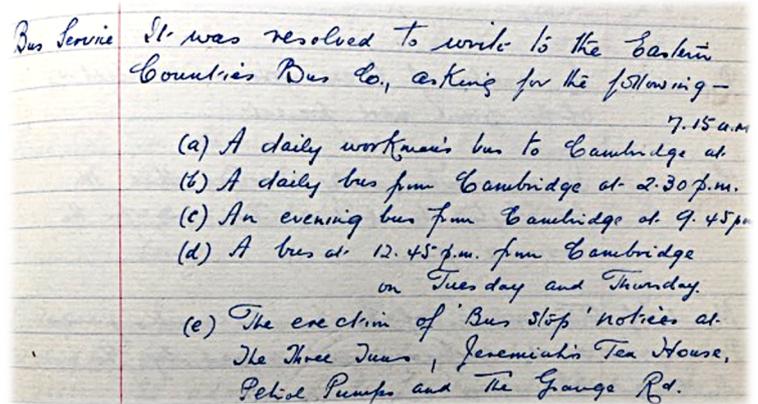
Another topic with many repeated entries throughout the minute books, is the state of roads and pathways (or lack of any) as illustrated by this example from March 1947 regarding Church Lane between Jeremiah's Café and Bancroft Farm.

Church Lane The State of Church Lane was discussed and the Clerk was directed to write to the County Surveyors calling attention to the bad and dangerous state of the roadway and asking also that a proper foot-way be constructed from Jeremiah's Café to Bancroft's Farm. Attention also to be given to the drainage.

Bus Service

The service for Abington started in 1923 when Ortona began a bus service from Cambridge to Haverhill (route Number 13) which stopped at various villages including Great and Little Abington.

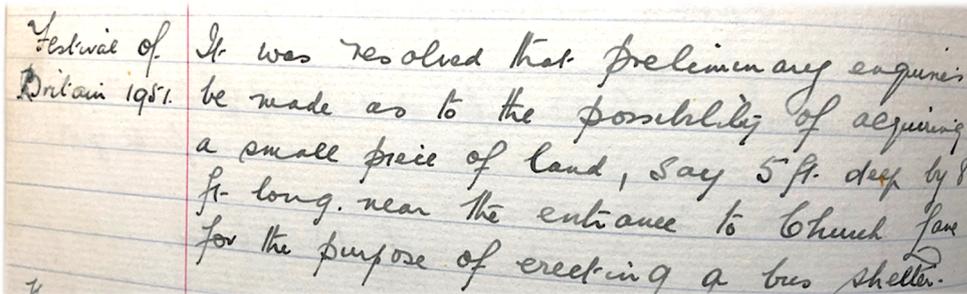
In November 1945 as recorded in the council minutes they resolved to write to Eastern Counties Bus Company with suggestions for a timetable that better suited Abington bus travellers. This was the first of many items concerning the bus service, bus stops and bus shelters.



Bus Service It was resolved to write to the Eastern Counties Bus Co., asking for the following -

- (a) A daily workmen's bus to Cambridge at 7.15 a.m.
- (b) A daily bus from Cambridge at 2.30 p.m.
- (c) An evening bus from Cambridge at 9.45 p.m.
- (d) A bus at 12.45 p.m. from Cambridge on Tuesday and Thursday.
- (e) The erection of 'Bus stop' notices at The Three Inns, Jeremiah's Tea House, Petrol Pumps and The Grange Rd.

The Bus Shelter story.....



Festival of Britain 1951. It was resolved that preliminary enquiries be made as to the possibility of acquiring a small piece of land, say 5 ft. deep by 8 ft. long, near the entrance to Church Lane for the purpose of erecting a bus shelter.

At the Annual Parish Meeting following the Parish Council meeting on 29th March 1950, the following item was proposed - to commemorate the 1951 Festival of Britain

with a new bus shelter near to the entrance of Church Lane Little Abington.

