

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 5th December 2011 in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those Present:

Chairman:	Councillor D J Major
Councillors:	Councillor Mrs J Bowman Councillor D Croker Councillor J Hill Councillor Mrs D J Lay Councillor O Roe
Officers:	Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council
Police:	Sergeant 1275 Neil Canning
Also present:	County Councillor Paul Goggins

The meeting opened at 7:30pm.

344. Absence of Chairman

The Chairman of The Parish Council, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst was unable to attend the meeting at short notice due to family duties. The Vice-Chairman, Councillor Keith Williams had previously given his apologies.

It was proposed by Councillor Owen Roe, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that Councillor David Major should act as meeting chairman.

345. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Sara Bedford (other authority meeting), Councillor Keith Williams (other authority meeting), Councillor Ivy Young (other commitment), Councillor Belinda Phipps (work commitment), Councillor Samantha Heiling (unavailable), Councillor David White (unavailable) and Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst (unavailable).

346. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Jane Lane declared an interest in agenda item 9. Abbots Langley Cricket Club.

347. Public Participation

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

348. Hertfordshire Police

Sergeant 1275 Neil Canning reported:

There has been a recent spate of daylight burglaries, with access gained through forced doors and broken windows. There is a similar pattern in North and Central Watford. Additional resources are being drafted into the area to address these offences. There have been a number of reports of vandalism to cars.

A joint agencies traffic operation was mounted at Hunton Bridge. This involved the police, District Council, HMR&C and the Immigration Service. One offence of illegally using red diesel was detected, two immigration offenders detained and two vehicles impounded for road traffic offences. Further possible offences related to fly tipping and scrap metal are being followed up. A further operation was carried out with Hertfordshire Trading Standards targeting "rogue trader" type offences.

The usual "drink drive" campaign will take place over the Christmas and New Year period.

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Members reported that there appeared to have been a recent increase in graffiti, particularly around the rail bridge at Gallows Hill and Station Road. Sgt. Canning will ask officers to follow up.

349. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor Jean Bowman and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2011, 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.

350. 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 - 16th & 30th November 2011

Leisure Committee - 23rd November 2011

Finance & Administration Committee - 28th November 2011

351. Abbots Langley Community Police Station - Proposed Works

It was proposed by Councillor David Major, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that landlord's permission be granted to Hertfordshire Constabulary to erect a cycle store in the Manor Lodge car park. Location to be at the west end of the building, back of the shed against the end wall of the Community Police Station.

Planning and conservation area approval will be the responsibility of the constabulary. The recycling bins in this location will be moved to the main High Street car park

352. Referred from Finance & Administration Committee - NALC & HAPTC Membership

It was proposed by Councillor Jeff Hill, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that that the Parish Council notify NALC and HAPTC of its intention to resign from both organisations with effect from 31st March 2012. Further consideration will be given to this matter prior to the end of March 2012, as developments within NALC and possible constitution changes within HAPTC, may mean the Parish Council would want to consider an alternative course of action. Clerk to advise both organisations by the resignation deadline of 31st December 2011.

Members noted the subscriptions effective 1st April 2012 for NALC were £809.31 (4.43% increase) and HAPTC £1,113.32 (nil increase).

A vote was requested. All members present were in favour.

353. Approval of Lease to Abbots Langley Cricket Club

The final draft lease had not been received from the Parish Council's solicitors prior to the meeting, this item was deferred until the January Parish Council meeting.

354. Planning and Highways Committee

It was proposed by Councillor David Major, seconded by Councillor Jean Bowman and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Ivy Young be appointed Chairman of the Planning and Highways Committee.

Members expressed concern that some committees had fewer members than was ideal. Members will review committee membership and will advise the Clerk when this should be added to a meeting agenda.

355. Budget 2012-2013

Members noted progress on the preparation of the budget.

356. Parish Council Ward Boundaries

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor Derryck Croker and **RESOLVED** that Three Rivers District Council be advised that at this stage Abbots Langley Parish Council have no proposals to change existing parish or ward boundaries, but that the Parish Council reserves the right to make comments once new District Council ward boundaries are proposed. The Parish Council would however like to see a reduction in single member wards within the Abbots Langley Parish Council area, believing that these do not always serve local residents well.

357. District and County Council Member Reports

County Councillor Paul Goggins

Highways Locality Budget

Six projects, totalling apx. £65,000 have been identified, these are mainly the repairing of footpaths around the county ward area. Work should begin in April 2012, when consideration will then be given to the remaining £25,000 in the budget, which could be spent many times over.

Part-time Night Lighting

Proposals were made for exemption, some have been referred for road safety review, others rejected as non-negotiable. Despite officer objections most of the footpath lights in the area will remain lit.

Locality Budget

This was finalised in November with all resources being directed to the Abbots Langley area.

County Councillor Paul Goggins also reported that the District Council was dissatisfied with the County Council's position on salt bins, including preventing County members using their highways locality budget for salt bins. The matter was under further review.

358. Chairman's Report

As the Chairman was unavailable at short notice no report was available.

Councillor David Major, as meeting chairman, thanked staff and volunteers for all the work that went into staging the Christmas Carol Concert. The Clerk was asked to write to Garston TV and Radio thanking them for continuing to supplying the electricity to the lights in that part of the High Street.

The Peace Hospice have advised that £450 was raised from the collection held at the carol concert.

359. Clerk's Report

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

- Technical Reforms of Council Tax
- Drought Management Plan 2011
- January Parish Council
- Evergreen FC - Renewal of Lease
- Office Copies
- Diary Dates
- Absence from Office.

Members asked that the NALC Direct Information Service be made available as an office copy to offline members, rather than printed copies supplied to all. The Clerk confirmed he would do this, but the latest edition had been received and had been printed that day, so would be circulated on this occasion.

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360. Monthly Statement of Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor Jean Bowman and seconded by Councillor Derryck Croker and **RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts for November 2011 as notified to the Council be approved and published on the Parish Council's website.

361. Exclusion of the Press and Public (Part II)

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay and seconded by Councillor Derryck Croker and **RESOLVED** that as the following item may consider the early stages of a legal dispute, 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.

362. Indemnity Claims

The Clerk updated members on the indemnity claim initially reported to the May 2011 meeting of the Parish Council and updated at the October 2011 meeting.

A court summons for April 2012 has been issued. This claim continues to be robustly defended by the Parish Council's insurers

The meeting closed at 8.29 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____