

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 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 S Giles-Medhurst<br>Councillor L Lay<br>Councillor K Williams<br>Councillor D White<br>Councillor J Wyatt<br>Councillor Miss I Young |
| Also Present:  | Mr C Bromwich - Allotment Representative<br>Mr L Clark - Allotments Representative<br>Mrs S Sanderson - Allotment Representative                |
| Officers:      | Mr T Perkins - Clerk to the Council<br>Mr M Ellis - Works Manager   |

The meeting opened at 7:30pm.

### **439. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Mrs Bedford (unavailable).

Mr Ron Smith and Mrs Gloria Keaveny advised that they could not attend the meeting.

Mr David Abbott, Facilities Manager was unavailable.

### **440. Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Lay and Mrs Lay declared an interest in agenda item 9, Fees and Charges (Allotment charges and Garden Society rental.).

### **441. Public Participation**

No members of the public had expressed an interest in addressing the Parish Council.

### **442. Minutes of the Meeting**

It was proposed by Councillor Miss Young, seconded by Councillor Lay and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 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.

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

None present.

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

The Works Manager will be following up any unworked plots during his monthly inspection, but would not be taking any action on unworked plots until the New Year as it was a quiet time on the allotments.

### **445. Reports from the Halls Representatives**

None present.

### **446. Budget 2010/2011**

Members noted the latest revision of the budget and had no amendments.

**447. Fees & Charges**

The Clerk advised members that the changes to the hourly rates for Manor House and Henderson Hall members requested at the last meeting of this committee (minute 382.), had been incorporated in the submitted documents.

Councillor Mrs Lay handed over chairmanship of the meeting to Councillor Daily, committee vice-chairman, for the discussion of allotments rents and the Gardening Society rents. Following discussion Councillor Mrs Lay took back the chair.

Councillor Giles-Medhurst asked the Clerk to confirm what further responsibilities the Parish Council had for buildings that it leased to tenants. The Clerk advised that most leases were “full repairing”, with the exception of the Abbots Langley Bowls Club, which was subject to separate discussion by the Parish Council and Abbots Langley Cricket Club due to its co-location with the Manor House. Officers through recent property reviews were taking steps to recover insurance premiums, as allowed under leases. An electrical survey is taking place at the Manor House to ensure that there are separate circuits for the Parish Council and Abbots Langley Cricket Club sides of the building. The survey and an investigation into the water system will be the subject of a separate report to this committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Wyatt, seconded by Councillor Giles-Medhurst and **RESOLVED** that the Fees and Charges as submitted by the Clerk be recommended by this committee to the Parish Council for approval. A vote was requested, seven members were in favour one against.

The Clerk was asked to make sure the Fees and Charges agreed exactly with proposed pitch charges in the analysis document presented by Councillor Williams.

**448. Allotments**

Members considered the report submitted by Officers. The Clerk advised that no requests to keep bees had been received and that any requests would be subject to review and risk assessment prior to individual permission being given. Any request would have to come from an allotment tenant and the beekeeper would have to be a party to the tenancy agreement so that the Parish Council had direct recourse, in the event of problems.

It was proposed by Councillor Daily, seconded by Councillor White and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would permit the keeping of bees on its allotments, subject to the terms and conditions laid out in the report submitted by the Clerk. A vote was requested, seven members were in favour one against.

Members thanked the Clerk and Mrs Morton for the work done in compiling the report.

**449. Composting**

Members noted the report submitted by the Works Manager, the Clerk advised members that the report was a first pass and that a number of questions still needed answering. Advice would be sought from other authorities and a small scale trial implemented in the area identified in the Manor House, this would be subject to ongoing review from Officers to ensure that the area remained well managed and did not just become a dumping area.

Members will be updated as the trial progresses.

**450. Carol Concert & Christmas Lights**

Members noted the correspondence with Mencop and confirmed that the arrangements for the Christmas Carol Concert would be considered by the Events Working Party, which will be established at the February meeting of this committee.

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451. Depot

Members considered the Clerk's report on initial professional services for the refurbishment of the Parish Council's Works Depot. The Clerk had sought a fixed price quotation from a firm of Chartered Surveyors to carry out initial investigation and feasibility work.

The Clerk advised members that further quotes would be needed before any work went ahead and that this would only be a small part of a major project that would need to consider the way the Parish Council maintained its estate. This initial work would give members a view on the works required and the costs to improve the depot which would inform later decisions.

The Internal Auditors advised that the costs for this professional work could be drawn down from the Capital Reserve fund which was set up with the funds from the sale of the Old Fire Station.

It was proposed by Councillor Giles-Medhurst, seconded by Councillor Lay and **RESOLVED** that Clerk should seek two further quotes from Charter Surveyors and report back to the January meeting of this committee.

Councillor Williams requested a recorded vote:

For: Councillors White, Wyatt, Giles-Medhurst, Lay and Mrs Lay.

Against: Councillors Williams, Miss Young and Daily.

The meeting closed at 9.07pm.

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

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