

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 14th July 2008 in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those Present:

Chairman	Councillor Miss I V Young
Vice Chairman	Councillor D J Major
Councillors	Councillor Mrs S M Bartrick
	Councillor Mrs D J Lay
	Councillor L G Lay
	Councillor Mrs S Bedford
	Councillor C R Daily
	Councillor G W Emery
	Councillor S Giles-Medhurst
	Councillor M T Morton
	Councillor Ms B Phipps
	Councillor O W Roe
	Councillor D White
	Councillor K D Williams
	Councillor J Wyatt

Officers: Mr T Perkins - Clerk to the Council

Also present: County Councillor Paul Goggins
PC 1379 David Herring - Hertfordshire Police (Part)
Mr Steve Gregory - Herts Highways (Part)
Rev. Brian Hibberd - Abbots Langley Community Centre (Part)
Mr Richard Kendall - Abbots Langley Community Centre (Part)

90. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Giles-Medhurst

91. Hertfordshire Police

PC David Herring reported levels of burglaries and acquisition were stable. High scrap metal prices has meant vehicles left on the street, seemingly unattended for some days, were being taken for scrap. Also there was a local incident of a house that had been left unoccupied by a resident working overseas having its copper pipes and storage tank stolen.

The community team have received new portable speed monitoring equipment, which has been trialled on Toms Lane.

Officers were asked if attention could be given to:

Support for school crossing patrols in Bedmond.

Speed of vehicles and manner of driving at the Trowley Rise, Greenways, Popes Road junction.

Vehicle speed on Gallows Hill Lane, Hazelbury Avenue and Kindersley Way.

Cycle light enforcement.

PC Herring also asked if Herts Highways could cut back the nettles and bushes obstructing the view from the secondary exit to the Manor Lodge Car Park.

92. Herts Highways

Members thanked Mr Steve Gregory, District Manger (Three Rivers) for Herts Highways for attending the meeting.

The primary purpose was to discuss the potential environmental improvements that could be bought about through reduced grass cutting and tree planting on the Hunton Bridge roundabout. It was agreed an on-site meeting would be held between Herts Highways Tree Officer, Biological Records Officer and Area Manger with Parish Council members and officers.

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Mr Gregory advised that Herts Highways would only consider changing the current grass cutting methods and cutting area, when any future maintenance regime and associated costs have been considered and resolved.

Additional items raised were:

- a. Toms Lane, speed and traffic flows. Mr Gregory advised that this area was subject to a Traffic Environmental Impact Survey, that was due to be reassessed in the near future.
- b. Attention was requested to the bases of the trees along Gallows Hill Lane by the Manor House grounds. All these trees sprout branches which prevent pedestrians seeing when crossing the road. Users of the Manor House grounds cannot see to exit the car park. These should be put on a regular watch not have to wait for PC to remind.
- c. Members advised that the hedge at 106 Trowley Rise was blocking sight lines at the junction, possibly infringing on Highways land.
- d. A report was presented to Mr Gregory on a problem at the junction of Lauderdale Road and Gallows Hill.
- e. Could consideration be given to improving the junction of Trowley Rise, Greenways and Popes Road, speed and poor vehicle positioning create a hazard for pedestrians and drivers. (see minute 91)
- f. Members asked if grass cutting could be restricted in the non-residential parts of Aerodrome Way (Langley Lane to A41), to encourage the growth of wild grasses and flowers and improve the wildlife habitat.
- g. Flooding and poor drainage in Abbots Langley High Street, pavements were getting soaked from vehicle spray in the wet weather. Flooding also an issue at the Popes Road, Gallows Hill Lane junction.
- h. Bedmond Road, outside No. 5, trees need attention as they are causing a pavement obstruction.
- i. Grass cutting contract compliance. Mr Gregory advised that routine audits were carried out, but sample local audits were also taking place to ensure contractors were completing work to the agreed standard.
- j. Members asked about the delayed or sometimes non-response to routine emails. Mr Gregory advised he expected all routine emails to officers to be acknowledged with 3 days and would reinforce this with staff. He also advised that the online reporting webpage should be used for fault reporting as these reports were managed through a defined process.

The Clerk was asked to raise Parish Council representation on the Joint Member Panel (TRDC & Herts Highways), at the Three Rivers Joint Parishes meeting in September. This matter had been raised with the Leader of HCC and positive feedback had been received, but the District and County Council seem reluctant to allow Parish Council representation.

93. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Williams declared a personal interest in agenda item 12 (minute 101).

Councillor Wyatt declared a personal interest in agenda item 7 (minute 96).

94. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Lay, seconded by Councillor Daily and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2008, 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.

95. Minutes for Adoption

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The following committee minutes were adopted, approved for publication of the Council's website and passed to the committee's for resolution.

Planning & Highways Committee 11th June 2008

Planning & Highways Committee 25th June 2008

96. Abbots Langley Community Centre

Members considered a grant application from the Abbots Langley Community Centre for £25,000.

Mr Brian Hibberd and Mr Richard Kendal confirmed the following:

Grant funding had not been applied for from Herts County Council, but this would be considered.

Clarification was provided on the charity objects.

