

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 12th April 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 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: PCSO 6600 John Diaz

Also present: County Councillor Paul Goggins

The meeting opened at 7:35pm.

612. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillors Daily and Giles-Medhurst, both were unavailable.

613. Declarations of Interest

None.

614. Public Participation

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

615. Hertfordshire Police

PCSO Diaz was present to present the Police report as Sgt. Canning was unavailable due to operations. Reported items:

- An arrest has been made following a breach of the ASBO issued to the lady who sleeps rough in the vicinity of the Ovaltine estate.
- Officers are making progress on identifying those responsible for the fly tipping in East Lane. Councillor Mrs Bedford advised that officers at Three Rivers District Council were working with the County Council on removal arrangements, but that this may take some time due to the location and volume of the waste.
- The "Rural Watch" initiative is being launched in the area, offering advice on rural crime prevention. This includes the use of "Smart Water" technology for property identification, which aids tracing and conviction when stolen property is recovered. This has been successfully used in recovering property and securing convictions from a burglary at St. Paul's School and also the theft of a significant amount of horse riding equipment.
- A community safety event is being held at the Baptist Church on School Mead on 8th May 2010. PCSOs, officers and other emergency service staff will be offering crime, fire safety and other community advice.
- The "Safer Routes to School" initiative is looking to purchase a road safety awareness camera to assist in walker and driver education.

Abbots Langley Parish Council

- Ongoing operations with speed cameras are taking place around the Parish. PCSOs have been trained to use the cameras, but they do not have ticketing powers. PCSOs do offer words of advice and their visibility with speed measuring equipment has a very immediate deterrent effect. PCSO Diaz confirmed that a number of checks had taken place on Gallows Hill Lane and that any members would be welcome to join officers on speed checks as observers.
- Councillor Mrs Bedford asked if officers could give attention to youths who are smashing glass over the basketball court in the Manor House grounds. It is understood that this was reported to the police non-emergency number. The Clerk also advised this was a problem at Primrose Hill and he had been in contact with Sgt. Canning about the matter.
- Sales of alcohol to minors is being monitored by community officers and the police Licensing Officer. Words of advice have been given to some retailers; one is at risk of losing their licence to sell alcohol.

616. 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 March 2010, 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.

617. 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 & 24th March 2010

Leisure Committee - 17th March 2010

618. Langleybury Playing Fields - HCC

Councillor Wyatt proposed that the Parish Council settle on the final amount offered by Hertfordshire County Council, but subsequently withdrew this proposal.

Councillor Williams was concerned about the content and tone of the letter the Clerk had received from Herts County Council, he also estimated the Parish Council spend c£36k maintaining the grounds rented from HCC. In addition they are asking for a 3.2% rent increase when they did not raise Council Tax for the new financial year, this was being used as a "back door" method of raising income.

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Mrs Bedford and **RESOLVED** that a decision on acceptance be deferred until the May Parish Council meeting. Twelve members were in favour, one abstained.

The Clerk was asked to circulate a copy of the lease to members and members were asked to raise any questions on the lease with the Clerk, so answers would be available for the May Parish Council meeting.

Councillor Ms. Phipps asked members to ensure that they were clear on the strategic direction they wanted to take, so that the potential outcome is of benefit to the parish.

Abbots Langley Parish Council

619. District and County Council Member Reports

County Councillor Goggins reported on the outcome of nursery place applications for children from the Parish. The result was better than the secondary school transfer process.

Original Allocations			Late Allocations			NRA	Total	%
1st Rank	2nd Rank	3rd Rank	1st Rank	2nd Rank	3rd Rank			
175	4	2	4	2	0	1	188	99.47

The special meeting of the Highways Joint Members Panel to discuss road gritting, pot holes, salt bins etc. following the severe winter weather has been deferred until after the District Council Annual Meeting which is held on 25th May 2010. Parish Council members are asked to ensure any comments are passed to Councillors Goggins or Giles-Medhurst, via the Planning & Highways Committee.

Councillor Mrs Bedford reported that the Play Rangers scheme that had been launched on the Manor House grounds had been very well attended. The District Council will be running a workshop later in the month to gain feedback and offer play suggestions to parents.

620. Chairman's Report

Nothing to report.

621. Clerk's Report

Members noted the items not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

The Clerk was asked to obtain a members reference copy of the "Standing Orders for Local Councils" book. The order will be placed when it is clear if a second edition will be published, as it is understood that a number of errors had been found in the first edition.

622. Monthly Statement of Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bedford and seconded by Councillor Wyatt and **RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts for March 2010 as notified to the Council be approved.

Members offered their thanks to Councillor Major for his service to the Parish Council and the community during his year as Chairman of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____