

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 16th April 2014 at 7.30 pm 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 Gerry Kilbane - Sports Representative
Mr Chris Bromwich - Allotment Representative
Mr John Kersey - Allotment Representative
Mr Peter Warman - Halls Representative

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

Officers (Three Rivers District Council): Mr Chris Hope - Head of Community Services
Mrs Alison Page - Chief Environmental Services Manager

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

390. Urgent Business

The Chairman advised members that she was varying the order of business and a discussion on the Watford & Three Rivers Trust hire charges for the Manor House would be discussed as a final item (Standing Order 14.).

Papers had been circulated by the Clerk by email and print copy to offline members.

391. Apologies for absence

Mr Vince Watts, Allotments Representative, advised the Clerk that he would be unable to attend the meeting.

392. Declarations of Interest

None.

393. Public Participation

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

394. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor John Wyatt, seconded by Councillor Martin Brooks and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 19th February 2014, 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.

395. Reports from the Allotments Representatives

Jacketts Field - Mr John Kersey

The Works Manager was asked to clear prunings and fallen branches.

Manor House - Mr Chris Bromwich

All plots are being worked. The Gardening Society will be constructing the concrete plinth in front of the society's depot over the first weekends in May.

396. Reports from the Sports Representatives

Mr Keith Gissing

The bowls season was starting w/c 21st April. The lighting of the path has been resolved with the Scouts and the club note the remedial works that have been carried out to the path.

Mr Gerry Kilbane

The shortage of pitches for particularly under nine teams is causing Abbots Youth Football Club major problems. A contributory factor is local schools are less willing to let out their pitches at weekends than they have been in the past.

Club officers think that there may be available space at Langleybury playing fields for additional pitches, it was unclear if this was on Parish Council or Hertfordshire County Council land. The club was asked to contact the Clerk to arrange a meeting to discuss.

397. Reports from the Halls Representatives

No major issues. Discussions between the Henderson Hub Project Working Group and the Managing Trustees of Henderson Hall were ongoing. Discussions on a possible lease were delayed due to the need for structural engineers and surveyors reports.

398. Three Rivers District Council - Leisure Services Audit

Members and the public were reminded that this was just an initial discussion of reports from Three Rivers District Council and their consultants. The Chairman thanked both Chris Hope and Alison Page from Three Rivers District Council for attending the meeting.

Chris Hope and Alison Page introduced the reports that had been circulated to members, in particular the recommendations in paragraph 2.5 of the officer's report to Three Rivers District Council's Executive Committee (24th March 2014), that had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Members were advised that £400,000 had been allocated to bringing the "Horse's Field" at the junction of Langley Lane and South Way into use as public open space. Apx. £100,000 will be allocated for works to enable access and the balance for ongoing maintenance.

The following comments were made by members, to be taken into consideration as more detailed plans are developed:

- i. Supporting the Henderson Hub
Members asked that funds were made available to carry out any capital works that were required following the recent surveys. Also, that any funds allocated for equipment to the hall are paid in such a way that if the management and operation of the hall should change hands the purchased equipment was still available to future users of the hall and not removed for use outside of the parish.
- ii. Investment in local schools
Improvement in leisure and sports facility provision that was also publically accessible.
- iii. Installation of parkour and/or BMX facility
Provision of facilities, including adventure play for the 10+ age group.
- iv. Skate Park Development
As iii above, for the older age group children.
- v. Play Area Development on Manor House playing fields.
The above is currently scheduled for 2016-2017 in Three Rivers District Council's capital plans. Members asked that consideration be given to bringing this forward and also starting the resident and user consultation as soon as possible.

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Members noted that this was part of the separate capital programme and was not part of the S106 funds allocated to projects such as the Horse's Field.

- vi. Development of allotment sites in Bedmond
Members highlighted the lack of allotment provision close to the centre of Bedmond village and asked that consideration be given to potential sites and costs.
- vii. Development and promotion of opportunities to volunteer
Possibly through a service that matched volunteer skills and availability to community need.
- viii. Developing further activities for older adults
Discussion needed on the detail, but as above, consideration needs to be given to how these are coordinated.
- ix. Improve the marketing and communication of local cycle and walking routes.
Further discussion needed. The Clerk has some specific ideas to input.
- x. Supporting projects that enhance the understanding of local heritage
Further discussion on how the Abbots Langley Festival of the Arts and heritage based groups can be supported.
- xi. Development of projects and facilities for young people, through partnership working (ie: YMCA and Youth Connexions)
Specific points raised were:
 - Possible construction of all weather football pitches that enable sports to carry on during the winter.
 - An open air performance area, possibly in one of the natural bowls in Leavesden Country Park.

399. Car Parking - Manor House & Langleybury Playing Fields

Members asked that officers urgently develop plans to install a physical barrier at the main gate of the Manor House car park to ensure that parking can be made available for users of the playing fields and Manor House. Officers will consider, risk assess and report back. Similar plans to be developed for the Langleybury and Primrose Hill playing fields car parks.

Outline plans to be developed to install "pay and display" parking systems at all car parks. Capital, installation and operating costs to be researched and reported back to this committee.

400. Poppy Planting

Possible sites are the War Memorial at Langleybury and Primrose Hill playing fields. The Chairman will discuss with the Works Manager.

401. Clerk's Report

Members noted the following items on the Clerk's report.

- Primrose Hill Community Orchard - Costs invoiced to Three Rivers District Council.
- Allotment Sites Plans - To be made available to allotment representatives.

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402. Watford and Three Rivers Trust

Members noted the report that had been circulated by the Clerk.

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor John Wyatt and **RESOLVED** that delegated authority be granted to the Clerk to negotiate rates and timings with the above for their proposed Lunch Club.

Initial rates and timings discussed were £19.00/hr, 11:00-15:00, Wednesdays, 48 weeks/year.

Clerk to raise issue of delegated authority on hire rates with the Finance and Administration Committee.

The meeting closed at 9.17 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____