

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd July 2009 at 7.30p.m. at the Council Chamber, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those present:

Chairman:	Councillor Mrs D J Lay
Councillors:	Councillor Mrs S Bedford Councillor K Williams 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.

145. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillors Giles-Medhurst (family duties), White (unwell), Lay (other commitment).

Mr Simon Ash, Halls Representative had indicated that he would be unable to attend.

146. Declarations of Interest

None.

147. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Miss Young, seconded by Councillor Wyatt and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 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.

148. Reports from the Sports Representatives

It was reported that grass was growing well in the goal mouths on all playing fields; the Works Manager advised that new materials had been used to improve water retention and this was key to the improved grass growth.

Evergreen FC had suffered a break in on 9th July 2009, some cash was stolen from a collection bottle, also some beer barrels and other drinks were taken. The police were called but the club were not impressed with their lack of follow up.

Mr Ron Smith advised that Evergreen FC's and others Hertfordshire clubs seasons started on the second Saturday in August. The Parish Council had advised that pitches would not be available until the fourth Saturday in August. The Clerk advised that the pressure on season start dates and often late season ends due to weather related cancellations reduced the time available for pitch refurbishment and recovery, which in turn meant complaints about pitch quality increased.

This is a problem for other councils. Councillor Williams agreed to see if through HAPTC any dialogue could be opened with the Herts FA and local leagues on agreed season start and finish dates to allow pitch providers adequate maintenance and pitch recovery time.

Evergreen FC were asked to discuss with the Clerk match timings and pitch availability dates.

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Councillor Williams advised that there was a limit to the quality of pitches that a local council could provide on public playing fields and that if clubs aspired to a higher quality of ground and the commensurate access to higher leagues then they may have to consider moving to dedicated football grounds, difficult as this may be for clubs.

149. Reports from the Allotments Representatives

Kingsfield.

Divine Saviour and Tanners Wood schools have visited the allotments, the visits were hosted by Mr Les Clark, Allotments Representative and the Works Manager. All visits were very successful and the schools have written letters of thanks which have been passed on.

The water tank close to plot 4b is leaking. Works Manager will investigate. Problem thought to be the ball valve.

Manor House.

No issues to report. All plots being worked well.

Jacketts Field

Notice to quit has been served on plot 6. and the plot has been relet.

Iron work previously reported still has to be dug out, this is on the works programme.

150. Reports from the Halls Representatives

The wiring reported as a potential problem has been investigated and taped off.

The Clerk will write to all theatre groups advising them of a more direct fault reporting method. The Clerk advised that bringing maintenance and especially electrical problems to this meeting was not the most effective and timely way to address potential problems.

151. Kingsfield Allotments

Officers had no objections to a pond being installed on the allotments. Plot 1 may not be the ideal area due to the location of the electricity supply cable. The Works Manager knows the location of the cable and will meet with allotment tenants and the Allotments Representative to decide on the location of the pond. Two smaller ponds maybe more appropriate.

152. Football Pitches

As previously reported grass growth in the goalmouths has been good.

153. Langleybury Playing Fields

The report submitted by the Clerk was discussed and members noted the remedial work that is currently being carried out to the Cricket Club's net run ups. Longer term consideration will have to be given to remedial works to stop erosion by cars at the entrance to the playing fields, this may also necessitate relocating the children's play area and the cricket nets.

Members were aware of a number of longer term, significant cost projects similar to this that officers had raised. To inform the upcoming budget discussion the Clerk was asked to draft a list of current projects, with approximate costings to assist members when it comes to agreeing budgets.

154. Abbots Langley Bowls Club

The report submitted by the Clerk was discussed and it was noted further remedial work on the edges of the greens was in progress. The Clerk expressed concern about the amount of play the rinks were getting, they were getting very heavy use through the season and this was not allowing any recovery time.

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Wyatt and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should suggest to the Bowls Club that they take over

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maintenance of the green and that the Parish Council would consider any application for grant funds to assist the club.

It was noted that the Bowls Club lease expires in 2014 and the matter of on-going maintenance will need consideration at that stage.

155. TRDC Play Scheme

Members noted the Clerk's report. The Clerk was asked to check with the Clerk's in Three Rivers to see what level of grant, if any, they made to similar play schemes.

156. Motions

- i. The Clerk and Works Manager agreed to map potential areas for reduced grass cutting to create more meadow like areas. Report to the next meeting.
- ii. The Clerk and Works Manager agreed to look at options for composting green waste produced during green maintenance works. Various options and sites were discussed and these will be reported to the next meeting. The Clerk advised members they would look at practical options that fitted in with the Works Team's work patterns, he did not want to introduce any unnecessary journeys.

157. Kitters Green

The Clerk was asked to write to Peter Kerr at Three Rivers District Council to see if parking restrictions could be extended from the yellow lines currently close to the Vine Surgery, down Gallows Hill and past Kitters Green, on both sides.

The Works Manager was asked to investigate alternative options to restrict vehicle access to the front on Kitters Green and the refurbishment of current posts and chains to eliminate parking on the grassed areas.

The Clerk has located some archived correspondence relating to the transfer of Kitters Green from Hertfordshire County Council to the Parish Council, this is dated 1984. The maps found with the correspondence are of a poor quality and inconclusive.

More up to date maps supplied by Hertfordshire Highways are also inconclusive.

Investigations are ongoing into the ownership of the paths and vehicle access across the green, initial indications are that these are not in the ownership of any local authority, although further investigation may prove otherwise.

158. Updates

Handrail

It was proposed by Councillor Wyatt, seconded by Councillor Miss Young and **RESOLVED** that a new stainless steel hand rail be installed on the main access steps to the Manor House. A vote was requested and this was passed 3 in favour 2 against.

Councillor Williams will check with Surveyors of Disabled Access as to the appropriate step treads for an entrance such as Manor House.

Bee Keeping

The Clerk noted input from members and agreed to produce a report for a future meeting of this committee.

Land behind Henderson Hall

The Clerk has been in ongoing communication with Barclays' managing agents. He understands that tree works have been approved and that at least one of the trees behind the hall will be removed; there will also be more regular ground maintenance.

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The Clerk will continue to monitor. A number of photographs have been taken in case it transpires that the tree roots have caused structural damage to Henderson Hall.

Henderson Hall Redecoration

Redecoration will start on Saturday 8th August, with the Works Team undertaking enabling works for two days prior, it is hope that the redecorations will be completed by apx. 17th August.

The meeting closed at 9:47 p.m.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____