

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 2nd April 2008 at the Manor House Sports & Social Club, Gallows Hill Lane, Abbots Langley.

Those Present:

Chairman	Councillor O W Roe
Councillors	Councillor Mrs S M Bartrick Councillor Mrs S Bedford Councillor C R Daily Councillor S Giles Medhurst Councillor G W Emery Councillor Mrs D J Lay Councillor L G Lay Councillor D J Major Councillor M T Morton Councillor D White Councillor K D Williams Councillor J Wyatt Councillor Miss I V Young

Officers:	Tim Perkins – Clerk to the Council David Abbott – Facilities Manager Mark Ellis – Works Manager
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Members of the Public:	22
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PCSOs:	2
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1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Lay.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2007

It was proposed by Councillor Miss Young, seconded by Councillor Bedford and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4th April 2007, copies of which had been sent to all members of the Parish Council prior to the meeting, be taken as read and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. Reports

Reports were presented by the Council Chairman and the Chairman of the Council's Planning & Highways, Leisure, Staffing and Finance Committees.

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4. Questions from the Floor

Mr Reg Nice thanked the Council for the provision of Leisure facilities in the area. The provision of PA and IT equipment in the Manor House was appreciated by the Abbots Langley Local History Society.

Q: Primrose Hill car parking and loss of amenity in the area through traffic, parking, litter and disturbance. Mike Penning MP (Hemel) is involved, what support will be forthcoming from the Parish Council?

A: The Council's Planning and Highways Committee had received representation from the C76 group and fully supported their activities. The Bedmond "Crash" group has similar objectives and is hoping this will link with the activities of the C76 group and is expecting some constructive progress from Herts. Highways on both C76 and C74.

Resident and group involvement is vital in this type of campaigning work. The effect of the parking caused by the opening of the West Herts. College facility on the Link Road is causing considerable concern amongst residents in the area and there is anecdotal evidence that there is a rise in anti-social behaviour. The C76 group advised that they were due to meet with WHC senior management the following week to highlight the problems. The Parish Council affirmed its support for these groups and the resident's efforts to improve the local situation.

Q: The Treasurer of the Abbots Langley Flower Arranging Society was concerned that they had to cancel two events in Henderson Hall due to a significant rise in the hire costs from £15.00 to £27.00/hour.

A: It was explained that the Council is trying to create a more level set of charges for its venues and whilst appreciating there had been some rises the grants process was available to local societies to offset the cost of hire charges and a number of organisations would be benefiting accordingly later in the meeting. It unfortunate that ALFAS were unaware of the grants process and they were encouraged to apply accordingly.

(Note: After the meeting it was found that a clerical error had occurred on the booking form and that the actual charge should have been £16/hour.)

Q: Mr Bruce Oliver. Was the Parish Council aware of what provision was being made for youth engagement and activities? The Ark Community Church could provide youth leaders, but as usual the issue was funding.

A: Councillor Bedford provided background on the HCC funding, or lack of, for youth leaders. PCSO's advised they were hoping to set up a youth group at Breakspere School. It was hoped that the forthcoming work on the Parish Plan, would enable the views of residents (adults and children) to be collected.

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5. Grants

Grants as outlined in the Annual Report and the minutes of the Finance & Administration Committee held on 21st January 2008 were presented.

6. Website

Councillor Williams introduced the Parish Council's website which had gone "live" that evening.

7. Final Questions

Q: Mr Drew Daily commented that Abbots Langley is at risk of becoming a corridor between the larger conurbations of Hemel Hempstead and Watford and could the website be used as a communication tool to promote Abbots Langley as a community. There is concern about losing the green space to development as the community continues to grow and that many aspects of the "village" will be lost. In addition the C76 group feels the effect of further development in the corridor will require joined up thinking with all the District and Borough councils in the area, if the infrastructure needs are to be met.

A: Councillor Bedford feels development plans in the county unduly disadvantage SW Herts., as growth in this part of the county has been higher than in other parts and central government is expecting growth to continue at the same rate.

It was confirmed that in the future the Parish Council intended to use their website to gather local opinion, through consultation and surveys.

The formal part of the meeting closed at 9:00pm.

Signed

Dated