

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd July 2008 at 7.30p.m. at the Council Chamber, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those present:

Chairman: Councillor Mrs S Bedford
Councillors: Councillor Mrs D J Lay - Vice Chair
Councillor K Williams
Councillor J Wyatt
Councillor S Giles-Medhurst
Councillor C Daily
Councillor L Lay
Councillor White
Councillor Miss I Young (Ex-Officio)

Also Present: Mr R Smith - Sports Representative
Mr S Ash - Halls Representative
Mr L Clark - Allotment Representative
Mr C Bromwich - Allotment Representative

Officers: Mr T Perkins - Clerk to the Council
Mr D Abbott - Facilities Manager
Mr M Ellis - Works Manager

The meeting opened at 7:30pm.

113. Apologies for absence

Mrs G Keaveny, Halls Representative and Mrs S Sanderson, Allotments Representative advised that they would be unable to attend.

114. Declarations of Interest

None.

115. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Lay, seconded by Councillor Miss Young and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2008, 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.

116. Hillside Hall

The Clerk was asked to open initial discussions with our solicitors in regards to the Hillside Hall lease and prior to entering into any agreements refer the matter to the Parish Council for approval.

There are concerns from residents about the design of the new hall which will be raised through the planning process. It was reported that members of the Residents Association were against some aspects of the planned development, but that the committee was in agreement.

117. Playing Fields

a. Ice Cream Traders

Members are supportive of allowing ice cream traders to use Parish Council car parks, it was felt that this was safer than allowing them to trade from the street and creating a potential road safety hazard for customers. Officers were asked if a nominal licencing charge could be introduced by next year. Councillor Lay was against a fee based licensing approach.

Abbots Langley Parish Council

b. Pitch Recovery Times

Members discussed multiple issues around growing and recovery times, methods, techniques and the sometimes conflicting requirements of the different sports.

Officer reported that they believed the most practical approach was being taken, given available resources. Officers were asked to consider all issues and report back to the committee on plans for next season and any additional staffing that may be required. Officers expressed concern that a long term solution was required, otherwise pitches would continue to deteriorate, this would need discussion with clubs and they in turn would need to engage with organisers, such as the football leagues.

118. Allotments

a. Allotment Numbering

Members agreed that where a tenant occupied two adjacent and similarly numbered plots, such as 7a & 7b, these plots should be combined on the records a plot 7 and the holder charged as a single plot.

For allotment judging purposes the judges are to be advised when a tenant has two separate plots, in different parts of the allotment gardens, so these can be judged as one plot in terms of the mix of growing taking place.

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Miss Young and **RESOLVED** that the minimum plot size the Council would rent is a half plot. This was put to a vote For=7, Against=2.

b. Allotment Charging Periods

Members confirmed that the allotment charging period should commence from the beginning of the allotment year, regardless of when the tenant took over the plot. Unless the tenant took over past six months into the year when a half year rental would be charged. Members believed that this had been resolved in excess of four years ago and the Clerk was asked to check the minute books.

c. Allotment Prize Giving

It was proposed by Councillor Giles-Medhurst, seconded by Councillor White and **RESOLVED** that the arrangements for the Allotment Prize Giving should be officer delegated and that the cost of food per guest should not exceed £6.00. This was put to a vote For=5, Against=2.

d. School Allotment Visits

Members acknowledged the letter recovered from the Head at Tanners Wood School, thanking Les Clark and Mark Ellis. The Clerk was asked to write to the Heads at other Junior schools in the parish, to see if they would be interested in bringing their children for a visit to one of our allotments during the growing season.

e. Kingsfield Allotment Path

Members noted the condition of the Kingsfield Allotment path and the costs to reinstate.

Members and representatives from the allotments, halls and sports were reminded that we will be entering a new budget cycle early in September and officers required input on any capital projects. These should be considered by this committee at its October meeting. Suggestions for projects should be submitted, preferably by email, to Mark Ellis and the Clerk.

119. TRDC Community Safety Grant

Officers were asked to submit a bid for improving the MuGA, support would be required from the PCSO's and their sports initiative.

Abbots Langley Parish Council

120. Allotment Representatives

Officers will be reviewing the allotment agreements and the current statutes and will present a draft to this committee. Unfortunately, due to the statutes, the process to serve a notice to quit on a tenant that is not looking after their plot is lengthy.

121. Sports Representatives

Ron Smith asked that the Council ensures that pitch charges for 7-a-side pitches are equitable across all Clubs.

Members were advised that planning application had been withdrawn for the football and cricket development at Parmiters School and Abbots Langley Cricket Club had withdrawn from the project.

122. Halls Representatives

There has been positive user feedback on the refurbished toilets at Henderson Hall, Mark Ellis was asked to check the insulation on the wiring board, with a qualified electrician.

The theatre tent project went well with 20 performances, 50 young performers involved and 400 tickets sold. Youth not normally involved in the performing arts were interested in the project and this showed there is possibly a demand for youth activities outside of sports.

Members wanted their congratulations passed on to John Sutton as the organiser of ALFA, as well as officers who assisted with arrangements. John Sutton would be asked to attend the October Leisure Committee meeting, to discuss what the Parish Council could do to more positively support ALFA, such as website publicity, etc.

123. Primrose Hill Community Centre

TRDC agreed on Monday evening to allocate £60k of the Ovaltine S106 funds to develop a community facility in the Primrose Hill area. As this has implications for the Parish Council and we are in recess in August the Chairman added this item to the agenda as an urgent item, as permitted under standing orders item 12 (old version).

Officers were asked to draft initial plans and present these back to the committee to refurbish the changing rooms at the Primrose Hill playing fields, to enable their use as a community facility for general community use, Resident Association meetings and possibly as a polling station.

124. Play Areas - Lemonfield

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bedford and seconded by Councillor Miss Young and **RESOLVED**, that the press and public be excluded from the discussion about this following item, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and the Local Government Act 1972, ss100 & 102, as it involved the initial stages of a contract.

Members asked Officers to further develop two of the submissions and enter into negotiations with the suppliers. As TRDC are freeholders and now rough cost estimates were available, the Clerk was asked to approach TRDC to see if they would be able to provide any funding.

F&A will be asked to review the available budget on play areas to see what funding is available.

Abbots Langley Parish Council

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____