

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 14th September 2009 in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those Present:

Chairman	Councillor D J Major
Vice Chairman	Councillor L Lay
Councillors	Councillor Mrs S Bedford Councillor C Daily Councillor G W Emery Councillor J Hill Councillor Mrs D J Lay Councillor M T Morton Councillor Ms B Phipps Councillor O Roe Councillor K D Williams Councillor D White Councillor J Wyatt Councillor Miss I V Young
Officers:	Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council
Police:	PC 2381 Louise Hendry PC 1447 Vanessa Hayward-Ralphs PC 1211 Adam Collins

The meeting opened at 7:30pm.

205. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Giles-Medhurst. (Work related)

206. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Wyatt declared a personal interest in agenda item 7. Henderson Hall Trustees.

207. Hertfordshire Police

The Chairman welcomed the Police. PC Hendry introduced her colleagues and advised that Sgt. Canning was on annual leave.

ASBOs that had been issued to local offenders were brought to member's attention, PC Hendry advised that one of the offenders had been arrested for a breach and would be returned to court. The ASBOs relate specifically to anti social behaviour in the School Mead area and alcohol related offences. The Clerk confirmed that the Police's ASBO notices on these offenders were posted in the Parish Council offices and the Manor House, where bar staff had been briefed.

Police were working with relevant agencies to secure an ASBO against a rough sleeper in the Kings Langley Station area, who's behaviour has generated many complaints.

Officers are giving attention to complaints about anti social behaviour and excessive motorcycle use in the Hyde Lane and Woodlands Road area.

Anti social behaviour in the High Street area is being addressed and evidence is being sought, it is thought to be the "usual suspects" who are well known to officers. There has been a spate of cycle thefts from the Ovaltine Estate area.

Complaints about disturbance caused by vehicles in the Adrian Road area have been addressed.

The PCSOs have opened a drop in centre at the Baptist Church in School Mead, this will operate for two hours on occasional evenings. This has been supported by local businesses through the provision of soft drinks and snacks.

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Ongoing anti social behaviour around Leavesden Country Park is being addressed, officers are working with Martin Brooks the Park Ranger.

PCSOs organised a clean up around Curtiss Drive and Cheshire Drive area in Leavesden, which was supported by the Leavesden Steering Group. Councillor Williams asked if Parish Council Members could be advised when such events were taking place, so they could lend their support. The Clerk advised if details were sent to the general Parish Council email address info@abbotlangley-pc.gov.uk this was monitored daily and would be forwarded on to members.

Councillor Mrs Lay raised the issue of the family that had been confronted by youths in the Manor House grounds. Officers were aware of the situation. Councillor Mrs Lay and the Clerk had agreed to meet with the resident and a number of dates and times have been suggested but this has not been followed up by the resident.

Anti social behaviour at the rear of the Treasure Box in the High Street will be followed up by officers, members advised that there maybe CCTV evidence.

PC Hendry advised that the current establishment of the Abbots Langley Community Police Office was 3½ PCs, 4 PCSOs and Sgt. Canning.

Officers confirmed that the fire at the empty property in East Lane was arson, but despite fire investigations taking place no evidence of the offenders was found.

Members and officers are aware of complaints from residents in the Long Elms area about very young children's behaviour. Officers know who the children are and some are attending the drop in centre, if behaviour does not improve then this privilege will be withdrawn.

The Parish Council's Planning and Highways Committee is reviewing data from Hertfordshire Highways on vehicle speeds through the village. Officers were asked to discuss with Sgt. Canning if it was possible to undertake an exercise to record the peak speeds of vehicles through the village and report this data to the Parish Council. Members are concerned that the current data that they have details only average speeds.

Members are concerned and also reports have been received from residents that operators on the Police's 0845 numbers appear on occasions to be reluctant to give out incident numbers. This can give the impression that incidents are not being properly recorded. The Clerk was asked to write to the Chief Constable to express the concerns of the Parish Council and ask what the Constabulary's policy was on recording reports on the 0845 number.

208. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Miss Young, seconded by Councillor Mrs Lay and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 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.

209. 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 - 15th & 29th July, 12th & 26th August 2009

Leisure Committee - 22nd July 2009

Finance & Administration Committee - 27th July 2009

210. Committee Membership

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bedford, seconded by Councillor Williams and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Hill be added to the members serving on the Finance and Administration Committee.

211. Henderson Hall

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bedford, seconded by Councillor Mrs Lay and **RESOLVED** that Mr Roger Sands be appointed a Managing Trustee of Henderson Hall with immediate effect and that Mrs Lynn Luck also be appointed with effect from 21st September when Mrs Keaveny's term of office comes to an end.

The Clerk was asked to write to Mrs Keaveny to express the thanks of the Parish Council for her years of service as a Managing Trustee.

