

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2010 in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those Present:

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

The meeting opened at 7:30pm.

### **58. Apologies for absence**

None.

### **59. Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Mrs Lay, Daily, Miss Young, Lay and White declared an interest in agenda item 16; Abbots Langley Cricket Club.

Councillors Williams and Wyatt declared an interest in agenda item 17; Abbots Langley Community Centre.

### **60. Public Participation**

In line with the Parish Council's Public Speaking Arrangements Rev. Brian Hibberd had requested to address the Parish Council on agenda item 17; Abbots Langley Community Centre. The Chairman invited Rev. Hibberd to address the Parish Council and reminded him that in line with the arrangements he was permitted three minutes speaking time.

Rev. Hibberd advised that the Community Centre was running well and he thanked the Parish Council again for its grant of £25,000, awarded last year.

The Community Centre are requesting a variation on the terms relating to the grant and their lease, which would allow alcoholic drinks to be consumed at a limited number of events during the year. Particular reference was made to a recent celebration of life, where the organiser wanted to serve wine to guests and the upcoming Gardening Society Autumn Show where beer and wine tasting was part of the programme.

Alcohol would not be sold on the premises and the Community Centre Management Committee expected that alcohol would only be served at a small number of events, in the order of twelve per year.

The Chairman thanked Rev. Hibberd for his comments and advised that they would be taken into account when the agenda item was discussed.

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

### 61. Hertfordshire Police

Sgt. Canning advised the Clerk that due to operational responsibilities neither he nor any other officers were available to attend the meeting. He asked the Clerk to update members on the following.

- The Carnival had been policed by officers, PCSOs and special constables, there were no significant problems reported.
- Additional local and mobile resources will be available this coming Friday evening for the next England World Cup game.

### 62. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Lay, seconded by Councillor White and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 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.

### 63. 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 - 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

Leisure Committee - 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

Members asked that ward members, who do not serve on the Planning and Highways Committee be consulted on any changes to notice boards in their areas.

A minor typographical error was noted on the Planning and Highways minutes for 12<sup>th</sup> May, the Clerk advised that this would be passed onto the meeting clerk for action.

### 64. Annual Statement of Accounts

Members noted that the Internal Auditor had signed section 4 of the return "Annual internal audit report".

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Bedford and **RESOLVED** that Statement of Accounts for 2009/2010 be accepted and that these are signed by the Responsible Financial Officer and the Chairman and submitted to the external auditor.

### 65. Annual Governance Statement

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bedford, seconded by Councillor Miss Young and **RESOLVED** that Annual Governance Statement for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 be accepted and that these are signed by the Clerk and the Chairman and submitted to the external auditor.

### 66. Calendar of Meetings 2011/2012

Members deferred consideration of the Calendar until the July meeting to allow time to check other commitments.

The Clerk asked that if members were going to request any changes that they advised him in advance of the July meeting so a second draft of the calendar could be circulated.

### 67. HAPTC

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bedford, seconded by Councillor Miss Young and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would vote for the following six candidates in the HAPTC Executive Committee election. Councillors McCarthy, Howley, Strack, Powell, Reason and Watson.

**68. District and County Council Member Reports**

County Councillor Paul Goggins

Reported that the special meeting that the Joint Members Highways Panel (JMP), expected to hold on the Winter Maintenance issues will not now take place.

The County called a Highways and Transport Cabinet Panel on 8<sup>th</sup> June, which gave the JMP no time to convene a meeting. Comments about gritting, salt bins and other matters were passed on via the District Council portfolio holder, but it is likely that these issues will have to be followed up at a later date.

The current tripartite body that makes up Herts Highways, the County Council, Mouchel and Amey Lafarge is likely to be disbanded as the current contract comes to an end.

The works on the C76 and Lower Road bridge were completed on time and within budget, vehicle activated signs have been installed on Church Hill in Bedmond, which offer motorists a “thank you” when driving below the limit.

County Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst

Reported that County Councillors had been asked to comment on gritting plans, salt bin locations, etc. in their ward areas. Consideration will be given to treat “hot spots” but it is likely no further resources will be available in the event of another severe winter, so if resources are moved to an area, they will be reduced elsewhere.

Pedestrian steps have been installed at western side of Leavesden Country Park providing access to Langley Lane. The Clerk was asked to write to Three Rivers District Council and request that a hand rail be installed and that the fence that stops users running out onto Langley Lane be extended, so it provides more protection.

