

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those present:

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

Also Present: Mr Chris Bromwich - Allotment Representative  
Mr John Kersey - Allotment Representative  
Mr Robert Stimpson - Allotment Representative  
Mr David Anderson - Sports Representative  
Mr Gerry Kilbane - Sports Representative  
Ms Karen Stocker - Halls Representative

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

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

### **356. Apologies for absence**

Mr Vince Watts (Allotment Rep. - Kingsfield) and Ms. Amanda Bate (Halls Rep.) had advised the Clerk that they would be unable to attend the meeting.

Mark Ellis, Works Manager, was not available to attend.

### **357. Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **358. Public Participation**

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

### **359. Minutes of the Meeting**

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor Gloria Keaveny and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 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.

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

Primrose Hill - Robert Stimpson

All plots now being worked. Works Team asked to give attention to overgrowth outside the allotments by plot 1.

Jacketts Field - Mr John Kersey

Gate post at the Shepherd Close entrance is slightly out of alignment making the gate bolt difficult to close. Works Team to remediate.

Trees have been replanted in the Primrose Hill Community Orchard, no further damage.

Manor House - Mr Chris Bromwich

Nothing to report. One tenant is asking for permission to erect a greenhouse, the rules pertaining to this are discussed later in the meeting.

Councillor John Wyatt will arrange a site visit with Mr Chris Bromwich to better understand the problems with a tree that is blocking light to two plots.

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Kingsfield - Councillor Jane Lay (Mr Vince Watts not available)

The Works Manager was asked inspect plot 3 which is currently overgrown.

### **361. Reports from the Sports Representatives**

Mr Gerry Kilbane

The long term pressure on the availability of pitches is a continuing concern to clubs. It may be necessary in the future to reconfigure the pitches at the Manor House. Reports from other clubs have indicated that a new treatment for worms on sports pitches is proving to be effective in promoting strong grass growth. The club will pass on details to the Facilities Manager for further investigation.

Facilities Manager to investigate the cost of bringing the external toilets at the Manor House back into use, with key access granted to Abbots Youth Football Club. Costs to be reported to the next meeting.

Mr David Anderson

The officers of Langleybury Cricket Club changed at the recent club AGM, details of the new officers are in the Clerk's report.

The moles have returned. The club will review with the Works Manager.

### **362. Reports from the Halls Representatives**

Minor complaint relating to the Manor House will be followed up by the Facilities Manager.

### **363. Tree Works Quotations**

Members noted the tree works quotations and the related budget update. Orders will be placed with contractor A for the outstanding works to be completed.

The arboriculturist, Works Manager and Clerk met at Langleybury Playing Fields earlier on the day of the meeting to review the tree that fell in calm weather conditions. The arboriculturist's view was the tree had probably been damaged in a previous storm and then subsequently failed. The works on trees at Langleybury will be prioritised when arranged the arboriculturist will attend to supervise the works.

### **364. Manor House Bookings**

Members noted the report from officers and the revenue breakdowns. The following points were raised.

- The Facilities Manager will introduce some promotional pricing to attract more Friday bookings. Discounts within currently agreed delegation levels. Bookings staff to be briefed to offer enhanced pricing when hirers cannot book a preferred Saturday night.
- Notice boards and article in myAbbots to promote Friday rates.
- Facilities Manager to cost the purchase of round tables, which are preferred for weddings and alternatively the cost of making round table tops that could be attached to our current tables.
- Members to advise the Facilities Manager of any further suggestions.

### **365. Car Parking at Manor House & Primrose Hill - Operating Protocol**

Councillor Sara Bedford will hold informal discussions with the Head Teacher at Breakspeare School about the pending introduction of car parking controls at the Manor House.

The cost of parking management equipment is in the approved budget for 2015-2016. Officers were planning on placing purchase orders on 1<sup>st</sup> April, but this will be deferred until after the April meeting of this committee, when Councillor Sara Bedford will report back on her discussions with the school and the operation protocol will be brought back for consideration.

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**366. Greenhouses & Polytunnels on Allotments**

Members did not think the guidelines for the installation of the above required amendment. They are restated below for future reference.

Greenhouses

Permitted max. size, 8ft x 4ft. good commercial quality fitted with polycarbonate or safety glass, installed on and fixed to a solid base. Horticultural glass not permitted. The plot holder to be responsible for dismantling and making good on giving up tenancy, if greenhouse cannot be transferred to an incoming tenant.  
(Previously agreed min 596. Les. Comm. 23/04/2008.)

Polytunnels

Polytunnels be permitted on Parish Council allotment grounds, not to exceed 3m x 2m x 2m, be of good commercial not home built construction and maintained in good order.

Tenants will be required to apply for permission to the Parish Council, which will not be granted until Three Rivers District Council Development Control has approved an application from the tenant.  
(Previously agreed min. 641. Les. Comm. 21/04/2010.)

**367. Evergreen Football Club**

Members are concerned about the overuse of the grounds, which is primarily a public open space. The office and members have received complaints about access to the grounds when matches are being played and training is ongoing many evenings.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Brooks, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that permission for a permanent player's shelter be refused and the club asked to consider options for portable structures that could be removed after matches.

A vote was requested, three members were in favour, one against and one abstained.

**368. Clerk's Report**

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

- Kingsfield Allotment Footpath
- Henderson Hall
- Primrose Hill fencing
- Langleybury Cricket Club

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

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

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