This started a long and complex hidden story over several years:

- **May 1950** – no response from the owner of the land
- **September 1950** – no response yet
- **November 1950** – still no response from J O Roberts regarding the land but also checked with Jeremiah's Café owner about the possibility of erecting a shelter at the side of the café and also to seek a joint meeting with Great Abington Council to discuss the Festival of Britain
- **January 1951** – the response from Great Abington Council was reported – “Owing to the serious international situation and the increasing difficulties here at home” [post war state of Britain, Cold War and start of Korean War ?] the council were of the opinion that there was “no call for festivities of any description and they therefore proposed to take no action”
- **March 1951** – Chairman to enquire as to the possibility of acquiring Mr Tiplady's old shop for conversion into a bus shelter
- **May 1951** – letters not answered
- **July 1951** – letter received from Messrs Wells & Winch Co saying they were unable to allow the council to use the building attached to the Crown Public House as a bus shelter. The Council then considered planting trees and placing a seat in the village for the Festival of Britain.
- **September 1951** – County surveyor recommends 3 rowan trees - which the councillors paid for to prevent it going on the rates (£1:10:6d) – also looking into a seat
- **February 1952** – regarding the seat – resolved to take no further action

Utilities and Services – the eventual outcomes

The specific dates at which all the services became available in Little Abington cannot be precisely established but this summary gives an indication of how the infrastructure in small villages generally lagged a long way behind the town of Cambridge.

- **1900 – Railway service** By 1900 the Great Eastern Railway (GER) had become an established part of village life with five passenger trains a day running on the branch line between Shelford and Haverhill in each direction and calling at Pampisford Station which served the Abingtons.
- **1923 – Bus Service** Bus Service – In 1923 Ortona began a bus service from Cambridge to Haverhill (illustrated a Number 13 in 1928) which stopped at various villages including Great and Little Abington.
- **1926 – Telephone services** First one in 1926 at the Post Office
- **1937-1938 – Electricity** According the AHG oral histories, Daisy Lindsell recalls paraffin lamps and candles being replaced by electric lamps around 1937 or 1938.
- **1949 – Street Lighting** Switched on 4:45pm on 15th January 1949
- **Mid / Late 1960s – Water** Mains water piped to the house mid to later 1960s replacing standpipes and wells (water schemes & the RDC mentioned as early as 1933)
- **1964 > 1969 – Mains Drainage and sewers** A report to the council meeting in 1964 implies a wait of a further 3 or 4 years and a meeting in May 1965 discusses SCDRC plans for the route of the main sewers – when the plans are ready – still discussing Dec 1966 – scheme for Abington approved but current financial freeze will delay the start – estimated to complete in 2 years – 1968 – plans to commence work in 1969
- **1969 – Abington Bypass** Opened on 16 April 1969 at 2.30pm
- **1979 – Gas services** – Opportunity turned down in 1979



Tracing topics through the minutes

Like the bus shelter story, there are many other topics where a thread can be traced through numerous entries in the minute books to create a story of Little Abington Village life and events over the period.

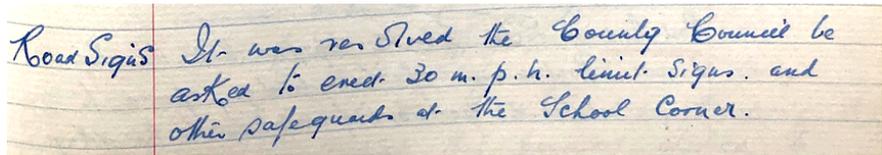
Housing – Many aspects of village housing are addressed including:

- The poor state of some cottages
- Land for new cottages and houses
- The construction of 8 Airey Houses
 - *These were designed by Sir Edwin Airey as cheap factory produced prefabricated reinforced concrete (PRC) housing which was quick to erect on site. Building of Airey houses in rural areas was used as a solution to the poor condition of housing in rural areas after the 1930s depression and wartime neglect. Around 26,000 Airey houses were built in the UK after the second world war.*
- Council housing - The lists of applicants and the allocation system
- The whole planning application and appeals process

Roads and road signs

- The state of repair – roads, paths, grass verges and trees
- Rights of way: An example is a long trail of entries regarding the lane or cutting (owned by Mr Nutt) from Cambridge Road to the end of what became Bourn Bridge Road. Entries start in 1949 and the issue is still being mentioned in 1991 – “lane to be closed to vehicular traffic”.