212. Climate Change Consultation

Members were asked to submit any comments to Councillor Ms Phipps as soon as possible. Councillor Phipps would consolidate these and forward them to Ann Morton, no later than 29th September, so these can be submitted prior to the close of the consultation period on 2nd October.

213. Council Tax Demand Notice Consultation

This was noted and members had no comments.

214. Mullany's Coaches

Members acknowledged the letter received from Mullany's Coaches concerning the 318 service. Members were very supportive of the service and the improved travel options it gave to residents, however given the limited resources of the Parish Council it felt that it would be unable to replace any of the significant amounts of funding that maybe at risk from other authorities.

The Clerk was asked to write to Mullany's to confirm the Parish Council's support and confirm that through links with other authorities the Parish Council would continue to advocate for the service.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bedford, seconded by Councillor Williams and **RESOLVED**, that the Parish Council's Grants Policy should continue to exclude grants to commercial organisations and that the Finance and Administration Committee reviews the Grants Policy at its next meeting and reports back to the Parish Council with any suggested amendments.

215. High Street Toilets

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor White and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council should give three months notice to Three Rivers District Council of their intention to terminate the rental agreement on the High Street toilet block.

The Clerk was asked to write to Peter Kerr at Three Rivers District Council to see if finger posts could be installed in the High Street, Kitters Green and Manor House area to highlight the use of the Royal Oak as a community toilet.

216. Standards Committee

The Clerk was asked to write to the Chairman of Three Rivers Standards Committee to invite them to either the November, December or February Parish Council meeting to observe and make a brief presentation to members.

217. Calendar of Meetings

The Clerk was asked to make the following amendments to the calendars and bring them back to the October Parish Council meeting for resolution.

Annual Parish Meeting 2009/2010 move from 7th April to 3rd March.

Annual Parish Meeting 2010/2011 move from 6th April to 2nd March.

F&A Committee 18th April 2011 move to end May 2011, after elections.

Copy to be sent to Three Rivers District Council to avoid clashes with meetings which they arrange.

218. Hertfordshire County Council - Langleybury Playing Fields

The Clerk was asked to write to HCC expressing the Parish Council's serious concerns about the proposed rent rise on the Langleybury Playing Fields. Given the limited opportunity the Parish Council has to raise funds from the grounds and the significant costs involved in maintenance.

219. Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked Councillor Lay for standing in at short notice at the Abbots Langley Cricket Club presentation evening.

Saturday 12th September - Attended the dedication of the new footpath at St. Lawrence Church. The Parish Council's grant, not yet claimed, was acknowledged.

12th September - Presented the awards at the Abbots Langley Gardening Society Annual Show.

The Chairman reminded members that the annual Battle of Britain Service will be held at St. Paul's Langleybury on Sunday 21st September, any members wishing to attend should be at the church by 11:15.

220. Reports from Outside Bodies

Members thanked Councillor Mrs Lay for her report.

The Clerk was asked to add environmental audits to the agenda of the next parish Council meeting.

221. Clerk's Report

The items on the Clerk's report, not already discussed were noted.

The Clerk was asked to contact ALFA to remind them about the application window for grants.

222. Public Speaking

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bedford, seconded by Councillor Morton and **RESOLVED** that the Public Speaking Arrangements as presented should be implemented as soon as possible.

The Clerk was asked to amend paragraph e. to read "*...must sign in prior to the start of the meeting*".

Members agreed that these arrangements need to be expanded to include the role of the Leisure Committee Representatives and the presentation of Petitions.

The arrangements will initially stand as a separate Parish Council policy and subsequently merged into Standing Orders when these are reviewed.

223. Monthly Statement of Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor Williams and seconded by Councillor Morton and **RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts for July and August 2009 as notified to the Council be approved.

Councillor Williams asked the Clerk to ensure that the items purchased on a member of staff's personal credit card and subsequently reimbursed were achieving best value.

224. Part II

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bedford, seconded by Councillor Morton and **RESOLVED** as the agenda item 21 (Property Portfolio) will consider the proposals and counter-proposals in contracts that the Parish Council may be entering into and agenda item 22 (Amenity Land) may be the early stages of a legal dispute, a resolution to exclude the press and public may be required, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and the LGA 1972, s100 & 102.

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225. Property Portfolio

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bedford, seconded by Councillor Williams and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk be granted delegated authority to conclude the negotiations on the Hillside Hall existing lease surrender and new lease terms. The Finance Officer to act as delegate in the absence of the Clerk. In bringing these matters to a conclusion the Clerk and Finance Officer are asked to take advice from the Chairman of the Council, the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee.

A vote was requested, this was passed twelve in favour with one abstention.

226. Amenity Land - Roman Gardens

Members noted and agreed the actions taken by the Clerk, an update was requested when matters had progressed.

The meeting closed at 9.32pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____