

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 21st January 2009 at 7.30p.m. at the Council Chamber, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those present:

Chairman:	Councillor Mrs J Lay
Councillors:	Councillor S Giles-Medhurst Councillor C Daily Councillor L Lay Councillor Miss I Young (Ex-Officio)
Also Present:	Mr R Smith - Sports Representative Mr C Bromwich - Allotment Representative Mrs S Sanderson - Allotment Representative Mrs G Keaveny - Halls Representative Mr S Ash - Halls Representative
Officers:	Mr T Perkins - Clerk to the Council Mr M Ellis - Works Manager

The meeting opened at 7:30pm.

404. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillors White (unwell), Wyatt (unavailable), Williams (attending HAPTC meeting), Sara Bedford (family duties).

Mr L. Clarke - Allotments Representative and Mr D. Abbott - Facilities Manager advised that they would be unable to attend.

405. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs Lay declared an interest in agenda item 10, reference Abbots Langley Cricket Club.

406. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Miss Young, seconded by Councillor Lay and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 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.

The Chairman corrected "Mrs" Sanderson's and "Mr" Clark's names in the minute book.

407. Varying the Order of Business

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Lay, seconded by Councillor Miss Young and **RESOLVED** that the order of the agenda be varied, under standing order 12, "Urgent Business", to allow Councillor Sara Bedford, who would be late to the meeting, to speak on agenda item 11. In addition agenda item 10. to be moved to the last item on the agenda as Councillor Mrs Lay, who declared an interest would not be able to remain as Chairman or speak on this item.

408. Matters referred from the Parish Council

It was agreed that an Events Working Party would be formed, made up of members and officers. Representatives of external organisations would be asked to attend on an as required basis.

It was likely that meetings of the Working Party would be during normal working hours. The Clerk advised that he would delegate attendance at Working Party meetings to appropriate staff, but that he would attend the first meeting to assist the group in drafting its terms of reference, which would need approval by the Leisure Committee and Parish Council.

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Councillors' Daily, Miss Young, and Mrs Lay expressed an interest in serving on the Working Party. Councillor Sara Bedford, who was not present, had expressed an interest to the Clerk that she would like to serve.

The Clerk would arrange the first meeting in February after he returned from leave.

409. Reports from the Allotments Representatives

Jacketts Field. The entrance to Jacketts Field allotments (Shepherds Close end) was again being blocked by resident's vehicles and other detritus.

The Clerk advised that after the entrance was last cleared he had checked on a couple of occasions and the access was not being impeded. The Clerk agreed to visit the site over the coming days, take some photographs and refer the matter back to TRDC if there was still a problem. The Works manager was asked to check the temperamental padlock on the gates at the same end of the allotment gardens.

The Works Manager confirmed that the plot that had previously been agreed to be bought back into use would be marked out and rotovated over the coming weeks and split into two plots. A tenant had already been identified for one of the half plots.

Manor House. There has been some settling of the trenches dug when the water system was installed. The Works Manager advised that he was aware and that the areas identified would be heavy rolled, when the frost was out of the ground.

410. Reports from the Sports Representatives

No report, but some fixtures at Evergreen FC had been postponed due to frozen pitches.

411. Halls Representatives.

Members and representatives were advised by the Clerk that the redecoration of the main entrance and box office and the installation of the interval bar would be starting on Friday 6th February. The hall will be closed for the following week. A new external door would also be fitted to the rear entrance in an attempt to stop this being used as a smoking shelter and toilet.

Preparation work would be undertaken to enable the redecoration of the hall to take place, initial works would be the management of the various cables around the perimeter of the hall, these include power, telephone and hearing loop, which need attention prior to the redecoration starting. Representatives asked that the exit sign at the front of the hall be switched with the one at the rear, as the front one was bright and distracting during performances.

The trustees will be working with the Parish Council of the next stage of refurbishment of the hall, which was likely to include the kitchen. Representatives asked that sound proofing of the bar was given priority consideration.

The colour scheme for the hall had been discussed with the trustees and it was asked that the performance groups have input to the final specification.

Chairs from Hillside have been stored in the hall and they have got mixed with the chairs that have the locking bars. The Facilities Manager and Caretaker will be asked to resolve.

