

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 12th January 2009
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 Bedford 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

Officer: Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council

Also present: Sgt. Neil Canning - Hertfordshire Police (Part)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillors Daily, Mrs Bartrick (unwell) & White (unwell).

County Councillor Paul Goggins advised that he would be unable to attend.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Hertfordshire Police

Sgt. Canning gave a summary of activities during the past year. There had been a general reduction in vehicle crime around the Parish, despite a slight increase in Langleybury. Recent success in arresting an offender during a theft from vehicle, also a proactive approach to theft of vehicles for scrap had resulted in arrests, following cooperative working with scrap dealers.

Burglaries have increased; recent covert operations have resulted in arrests and an improved clear up rate. Sgt. Canning is looking for support through local Neighbourhood Watches following two recent distraction burglaries. Neighbour Hood watch currently works well in Bedmond.

One PCSO (Dean Beard) has left and is in Police Officer training, another is on a year career break. Sgt. Canning is hoped that they will be replaced soon.

Member's attention is drawn to the crime mapping data on the Herts. Constabulary website. Also, to the services offered by "West Herts Against Crime" they can provide free advice and security aids to the elderly and victims of crime.

Sgt. Canning confirmed that ATM fraud had been a problem in Hertfordshire, the transient nature of the offences was making it difficult to detect, but it was getting attention from the Cheque and Credit Card Fraud Unit.

Cllr. Bedford noted comments on the Watford Observer website about the intention to enforce action against cyclists riding on pavements. Sgt. Canning was aware of the initiative and confirmed action was being taken in the area, but "words of advice" was the preferred approach, as prosecutions for initial cycling offences were not a good use of court time. Cllr. Bedford also asked for attention to vehicles parking four wheels on the pavement on Old Mill Road. This is a potentially dangerous situation as the pavement is completely obstructed in an area where there is no pavement on the other side of the road and which is on a regular route used by parents and young children going to and from local schools. Sgt. Canning confirmed motorists had been reported for this elsewhere in the Parish and would give attention to Old Mill Road.

Sgt. Canning advised that the police were aware of the recent incidents of motor cycles being used on the South Way Playing Fields, there have also been incidents of quad bikes being used on and off road. Officers are giving this their attention.

4. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Lay, seconded by Councillor Emery and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 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.

It was noted that Cllr. Williams was not present at the meeting, his absence had been properly recorded.

5. 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 - 10th & 22nd December 2008

Leisure Committee - 15th December 2008

Finance & Administration Committee - 17th December 2008

6. Matters referred from Committees

The Planning & Highways Committee had referred the planning application for Abbots Langley Community Centre to the Parish Council. The Clerk advised that a formal request for landlord's permission had been received that day from the Community Centre management committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Emery and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council grants landlords consent to the Community Centre for the refurbishment works and that no comment be made to the planning application.

7. Budget & Precept 2009/2010

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Mrs Bedford and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council set a precept of £546,000 for the financial year 2009/2010.

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Bedford and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council set the budget as presented (Jan 2009 v1.4) the net amount being £629,862.

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Mrs Lay and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council formally thank the Clerk/RFO and the Finance Officer for all their work in preparing and submitting the various iterations of the budget.

8. Fees and Charges

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bedford, seconded by Councillor Giles-Medhurst and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council adopt the final version (Charges 2009-2010 v1.04) of the Halls, Open Spaces & Sports Facilities Fees and Charges as proposed by the Leisure Committee.

The Clerk was asked to circulate in pdf format a copy of the final Budget and Fees and Charges documents to members.

9. Chairman's Report

The Chairman attended the following event:

16th December Parmiters School Carol Concert.

10. Clerk's Report

- a. The Clerk was asked to pass thanks on to Ann Morton for her work on the bus shelter replacements and associated grants application. Also, thanks to the Works Team for the refurbishment of the bus shelter on the A405 outside St. Michael's Catholic High School.
- b. Members noted the paper on the "Power of Wellbeing". The Clerk advised that a formal announcement on the power and its implications for Parish Councils was expected in early March. Cllr. Ms. Phipps asked that this be taken into consideration when the Parish Council started a review of its strategy.
- c. It was proposed by Councillor Giles-Medhurst, seconded by Councillor Roe and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council expresses its deep concern about the actions being taken by Metroline to cease the 318 bus service and that they are asked to reconsider this decision and provide the Parish Council with an explanation as to why the service is being withdrawn.

The Clerk asked members to note that he had already written to Metroline and had received a dismissive and condescending reply. He had already responded to Metroline but would write again with the Parish Council's further comments.

- d. London Midland train services from Kings Langley have been the subject of adverse comments, members asked that this be referred to the Planning and Highways Committee for their consideration and subsequent report back to Parish Council.

11. Statement of Accounts

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

Cllr. Roe was asked to give a brief report to the Parish Council, after he had attended the Green Matters seminar in March.

12. Property Portfolio

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Lay, seconded by Councillor Miss Phipps and **RESOLVED** that the documents required to effect the sale of The Old Fire Station be signed by two members of the Parish Council and their signatures be witnessed by the Clerk as the Proper Officer of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Williams, seconded by Councillor Mrs Lay and **RESOLVED** that the documents required to effect the surrender of the lease on Hillside Hall be signed by two members of the Parish Council and their signatures be witnessed by the Clerk as the Proper Officer of the Council.

The Clerk was asked to ensure, as far as possible, that the Parish Council did have recourse should Hillside Hall not be completed within 12 months due to unforeseen circumstances.

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____