

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 8th December 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 S Bedford
	Councillor C Daily
	Councillor G W Emery
	Councillor S Giles-Medhurst
	Councillor Mrs D J Lay
	Councillor L G Lay
	Councillor M T Morton
	Councillor Ms B Phipps
	Councillor O W Roe
	Councillor K Williams
	Councillor J Wyatt

Officer: Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council

Also present: County Councillor Paul Goggins
PCSO D Board - Hertfordshire Police (Part)
PCSO W Gullin - Hertfordshire Police (Part)

325. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillors Williams (Representing the Parish Council at Three Rivers District Council meeting) & Councillor White (unwell).

326. Declarations of Interest

None.

327. Hertfordshire Police

PCSOs updated members on the following incidents.

- Henderson Hall vandalism. Not sufficient evidence for any arrests, but “words of advice” have been offered to youth who were in the area at the time.
- Two arrests have been made relating to the incident in November in the Spar at School Mead.
- Non-urgent calls should be made to the 0845 number so they get properly logged and recorded, calls to the Abbots Langley Police Office should only be for follow up or administrative matters.

PCSOs were asked to pay attention to youth using cycles without lights and riding aggressively in the High Street. PCs and PCSOs are aware; some of the “usual suspects” are reaching 16 years old, so then can be dealt with by fixed penalty. PCSOs are running cycling training and proficiency courses, raising road skills and safety awareness, including the need for proper lighting on cycles.

PCSOs will raise with Sgt Canning the issue of calls being passed to the 0845 number which members were concerned were not being properly logged and so not being sent through to the local office for attention.

328. Matters Referred

The Planning & Highways Committee (minute 323) had asked the Parish Council to consider the speed of vehicles in the High Street.

It was proposed by Councillor Giles-Medhurst, seconded by Councillor Morton and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should write to the Hertfordshire Highways Area Manager to request that vehicle monitoring strips be installed in the High Street area, to

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get a measure on vehicle volumes and speeds. Also, to inquire when Herts Highways are going to be addressing the ponding on the High Street, particularly outside the newsagents.

The Parish Council asked that the Planning & Highways committee consider, in conjunction with Herts Highways, if a 20mph zone was practical in the High Street area, which roads it would cover and what resident consultation should take place. Clerk to bring raise the issue of 20mph zones at the next Joint Clerks meeting.

Councillor Giles-Medhurst asked to be advised on any issues officers or members are having with Herts Highways, as he may be able to bring some focus through District Council Committees that he serves on.

329. Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor Morton, seconded by Councillor Mrs Lay and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 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.

330. Minutes for Adoption

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

Planning & Highways Committee - 12th & 26th November 2008

Leisure Committee - 19th November 2008

Finance & Administration Committee - 24th November 2008

The Clerk was asked to amend minute 298 (Leisure Comm.), to reflect that the meeting Chairman had declared an interest and that a replacement Chairman had stood in for that part of the meeting and that minute 306 reflected the request to change the order of items in future agendas.

331. Consultation - Code of Conduct Members and Officers

The Parish Council thanked the Clerk for the summary information provided and asked that a response be sent to the consultation in line with the comments detailed in the summary.

Members though asked that the Clerk stress in the response that the "criminal conviction" test was too severe and that some discretion was required, should a member be subject to a conviction that attracted less than a period of imprisonment (suspended or not).

Members felt it was unreasonable that elected members at a council level should be subject to tougher stands of behaviour, as far as criminal matters were considered, than Members of Parliament.

The Clerk also commented that members would need training before they could sit on any panel that was reviewing any potential breach of the code by an employee of the Parish Council.

332. Consultation - Voting Age Reduction

It was proposed by Councillor Miss Young, seconded by Councillor Major **that a vote be taken** on the motion that the Parish Council does not want to see an reduction in the voting age. This was passed nine votes for, four against.

The Clerk was asked to respond to the consultation accordingly. But to make clear that the Parish Council though there should be a clear rationale for differing ages for voting, driving, purchase of alcohol, etc.

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333. Chairman's Report

17 th November	Observer at Abbots Langley Local Area Forum in Bedmond.
20 th November	Observer at Hillside Residents Association AGM.
23 rd November	Represented ALPC at TRDC Civic Service in Croxley Green.
27 th November	Annual Carol Concert and switching on of Christmas lights in Abbots Langley.
3 rd December	Presented Fairtrade awards to children at Tanners Wood School (AM) & St. Pauls Langleybury (PM).
5 th December	Presented Fairtrade awards to children at Divine Saviour School.
6 th December	Attended Abbots Langley Bowls Club Dinner Dance.

334. Clerk's Report

Members noted the changes to the Complaints Policy, expiry of Herts Constabulary's lease on Manor House and the initial indication that it would be extended.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Lay, seconded by Councillor Morton and **RESOLVED** that members should, as far as possible, ensure that apologies for non-attendance at Parish Council or committee meetings and sent to the office prior to 16:00 on the day of the meeting and that a brief reason for absence be given.

The Clerk was asked to ensure that the recording of reasons for absence are brief and do not give out unduly sensitive information, such as members being on holiday leaving their property unoccupied.

Members asked that the Leisure Committee give consideration to forming an "Events Committee" (or Working Party) made up of members, officers and community group representatives. To review all aspects of the events that the Parish Council contribute to in both financial and staff time.

It was proposed by Councillor Bedford, seconded by Councillor Giles-Medhurst and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council Meetings calendars for 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 be varied as follows

F&A Committee	15 th December 2008 be moved to 17 th December 2008
Leisure Committee	17 th December 2008 be moved to 15 th December 2008
F&A Committee	14 th December 2009 be moved to 21st December 2009
Planning Committee	21st December 2009 be moved to 22nd December 2009

The Clerk was asked to write to Herts Highways about the delays in gaining agreement on the cutting of grass on the Hunton Bridge roundabout.

335. Statement of Accounts

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

336. Budget

The Clerk advised the budget preparation is completed, outstanding decisions on key projects and spending will be required from the Leisure Committee at its December meeting. The Finance and Administration Committee will then have an opportunity to consider a close to final version of the budget at its December meeting.

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337. Property Portfolio

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

It was proposed by Councillor Giles-Medhurst and seconded by Councillor Bedford and **RESOLVED**, that the in line with the report presented by the Clerk that the freehold of the Old Fire Station in The Crescent should be sold to KMG Partnership for £90,000, with vacant possession and free of any conditions. The Clerk was asked to refer back to Parish Council if the costs of sale were going to exceed £5,300.

Councillor Wyatt requested a vote on this resolution. Thirteen members were in favour, none against.

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____