- Speed limits and road markings – November 1945
- Road naming (1967 – “Road leading from the end of Church Lane to the Temple Café to be known as Bourn Bridge Road” – and lots of name options recommended by the County Archivist for what became ‘Westfield’ in 1978)
- Dangerous corners and junctions and lighting
- The Village sign
- Commercial roadside signs (Esso Garage, Little Chef, Comfort Café....)



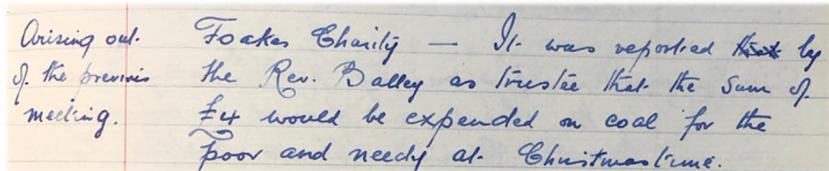
School Pupil Numbers

As reported by the Council Representative on the Great Abington School Management Committee

Date	Number of Pupils
1980	103
1982	110
1983	102
1984	98 (noting twice as many boys as girls ...)
Sept 1984	81
Summer 1985	95
Sept 1988	123

Parish Charities, appeals and organisations

- **The Foakes Charity** - Alice Margaret Foakes, formerly resident at the Old House, Little Abington left £100 for the poor of both parishes in 1927. Various members of the parish meeting or Council were elected as trustees for the fund and this March 1946 entry describes £4 being used for coal for the poor and needy at Christmas
- Various Appeals and requests for collections
- 1948 United Nations Appeal for Children – house to house collection approved
- December 1948 - A Cancer campaign
- References to Civil Defence (1951) and Emergency Planning in the Community (EPIC)
- 1953 Coronation – tins of chocolate for the children
- 1957 Hungarian relief fund
- 1988 Lady Cambridgeshire Memorial Fund (a village seat and trees planted)



The war Years

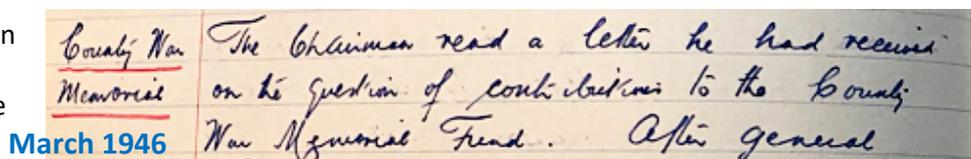
- WW I July 1914 – November 1918
- WW II September 1939 – September 1945

Somewhat surprisingly there is no mention of either war in the Parish Meeting records. Could this be due to some form of ‘censorship’ preventing key information being available in the event of the records being found by the enemy ??

There were Parish Meetings March 1913, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 – but no mention of the War

During the second world war there was a gap between March 1938 and the next meeting March 1944.

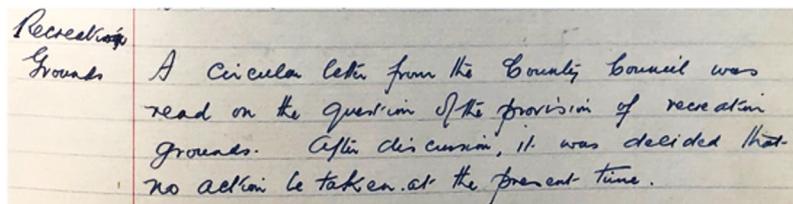
There were then meetings in May and November 1945 – but again no mention of the war.



March 1946 is the first mention of a **County War Memorial Fund**.

The Recreation Ground

The final story traced through the minutes was that of the history of the Recreation Ground. This starts in **September 1946** when a circular from the County Council was received – “decided no action at the present time”...



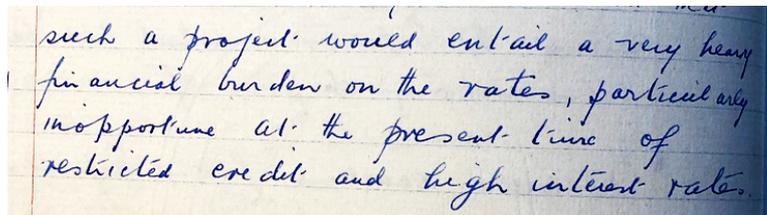
Recreation Grounds
A circular letter from the County Council was read on the question of the provision of recreation grounds. After discussion, it was decided that no action be taken at the present time.

