

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd March 2010, 7:30pm at The Manor House, Gallows Hill Lane, Abbots Langley.

Those present:

Councillors: Councillors D. Major, Mrs S. Bedford, S. Giles-Medhurst, Miss I. Young, G. Emery, K. Williams, D. White, M. Morton, L. Lay, Mrs J. Lay, Ms. B. Phipps and J. Hill.

Apologies: Councillor O. Roe and C. Daily.

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

Public: 11

Press: 1

1. Welcome

Councillor Major, Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies from Councillors as detailed above were noted.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2009

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, held on 1st April 2009, were accepted, having been proposed by Councillor Mrs Bedford and seconded by Councillor Morton.

4. Annual Report and Committee Reports

An overview of the Annual Report of the Parish Council was presented by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

The Chairmen of the Council's Planning and Highways, Leisure, Staffing and Finance and Administration Committees summarised their reports and took questions.

Questions to Committee Chairman

Leisure Committee

Q: (Mr John Sutton). How does someone become a representative on the Leisure Committee?

A: (Councillor Mrs Lay). The Leisure Committee has representatives from Sports, Allotments and Halls Users. At present there is only one Sports Representative and if anyone is interested in becoming a representative they should contact the Clerk.

Finance and Administration Committee

Q: (County Councillor Paul Goggins). Asked the committee Chairman to expand on the finances of Henderson Hall.

A: (Councillor Williams). Henderson Hall runs at a significant loss. The Parish Council and the Trustees of the Henderson Hall charity are in the early stages of reaching an understanding on how the hall should be managed, both financially and administratively, as there needs to be a further degree of separation between the role of the Parish Council and that of the Trustees.

Having the Trustees take on more responsibilities for the hall has benefits, as they would have access to grant funds that are not available to the Parish Council as a local council.

5. Grant Cheques

Grant certificates were presented to local organisations, as detailed in the Annual Report. Recipient organisations thanked the Parish Council for their support. Special thanks were passed on to David Abbott for the assistance he has given to the Abbots Langley Women's Institute.

6. Environmental Matters

Councillor Ms. Phipps delivered a presentation on "The Environment and Abbots Langley". A printed or electronic copy can be obtained from the Clerk.

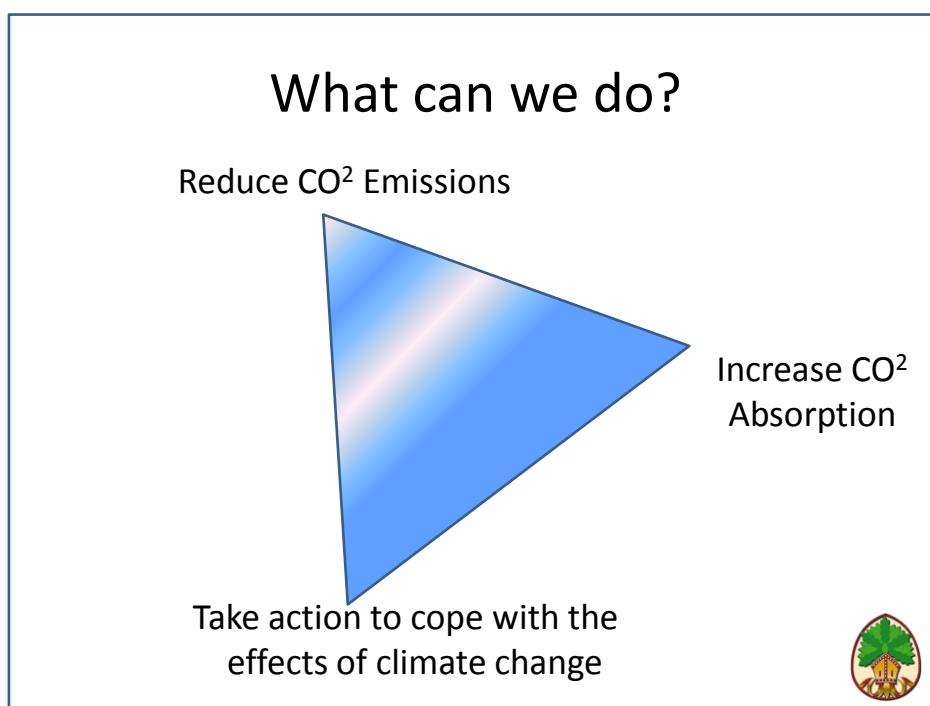
Councillor Mrs Bedford said she was at the early stages of getting speakers, interest groups and others involved in putting together some environmental improvement initiatives for Abbots Langley. It was expected that the Parish Council would be supporting these initiatives, rather than running them.

Q: (Mrs Julie Barton - The Villager). How will residents be able to get involved with these environmental initiatives?

A: (Councillor Mrs Bedford). It was expected that there would be many way in which residents could contribute, even if it was only for an occasional few hours. It is hoped that residents groups and associations could also be encouraged to take on initiatives.

Councillor Ms. Phipps introduced a table top exercise where attendees were asked to consider a number of possible environmental initiatives, to add any of their own and categorise them in terms of their ability to reduce CO², increase CO² absorption and actions that could be taken, as summarised on the following slide.

The exercise results are summarised on the attached table.



Councillor Ms. Phipps suggested that if anyone was interested in learning more about how a community can make environmental changes, they should look at the "Transition Town Totnes" website at <http://totnes.transitionnetwork.org>.

Councillor Mrs Bedford advised that from this week there was an increase in plastic items that could be taken for recycling by Three Rivers District Council. This would include items such as yoghurt, butter and other similar containers. All households would be getting a leaflet drop and information was available on Three Rivers Website. This is one of the first such initiatives in the country.

Councillor Major 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 Chairman also asked that staff be thanked for their hard work throughout the year.

The meeting closed at 8:40pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

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Important

*These minutes should be considered as draft only,
until they are approved at the next Annual Parish
Meeting to be held on the 2nd March 2011*

Table Top Exercise Results - "What can we do?"

What can we do?	Table 1	Table 2	Table 3
Reduce CO ²	Improved Home Insulation	Reduced Street Lighting	Improved Home Insulation
Increase CO ² absorption	More Allotments	Grow more produce	Increase use of Water Butts
Actions	Make Water Butts more available	More Solar Panels	Make Water Butts more available
Group Suggestions	Improved availability of allotments More bus services (The 318 effect!) Involve children with allotment and home growing	"Dig for Victory" Less packaging from supermarkets	Solar Panels Walking to school initiatives Grow more produce