412. Henderson Hall

It was proposed by Councillor Giles-Medhurst, seconded by Councillor Miss Young and **RESOLVED** that the Memorandum of Understanding with the Henderson Hall trustees be accepted as presented by the Clerk. The Clerk advised that this document was likely to evolve as the trustees got further into their roles and that updates would be required in the future, which would be brought back to this committee for consideration.

Members noted the requirement to appoint a trustee to replace Mrs C. Driscoll. The Clerk was asked to advertise the post and any responses to the advertisement,

Abbots Langley Parish Council

or suggestions for nominations from members, be bought back to this committee in February.

Councillor Mrs Lay advised that she had received a complaint from a resident about the poor state of the land behind Henderson Hall. The Clerk advised that this had been noted and that Land Registry searches had already identified the freeholders and that Barclays Bank had been granted a 20 year lease that appeared to cover the land in question. The Clerk had intended on writing to both the freeholders and Barclays and members agreed with this course of action.

413. Abbots Langley Festival of the Arts

The Clerk advised that Councillors Sara Bedford and Williams had met informally with ALFA committee members to understand what further support the Parish Council could give to the festival.

The ALFA committee appreciated the approach from the Parish Council and would revert when they had considered what assistance would be beneficial.

414. Grass Cutting

It was proposed by Councillor Lay, seconded by Councillor Giles-Medhurst and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council should give consideration to limiting grass cutting in certain areas of the Manor House playing fields, to promote the growth of wild flowers, enhance the area as a wildlife habitat and improve the presentation of the grounds.

Councillor Lay agreed to draft some outline plans of the areas he was considering for reduced cutting, these would be reviewed onsite with the Clerk and Works Manager and a proposal submitted back to this committee in March or April.

415. Primrose Hill Car Park

The Clerk advised that the meeting with the HCC C76 Team had not taken place due to staff sickness on the HCC side. It was hoped the meeting would take place on Tuesday 27th January. The Clerk will update members after the meeting.

The Clerk advised members that quotes had been received to reinstate the path on the Primrose Hill playing fields. The cost for a good quality tarmac finish which would have a life expectancy of 10-15 years was c.£3,800.

Funds were not available at this time for this work to be carried out, but closer to the year end, or early in the new financial year funds maybe available dependant on the final financial position of the Parish Council. These works could then be considered on a "funds available" basis.

416. Three Rivers Summer Play Scheme

It was proposed by Councillor Giles-Medhurst, seconded by Councillor Daily and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should write to TRDC, confirming that the £2,000 that the Parish Council had allocated in its budget for next financial year should be ring fenced by TRDC to subsidise the cost of the Easter and summer play schemes for children in the Abbots Langley Parish, who's families met the criteria for reduced cost places on the scheme.

Members wanted assurance that as the funds came from the Parish precept payers, then it should be used for the benefit of the children in the Parish.

417. Abbots Langley Cricket Club

Councillor Giles-Medhurst took the chair, as Councillor Mrs Lay had declared an interest in this item.

The Chairman of Abbots Langley Cricket Club, Mr Lew Hodgins, addressed the meeting. He advised that he had informal discussions with Bedmond Sports and Social Club about potential football and cricket match clashes and none had been identified.

He advised that grant funding could be obtained from the English Cricket Board to reinstate the artificial pitch at the Toms Lane Recreation ground, but that some

Abbots Langley Parish Council

form of security of user rights would be required. The pitches at Toms Lane were going to be primarily used by the club's colt players which currently number 180.

Members thought it appropriate to grant 10 years users rights to Abbots Langley Cricket Club, renewable by negotiation and as this is not covered by the committee's delegated powers the Clerk was asked to refer this to the Parish Council for resolution.

The Clerk advised that work was in hand to resolve a number of issues on the Parish Council's leases with external organisations. The lease for Abbots Langley Cricket Club will be addressed, but as previously advised there are other higher priorities, the Clerk would also like to defer the legal expenditure until early in the next financial year. The Clerk was asked to give consideration to aligning the club's users rights to Parish Council pitches with property leases.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____