

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at 7.30pm in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those present:

Chairman: Councillor Jane Lay  
Vice Chairman: Councillor John Wyatt  
Councillors: Councillor Sara Bedford  
Councillor Martin Brooks  
Councillor Gloria Keaveny

Also Present: Mr Keith Gissing - Sports Representative  
Mr Chris Bromwich - Allotment Representative  
Mrs Sally Sanderson - Allotment Representative  
Mr Peter Warman - Halls Representative

Officers: Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council  
David Abbott - Facilities Manager

The meeting opened at 7:30pm.

### **49. Apologies for absence**

None.

Mr Vince Watts Allotment Representative - Kingsfield and Mr Ron Smith, Sports Representative, had advised the Clerk that they would be unable to attend this meeting.

Mark Ellis, Works Manager, was on annual leave.

### **50. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Sara Bedford declared a personal interest in agenda item 10. Tree Audit - Manor House.

### **51. Public Participation**

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

### **52. Minutes of the Meeting**

It was proposed by Councillor John Wyatt, seconded by Councillor Gloria Keaveny and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013, 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.

### **53. Reports from the Allotments Representatives**

Jacketts Field - Mrs Sally Sanderson

Mrs Sanderson advised members that there had been multiple recent access problems at the Shepherd Close entrance to the allotments, caused by a tenant in Shepherd Close locating a skip on the entrance path as well as dumping rubbish and tree spoil. The Clerk has advised Three Rivers District Council, who in turn are working with the Housing Association to take appropriate enforcement action.

An allotment tenant set a bonfire and used petrol as an accelerant. The Clerk will post appropriate notices advising of the stupidity of such actions.

Manor House - Mr Chris Bromwich

No issues, all plots, but one are under cultivation.

**54. Reports from the Sports Representatives**

Mr Keith Gissing

Reported that the Bowls Green was not in optimum condition. This will be reviewed with the Works Manager.

Mr Gissing was asked to raise these issues through the Club Secretary and the office rather than waiting for a Leisure meeting.

**55. Reports from the Halls Representatives**

Mr Peter Warman

Mr Warman has spoken to the organiser of the Zumba and Powerhoop classes at Tanners Wood Hall who was complimentary of the facilities.

Members were reminded of the meeting in the Council Chambers on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 at 7:30 pm to review the Henderson Hub Project Working Group business plan. The Clerk had received papers from the working group and these would be circulated.

**56. South Way Car Park**

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Brooks, seconded by Councillor John Wyatt and **RESOLVED** that the remedial works required at South Way should proceed following the receipt of further quotes.

Members noted the cost would be c. £8,500 which would take budget line 7220 into over spend.

**57. Tree Audit - Manor House Playing Fields**

Councillor Sara Bedford withdrew from the meeting and did not take part in any discussions on this item.

Members noted the proposal for the Manor House tree audit and risk management strategy and asked officers to proceed with the work under delegated authority. Members noted that the cost of the audit was within the budget for tree works, but if extensive remedial works were required then the budget may come under pressure later in the year.

**58. Summer Use of Football Pitches**

Members discussed the ongoing problems of pitches being used during the summer when they are undergoing maintenance. It was appreciated that this is a difficult problem and there is a balance to be struck between open public access and unreasonable use by clubs whose own grounds are closed.

The Clerk has been in dialogue with clubs that use the grounds but there is often a disconnect between the chairman of clubs and the team managers who usually operate with a high degree of autonomy in terms of how they run their teams. Officers continue to approach teams that appear to be organising formal training sessions but this often leads to confrontation.

When teams can be identified and this is often difficult, the Clerk will write to the club chairman, this does on occasions lead to a temporary cessation of pitch usage. In the end a change to byelaws maybe required to prohibit organised sessions during periods of summer maintenance, but this will also introduce issues around enforcement.

**59. Three Rivers District Council - Leisure Services**

Members noted the draft consultation document on leisure provision in the parish. Details of the consultation session for members has been circulated by Three Rivers District Council

Members also noted that quotes are being sought for the construction of a "half pipe" in the skate park. The Clerk was asked to contact Three Rivers District Council to see if it would be practical to install a steel half pipe, which would be cheaper than concrete, but the potential noise would need to be considered.

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**60. Abbots Langley Carnival**

The Chairman raised a number of points including, concern about the age of the Carnival Queen and their eligibility by residence, locations of the "food hall" on the carnival versus location of commercial vendors.

Councillor John Wyatt, the Parish Council's nominated member on the Carnival Organising Committee will raise these issues at the next meeting of the organising committee.

These points aside it was a very well attended event, with superb weather.

**61. Clerk's Report**

- Members noted the ongoing work of AImS. Councillor Sara Bedford is working with the County Council to simplify the process for residents to get a "Licence to Plant" on County Council land.
- The next meeting of this committee will move from the 14th to the 21st August.
- Members noted that the Clerk is working with a production company who want to use the Bedmond Playing fields car park for a vehicle and equipment base for two days later in June.

The meeting closed at 8:58 pm.

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

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