

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Council Offices
Langley Road
Abbots Langley
Herts
WD5 0EJ

15th October 2015.

To Members of the Leisure Committee

Councillors: Sara Bedford, Martin Brooks, Jane Lay, Hitesh Tailor, Alison Ward & John Wyatt (Chairman).

The next meeting of the Leisure Committee will be held at the above address on Wednesday 21st October 2015 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

26th August 2015.

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 2016-2017

- i. To consider the latest update of Key Projects. (See Clerk's report item 1 and enclosed report.)
- ii. To consider the first revision of the committee pages for the above. (See Clerk's report item 2 and enclosed committee budget pages.)
- iii. To consider the first draft of Fees & Charges 2016-2017. (enclosed.)

9. South Way Playing Fields - Pitch Report

To consider the above prepared by a consultant from the Institute of Groundsmanship. (See Clerk's report item 3 and report previously circulated.)

Abbots Langley Parish Council

10. Countryside Management Service

To consider the Manor House Greenspace Action Plan 2016-2021. (See Clerk's report item 4 and enclosed draft plan.)

11. Trees - Langleybury Playing Fields

To consider the report from the Clerk. (See Clerk's report item 5 and enclosed area plan.)

12. Clerk's Report

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

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Abbots Langley Parish Council
Clerk's Report - Leisure Committee - October 2015

1. Key Projects 2016-2017

The above has been updated following the August meeting of this committee and work carried out since.

Councillor Sara Bedford has reported that the footpath between Manor House Gardens and Standfield is in need of repair. There are some minor potholes and trip hazards that will need repair prior to the winter.

Patch repairs have been quoted at £1,700 and these would be undertaken by Hansards.

The resurfacing of the extent of the path (326m) would be £13,863, plus approximately 100 metres of edging will need to be replaced at £25/m.

The patch repairs can be carried out under officer delegation. Officers recommendation is the whole path will need replacement at some stage, probably within three years, but it is not currently a high priority task. Officers will monitor the condition of the path.

2. Budget 2016-2017

This is the first version of the budget. As always at this early stage there is much work in progress, expect errors and inconsistencies. Most of the revenue lines have been checked and some work has gone into elements of the spend, but this is ongoing.

No work has been done yet on the Works Team cost allocations, but this does not affect the overall budget outcome, it is only the allocation of the cost of staff into the relevant budget headings.

3. South Way Playing Fields - Pitch Report

The report is technical in nature but summarised the pitches are over used, some will need to be taken out of commission if they are going to recover and an irrigation system will be needed to promote good growth during the summer maintenance periods.

All of this was understood previously, the report confirms the key issues.

Just as the papers for this meeting were being finalised, the Works Manger discovered that Evergreen FC had, without seeking permission from the Parish Council, marked out a pitch in an area that was being kept clear to allow the recovery of goal mouth areas.

Something approaching 90% of the fields is now covered with pitches, the chances of the whole area completely breaking down and becoming unplayable is real.

I am trying to arrange a meeting with the club chairman to discuss.

I think it is fair to say officers are lost for words. Something that does not happen often.



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4. Countryside Management Service - Manor House Greenspace Action Plan

The draft of the above is attached, the dates in the report are just placeholders and Saturday 21st November is now being proposed as the date for the consultation walk. This will give time for local publicity.

5. Trees - Langleybury Playing Fields

A call was received from St Paul's School (4th September) that a tree branch was in a dangerous condition on the boundary between the playing fields and the school.

On initial investigation we did not think that the tree was on land leased by the Parish Council from Hertfordshire County Council.

However, when Janet Pearce dug back into the lease records there is an additional patch of land, with a number of trees that have clearly not been maintained, which is included in the Parish Council's lease. Quite why is unclear, as the land has no use to the Parish Council, is not part of the playing fields and should have been excluded when the original lease was signed. (Land is to the west of the school, blue boundary on the enclosed plan.)

Once it was clear that the land was included in the lease a tree surgeon was instructed to carry out remedial works. Patrick Stileman our consultant arboriculturist is scheduled to audit the trees on this land. It is expected that there will be a significant amount of work that will need to be carried out.

A very old metal fence will also need replacing once the tree works are completed.

6. Kitters Green

A number of the post surrounding the green have been damaged, some flattened and a number of chains are broken. The remedial work is included on the Works Team plan and will be addressed as soon as possible. Just to advise members it has been noted.

Tim Perkins
15th October 2015.