

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 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 Hitesh Tailor  
Councillor Jane Lay  
Councillor Alison Ward

Also Present: Mr Chris Bromwich - Allotment Representative  
Mr John Kersey - Allotment Representative  
Mr Robert Stimpson - Allotment Representative  
Ms Amanda Bate - Halls Representative  
Ms 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.

### **132. Apologies for absence**

Mr Vince Watts, Allotments Representative (Kingsfield), Mr David Anderson, Sports Representative and Ms. Amanda Bate, Halls Representative, had advised the Clerk that they would be unable to attending meeting.

Ms. Bate advised that she had nothing to report.

### **133. Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **134. Public Participation**

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

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

Jacketts Field & Primrose Hill Community Orchard - Mr John Kersey

Plot 20 appears unworked, the Works Manager has inspected and the office is contacting the tenant.

Funding for additional heritage tree stock maybe available through the County Councillor's Locality Grant. Mr John Kersey will discuss with Councillor Sara Bedford.

The Clerk advised he had recently received details of the Sunnyside Project which is planning on planting a significant number of fruit trees. This maybe a source of free or low cost stock. The Clerk will update when further details are received.

Primrose Hill - Mr Robert Stimpson

Plot 7 and 15 have been reassigned.

The Works Manager has confirmed that work will take place to reduce the overgrowth on the NW side of the site as this has become a "hot spot" for anti-social behaviour.

The Clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of the police and request an increase in uniformed presence.

Manor House - Mr Chris Bromwich

All plots under cultivation.

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Some concern from tenants about exposed roots on tree 229. The Works Manager advised that these tree and its root structure has been assessed by the arboriculturist and there is no risk present.

Kingsfield

Mt Vince Watts was not present, but the Works Manager advised plots 3a, 4d and 12a were unworked and this is being addressed by the office.

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

None present.

Officers advised though that some of the football pitches, particularly in South Way are showing signs of extensive wear. Summer growth in repaired areas has been limited due to low rainfall and when it has rained it has tended to be torrential which has washed away seeded areas. Ground areas are also highly compacted and some machinery will not penetrate.

The problem is not unique to South Way but it is most severe there, mainly due to the soil structure. Officers are in discussion with the club, a report on potential remedial works which may involve the closure of large areas of the playing fields, will be presented to this committee.

Reports from the Halls Representatives - Ms Karen Stocker

No report.

### **137. Key Projects 2016-2017**

Councillor Sara Bedford updated members on the latest discussions held at Three Rivers District Council on the Abbots Langley Leisure Projects. The initial consultations with residents on all aspects of the projects will take place in September at the Manor House. Discussions have been held with officers at Three Rivers District Council on the post-installation maintenance work on the new capital projects. Councillor Bedford wants to ensure any replacement or repair costs beyond low level routine maintenance are borne by Three Rivers District Council.

At this stage members do not want to consider allocating any further funds to this project.

The Clerk will update the Key Projects list which will be considered again at the October meeting of this committee. Projects for inclusion on the list are:

- i. Manor House Patio Area.  
Cost and design options to be presented to the October meeting.  
Improvement in drainage in the area to be included in the project.
- ii. Additional paved footpaths in the Manor House  
Members discussed various options for additional footpaths on the Manor House grounds. Members were asked to submit rough sketch location plans to the Works Manager so these can be costed.

### **138. The Elms Tennis Club**

Members discussed the proposal from the above and were broadly in agreement, but asked that the following points be taken into consideration when further discussions take place with The Elms.

- Check will nets and posts provided by The Elms be left in situ when the courts are open for public access?
- When tournaments restrict public access, particularly at weekends, should there be a provision in the agreement for limiting the number of tournaments held in a season?
- Any advertising banners should be appropriate, non-intrusive and properly maintained.

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Members would like to undertake some consultation with residents on the proposal for a tennis club at the Manor House. The Clerk will check to see if this could be included in the sessions to be run by Three Rivers District Council in September.

**139. Abbots Langley Bowls Club**

Members noted the Clerk's update on the dilapidations works which had recently been completed and were pending final approval by the club.

The Clerk will also be notifying the club that maintenance of the green will cease on 30th September 2016.

Members asked the Clerk was asked to remind the club about the benefits of trustees have indemnity insurance, if this has not already been arranged. The Clerk will suggest some underwriters that maybe appropriate.

The meeting closed at 9:05 pm.

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

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