

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 18th November 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 L Lay 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
Officers:	Mr T Perkins - Clerk to the Council Mr D Abbott - Facilities Manager Mr M Ellis - Works Manager

The meeting opened at 7:30pm.

372. Apologies for absence

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

Mrs Gloria Keaveny, Halls Representative had advised that she was unable to attend.

373. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs Lay declared a personal interest in agenda items 11 - Fees and Charges and 12. - Insurance for Tenants.

374. Public Participation

No members of the public had requested to speak at the meeting.

375. 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 28th October 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.

376. Reports from the Sports Representatives

Mr Ron Smith reported on the recent break in at the Evergreen FC pavilion. As all the usual points of entry were well secured the burglars had entered the building through the roof. Bar stock and till contents were stolen. Mr Smith was pleased with police response and whilst it is hoped that forensic evidence may identify the burglars, no arrests had yet been made.

Evergreen FC had called off most matches on the weekend of the 14th/15th November. The heavy rain on Saturday had left many areas of the pitch very wet and the club was concerned about possible pitch damage, this early in the season.

377. Reports from the Allotments Representatives

Jacketts Field.

There has been further plot vandalism. Mrs Sanderson does not think it has been reported to the police. Members asked that a report was made to the police on this incident and all future incidents should also be reported. If incidents were not reported then the police cannot reasonably be expected to take action.

Abbots Langley Parish Council

The Works Manager reported plot 24 had been handed back and was in the process on being re-let

Kingsfield

No report.

The Works Manager was asked to investigate earth encroaching on the footpath, following fencing work on a neighbouring property.

Manor House

No report.

378. Reports from the Halls Representatives

None present.

379. Primrose Hill

Councillor Wyatt presented his report on a proposed re-layout of the Primrose Hill playing fields to accommodate more football pitches. The funding of the proposal would only be practical if a club took on a long term tenancy agreement on the playing fields and were able to secure grant funding from the FA and other sources. The proposed works would be outside of the Parish Council's financial resources.

The Clerk was asked to write to Abbots Youth FC to understand their short and medium term requirements for pitches.

Members expressed a concern that the high density of pitches would mean that the only open green space in that part of the parish would be taken over by sports.

If it was decided to proceed with this proposal, members would like consideration given to other grass sports, such as rugby, having access to the playing fields.

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Mrs Bedford and the meeting Chairman agreed that the discussion of this item be continued under agenda item 15 - Community Orchard, as the discussion of this agenda item would consider an alternative use for the same playing fields.

380. Evergreen FC

Mr Ron Smith, Chairman of Evergreen FC, was asked by the Chairman to present his proposal on the converting of the under used changing area, in the South Way pavilion, into a youth facility specifically aimed at 8-13 year olds. Mr Smith had worked with Councillor Mrs Bedford on funding sources, including Community safety Partnership, Local Strategic Partnership, members also suggested Watford Community Housing Trust as a possible source of funds.

Sgt. Canning had indicated that some of the equipment sourced for the now discontinued "Sheriffs" youth project may be available for Evergreen, this included table tennis and mini-pool tables.

The Clerk was asked to contact Herts Constabulary to obtain crime and anti-social behaviour statistics for the South Way area, which will assist funding applications.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bedford, seconded by Councillor Williams and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council will support Evergreen FC with this project and that the Clerk be asked to write any supporting letters, or confirm any necessary landlords permissions, that the club may require.

The Clerk and Mr Ron Smith to review the current club lease.

381. Budget 2010/2011

Members considered the first draft of the budget headings for which the committee was responsible and the key projects listed. Following comments were made.

- Primrose Hill Car Park - Height restriction to be costed, to prevent use by commercial vehicles, mainly vans. This may need to be “inset” into the car park so an obstruction is not caused when Parish Council vehicles stop to open the barrier. Works manager to cost.
- Manor House - drainage problems and patio refurbishment to be considered as two separate projects. Works Manager to obtain quotations for drainage work. Some concern from members that a refurbished patio would attract anti-social behaviour.
- Councillor Mrs Bedford advised that there were potential funding sources from Three Rivers District Council for a number of the Parish Council’s projects. These are being progressed and the Clerk asked to be updated when further information was available, so that this could be built into the budget.
- Councillor Wyatt proposed that the mole treatment at Primrose Hill be included in the budget. This was not supported by other members.
- Members asked officers to bring a further proposal back to the committee on the parking restrictions on Kitters Green. Members would like bollards to be considered, with planters and possibly two benches.
- Members will consider a £2,000 budget for Community Orchard seed funding.
- Councillor Williams asked for an analysis on venue bookings and occupancy rates.
- Officers are considering bar pricing for 2010 and will review local venues. Members were asked to note the return of VAT to 17.5% which will impact prices in January 2010.

382. Fees & Charges

The Clerk was asked to check with local Parish Council’s on their current allotment charges.

Members considered the revised hourly rates for Parish Council venue and asked that the premium times of Friday and Saturday evening, after 17:00, be increased by £2/hour.

Councillor Williams will review the long term sports pitches fee structure agreed some years ago.

The Clerk was asked to write to Hearts for Abbots Langley, confirming that they would still benefit from fee free use of Henderson Hall for the coming year, but that they publicise, maybe through some signage in the hall, that the use of the hall was given free of charge by the Parish Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Mrs Bedford and **RESOLVED** that as the vice chairman of the committee was not present that Councillor Lay take over as Chairman for the following item.

383. Insurance for Tenants

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bedford, seconded by Councillor Williams and **RESOLVED** that recovery of insurance costs should be sought from those clubs where this is permitted under their lease. The Clerk was asked to write to the clubs concerned and advise that recovery will be sought from 1st April 2010.

Abbots Langley Parish Council

384. Carol Concert & Christmas Lights

Members noted the Clerk's report. Officers confirmed that signage had been prepared and would be posted this week. The website will also have details of timings.

The Clerk was asked to add to the February 2010 agenda for this committee a discussion on Christmas arrangements for 2010 and a discussion on an Events Working Party.

385. Abbots Langley Bowls Club

Members noted the Clerk's report.

386. Community Orchard

Local members to consult with residents on locations and proposals for a community orchard.

Members will seek press coverage and will liaise with local groups and individuals, who may be interested in taking part in the proposed project.

The Clerk was asked to add this item to the February 2010 agenda for this committee.

387. Clerk's Report

Members noted the items not covered elsewhere in the meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.49 p.m.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____