

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Council Offices
Langley Road
Abbots Langley
Herts
WD5 0EJ

2nd December 2014.

To Members of the Leisure Committee

Councillors: Sara Bedford, Martin Brooks (Vice-Chairman), Gloria Keaveny, Jane Lay, John Wyatt (Chairman).

The next meeting of the Leisure Committee will be held at the above address on Wednesday 10th December 2014 at 7:30 pm 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 22nd October 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. **Budget 2015-2016**
 - i. To consider the latest update of Key Projects. (enclosed)
 - ii. To consider the second revision of the committee pages for the above. (See Clerk's report item 1 and enclosed budget pages. ^[1])
9. **Fees & Charges 2015-2016**
To consider the final draft of Fees & Charges for 2015-2016, finalise and recommend to the Parish Council for approval. (enclosed)
10. **Abbots Improvement Group (AIMs)**
To note the annual report from the above. (enclosed)

Abbots Langley Parish Council

11. Clerk's Report

To consider items on the Clerk's report not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

^[1] *A print copy of the budget committee pages is supplied to committee members only. If any other members require a copy then please advise the Clerk.*

z:\alpc meetings 2014-2015\leisure committee\alpc-leisure-agenda-2014-blank.docx

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Clerk's Report - Leisure Committee - December 2014

1. Budget 2014-2016

i. Events wages costs (7120 in Playing Fields)

Above is overspent by c.£200 and the cost for the fireworks in November and the carol concert in December are not yet included.

Two issues. We have recently changed the timesheet recording procedure and this has highlighted previous event costs that have been coded elsewhere.

Secondly the demands on the Works Team, which particularly for the carnival are increasing year on year. Before the carnival they mark out the grounds, parking areas, show arenas, the sites for stalls and walkways, this takes two men, two days. See enclosed plan, the Manor House grounds are pretty much full and the number of stalls and event areas has increased around three fold over the past ten or so years.

Post the carnival the Works Team clear apx. thirty bins and other rubbish return to the yard and skip, clear fencing and generally tidy the grounds. They are usually not clear until c. 20:00, having started at before 08:00.

Additionally hanging the bunting can only be done early in the morning or in the evening, so as to avoid traffic disruption, so this incurs overtime costs for two men.

Working relations with the Lions remain good, but most club members are not getting any younger and labour input from them is limited.

ii. Manor House - Operating Subsidy (Manor House Budget)

F&A have asked that this committee reviews the operating costs of Manor House, to consider the sustainability of the current subsidy and opportunities for increasing revenue.

2. Christmas Lights

A locality grant from County Councillor Sara Bedford (£355) covered the cost of switch gear and testing of the lamp post outside the Langley Road shops, which previously had not been included in the High Street lights.

3. Evergreen FC

In November I met with Mark Ward the Chairman of Evergreen FC.

The club has been awarded substantial funds by the FA and they also have funds from the drinks company award. They have looked at various options and have finally decided that the funds will be committed to an extensive refurbishment, some relaying out of the inside of the club buildings and also a general external refurbishment.

The footprint of the building will remain unchanged, although the final plans may include the addition of a slightly enlarged entrance area which would extend outside of the current footprint. They would also like to use a small area of scrubland next to the building to construct a compound for bins, etc. The club is aware that PC permission will be required for these changes.

The timings are currently unclear and will be dependent on available cash flow. It could be at the end of the 2014-2015 season or the following.

The club is concerned about the overuse of pitches and pitch availability is the major factor limiting the club's future growth. The club currently fields the usual age range of boy's teams, girls and ladies team and this season their first disabled teams. We are going to have a discussion at the end of the season about how to protect the grounds through summer maintenance and possibly completely changing the layout of pitches, to bring some relief to areas such as goal mouths.

The club is also considering splitting its very popular summer tournament over two days and only using part of the fields, although this is presenting a number of organisational and logistical challenges. Further discussions will take place in the New Year.

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

4. Venue Booking T&Cs - Electronic Cigarettes

These will be updated to prohibit the use of electronic cigarettes on any PC premises. This is in common with most other licenced premises.

During a busy event it is difficult for duty staff to see if an electronic or traditional cigarette is being used. Also the health risks to staff from electronic cigarettes are also far from clear.

Prohibiting their use is the clearest approach and does not lack any clarity for staff, hirers and guests.

5. Tree Adjoining Bedmond Playing Fields

During the tree audit a resident's tree, that overhangs the car park at Bedmond, was seen to require maintenance as there was a risk of branches falling into the car park.

I contacted the resident who has arranged for remedial work to be carried out, this will take place in the next few weeks and will necessitate the car park being closed for a few hours.

6. Primrose Hill Playing Fields

The fence that borders the "Happy Valley Industrial Estate" on the south side of the fields is in parts in an awful state of repair, see following images. Checks with the Land Registry indicate that the fencing belongs to the estate freeholder.

Even the most basic of risk assessment would highlight quite severe risks. There is broken barbed wire and other hazards at eye level, pretty much all the fence requires replacement, as do a number of posts.

The damaged fence also allows access to the rear of industrial units, where there are multiple drums of unidentified chemicals stored in the open.

I have written to the freeholder twice, the second letter sent by recorded delivery and have heard nothing. I have contacted TRDC to see if any enforcement action can be taken as this may be a statutory nuisance. I will update further on this at the meeting.

If I cannot make progress with TRDC it may be worth considering what action our solicitors could take, as there is a real risk to the public in which the landlord appears uninterested.

Tim Perkins
2nd December 2014.

z:\alpc meetings 2014-2015\clerks report\leisure\alpc-clerks-report-leisure-2014-12.docx

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

