

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

Council Offices  
Langley Road  
Abbots Langley  
Herts  
WD5 0EJ

10th April 2014.

To Members of the Leisure Committee

The next meeting of the Leisure Committee will be held at the above address on Wednesday 16th April 2014 at 7:30pm when your presence is summoned for the purpose of transacting the business outlined below.

The press and public are welcome to attend the meeting.

Tim Perkins  
Clerk to the Council

### AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**  
To receive and accept apologies for absence.
2. **Declarations of Interest**  
To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.
3. **Public Participation**  
To note if any members of the public have requested to speak at this meeting, in accordance with the Parish Council's Public Speaking Arrangements.
4. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on**  
19<sup>th</sup> February 2014.
5. **Reports from Allotments Representatives**  
To receive reports from the Allotments Representatives.
6. **Reports from Sports Representatives**  
To receive reports from the Sports Representatives.
7. **Reports from Halls Representatives**  
To receive reports from the Halls Representatives.
8. **Three Rivers District Council - Leisure Services Audit**  
To consider the reports from the above audit. (Previously circulated)  
Chris Hope, Head of Community Services & Alison Page, Chief Environmental Services Manager, Three Rivers District Council will be attending the meeting.
9. **Car Parking - Manor House & Langleybury Playing Fields**  
To consider the reports from officers. (See enclosed reports x2 and the Clerk's report item 1.)
10. **Poppy Planting**  
To consider sites for WW1 commemorative poppy planting.
11. **Clerk's Report**  
To consider items on the Clerk's report not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**Abbots Langley Parish Council**  
**Clerk's Report - Leisure Committee - April 2014**

**1. Parking Issues at Langleybury Playing Fields**

We have had multiple reports of the car park at Langleybury being full with long term parking.

Sample checks over a number of days, at different times, showed there were vehicles that were repeat parking, sometimes for extended periods of time. Whilst it cannot be proved, it is not unreasonable to draw the conclusion that this is displacement parking from the Hunton Wharf development.

Today a resident has complained about the parking outside St. Paul's church, that land is in the freehold of HCC, so the complainant has been directed accordingly.

Officers have drafted new signage for Manor House, Langleybury and Primrose Hill car parks. The signage refers to the byelaws, makes it clear that parking is short term only for users of the playing fields and that enforcement action will be taken. The relevant byelaws have been quoted. Orders will be placed as soon as quotes and proofs have been considered.

A complaint has also been received about parking on the land outside the church and adjacent to the War Memorial. This land is in the freehold of HCC and the resident was referred accordingly.

**2. Primrose Hill Community Orchard**

The initial materials and stock costs for the above, including Works Team time, of £1,652 has been invoiced to TRDC.

This will be funded from the S106 funds remaining from the allotment development. A further c.£5k has been rolled over to 2014-2015 and maybe available for expansion of the orchard, or similar projects in the area, this will be subject to separate approval.

**3. Allotment Tenant Plans for Reps**

Reps asked if they could have a plan of sites showing the names of tenants and if this could be updated when changes take place. Notices were posted at all sites, for thirty days, to ask if tenants had any objections to their names being released in this way.

No objections were received, so arrangements are being made to ensure the plans are updated and they will then be released to reps.

Tim Perkins  
10th April 2014.

**Abbots Langley Parish Council**  
Parking Issues at the Manor House

### **Introduction**

The majority of parking problems at the Manor House car park are caused by staff and visitors to Breakspeare School using the car park during school opening hours. The congestion is further exacerbated at the beginning and end of the school day by the arrival and departure of up to twenty minibuses and taxis that provide student transport. The school is now hiring out its facilities in the evening and weekends which is causing congestion outside of school hours.

The congestion in the car park is causing problems for hirers of the Manor House, the school is always asked to clear the car park when there is a function on during the day, but compliance is sometimes patchy. When staff and school visitors are approached by Parish Council staff about inconsiderate parking confrontation often results.

Prospective hirers have turned down the Manor House due to car park congestion when they have come to view the facility. Congestion, particularly during the afternoon pick up times, means the car park is at times inaccessible to users, this creates an immediate negative impression on those coming to view the facility.

Complaints are regularly received in the office from casual users of the playing fields that have been unable to get into the car park, particularly at the beginning and end of the school day.

Damage is being caused to the car park surface by the minibuses manoeuvring in a very confined space.

### **Breakspeare School**

Officers were asked to discuss the problems with the new Head Teacher, Merja Paakkonen, who has been in post since September 2013. Discussions with the previous head and Deputies had been fruitless as the Head was of the opinion that the £2,000 the school paid to the Parish Council towards refurbishment of the car park, although many years ago, gave the school usage right in perpetuity.

David Abbott and I met with the Head Teacher on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

### **Discussions**

The following points were raised in the meeting.

1. The Head Teacher is very concerned about principally the H&S issues that a large number of children crossing the road to the car park raises. A number of children have in the past tried to get away from their escorts creating a serious risk.
2. The transport provider has a service standard to get all students to and from school in forty five minutes. This is also the maximum time the Head thinks it is reasonable for students to be in the minibuses, as many have disruptive behaviours. A number of students come from the far side of Watford, others from St. Albans and Dacorum. The transport is routinely disrupted by traffic and more minibuses have to be used, some carrying as few as three or four students, so the service standard is achieved.
3. Taxis have to be used for some children who are too disruptive to travel in multi-occupancy minibuses. This further increase congestion, again mainly at the end of the school day pick up waiting period.
4. The Head has had initial discussions with officers from HCC about completely reconfiguring the front access to the building. This would include an area that would allow the minibuses to be parked, loaded and unloaded, with the school gates closed, to improve the overall safety of the procedure. Space down the side of the building could be used to expand on-site parking provision without taking out any areas currently used for teaching, learning and play.
5. It was suggested that as plans develop there may be some benefit in the Head talking to Cllr Sara Bedford, in her County Council role to see if any assistance can be given to prioritising the work

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6. The Head agreed that it was unacceptable that when we had an event on in the Manor House and the school had been given due notice, that staff did not move their cars. This will be addressed with staff.
7. School staff have reported that there is on occasions insufficient space in the main High Street car park. The Head thinks the walking distance is not reasonable and parking closer to the school is needed. (There is possibly some confusion between the Manor Lodge and High Street car park, a number of checks carried out since the meeting with the school have shown that there is consistently a large number of spaces in the High Street car park.)
8. The Head is "building the case" to have the capital works carried out at the school to improve parking. She asked that I draft a report detailing the car parking problems that users of the Manor House experience. This I agreed to do.

**Outcome**

It was not expected that there would be any instant solution to the car parking problem, but the new Head is aware of the problems and is trying to find solutions, it was an open and constructive dialogue, something that has not been possible in the past

We agreed to meet again after Easter.

Tim Perkins  
Clerk to the Council  
24th March 2014

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Abbots Langley Parish Council  
Parking Issues at the Manor House



Manor House Car Park - 24/02/2013 (PM)