December 1948 – Sports clubs - a proposal for a joint meeting with Great Abington Parish Council to discuss obtaining further recreational facilities – there were also questions regarding sites and locations and any backing or grants available

September 1955 – County planning Authority proposes a site for both villages – need a joint meeting to decide if a recreation ground is required

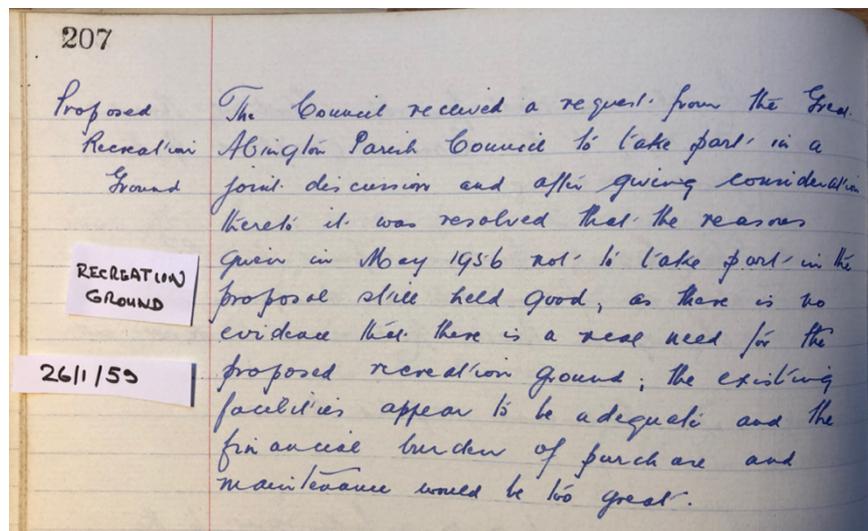
May 1956 – Little Abington considers the Great Abington Parish Council Proposal for the establishment of a recreation ground to serve both parishes.

Little Abington Council “considered that sufficient facilities for recreation already existed and that such a project would entail a very heavy financial burden on the rates, particularly inopportune at the present time of restricted credit and high interest rates”.



such a project would entail a very heavy financial burden on the rates, particularly inopportune at the present time of restricted credit and high interest rates.

January 1959 – Request from Great Abington for joint discussions – it was resolved that the reasons given in May 1956 not to take part in the proposal still held good and there is no evidence there is a need for the proposed recreation ground – concerns still - “the financial burden would be too great”



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Proposed Recreation Ground
RECREATION GROUND
26/1/59
The Council received a request from the Great Abington Parish Council to take part in a joint discussion and after giving consideration thereto it was resolved that the reasons given in May 1956 not to take part in the proposal still held good, as there is no evidence that there is a real need for the proposed recreation ground; the existing facilities appear to be adequate and the financial burden of purchase and maintenance would be too great.

May 1966 – Discussed the County Planning Department response to a letter from the Clerk of Little Abington Parish Council.

A site behind the school was being discussed for a playground and football pitch. A resolution was passed confirming a joint meeting of the two Parish Councils to discuss “matters of common interest to the villages”

March 1965 - Joint meeting of the Parish Councils proposed to discuss a number of issues of common interest including the proposed 40mph speed limit through the two villages and provision of a children’s recreation ground

March 1966 – more discussions over the location of the recreation ground

July 1966 – proposed location and site meeting with SCRDC officials and then a joint informal meeting of the two Parish Councils

They ruled out the land behind Magna Close and Lewis Crescent – considered more suitable for housing

The fields behind the school and close to the Institute are central – this becomes the favoured site

October 1966 – both parishes support proposed site as the best available – some concerns over the flooding risk

