

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 10th December 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those present:

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

Also Present: Mr John Kersey - Allotment Representative
Mr Robert Stimpson - Allotment Representative
Mr Vince Watts - Allotments Representative
Mr Gerry Kilbane - Sports Representative
Ms Amanda Bate - Halls Representative
Mrs Karen Stocker - Halls Representative

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

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

286. Apologies for absence

Mr Chris Bromwich, Allotment Representative (Manor House), had advised the Clerk that he would be unable to attend the meeting.

287. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Jane Lay declared an interest in agenda item 8, Budget 2014-2015 ii, Fees and Charges as a member of various organisations who use Parish Council facilities.

288. Public Participation

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

289. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor Sara Bedford and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd October 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.

290. Reports from the Allotments Representatives

Primrose Hill - Mr Robert Stocker

Quotes have been received to remediate the criminal damage to the fence at the above. The panels will be repaired, rather than replaced, but if further damage occurs to the same panels it is likely they will have to be replaced. Cost of the repair is £1,150.

Kingsfield - Mr Vince Watts

Tenants are dumping rubbish by the allotment gate. This is possibly new tenants who do not understand the allotment rules. The Works Manager has arranged for the rubbish to be cleared and the Clerk will post an appropriately worded notice on the site notice board.

The resident who's tree overhangs plot 8 has given their permission for it to be cut back. Councillor Sara Bedford advised that Tree Preservation Orders are in place on most of the trees on the Creasy Close estate, which borders the allotments. The Tree surgeon will be asked to check the tree when working on the site.

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Jacketts Field & Primrose Hill Community Orchard - Mr John Kersey

Site maintenance issues mentioned at the last meeting were resolved promptly.

The two trees to replace those damaged by vandals in the Community Orchard are on order, planting has been delayed as the nursery has yet to lift the saplings.

291. Reports from the Sports Representatives

Mr Gerry Kilbane

Reconfiguration of the pitches at Manor House has improved pitch availability for particularly junior teams, there will be challenges in the future as members of these teams grow older and start to play on larger pitches.

The club has also joined the local Churches League which plays on a Saturday, this allows children to take part in church activities, or other sports, on a Sunday. Very positive initial feedback from players, parents and officials that behaviour at Church League matches is of a much higher standard than at normal league matches.

Access to toilets at the Manor House playing Fields is an issue. The club will work further with Abbots Langley Cricket Club to see how secure access can be improved to their toilets.

292. Reports from the Halls Representatives

Mrs Karen Stocker & Mrs Amanda Bate.

No report.

293. Budget 2015-2016

i. Key Projects

Note: (n) refers to the Key Project report item number.

(1) Tree Risk Assessment - Add to this year's estimated spend initial quote values for both the three and twelve month remedial works, identified in the report to be carried out. Code 7234 (Playing Fields) total budget spend FY 2014-2015 = £18,900.

(6) Defibrillators - Based on the current promised donations it is likely funding will be available for a further unit. Officers were asked to investigate possible sites, the retail unit on the Hunton Wharf development and possibly somewhere on the Lemonfield estate was suggested. £1,500 to be added to budget in 2015-2016 for ongoing replacement of batteries and post use costs, any underspend to be rolled into an earmarked reserve which will be opened in the next budget cycle. No budget spend for new units in 2015-2016 as new installations covered by donations. Code 7237 (Playing Fields).

(7) Vehicles - The priority for replacement is the tipper which is the "workhorse" vehicle. Suitable second hand vehicles are not currently available, investigation on the costs of a new vehicle are underway. Funding would be from earmarked reserves.

(8) MuGA - Members noted the report from officers on the initial discussions with The Elms Tennis Club. A meeting will be arranged with committee members in the New Year with staff from The Elms. Members and officers shared similar concerns about public access and possible exclusivity of use but agreed the opportunity should be followed up.

(10) Manor House "New English Wood" and Grounds Management Plan. Members supported this proposal and asked that the cost of plan £2,500 be added to the budget. New budget code "Manor House Grounds Management Plan".

(11) Christmas Lights - Members agreed a rolling plan to replace aging Christmas Lights should be initiated. £2,500 to be added to the budget to fund the cost of initially replacing four festoons/pa. Code 7225 (Playing Fields,), priority to "2".

Abbots Langley Parish Council

(12) Manor House Building (external) - Further work on requirements for the Manor House to be considered alongside longer term business requirements. If decided to proceed funding would be from Property Repair & Improvements earmarked reserve. Priority to "2".

ii. Committee Budget

- i. Members noted the spend to the end of Q2 on Events Wages (7120 Playing Fields) was £200 over budget and the cost of the Works Team hours for the Fireworks and Carol Concert had yet to be added. The increase in hours spent on the carnival were due mainly to the growth of the event over the past few years and a reduction in available support volunteers.

It was felt that the overall benefit of the events to the parish were significant and that the Parish Council should continue with the support of the Works Team. However, Councillor John Wyatt and the Clerk were asked to meet with the Chairman of the Lions organising committee to consider how the level of support volunteers could be increased and also what plans the Lions had to ensure the work of the committee could continue, in the event of key members having to withdraw.

- ii. Members noted the referral from the Finance and Administration Committee, they asked that a management report on bookings and revenues be prepared for the February committee meeting. The Clerk will also talk to colleagues and HAPTC about the availability of venue marketing consultancy services.

294. Fees & Charges 2015-2016

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor John Wyatt and **RESOLVED** that the Fees and Charges for 2015-2016 (v1b Final Draft) be recommended by this committee to the Parish Council for approval.

295. Abbots Improvement Group (Aims)

Members noted the report from the above and asked that the Clerk write to the group to thank them for their hard work.

296. Clerk's Report

Members noted:

- Christmas Lights - County Councillor's Locality Grant of £355 to extend the lights into Langley Road.
- Evergreen FC - Proposed development and improvement works.
- Venue Booking T&C - Amendment to prohibit the use of electronic cigarettes on Parish Council premises.
- Tree Adjoining Bedmond Playing Fields - Resident has carried out remedial work to a tree on their land identified during the tree risk assessment as posing a risk to car park users.
- Primrose Hill Playing Fields - The Clerk has had no response to two letters to the freeholder requesting remedial work to the fence on the boundary with the Happy Valley Industrial Estate. Three Rivers District Council are investigating if enforcement action can be taken.

The meeting closed at 9.16 pm.

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Signed: _____

Dated: _____