

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 9th November 2009 in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those Present:

Chairman	Councillor D J Major
Vice Chairman	Councillor L Lay
Councillors	Councillor G W Emery Councillor S Giles-Medhurst Councillor J Hill Councillor Mrs D J Lay Councillor M T Morton 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
Also present:	County Councillor Paul Goggins

The meeting opened at 7:30pm.

338. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Daily (work related).

Councillor Mrs Bedford's apologies (unwell) were received later in the meeting and recorded.

339. Declarations of Interest

None.

340. Public Participation

No members of the public had expressed an interest in addressing the Parish Council.

341. Hertfordshire Police

Sgt Canning was unable to attend the meeting; he had submitted a report to the Clerk by email, which the Clerk presented to members.

- Officers had attended the burglary at Evergreen. Some of the items stolen had been recovered and had been sent for analysis in the hope they may reveal some evidence.
- Incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour continue in the School Mead area, although they are reducing. Work is ongoing with the known offenders, to introduce anti-social behaviour contracts.
- Shoplifting is an ongoing problem. A local male was arrested, based on CCTV evidence.
- Residents of Woodlands Road in Nash Mills have been complaining about youths riding mopeds in the area, causing significant noise nuisance at night. Police are working with Neighbourhood Watch and Thrive Homes. Enforcement action is ongoing, enforcement notices have been served, which could result in seizure of the mopeds.
- Halloween and the Fireworks Display this year passed without major incident.
- PCSOs have been carrying out parking enforcement at Bedmond School and have received positive feedback from members of the public.

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- Officer's attempted to use the "speed gun" in the High Street area, but due to obstructions and pedestrians it was not possible to get accurate readings. The type of equipment in use will not work at night.

Councillor Giles-Medhurst reported that he had received a number of complaints from residents about parking and obstruction in the College Road, Mallard Road and Lapwing Way area.

These were caused by parking restrictions imposed at a block of flats. The problem was significant at night and over the weekends. The Clerk was asked to contact Sgt. Canning to highlight the problem and to ascertain what, if any, action had been taken.

342. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Miss Young, seconded by Councillor Emery and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 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.

343. 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 - 14th & 28th October 2009.

Leisure Committee - 21st October 2009.

Finance Committee - 26th October 2009.

344. Councillor Absence

Councillor Giles-Medhurst was present at the meeting, this item was not discussed.

345. Quality Parish Council Scheme

Councillors Bedford, White and Emery will work with the Clerk on the action items required to ensure compliance with the Quality Parish Council scheme. The Clerk expected to call a meeting early in the New Year.

The Clerk confirmed that discussions had been held last week with the Parish Council's Internal Auditors and a solution may have been found to the charity related external audit qualification. The Clerk will be reporting to the Finance and Administration Committee.

346. Statement of Intent as to Community Engagement

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Emery and **RESOLVED** that the Statement of Community Engagement, as presented by the Clerk, be adopted without amendment.

The Clerk was asked to include a standing agenda item on future Parish Council meetings to allow District or County Council members to present reports.

The Clerk was asked to arrange to bring the statement back to the May 2010 Parish Council for review.

347. Power of Wellbeing

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council now meets all the eligibility criteria to enable it to use the above power. The majority of members attending this meeting had been trained in the use of the power, so a resolution could be passed to confirm eligibility.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Lay, seconded by Councillor White and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council now meet the prescribed conditions and is now eligible to use the power until the day before the Annual Parish Council, following the next ordinary elections (May 2011).

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348. NALC Larger Councils Committee Election

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Miss Young and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council should vote for Candidates' Farmer, Fraser and Nash in the above elections.

The Clerk was asked to submit the ballot paper accordingly.

349. Budget 2010/2011

The Clerk advised members that the Finance and Administration committee had completed a first pass review of the budget and that the Leisure Committee would have its first review of the budget at its forthcoming meeting.

350. Hertfordshire Police Control Room Visit

It was confirmed that 21st January 2010 was the preferred date. The Clerk will advise Herts Police, but will also agenda the item at the January Parish Council meeting, to confirm the number of attendees.

351. British Waterways - Amenity Land Roman Gardens

Members noted the progress on this matter, but asked the Clerk to continue discussions with British Waterways to ensure that the matter is concluded and both parties are clear as to their responsibilities, under the amenity land licence granted to the Parish Council.

352. Correspondence

- a. Consideration of the rent review for the Langleybury Playing Fields proposed by Herts County Council was deferred until the December Parish Council meeting.
- b. The Clerk was asked to write to Three Rivers District Council, confirming that the Parish Council was requesting support for the revenue lost from the Manor Lodge, not support for the maintenance and upkeep.

353. Chairman's Report

The Chairman attended the following:

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| 6 th November | Judging of the Guy competition at the Annual Fireworks display organised by the Lions Club of Watford and supported by the Parish Council. |
| 8 th November | Wreath Laying and Remembrance Day Service at St. Lawrence Church. |

The Chairman asked members to note the following dates:

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| 23 rd November | Abbots Langley Local Area Forum at Bedmond Village Hall, 7:30pm. |
| 1 st December | Abbots Langley Local Area Forum at St Michael's Catholic High School, 7:30pm. Specifically to discuss development plans in the ward area. |
| 16 th November | TRDC Local Development Framework, Further Preferred Options consultation session at Abbots Langley Library, 9:30am - 1:30pm. |
| 8 th December | as above but 2pm - 6pm. |

The 23rd November Local Area Forum clashes with the Parish Council's Finance and Administration Committee meeting. It was agreed that this would still go ahead but be rescheduled to a 6:30pm start to allow members to attend both meetings.

The Clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements and to post relevant notices.

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354. Clerk's Report

Members noted the items not discussed elsewhere.

The Clerk also advised members that the Internal Audit had concluded last week, with no significant findings. There were a couple of items raised that may have budgetary impact and these will be reviewed at this month's Finance and Administration Committee meeting.

The Clerk also confirmed that the final tranche of the grant had been paid to the Abbots Langley Community Centre, following their satisfactory submission of all the required papers. The Clerk confirmed that he had an action item to review the Community Centre's lease, but this currently was not high priority.

355. Monthly Statement of Accounts

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

356. Part II

It was proposed by Councillor Miss Young, seconded by Councillor Mrs Lay and **RESOLVED** as this item will consider the initial stages of a legal agreement that the Parish Council maybe entering into and terms and conditions of a member of staff's employment the press and public will be excluded, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and the LGA 1972, s100 & 102.

357. Abbots Langley Bowls Club

The Clerk was asked to continue his investigations in to the tenancy agreement and report to a future Parish Council meeting. Members were of the view that at the end of this tenancy agreement the terms of any future agreement would need to be reviewed in detail.

358. Staffing Matters

It was proposed by Councillor Williams and seconded by Councillor Mrs Lay and **RESOLVED** that the decisions reached by the Staffing Committee at various meetings in 2009, recorded in the minutes of their meetings and summarised in the Clerk's report of 5th November 2009 be approved.

The Clerk was asked to review the current situation with the Parish Council's HR consultant and other advisors, as appropriate.

Members asked the Clerk to pass on thanks to all office staff that have had to work under sometimes difficult circumstances, due to staff shortages during the year.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____