May 1967 – no action at present

November 1967 – access problems resolved and no current flooding

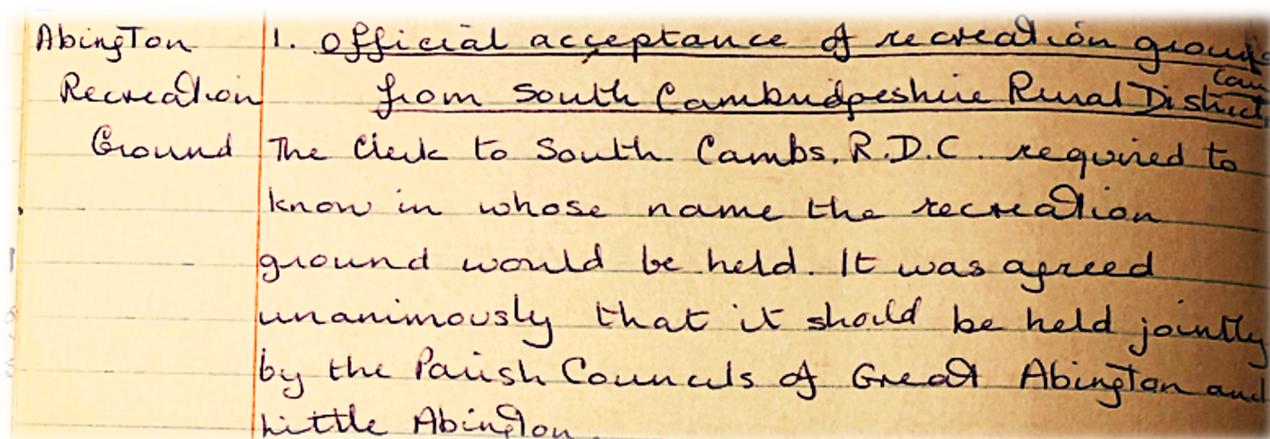
January 1968 – Abington Recreation Ground subcommittee formed together with a Management Committee and more detailed planning jointly underway

March 1968 – proposed scheme to be put to the County Council – also seeking funding support

October 1968 – progress with buying the site

March 1968 – In the context of the Recreation Ground, confusion over two village ‘High Streets’ leads to Little and Great Abington **High streets being renumbered** as one High Street starting from the Cambridge end

April 1970 – **Official acceptance of Abington Recreation Ground by SCRDC** to be held jointly by the Parish Councils of Great and Little Abington and agreement on Development and Maintenance plans and the formation of the Abington Recreation Ground Committee



1971 – Aim to start work on levelling the ground, seeding and tree planting

Traced through the Little Abington Parish Council Minute books, the story of the Recreation Ground in Abington thus starts in 1949 and after many twists and turns over 21 years it is finally agree in April 1970 creating the village facility that we all enjoy today.....

After October 2020 all of the original books referred to will be at the Cambridgeshire Archives Ely

The following three pages trace a timeline of some of these interesting events mentioned in the minute books from

1894 – 1947

1948 -1957

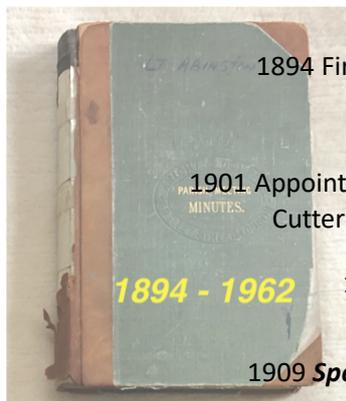
1960 – 1991

The last section is a reference list of all the photographs taken of the 5 books

Barry Brooks – September 2020

Little Abington Parish books Timeline of some interesting events

1894 - 1947



1894 First Parish Meeting record – decided
NO Parish Council

1901 Appointment of **Parish Constables** (E Dyball & W
Cutter) & **Overseers** (Wootten & Unwin)

1906 **School leaving age 13**

1909 **Speeding cars** – proposed limit 10mph

1914 Request for **telephone service** rejected

1919 **Land for 2 cottages** on Cambridge Road

*No one was present except The Chairman
at 7.55. As no one came the meeting was
closed.*

