

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 18th February 2009 at 7.30p.m. at the Council Chamber, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those present:

Chairman:	Councillor Mrs S Bedford (Chairman)
Councillors:	Councillor Mrs J Lay (Vice-Chairman) Councillor C Daily Councillor L Lay Councillor D White Councillor K Williams Councillor J Wyatt Councillor Miss I Young (Ex-Officio)
Also Present:	Mr R Smith - Sports Representative Mr C Bromwich - Allotment Representative Mrs G Keaveny - Halls Representative
Officers:	Mr T Perkins - Clerk to the Council Mr D Abbott - Facilities Manager Mr M Ellis - Works Manager
Officer: (TRDC)	Mr M Brooks - Leavesden Country Park Ranger (part)

The meeting opened at 7:30pm.

469. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillors Giles-Medhurst (family duties).

Mrs S Sanderson - Allotments Representative advised that she was unable to attend.

470. Declarations of Interest

None.

471. TRDC - Park Ranger

Martin Brooks, Park Ranger at Leavesden Country Park gave committee members a brief update on current initiatives. In summary.

Ongoing remedial and installation work will improve safety, lighting and sight lines for motorists. Equipment updates include the installation of an adult gym. Improved and re-laid pathways will open access and improve walking opportunities. Initiatives under way with local organisations to promote cycle rides, mapping will be improved for walkers and cyclists. A large cycle event, around Three Rivers, is planned for later in the summer. Tennis court area is to be secured to limit vandalism, hoping that organised tennis lessons will take place. Basketball area has been improved, two new hoops installed, children are very happy with this. Close partnership working with the YMCA on these improvements. The YMCA are refurbishing the sports hall, it is hoped that this will be turned into a boxing hall.

Memorial benches and trees to be actively encouraged. The Clerk will advise staff as we do occasionally get telephone enquiries.

Mr Brooks also advised the meeting that there is research taking place on the history of the area. Cllr Daily is aware of a lot of background to the stadium area, the Clerk will pass on contact details.

The committee thanked Mr Brooks for taking the time to update them and he would be welcomed back at a late date to brief members. Mr Brooks was asked to contact the Clerk when he thought that would be appropriate.

Abbots Langley Parish Council

472. Minutes of the Meeting

Following review of the Clerk's contemporaneous notes of the Leisure Committee meeting held on 21st January, it was confirmed that the amendment to the minutes discussed at Parish Council on 9th February 2009 and recorded in minute 445, would not be incorporated in the minutes.

Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on 21st January 2009 was deferred pending amendment to item 417. The minutes will be represented for approval at the next meeting. Para 4 of minute 417 will be amended to read

"Members thought it appropriate to grant 10 years user rights to Abbots Langley Cricket Club, renewable by negotiation and as this..."

473. Matters referred from Parish Council

The Clerk gave a brief update on correspondence that had taken place with the Leisure Department at TRDC.

In summary the Parish Council's grant of £2,000 to the TRDC play scheme will be used to subsidise the per day cost for children resident in the Parish, who based on TRDC's eligibility criteria are entitled to discounted places. The full cost of the play scheme is £10.50/day, the discounted price is £2.50/day. The Parish Council's grant will effectively provide 250 discounted sessions.

TRDC will draw down from the Parish Council's grant up to the maximum 250 sessions. Should the number of discounted places taken up exceed the 250 then TRDC will absorb this extra cost.

Councillor Sara Bedford still had some concerns about the scheme. These will be taken up with the Leisure Department at Three Rivers and reported back to the next meeting, if appropriate.

474. Reports from the Allotment Representatives.

No issues. The Monkey Puzzle tree in the Manor House allotments will be relocated in the spring. Mr Chris Bromwich to discuss with the Works Manager.

475. Reports from the Sports Representatives

Mr Ron Smith, Evergreen FC, reported that only two weeks of football have been possible over the past seven weeks due to initially rain and subsequently snow.

Vandalism has reduced around the club, following outreach to children and their parents. Members did not want to create a totally risk free play environment, but asked the Works Manager to review a rope swing that had been set up and take what action he felt necessary if it was considered dangerous.

476. Reports from the Hall Representatives.

No issues. The Works Manager reported that the initial redecoration of the entrance hall was nearly complete; it had taken longer than expected due to the weather related disruption.

477. Henderson Hall Trustees

The Clerk was asked to discuss the appointment with Mrs Lisa Davies and report back to the next Parish Council meeting.

478. Abbots Langley Art Club

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Miss Young and **RESOLVED** that the Abbots Langley Arts Club be given permission to hold an outdoor exhibition at the Millennium Gardens on Saturday 30th May and Saturday 12th September and that similar permissions, for up to six non-commercial events per year, be in future officer delegated.

479. Primrose Hill Car Park

The Clerk met with HCC and contractor officers at the Primrose Hill car park, to discuss the impact of the C76 works on the car park and its potential use as a contractor's yard.

Abbots Langley Parish Council

The majority of the funds allocated to the project will be directed to improving pedestrian safety at the Hyde Lane rail bridge, the balance of funds was being used to manage parking, particularly by HGVs on the footpath. It is unlikely the works will have a significant effect on parking at the Primrose Hill car park. There were not sufficient funds in the project budget to contribute to the reinstatement of the car park and the contractors had made provision for a works yard closer to the Hyde Lane bridge. They may need some limited short term space in the car park and would contact the Clerk if necessary.

Both the Clerk and Works Manger noted that use of the car park, during working hours, has reduced significantly. This is probably due to the number of vacant buildings on the adjoining industrial estate, which has freed up parking spaces on the estate.

The Clerk and Works Manager will revert when further consideration has been given to the car park refurbishment.

The meeting closed at 8:40pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____