

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd September 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

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

Officers: Mr T Perkins - Clerk to the Council  
Mr David Abbott - Facilities Manager

The meeting opened at 7:30pm.

### 239. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Miss Young (Meeting) and Councillor Williams (HAPTC Training) and Councillor Mrs S Bedford (Family duties).

Mark Ellis Works Manager is on annual leave.

### 240. Declarations of Interest

None.

### 241. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Wyatt, seconded by Councillor Lay and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 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.

### 242. Reports from the Allotments Representatives

Jacketts Field

Mrs Sanderson reported that the access at the Jacketts Field / Shepherds Close end of the allotment was almost impossible due to the amount of rubbish that has been dumped. The Clerk advised that he had been in contact with Three Rivers District Council and steps had been taken to serve an enforcement notice on the Housing Association that is responsible for most of the land. There is a 28 day compliance period in the notice which has run for apx. 10 days. TRDC officers are monitoring the situation with site visits and the Clerk will follow up after 12<sup>th</sup> October.

Manor House

Mr Bromwich reported overhanging trees are causing problems on some plots. The Clerk advised that the Tree Audit had been completed and priority must be given to the work identified in the audit. It is likely the audit work will consume most of the budgeted funds available for this year, but that these works are noted on an available funds basis for this year, if that is not possible they will be added to next year's tree programme.

Kingsfield

Mr Clark reported that the water system remedial work was outstanding, although the Clerk thought it had been addressed. The Clerk will check.

Blackberries overhanging plot 23a need cutting back.

**243. Reports from the Halls Representatives**

None present.

**244. Reports from the Sports Representatives**

Mr Smith reported that he was considering bringing proposals to this committee to turn part of the unused South Way pavilion changing rooms into a facility for 8-13 year olds. Proposals are in development and will be brought to a future meeting of this committee.

The Chairman advised Mr Smith that items would be needed at least a clear seven days before the meeting, so they could be formally added to the agenda and circulated.

Speeding on Essex Lane, which provides access to Evergreen FC and Hunton Park is a problem. Mr Smith was asked to write to Mrs Ann Morton, who will arrange to have the matter added to the agenda of a Planning & Highways Committee meeting.

The Clerk and Mr Smith still need to discuss the lease situation, as Evergreen FC want to apply for grant funding.

**245. Matters Referred from Committee**

Members noted the approach taken by the Finance and Administration Committee on bookings for RAFA and asked them to bring the matter to a conclusion in line with the Clerk's report.

**246. Primrose Hill**

Members considered the report presented by the Clerk and noted the ongoing problems with the condition of the pitch, caused primarily by damage from moles.

The Clerk drew members attention to the point made in the report that if the pitch deteriorated further during the season it was likely that the pitch would have to be closed.

Councillor Wyatt will bring a proposal to the next meeting of this committee as to how in the longer term the grounds at Primrose Hill could be turned into a local centre for football. Councillor Daily was concerned that if football did continue on the grounds then teams based in the parish had priority on the available pitches and facilities.

**247. Langleybury Playing Fields**

Mr Kevin Kelly of Langleybury Cricket Club has asked to address the committee. The Chairman asked the Clerk to introduce his report and then asked Mr Kelly to speak.

Langleybury Cricket Club are concerned that if further football games are played on the grounds this will lead to a deterioration in the outfield, the club is currently receiving low marks from visiting clubs for the condition of the grounds.

The club have put £240k into facility improvements in the past few years and they want to ensure that high standard of cricket played at the club is not compromised by ground conditions.

The Clerk advised that as noted in his report there was continual demand for pitches from clubs. Councillor Daily reiterated the point that clubs based in the parish should get priority on Parish Council owned or managed pitches.

It was proposed by Councillor Wyatt, seconded by Councillor White and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk be granted delegated authority to allow up to ten further games in this season to be played on the Langleybury pitch. The Clerk to use his and the Works Managers discretion and call off games if the condition of the pitch gives cause for concern. A vote was called on the resolution and it was passed by 3 votes to 2.

**248. Lemonfield Play Area**

Members noted the Clerk's report. The Clerk advised that daily monitoring of the play area continues and that no incidents had been noted. No reports have been received in the office of anti-social behaviour.

The Facilities Manager was asked to arrange for appropriate signage to be installed in the play area, specifically noting that the equipment is for the use of children under the age of 12.

**249. Projects - Budget Preparation**

Members discussed the budget priorities their initial views on the project list presented by the Clerk is as follows.

Flexible, user movable, furniture for new Hillside. (c.£10-15k)

To be considered when Hillside development time scales are known. May require a reserve to be made in budget year 2010/2011 with project completion in the following year.

MuGA refurbishment (bounce boards). (£12,500)

Was not considered a priority.

Kingsfield Allotments footpath. (£4,500)

Was not considered a priority, beyond routine maintenance.

Primrose Hill car park resurfacing. (£25,000)

Members requested a lower cost solution (maybe MOT Type 1 gravel) should be considered.

Manor House CCTV. (£4,000)

Priority for staff and user security, given incidents over the recent past.

Primrose Hill Playing Fields Footpath, from play area/changing rooms, not path to canal. (£?)

Was not considered a priority, beyond routine maintenance.

Henderson Hall Stage Curtains. (£5,000)

Refer to Henderson Hall Trustees.

Langleybury Playing Fields (car park relocation, new play area, etc.). (£?)

Potential major project, maybe enabled by S106 funds availability. Clerk is liaising with TRDC and will report back.

Kitters Green, fencing, bollards to stop parking on green. (£1600)

Members wanted to suggest alternative approaches. Suggestions to be directed to the Facilities Manager who will draft options and costs with the Works Manager

Manor House patio area and drainage. (£?)

To be considered given the amenity value and revenue derived from the Manor House. Works Manager to obtain quotes.

Car Park HGV Barrier, Primrose Hill. (£1,500)

Width restriction to be considered instead of height restriction. Works manager to review options.

Primrose Hill - Football Pitch regrading (£15,000)

To be considered when future of Primrose Hill decided.

Manor House Hand Rail (c.£1,000)

Facilities Manager to proceed, if funds in Manor House maintenance budget allow.

Work Team Staffing

Consideration to be given to additional Works Team staffing.

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The above were committee member's initial views, final decisions on priorities and funds allocation would be required as part of the budget process.

### 250. Members Grounds Visits

Members were concerned about Love Lane. There appeared to be areas of grounds that had not been maintained. The Facilities Manager will review and report to the next meeting which areas are the Parish Council's responsibility.

Officers noted the contents of the members grounds visit report, most of the problems were well known to officers but require prioritisation. Officers believe that recent projects have been delivered in line with members' requirements, but that clarity is required on what should be future priorities.

### 251. Carol Concert and Christmas Lights

Decision to be deferred until the next meeting, pending further information.

### 252. Community Orchard

Refer to the Parish Council.

### 253. Red Diesel

Members noted the Clerk's report.

### 254. Tree Audits

Members noted the Clerk's report. The Works Manager will bring forward plans for an initial woodland management trial.

The Clerk advised initial works were being scheduled. During early October there would be extensive cutting back of trees on Parish Council grounds that are overhanging the towpath at Primrose Hill.

### 255. Updates

- a. Members noted that a report on football season times would be brought to a future meeting.
- b. Mr Bromwich will liaise with Mrs Ann Morton to bring forward a report on bee keeping on allotments.

### 256. Correspondence.

Members noted the communication that had been sent to regular Henderson Hall users about maintaining the condition of the hall.

The meeting closed at 10.22pm.

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

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