District Councillor Mrs Sara Bedford

Reported that the fly tipping on East Lane had still not been cleared as the County Council was unable to access the area with a grab truck. consideration was being given to replacing a bollard, that was removed some years ago, to prevent vehicular access to the area. Some information identifying the source of the waste was being followed up, the police were investigating if enforcement action could be taken.

The cutting of grass verges by Herts Highways had caused problems in the Kindersley Way area. The cuttings had blown over the footpath and road and subsequent rain had made the area very slippery. Councillor Goggins will follow this up.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Chairman of the Hertfordshire Police Authority in response to their letter of 24<sup>th</sup> May 2010 on “Setting Neighbourhood Priorities.

The Clerk was asked to point out that in setting neighbourhood policing areas, in relation to County Council divisions, care needs to be taken to avoid creating anomalies in areas such as Langleybury and Hunton Bridge. These areas fall into the Chorleywood County Council division, but they are geographically more closely linked to Abbots Langley. There is a danger that if this is not addressed, roads such as Upper Highway, Hunton Bridge, will have one side of the road supported from Abbots Langley and one from Chorleywood.

District Councillor Keith Williams

Asked members to note that for the council year 2010/2011 Councillor Ron Spellen had been elected Chairman of Three Rivers District Council and Councillor Barbara Green Vice-Chairman.

Members were also reminded about the Abbots Langley Local Area Forum which is being held on Tuesday 22nd June 7:30 pm at the Manor House.

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

### 69. Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended the following events.

14<sup>th</sup> May 2010 - 1<sup>st</sup> Abbots Langley Scout Group AGM

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2010 - North Watford Scouts District AGM @ 5th North Watford Scout Group, Upper Highway

12th June 2010 - Abbots Langley Carnival

### 70. Clerk's Report

Members noted the following items which were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

- Solly & Francis Coombe Trust
- Telephone Kiosk - Hunton Bridge
- Eco Audit
- Parish Online Mapping
- Diary and Absence Dates

### 71. Monthly Statement of Accounts

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

The Clerk was asked to advise members of the cost breakdown of cheques 4175 Paul Williams Contracting and 4179 Diaries (2012).

### 72. Exclusion of the Press and Public (Part II)

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bedford and seconded by Councillor Morton and **RESOLVED** that as the following item dealt with proposals and counter proposals in contracts that the Parish Council may be entering into, the early stages of a legal dispute and the terms and conditions of staff employment the press and public be excluded from the discussion, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and the Local Government Act 1972, ss100 & 102.

Having previously declared an interest, Councillors Mrs Lay, Daily, Miss Young, Lay, White, Williams and Wyatt left the chambers for the duration of the discussions on agenda items 16 and 17, minutes 73 and 74.

Councillor Giles-Medhurst took over as Chairman of the meeting.

### 73. Abbots Langley Cricket Club

The Clerk confirmed that there were no updates to his report, which had been circulated to members before the meeting.

The above have requested a variation in the new lease being negotiated, which would permit the hiring of club facilities to third parties, rather than just club members.

Members considered the terms of the current lease, the implications of the Parish Council becoming a "commercial" rather than "community use" landlord and the implications of any potential change on leases held by other organisations to which the Parish Council was landlord.

It was proposed by Councillor Ms. Phipps and seconded by Councillor Morton and **RESOLVED** that the terms of the lease currently granted to the above, be reflected in the new lease being drafted and that club will not be permitted any third party hiring.

A vote was requested, seven members were in favour, one abstained.

Abbots Langley Parish Council

**74. Abbots Langley Community Centre**

The Clerk confirmed that there were no updates to his report, which had been circulated to members before the meeting.

The above have requested a variation in their lease (1968) and to the terms of the grant given by the Parish Council in 2009, which would permit hirers to provide alcohol to guests on a free issue, not chargeable basis.

Members considered the terms of the grant which had been made in 2009, which was specific in terms of the venue not allowing alcohol to be consumed and the implications of any potential change on leases held by other organisations to which the Parish Council was landlord.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bedford and seconded by Councillor Hill and **RESOLVED** that the terms of the grant and the lease should not be varied to permit the consumption of alcohol on the premises.

A vote was requested, six members were in favour, two against.

Following the vote the members noted in minute 72 returned to the room and Councillor Lay took over as Chairman of the meeting.

**75. Indemnity Claim**

Members noted the report from the Clerk and asked to be kept updated as the matter progresses.

**76. Staffing Matters**

Resolution missed from the May Parish Council meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Giles-Medhurst and seconded by Councillor Phipps and **RESOLVED** that the scale points of the Finance Officer be varied in line with minutes 19d and 611c (2009/2010).

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

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

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