It was confirmed that the Community Centre would not have a premises licence for the sale of alcohol and the intention was that functions held would be non-alcoholic.

Professional advice would be sought on the potential for VAT recoveries on the project spend.

User groups were broadly accepting of the rise in fees.

Clarification was given on the role of the principal officers of the Community Centre, following recent resignations.

Councillor Williams proposed the following terms be attached to the grant award.

- I. The grant is offered conditional on Three Rivers District Council also offering the Community Centre a grant and a contribution from the Section 106 payment. Should the grant be substantially different to that outlined in the Community Centre application to the parish Council then revised financial proposal will be submitted to the Parish Council.
- II. The grant is made as a contribution towards the following works:-
 - New roof
 - Insulation
 - External cladding
 - Heating
 - Electrical rewiring
 - Kitchen, toilets and plumbing.
- III. On completion of the works, the community centre shall be safe, secure, weather tight, adequately heated and incorporating as many as practicable environmental and energy savings measures. The works should be undertaken using as far as possible materials from renewable sources.
- IV. That prior to the works described in paragraph II commencing, a detailed itemised priced specification from the contractor who will be undertaking the work is supplied to the Parish Council.
- V. That the community centre enters into contractual relations with their selected contractor using a recognised building contract for all the works described in paragraph II. (JCT, or similar). A copy of the contract will be supplied to the Parish Council prior to commencement of works.
- VI. On entering into a contract with a contractor to undertake these works, the Community Centre Management Committee acknowledges that it has sufficient funds, including contingency funding, to complete all the works in para II.

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- VII. Payment of the Parish Council's grant will be made on the following basis;-
- Signed Supervising Officers certificates, supported by contractors accounts will be supplied to the Parish Council.
- The Parish Council's grant will be paid in two equal instalments
- The first instalment will be payable when 50% of the contract price for the building works outlined in paragraph 2 have been completed.
- The final payment will be made on Practical Completion of the contract and Three Rivers District Council's Building Control officer's confirmation that all works have been completed to their satisfaction. The Community Centre will supply the Parish Council with written confirmation as part of their claim for final payment.
- VIII. Practical Completion of the works must occur within 3 calendar years from the date of this approval. If the works are not completed by the 3rd anniversary of this approval, the council reserves the right to cancel this grant approval and recover any instalment payments already paid.
- IX. The Community Centre agrees that on Practical Completion of the works, the centre will erect a permanent and prominent sign in the entrance hall of the centre acknowledging the Parish Council's grant contribution towards the refurbishment of the Centre. The style, detail and location of the sign to be agreed with the Parish Council.
- X. In accepting this grant the Community Centre agrees to use its best endeavours to adhere to the business plan submitted to the Parish Council as part of their grant application.
- XI. Whether through commercial hire arrangements or otherwise, no private parties, functions or events shall be held at any time in the centre where alcohol is consumed.
- XII. Informative. It is the Parish Council's view that VAT may be recoverable on this contract. The Community Centre is encouraged to seek the advice of a tax expert on the applicability of this.

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Mrs Bedford and **RESOLVED** that a grant should be awarded to Abbots Langley Community Centre of £25,000, subject to the above terms that officers will confirm with the Community Centre and may amend for the purposes of clarity.

The above was affirmed by a positive vote of all members present, excluding the member who had declared a personal interest.

97. Standing Orders

Councillor Mrs Bedford proposed and Councillor Morton seconded, that the revised Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Committee Terms of Reference as presented by the Clerk, following the Working Group review be accepted by the Parish Council. This being agreed, this item was stood adjourned until the next full meeting of the Parish Council.

98. Chairman's Report

The Chairman attended the following:

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| 14 th June | Abbots Langley Carnival (judging floats, presenting awards, to the winners and handing out medals to the young footballers) |
| 17 th June | Local Forum held at Manor House |
| 27 th June | RBL Veterans Day lunch @ Manor House |
| 28 th June | Community Centre AGM (as an observer) |

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- 2nd July Woodlands YMCA Consultative Group Meeting (copy of report supplied to members)
- 5th July St Lawrence Church Fete
- 9th July AGM of Three Rivers Centre for Voluntary Services (CVS) @ Watersmeet.

The Clerk was asked to contact TRDC about the clash of the November Local Area Forum meeting with the Parish Council meeting.

99. Clerks Report

The Clerk was asked to present an outline costed proposal for bringing the old allotments grounds in Hunton Bridge back into use and to investigate pedestrian access. To be referred to the Leisure Committee when available.

100. Monthly Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor Lay, seconded by Councillor Mrs Bedford and **RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts for June 2008 as notified to the Council be approved.

101. Property Portfolio

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Lay and seconded by Councillor Mrs Bedford and **RESOLVED**, that the press and public be excluded from the discussion about this following item, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and the Local Government Act 1972, ss100 & 102.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Lay and seconded by Councillor Mrs Bedford and **RESOLVED**, that Stimpsons be appointed as the Parish Council's agent to handle the marketing of the Old Fire Station, their partner will be asked to attend the September Parish Council meeting.

Officers will apply for outline planning permission; Councillor Mrs Bedford will provide advice and support.

The meeting closed at 9:28pm

Signed: _____

Dated: _____