*F Brandon - Whittington
Chairman*

1929 **No attendees** so
meeting closed by Chairman
Rev F Brandon Whittington

1945 Nov - J K Taylor Chairman of Parish Meeting – requests for **bus
services and a village Policemen**

1946 March - Parish Meeting **to set up Parish Council** ; '**Lighting
and Watching Act 1833**'; **Water** supply; standpipes;
County War Memorial Fund

1946 – March – South Cambs RDC Precept £10



1946 – 17th September
First Little Abington Parish Council Meeting

1946 October - Parish Council reporting on vote on **6 street lights** - 93 in
favour - 43 against carried - Annual cost **£29.2.4d**

1947 July – Representatives of Cambridgeshire County Council and South
Cambridgeshire Rural District Council address a **joint Great and Little
Abington meeting**

40 people attending & covering:-

**Education; No road improvements this year; Request 8 Airey Houses;
Sewerage – not in the first scheme.....**

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

1945

1946

1947

Little Abington Parish Council Timeline of some interesting events

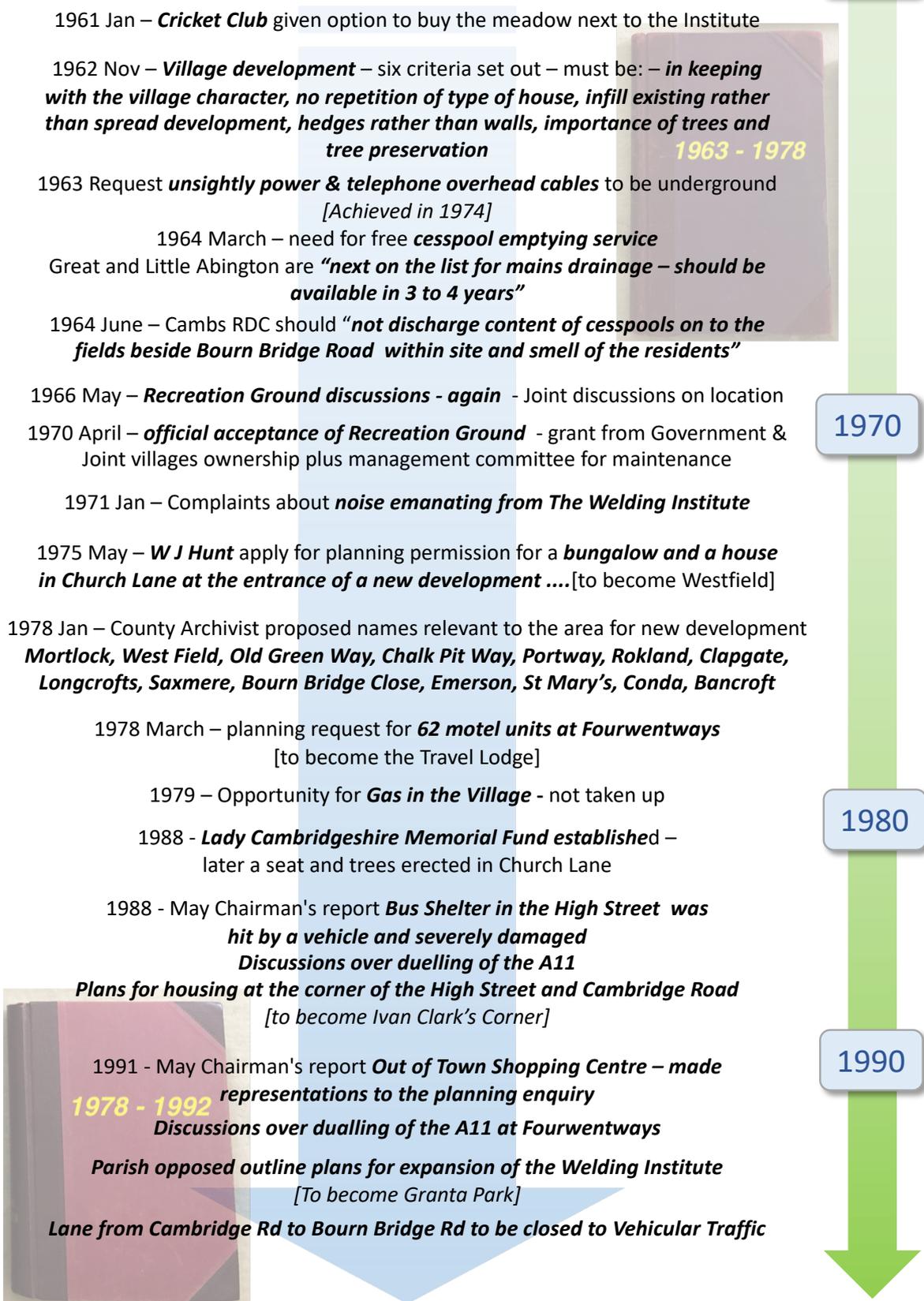
1948 - 1957

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- 1948 Proposed joint meeting with Gt Abington regarding sports clubs and **further recreational facilities**
- 1949 Request for **paper 'salvage'** collection and better **refuse** collection
- 1949 March – **Right of way** and cutting / lane from Cambridge Rd to what was to become Bourn Bridge Road – (discussion with Mr Nutt) [...and on to 1965 - Should **close the Lane to cars & restrict to pedestrians**]
- 1949 July – Joint meeting Gt & Lt parishes regarding **allocation of council houses** & a list of applicants with 4 names selected by 'awarding points'
- 1950 **Festival of Britain planning** - proposal to acquire land and build a **bus shelter** at the entrance of Church Lane –but from Gt Abington – “*no call for any festivities due to the serious international situation*” [*post war state of Britain, Cold War and start of Korean War*]
- 1950 > 1953 Start of many discussions regarding **bus shelter and land** at the entrance of Church Lane – no progress until**1953 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act)**
Parish council now empowered to provide & maintain a bus shelter
- 1953 **Coronation gift** for children – 96 souvenir tins of chocolate
- 1953 Concern over **lack of medical facilities** in the two villages – request for a surgery in one of the Abington villages
[...on to - 1961 June - **any consideration deferred indefinitely**.....
1965 **Mass X-Ray visit to village**]
- 1954 May – Parish borrows money and **secures land for bus shelter**
