

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd April 2015 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 Chris Bromwich - Allotment Representative
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

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

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

415. Apologies for absence

Mr David Anderson, Sports Representative and Ms Karen Stocker, Halls Representative had advised the Clerk that they would be unable to attend the meeting.

416. Declarations of Interest

None.

417. Public Participation

Mr Mark Ward, Chairman Evergreen Football Club was present to address the committee on agenda item 11, Evergreen Football Club Buildings Upgrade.

418. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Gloria Keaveny, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2015, 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.

419. Reports from the Allotments Representatives

Manor House - Mr Chris Bromwich

Councillor John Wyatt had visited the site and agreed with the report from the Parish Council's arboriculturist that no work was required on the tree which tenants wanted cutting back.

Jacketts Field & Primrose Hill Community Orchard - Mr John Kersey

Reports have been made about the hedges which are overgrowing the access road from Summerhouse Way. The ownership of the hedges is unclear. Checks with the Land Registry appear to indicate the hedges are on land owned by Three Rivers District Council, but historical changes to the fence line mean there is some uncertainty. This has been reported to the District Council.

The Works Team will arrange for the installation of an additional tap close to plot 2 and also to supply a cage for one of the trees on the community orchard.

Kingsfield - Mr Vince Watts

No problems, some plots are not being cultivated.

Abbots Langley Parish Council

The Works Manager undertook inspections on the day of the meeting and four tenants will be contacted about their plots which appear not to have been worked this year.

Primrose Hill - Mr Robert Simpson

Thanks to the Works Team for cutting back the grass outside the fence line adjacent to plot 1. All plots are under cultivation.

Now the site is becoming well established tenants would like to get more involved with the community orchard. Mr Stimpson will discuss with Mr Kersey.

420. Reports from the Sports Representatives

Mr Gerry Kilbane

There are ongoing concerns from Abbots Youth Football Club about the storage of the portable goals at Manor House. Discussions were held with the Clerk the week prior to the meeting and the club was asked to come back with plans on the type of storage facility that would be needed, as space is no longer available in the cricket scoreboard.

Requirements and possible locations to be discussed with the Facilities Manager and these will be discussed at the June meeting of this committee. The club has suggested chaining the posts to the external wall of the Manor House, this would not be an option considered acceptable by officers or members.

421. Reports from the Halls Representatives

Ms. Amanda Bate

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society had a very successful quiz night in the Manor House and they thanked staff for assistance with the arrangements.

Following some concerns about the availability of The Craft Tub as a Community Toilet for the French Market, which the Clerk had followed up with Three Rivers District Council, it had been suggested that the Henderson Hall could be used as a Community Toilet. This had been discussed in the past and the main problem was building security. The building is not open all day and for it to be used as a Community Toilet this would be necessary, which along with security creates key holding issues when the caretaker is not available.

Members asked that the Chairman write a letter of thanks to Abbots Langley Biz who organised the French market.

422. Order of Business & Urgent Business

The Chairman proposed to vary the order of business and take agenda item 11, Evergreen FC - Upgrade to the Buildings at South Way Playing Fields, at this point in the meeting.

The Chairman also agreed to add a discussion to the end of the agenda on the Proposed Public Space Protection Order, details of which had been received from Three Rivers District Council after the agenda had been circulated. This would permit a timely response to be made. (Standing Orders 14 and 16d refer.)

423. Evergreen FC - Upgrade to the Buildings at South Way Playing Fields

Mr Mark Ward, Chairman of Evergreen Football Club, gave members an overview of the plans for the refurbishment of club buildings. Formal planning permission is scheduled for submission to Three Rivers District Council in mid-May.

Parish Council approval will be required. The club was asked that final plans should be submitted to the Clerk, so these can be reviewed at this committee in June and then subsequently by the Parish Council.

Members were concerned about the potential additional uses and the lease restriction on sub-letting the buildings. The rents levied by the Parish Council are based on community, not commercial, use of the buildings and this may also make the club liable for National Non-Domestic (Business) Rates.

Abbots Langley Parish Council

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that this committee was broadly in agreement with the plans submitted and that they support the developments as proposed by the club, subject to the potential issues around sub-letting minute above being resolved.

424. Car Parking at Manor House & Primrose Hill - Operating Protocol

- a. Councillor Sara Bedford held some initial discussions with Breakspeare School, but there was nothing significant to report.
- b. Members discussed the operating protocol, items that require further consideration are; times of the controlled parking period possibly these being extended to 15:00 on weekdays, passes for authorised parkers such as the cricket club at Manor House and permitted parking for allotment tenants at Primrose Hill.

It was proposed by Councillor Gloria Keaveny, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that parking controls as discussed by this committee and in line with the draft operating protocol be implemented at both the Manor House and Primrose Hill car parks, subject to officers resolving the outstanding issues detailed above.

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

425. Three Rivers District Council - Abbots Langley Leisure Projects

Members noted that the above report would be considered at the June meeting of the committee and the Clerk was due to meet with officers at Three Rivers District Council to discuss this further in the coming weeks.

426. Manor House Bookings

- a. Members noted the report on round tables and the practical issues these would cause in terms of storage, access for movement and capacity reduction. It was decided not to proceed at this time.
- b. Members found the bookings summary report useful and asked that this be considered by this committee at both its April and October meetings. A similar report also to be prepared for Tanners Wood Hall and presented at the same meetings. The Clerk and Facilities Manager agreed but for financial control purposes the Clerk advised the Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report, which was considered by the Finance & Administration Committee, was the most appropriate report for monitoring the financial performance of the halls.

427. Manor House MuGA - Use by The Elms Tennis, Football and other Sports

Members were supportive of the efforts to launch a tennis club this summer on the Manor House Multi-Use Games Area. However, any agreements would need to be on a "first year basis" only as further consideration would need to be given to the longer term use of these facilities, in the context of the Three Rivers District Council leisure report referred to above.

428. Clerk's Report

Members noted the following items which were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

- The fencing at Primrose Hill Playing Fields had finally been replaced by the landlord of the adjacent industrial estate.
- Defibrillators. Members noted that officers had failed to find a suitable location in the Lemonfield Drive, Coates Way area to locate a defibrillator. A suitable location is currently being sought in the Primrose Hill area, the Parish Council's pavilion on the playing fields is not thought to be appropriate as it is not clearly visible from the road and there has been ongoing low level anti-social behaviour in the area.

Abbots Langley Parish Council

429. Proposed Public Space Protection Order

The above order proposed by Three Rivers District Council would be made under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and would introduce controls in relation to the control of dogs on public open spaces in the district.

Members were supportive of the plans and asked that the Clerk respond to the district council accordingly. However, members asked that further discussions be held with the Parish Council on the practical implementation, signage and procedures which would need to be in place when the order was implemented.

The meeting closed at 9.07 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____