

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 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 Mrs D J Lay
	Councillor L G Lay
	Councillor M T Morton
	Councillor O W Roe
	Councillor K D Williams
	Councillor J Wyatt

Officer: Ann Morton - Planning and Administrative Officer

### 441. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillors Daily, Giles-Medhurst (meeting), Mrs Bartrick (unwell), Ms Phipps (meeting) and White (injury).

### 442. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs Lay declared an interest in Item 6 on the agenda regarding Abbots Langley Cricket Club.

### 443. Hertfordshire Police

No representatives of the police were present. (Sgt Canning telephoned following the meeting to offer apologies).

The Police are arranging a poster competition among five local schools to design a bicycle safety poster. PCSO John Diaz telephoned to ask if the Parish Council will copy, laminate and put the winner up on our notice boards. In principle Members want to support this initiative (subject to number of copies, feasibility and cost).

### 444. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Lay, seconded by Councillor Major and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 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.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Lay, seconded by Councillor Major and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 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.

### 445. 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 - 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009

Leisure Committee - 21<sup>st</sup> January 2009 with qualification

Minute 416: Councillor Mrs Bedford raised concern that the Committee did not have all the information when deciding on the contribution of £2000 to Three Rivers Summer Play Scheme and she is concerned Abbots Langley Parish children will not benefit more than any other child in the District this year. It was agreed to refer this matter back to Leisure Committee to be reviewed.

Minute 417: It was agreed by Members who attended Leisure Committee that the minute should read "grant ten years users rights with an option of a further ten years to Abbots Langley Cricket Club".

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### 446. Matters referred from Committees

Members considered the referral from Leisure Committee to consider the grant of users rights on the cricket square at Toms Lane recreation ground to Abbots Langley Cricket Club.

Following discussion, in view of the investment required by the Cricket Club, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bedford, seconded by Councillor Williams and **RESOLVED** that a letter of intention be sent to Abbots Langley Cricket Club; the Parish Council will seek legal advice and subject to legal agreement the Parish Council will grant users rights for ten years, plus an option of a further ten years to be declared before the end of year nine of the first ten year period; such rights will be granted exclusively to Abbots Langley Cricket Club and the Club may sublet at no further expense.

Councillor Mrs Lay, having declared an interest did not participate in the discussion or decision on this item.

### 447. Manor Lodge

Members welcomed the indication by Hertfordshire Constabulary that they would like to extend the lease of Manor Lodge for use as a Community Police Station as outlined in the Clerk's report. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bedford, seconded by Councillor Mrs Lay and **RESOLVED** that the lease of Manor Lodge by Hertfordshire Constabulary be granted for three years with the annual consideration unchanged; and that the documents required to effect the lease be signed by two members of the Parish Council, signatures be witnessed by the Clerk as the Proper Officer of the Council; and in the absence of the Clerk to witness the lease documents delegated authority be granted to the Finance Officer.

Planning permission expires in 2010 and a planning application to continue the use as a Community Police Station has recently been submitted by the Parish Council and validated by Three Rivers District Council.

### 448. Civic Awards

The Clerk's report on Civic Awards was considered. Councillor Mrs Bedford expressed disappointment the young people's award has not been taken forward and suggested increasing the age limit to twenty-one and she considers the awards are a celebration of Abbots Langley area so should be presented at a function. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bedford, seconded by Councillor Morton and **RESOLVED** that the age limit for the young people's award be increased to twenty one years and that the awards continue to be presented at the Chairman's reception. It was agreed that this year, and in future years, the panel to decide on the recipients of the awards will be the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk; it is open to members to make suggestions to the panel for consideration.

### 449. Property Portfolio

Old Fire Station

Information received today from HM Revenue and Customs following the Clerk's enquiry has been forwarded to the Parish Council's solicitor who will now send the documents for signature by two Councillors, to be witnessed by the Finance officer.

Hillside Hall

Matters are still being resolved between Three Rivers District Council and North Herts Homes.

### 450. Joint District Council and Parishes Meeting

Minutes of the meeting were circulated with the agenda. Councillor Williams advised that he had no further information apart from clarification that the minutes refer to Abbots Langley Parish Council but this relates to correspondence written by the Clerk on behalf of the Joint Parish Council and he suggested that the Clerk should request that Three Rivers make this clear in the minutes.

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**451. Community Safety Grant**

The Clerk's report was discussed. It was felt the unsuccessful application was probably because it did not match the priorities but it is primarily the police who set them. It was suggested the Clerk write to the Community Safety Partnership to ask what the priorities are for 2009/2010 and express disappointment that out of the budget only £2500 will be spent in the vicinity of Abbots Langley Parish.

**452. Consultation - Local Authority Publicity**

The Clerk's report was noted. Much of the content of the Department for Communities and Local Government 'Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity' consultation document is unlikely to apply to Parish and Town Councils. Councillor Mrs Bedford proposed that Councils should not be treated differently and it was agreed to respond to the consultation with the points which she had read out to the meeting and would email to Mrs Morton next day.

**453. Chairman's report**

The Chairman reported that she had attended the Tough Ten presentation evening held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

**454. Clerk's Report**

Intranet

Members support the "intranet" for the majority of documents as proposed. It was suggested that some paperwork will need to be distributed to meet legal requirements and where relevant reference should be made to where documents can be found on the intranet; paper copies to be available to Members on request; provision should be made for Members to view the intranet in the Parish Council offices; and documents to be available on the intranet in accordance with the document retention policy.

Henderson Hall

The Clerk reported that 2007/2008 charity accounts have been audited and subsequently signed by the Trustees. That the accounts and statutory annual return submitted to Charity Commissioners ahead of deadline was noted.

The Clerk's absence from office was noted.

**455. Monthly Statement of Accounts**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bedford, seconded by Councillor Morton and **RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts for January 2009 as notified to the Council be approved.

Chairman proposed thanks to Mrs Morton for deputising for the Clerk and this was agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

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

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