- 1955/56 Parish accounts show £75 loan from the Bank of England
- 1956 **Bus shelter in place** but now money for broken glass needed
- 1956 September – **Recreation Ground proposal** – Lt Abington Council consider that sufficient facilities for recreation exist & “*the project would entail a very heavy financial burden*”
[...and on - 1959 Jan – no evidence of need and concern over financial burden]
- 1957 Dec – Road leading from the end of Church Lane to The Temple Café to be known as **Bourn Bridge Road**



Little Abington Parish Council Timeline of some interesting events

1960 - 1991



List of Photographs from the Little Abington Parish books

Two account books and three Little Abington meeting > Council minute books 1894 ~ 2000

- 1894 First Parish meeting entry
- 1894 Parish Meetings - Statutory Provisions & conduct
- 1894-1962 Parish meeting minute book cover
- 1901 E Dyball & A W Cutter Parish Constables
- 1903 Signature Wootten
- 1906 School standards and leave at 13 yrs
- 1907 School managers election
- 1909 Speeding cars limit 10mph or less
- 1909 & 1910 Speeding cars limit 10mph or less
- 1910 School manger issues
- 1914 Rejected request for telephone service
- 1919 Cottages and housing
- 1924 Rev Brandon Whittington signature
- 1924 School managers
- 1929 No attendees at the meeting
- 1932 1933 no one attended
- 1944 Account book - still parish meeting
- 1945 Expenses
- 1945 J K Taylor chairman Nov P62
- 1945 Nov - bus services and policeman P63
- 1945-46 topics Nov P63 & P64
- 1945-1970 Account book cover
- 1946 7th Sept first Little Abington Parish Council Meeting P71 & P72
- 1946 17 Sept FIRST COUNCIL meeting - close up
- 1946 28 March 1 Lighting and watching & COUNCIL P65&66
- 1946 28 March 2 COUNCIL cont & War Memorial P67
- 1946 July Topics P 69 & 70
- 1946 Parish meeting to Council July46 P67&68
- 1946 Precept £10
- 1946 Signature J K Taylor
- 1946 Street lighting P74
- 1947 Account book precept £10
- 1946 Sept council - street lights & RATES
- 1947 Precept £10 & £15
- 1947 South Cambridgeshire County Council address a village meeting – housing and sewerage
- 1947 State of Church Lane
- 1948 Sports clubs and Recreation ground 1
- 1948 Sports clubs and Recreation ground 2
- 1948 The Legend of Jeremiah Lagden from CDN
- 1949 Lane from Cambridge Rd to Little Abington
- 1949 List of applicants for council houses
- 1949 Paper salvage and refuse collection
- 1950 Account book street lights
- 1950 Festival of Britain (51) - bus shelter & land ?
- 1951 Bus shelter at Tiplady's shop ?
- 1951 Bus shelter land
- 1953 Coronation gift for children
- 1953 Need for better medical facilities
- 1953 Nov medical facilities & bus shelter
- 1953 Sept Bus shelter land new Act



