

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 1st April 2009, 7:30pm at The Manor House, Gallows Hill Lane, Abbots Langley.

Those present:

Councillors: Councillor J. Wyatt, D. Major, Mrs S. Bedford, S. Giles-Medhurst, Miss I. Young, G. Emery, K. Williams, M. Morton and O. Roe.

Apologies: Councillor Mrs S. Bartrick, L. Lay, Mrs J. Lay, D. White, Ms. B. Phipps.

Officers: Tim Perkins (Clerk to the Council) & David Abbott (Facilities Manager).

Public: 42

Press: 1

1. Welcome

Councillor Miss Ivy Young, Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies from Councillors as detail above were noted.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2008

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, held on 2nd April 2008, were accepted, having been proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford and seconded by Councillor Emery.

4. Reports

The Annual Report of the Parish Council was presented by the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Chairmen of the Council's Planning and Highways, Leisure and Finance and Administration Committees. The Vice-Chair of the Staffing Committee presented the report of that committee.

5. Grant Cheques

Grant cheques were presented to local organisations.

6. Open Forum

Members of the public raised a number of concerns about the Local Development Framework (LDF), which in a number of cases the Parish Council were in agreement with and had already been referred to in the Parish Council's formal response to the LDF.

A summary of questions, or comments raised by residents and responses are detailed below.

Question/Comment: What is the expected use of the Old Fire Station and have the Parish Council objected to the licence application from Costcutters in Langley Road to sell alcohol from 07:00-23:00? (Reg Nice)

Response: The Clerk confirmed that the sale had been made without conditions, but he understood from the new owner, KMG Partnership, that they hope to use the building as further flexible office type accommodation, but that may not happen until the economic situation improves.

The Parish Council was aware of the licence application and would be responding, Councillors shared concerns about the selling times on the licence application.

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- Question/Comment: Concerns that the bulk of development proposed in the LDF was in the Abbots Langley area, with Chorleywood, Chipperfield and Sarratt largely ignored. Residents were concerned about the possibility of development on the old landfill site in Bedmond (BP27 - Bluebell Drive), particularly as there are ongoing problems with methane on the site. (Denise Toose & District Councillor Joy Mann)
- Response: Residents were referred to the Parish Council's response where this matter is addressed. There will be a further round of consultations and a public enquiry before any of this development went ahead. Site problems, such as the methane, may make it economically unattractive for developers to take the site on.
- Question/Comment: Traffic problems due to the college and development in the Roman Gardens and Primrose Hill corridor. These should be taken into account when there is a further development. (Carol Buckingham)
- Response: Councillors have already highlighted the need for there to be a comprehensive plan for this area, rather than small pockets of piecemeal development.
- Question/Comment: What provision had been made for to ensure adequate water was available at a usable pressure for these proposed developments? (Peter Warman)
- Response: Infrastructure will be addressed as development plans come forward.
- Question/Comment: Emphasis on development in Abbots Langley is completely unacceptable. (Roger Gotts)
- Response: Trying to protect the virgin Green Belt, is a high priority for Parish Councillors, but being realistic it may be necessary to concede to development on sites such as Leavesden Aerodrome.
- Question/Comment: Further follow up on infrastructure, such as schools but also open spaces. (Caroline Bloomer & District Councillor Joy Mann). Development of property should allow proper living space and open spaces (Reg Nice)
- Response: Councillors share similar concerns, particularly those about open spaces for children, not just small relatively useless play areas in new developments.
- Question/Comment: Lots of talk about the young, what about provisions for older members of the community? The Bowls Club, was such a resource and Councillors should be encouraged to visit, although it was felt that the green could be in better condition. (Peter Sanders)
- Response: Councillors commented on the adult gym that had been installed in Leavesden Country Park and felt that The Parish Council did support the not so young members of the community through grants, etc.

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Question/Comment: Drop kerbs have been installed at the church end of the village; did this mean a pedestrian crossing was now going to be installed?

Response: The drop kerbs had been installed to assist the school crossing patrols. Councillor Bedford agreed to follow up with Herts Highways, but for statutory reasons did not think there was much chance of getting a crossing installed.

Councillor Miss Young thanked everyone for attending and invited everyone to stay after the meeting for a cup of tea and the chance to meet with Councillors informally.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

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