

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010  
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 J Hill Councillor Mrs D J Lay Councillor M T Morton Councillor Ms B Phipps Councillor K D Williams Councillor D White
Officers:	Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council
Police:	Sergeant 1275 Neil Canning PCSO 6600 John Diaz

The meeting opened at 7:30pm.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year and wished all members a Happy New Year.

### **452. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Giles-Medhurst (work commitments), Councillor Roe (other engagement), Councillor Emery (home commitments), Councillor Wyatt and Councillor Miss Young.

### **453. Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **454. Public Participation**

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

### **455. Hertfordshire Police**

- a. Sergeant Canning reported that there were three burglaries in the area over the Christmas and New Year period, against nine in the same period last year. A motorist was assaulted after an altercation in the snow, an arrest has been made, the alleged offender has been released on bail and has been subsequently re-arrested for breach of their bail conditions.

IT equipment was stolen from St. Paul's School in Langleybury, this was subsequently recovered by Thames Valley Police and arrests made. The property was identified by the "Redweb" identification markings. Stolen horse riding tackle had also been recovered as a result of the use of the same technology.

There have been incidents of card fraud by offenders impersonating both bank personnel and police officers; some significant amounts of money have been stolen. Sergeant Canning is hoping press publicity will alert the public to the potential risks.

- b. The Clerk confirmed that Temp. Chief Superintendant Iain McVie and Mrs Sue Warman, Three Rivers area Hertfordshire Police Authority member, would be attending the February Parish Council meeting.
- c. The Clerk was asked to rearrange the proposed visit to the Herts Police Control room scheduled for 21st January 2010 to a date in May.

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### 456. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Morton, seconded by Councillor Lay and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 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.

### 457. 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 - 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

Leisure Committee - 16<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

### 458. Fees and Charges

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Lay, seconded by Councillor White and **RESOLVED** that the Fee and Charges for 2010/2011 recommended by the Leisure Committee, copies of which had been sent to all Members of the Parish Council prior to the meeting, be approved.

### 459. Budget & Precept 2010/2011

Councillor Williams introduced the final version of the budget for 2010/2011 by thanking the Clerk and the Finance Officer for all the hard work that went into the production of the various revisions of the budget, that have been reviewed by the relevant committees and the Parish Council.

Members were asked to note the following key points.

Provision has been made to continue the bus shelter refurbishment programme.

£12k has been set aside for grants to community organisations.

The "triple" grass mower will be replaced (£25K).

Additional major spend in the Parish will include tree works as a result of the audit (£17.5k), drainage works at Manor House (£5k), works to manage car parking (£4k), works at Primrose Hill (£5k).

In summary the budget amounts for 2010/2011 are:

Expenditure	£724,788
Income	£161,011
Net Expenditure	£563,777

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Mrs Bedford and **RESOLVED** that the Budget for 2010/2011, as summarised above full copies of which had been sent to all Members of the Parish Council prior to the meeting, be approved.

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Mrs Bedford and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council set a precept for 2010/2011 of £559,300. Full details of which were included in the budget packs circulated to members.

Councillor Williams asked members to note that the precept increase was 1.95%, £1.30/pa/Band D property, equivalent to £0.02/week.

### 460. Annual Parish Meeting

Councillor Mrs Bedford will bring forward proposals for the Annual Parish Meeting to be used to introduce a Transition Town initiative. Members were supportive of the initiative and hoped that local groups and residents would support the initiative.

The Clerk will advise the Chairman and committee chairman of the arrangements for producing the annual report.

**461. Snow and Ice Clearance**

Councillor Mrs Bedford updated members on various discussions she had had with residents and other authorities on snow and ice clearance.

Road Gritting had not been good enough; many roads on Hertfordshire County Council's gritting list were not treated. This caused problems on bus routes and close to schools, making roads impassable.

Grit Bins have not been filled. Some are the responsibility of the Parish Council, but the Parish Council cannot secure grit supplies. Most are HCC's responsibility which should be filled and there should be more in strategic locations. Residents to be consulted on locations, Councillor Mrs Bedford already has some suggestions. Grit bin contents being stolen is an issue and some form of security is needed.

Pavements. HCC do not clear on policy grounds. Three Rivers District Council have been clearing shopping areas and other high pedestrian traffic areas when they have supplies of grit.

Insurance. The Clerk was asked to follow up with TRDC, as they have seemingly contradictory advice from the same insurers on injury liability.

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council work force could be used to assist in snow and ice clearance, in public areas, under the direction of another authority. This would have to be considered on a day to day basis as the work force was only small and they did have other priorities.

Councillor Williams will raise the issue through HAPTC and NALC in an effort to gain some standard and consistent advice on the liabilities for Parish Council's in regards to snow and ice clearance. The Parish Council is willing to assist in severe weather conditions, but we are being constrained not by legislation but by the terms laid down by our insurers.

Councillor Mrs Bedford reported a number of residents had been extremely helpful in checking on neighbours, digging out cars and helping motorists who were in difficulties.

**462. Local Development Framework**

Councillor Williams introduced the proposed response and highlighted the disproportionate amount of new development in the Parish Council area. Councillor Williams drew member's attention to the comments submitted by Councillor Giles-Medhurst who was not able to be present at this meeting.

Members reviewed the following sites:

Penfold site (P4/7 in response) and agreed seven in favour, one against and one abstention to maintain the report comments. The Chairman did not vote.

Mansion House Farm (P5/7) and Waterdell (6/7) all members agreed that the report comment should stand.

Councillor Mrs Bedford asked that the following be added to the end of the introduction (para 2). "In particular the Parish Council is extremely concerned at the County Council's own figures which show a shortage of one form of entry for primary school pupils in the Abbots Langley area by 2012 and fourteen forms of entry for secondary pupils in the Watford and Three Rivers area."

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Morton and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council's response to the Local Development Framework - Core Options consultation, full copies of which had been sent to all Members of the Parish Council prior to the meeting, be approved, subject to the addition of the above paragraph on provision of school places.

The Clerk was asked to submit this to Three Rivers District Council to meet the deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

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**463. Langleybury Playing Fields**

The Clerk was asked to wait until HCC contacted the Parish Council and then refer the matter to the Parish Council.

**464. District and County Council Member's Reports**

Councillor Williams advised members that the revised parking scheme for Roman Gardens was being reviewed in committee at Three Rivers District Council on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

**465. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman attended a production of Jesus Christ Superstar at Parmiter's school on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Head Teacher at Parmiter's to offer the Parish Council's good wishes for his retirement.

**466. Clerk's Report**

Members noted the items in the Clerk's report, not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

Members wanted to ensure that the beneficiaries of grants from the Parish Council were more specific in acknowledging the grants. The Clerk was asked to refer this to the Finance and Administration Committee for consideration, as possibly the grant award letters required more specific wording in this regard.

**467. Monthly Statement of Accounts**

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

The meeting closed at 9.19pm.

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

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