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sec. 4. 1894. A meeting was held of the overseen
 & electors of Little Abington, at Long's
 house on Tuesday, sec. 4. 1894.
 At the meeting, a chairman,
 & clerk, was elected unanimously
 and it was decided by show of
 hands unanimously that there should
 be no Parish Council.

Signed
 A. W. Dymally
 (Chairman of the meeting)

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17 Sept. 1946. The first meeting of the newly constituted
 Parish Council was held at the School, Great
 Abington on Tuesday the 17th day of
 September 1946 at 7.30 pm.

Present. Mr. M. F. L. Dyball
 Mr. J. K. Taylor
 " L. W. Condore
 " T. O. W. Stevenson.

Chairman. Mr. J. K. Taylor was unanimously elected
 Chairman to hold office until April 1947.

Acceptance
 of Office. The Statutory Declarations of acceptance of
 Office were handed to the Clerk.

Street. The Clerk

1954 Borrow money for bus shelter
1954 May bus shelter land conveyance
1954 May bus shelter land conveyance annotated
1954 Medical facilities and bus shelter
1954 Nov bus shelter go ahead
1956 Account book Bank of England loan
1956 Account book loan bus shelter (annotated)
1956 Sept recreation ground project inappropriate & bus shelter broken
1957 Dec Bourn Bridge Road officially named
1958 Civil Defence movement
1959 Jan Recreation ground - still anti
1961 Best Kept village 3rd prize
1961 Cricket club land
1961 Medical facilities issue - deferred indefinitely
1962 Account book prize - Best Kept village
1962 J K Taylor elected chairman
1962 Village development criteria - town planning
1964 Cess pools and mains drainage
1964 Disposing of cess pool waste in Bourn Bridge road fields !
1964 Paying off the bus shelter loan
1965 Lane Cambridge Rd to Bourn Bridge Rd - Mr Nutt
1965 Mass X-ray visit
1965 Precept General £85 & street lighting £105 total £190
1966 Common Land adjoining the A11
1966 Dec Common Land map records
1966 March - proposal to amalgamate the 2 parish councils - defeated
1966 Recreation ground discussion - again
1970 April official acceptance of recreation ground plan
1971 Account / cash book LSD to £&p
1971 Complaints about TWI Noise
1971 March £ Books
1972 Precept Gen 120 Lighting 120 total £240
1975 Hunts planning houses in Church Lane
1978 Account book Bus Shelter
1978 Jan - County Archivists proposals for 'Westfield' Name
1980 Precept £500
1985 Mr S H Brooks hits head on Jerimiah's Cottage roof...
1985 Mr S H Brooks hits head on Jerimiah's Cottage roof...2
1985 Precept £900
1988 Lady Cambridgeshire memorial fund
1988 May Chairman's (JH) annual report
1990 Precept £3200
1991 May Chairman's (JH) annual report
1992 Account book precept
1992 £ costs
1992 Precept £4500
2000 Precept £7000
2002 Precept £9000
Lighting and Watching Act 1833
Little Abington Parish Meeting & Account Books
Reviewing the books
Signature Benjamin Kent
Signature Thomas A Kent
Signature Samuel Edgar Franklin
Signature Thomas Nesbitt
Signature W H Unwin
The books 1 - covers
The books 2 – open & with dates
The books 3 & 4