

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd March 2011, 7:30 pm at The Manor House, Gallows Hill Lane, Abbots Langley.

Those present:

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

Apologies: Councillor L. Lay and G. Emery

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

Public: 24

Press: 2

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The meeting opened at 7:30pm.

#### 1. Welcome

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

He advised the meeting that he was standing in for Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Leon Lay, who was recovering from surgery.

#### 2. Apologies

Apologies from Councillors as detailed above were noted.

#### 3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2010

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, held on 3rd March 2010, were accepted, having been proposed by Councillor Miss Ivy Young and seconded by Councillor David Major.

#### 4. Annual Report and Committee Reports

An overview of the Annual Report of the Parish Council was presented by the Vice-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

Q: (Mr Peter Sanders, The Crescent). Has there been any feedback from Hertfordshire Highways on the proposed 20 mph zone in the High Street?

A: (Councillor Michael Morton). The Planning & Highways committee reviewed this at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February and have submitted their comments to the consultation. The consultation is at the very early stages and feedback is not expected imminently.

Q: (Mr Peter Sanders, The Crescent). Why has the Bowls Club not been asked to nominate a representative to serve on the Leisure Committee?

A: (Councillor Mrs Jane Lay) Clubs were asked to nominate sports representatives last year. The Bowls Club did nominate someone to stand, but that nomination was not successful. Sports Representatives are there to represent all sports, not just the club to which they are associated. Councillor Mrs Lay will remind Sports Representatives of their wider responsibilities and the Bowls Club can direct any questions through the representatives.

Q: (Mr Simon Ash, Lauderdale Road, Abbots Langley Community Arts Project). Would the Parish Council and Managing Trustees be willing to listen to proposals for the foundation of a community arts centre from members of ALCAP?

A: (Councillor Keith Williams) Yes, the Parish Council and Managing Trustees would welcome receiving comments from any of the performing arts groups.

Q: (Mr Simon Ash, Lauderdale Road, Abbots Langley Community Arts Project). Other Parish Council's put significantly more funding into arts venues, such as Aldenham PC and the Radlett Centre, why does Abbots Langley PC not put in similar funding?

A: (Councillor Keith Williams) Acknowledged that Aldenham PC did grant fund the Radlett Centre Trust, which is independent of the Parish Council, in the order of £120,000 in the financial year 2009-2010 and this was reflected in their precept which was £106.63, c.£40/pa higher than that of this Parish Council. This was at the heart of the debate about Henderson Hall, how much is the wider community prepared to put into Henderson Hall through the precept and council tax?

Q: (Mr Peter Warman, Greenways). Had the Parish Council considered using Henderson Hall as a private cinema, that would be able to show films that were not available in the main cinemas? Also, has any consideration been given to a farmers market?

A: (Councillor Keith Williams). The Parish Council would consider such suggestions, but these would have to be considered in the overall context of the multiple challenges that face the hall.

Q: (Mr Peter Warman, Greenways). Do the Parish Council's three halls, compete against each other?

A: (Councillor Keith Williams). The Parish Council does try to differentiate the uses of the three halls for which it is responsible. Manor House is the wedding, party and function venue, Henderson Hall is predominantly performing arts, society events and other public meetings, Hillside Hall when opened is going to be targeting community uses such as parent and children groups, dance, exercise and similar uses. But there are challenges, last time a survey was carried out there were twenty two venues for hire in the parish area.

Q: (Mrs Maureen Marshall, Roman Gardens). What was the outcome of the consultation on the allotments and community orchard at Primrose Hill?

A: (Councillor Mrs Jane Lay). The Parish Council delivered leaflets to apx. eight hundred properties in the Primrose Hill area, there had been an encouraging number of responses. Most were in favour, but there were concerns raised and some residents were against the proposal. The process is ongoing and revised plans are being looked at that will reduce the number of available plots to 30 and move the allotments away from neighbouring properties.

The Chairman thanked the committee Chairman for their responses to the public questions.

## 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.

The Chairman made special mention of the grant to the Hertfordshire Scouts Council, for the purchase of activity centres. This had been made possible by funding from the Chairman's allowance, rather than the usual grants budget.

Special thanks were passed on to David Abbott for the assistance he has given to the Abbots Langley Women's Institute and to Mark Ellis and his team from Abbots Youth Football.

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**6. Environmental Matters**

Councillor Sara Bedford updated the meeting on progress following the Eco-Audit that the Parish Council carried out last year. Electronic copies of the report are available from the Clerk, as it did not seem appropriate to print a fifty three page environmental report.

Councillor Ms. Belinda Phipps reminded the meeting about the Abbots Langley Transition Town meeting and exhibition, which was taking place at Henderson Hall this coming Saturday.

**7. Councillor Geoff Emery**

Councillor Geoff Emery will not be seeking re-election at the Parish Council elections in May. Although not present, the Chairman acknowledged Councillor Geoff Emery's many years of service to the local community as both a Parish and District Councillor.

**8. Meeting Closed**

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:15 pm thanking the Parish Council staff for all their hard work during the year and inviting everyone present to join councillors for a tea and coffee.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:**

***These are draft minutes, pending approval at the Annual Parish Meeting, to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2012***