

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at 7.30p.m. at the Council Chamber, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those present:

Chairman: Councillor Mrs D J Lay  
Vice Chairman: Councillor C Daily  
Councillors: Councillor L Lay  
Councillor D White  
Councillor J Wyatt  
Councillor Miss I Young

Also Present: Mr R Smith - Sports Representative  
Mr C Bromwich - Allotment Representative  
Mr L Clark - Allotments Representative  
Mrs S Sanderson - 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

The meeting opened at 7:30pm.

### **85. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received, recorded and accepted from, Councillor Mrs S Bedford (TRDC meeting) and Councillor K Williams (HAPTC AGM of behalf of the Parish Council).

### **86. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Daily declared an interest in item 9 on the agenda.

### **87. Minutes of the Meeting**

It was proposed by Councillor Miss Young, seconded by Councillor White and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009, 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.

### **88. Reports from the Sports Representatives**

Evergreen FC are considering renewing the Astroturf on the South Way playing fields. Security of tenure and length of lease maybe an issue when applying for grant funding from organisations such as the FA. Mr Ron Smith on behalf of Evergreen FC and the Clerk will review that current lease and tenancy agreements. The Clerk will bring back to this committee any recommendations. The Clerk to provide Evergreen with a copy of current agreements.

Members were reminded that Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2009 is the Evergreen FC Annual Fun Day, all members welcome.

### **89. Reports from the Allotments Representatives**

Jacketts Field.

Two additional standpipes are on the works programme.

A new tenant on plot 23 has requested the paths be cleared to improve definition to plot boundaries and also that the Works Team stake off and eventually remove what appears to be a buried bedstead.

Kingsfield.

Works Manager will check the status on plot 23b when he carries out the monthly inspections; these have been delayed due to sick leave. Plot 1 requires strimming and weed treatment.

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Manor House

Recently re-let plot does not appear to be worked. Works Manager will include in inspections.

### 90. Reports from the Halls Representatives

Nothing to report.

Works Manager reported he had discussions with one of the theatre group's electricians, the wiring that was causing concern had been taped off and a quote was being obtained from electrical contractors to rewire the relevant area.

### 91. Henderson Hall

The Clerk advised that notices had been posted around the village and on the Parish Council's website advertising the vacancy for a Managing Trustee for Henderson Hall. Members were asked to consider who would make a suitable candidate. The Clerk advised that the Trustees were entering a busy period and a new Trustee needed to be appointed as soon as possible.

The Chairman and Clerk advised that finally progress was being made on the land behind Henderson Hall; a contractor was on site earlier on the day of the meeting. The Clerk now has contact details for the Managing Agents and Contractors.

### 92. Abbots Langley Bowls Club

Members reviewed the recent correspondence between the Bowls Club and the Clerk. The Clerk outlined the budget members had set for maintenance of the Bowls Green and that officers expected that this would be fully expended in this financial year.

Work had been ongoing on the Bowls Green, members and officers agreed that growth of seed that had been laid was not optimum, lack of watering being the main issue. Whilst club members were concerned about the condition of the green officers advised that whilst further works could be carried out on the green, these were constrained by the budget.

Members thought it appropriate that officers met first with members of the Bowls Club committee, if necessary members would meet with the committee when the current season is concluded.

The Clerk will respond to the Bowls Club's Secretary's letter and will meet them if requested.

### 93. Football Pitches

Members and officers discussed the condition of football pitch goal mouths, there were many issues including germination of seed, watering both from rain fall and manual watering, mix of soil and sand, damage caused by the public, etc.

The Works Team will be trying various different methods to promote growth over the coming weeks, in an effort to identify an optimum solution. Different, soil, seed and watering combinations will be tried.

It is proving difficult with fencing continually being pulled down as soon as it is erected.

Officer will report back to the July meeting.

### 94. Terms of Reference.

No major changes "management" to be replaced with "oversight".

Members requested a copy of current byelaws.

### 95. Allotments

Members considered waste disposal arrangements on the Kingsfield allotments. Tenants should be composting most waste on their plots; the only materials left in the gate area should be pernicious weeds, bind weed, stinging nettles, etc.

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Officers will post appropriate signage to bring this to tenants' attention and if necessary will highlight in letters that accompany the new season rental invoices.

Members noted that this is a service that is only provided at Kingsfield allotments and that if tenants abuse the service then it will have to be withdrawn.

The Facilities Manager will draft A3 signage, Works Manager to monitor and report back to this committee.

**96. Bees**

The Clerk had undertaken some preliminary investigations into keeping bees on allotments sites. There were a number of issues to consider, however bee keeping appears to have been successful in the LB Ealing. Clerk to circulate papers to members and to carry out further research and report back.

**97. Manor House**

The Facilities Manager had obtained quotations to install a centre handrail for the main entrance to Manor House. Cost was c. £200. Officers were concerned though that the installation could cause obstruction problems during an evacuation and also it may make it difficult for the Blood Transfusion Service to bring all of their equipment in, they are a valuable customer.

Officers were asked to review installing more robust side hand rails, fixed to the side of the brickwork edging the steps, which may improve access without the addition of the centre rail.

Report to the next meeting of this committee.

The meeting closed at 9.24 pm.

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

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