

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 24th August 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Manor House, Gallows Hill Lane, Abbots Langley.

Those present:

Chairman:	Councillor John Wyatt
Vice Chairman:	Councillor Jane Lay
Councillors:	Councillor Sara Bedford Councillor Hitesh Tailor Councillor Alison Ward
Also Present:	Mr Chris Bromwich - Allotment Representative Mr Robert Stimpson - Allotment Representative
Officers:	Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council David Abbott - Facilities Manager Mark Ellis - Works Manager

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

129. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Robin Powell (unavailable).

Mr John Kersey and Mr Vince Watts, Allotment Representatives and Mr David Anderson, Sports Representative had advised the Clerk that they were unable to attend the meeting.

130. Declarations of Interest

None.

131. Public Participation

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

132. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor Alison Ward and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June 2016, 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.

133. Reports from the Allotments Representatives

Manor House - Mr Chris Bromwich

There were concerns about letters that had been written to some tenants at Manor House. This will be followed up with the Works Manager.

Primrose Hill - Mr Robert Stimpson

A number of plots were not being worked. The Clerk's report referred to the follow up actions that were being taken.

Six trees in the Community Orchard have been vandalised. The Works Manager was asked to see if any further protection was possible. No further planting will take place in the immediate future and it is hoped that those trees remaining will be left to mature.

134. Abbots Langley Carnival

Members noted the Clerk's report and the further update confirming the Watford Lion's will continue to organise the Abbots Langley Carnival.

Councillor John Wyatt will attend the next meeting of the carnival organising committee which will take place in the early autumn and will update this committee.

135. Leisure Committee Representatives

The Clerk will seek nominations for Allotments and Sports Representatives to be considered at the October meeting of this committee.

Members agreed that following the Henderson Hub taking over Henderson Hall the role of Halls Representative was no longer needed.

136. Key Projects 2017-2018

Members noted the updated Key Projects report. The Clerk advised that any additions would need research and costing so new projects could be included in the 2017-2018 budget discussions.

Members agreed that there were no projects to add at this stage as there was considerable work ongoing on multiple projects previously agreed.

137. Manor House - Ecology Appraisal & Habitat Management Plan

Members noted the report prepared by Windrush Ecology. The report gave a useful status of the current ecology of the area and will be used as a “base line” reference as work on the Management Plan progresses.

138. Evergreen Football Club - Football Dug Out

Members noted the plans for the dugout and asked the Clerk to confirm the following with Evergreen FC.

- Could a mobile dugout be deployed instead of a fixed installation?
- Members asked for a site plan showing the location as there was some confusion as to the location adjacent to the “A” or “B” senior pitch?
- Would it be possible to fix doors to the front to the dugout so it was secured?

139. Car Parking - Manor House & Primrose Hill

Members noted the plans for the “go live” of parking controls. There is a lot of local disinformation on charges which are not being levied on car park users. Officers will report to the October meeting of this committee on the initial weeks of parking controls.

It is hoped that additional parking spaces made available over the summer at Breakspeare School will also help alleviate congestion in the Manor House car park.

140. Christmas Lights

Officers will proceed, under delegated authority, with contractor 1 as detailed in the Clerk’s report. Members expressed a preference for cross street lights and a theme of white and blue themed.

Officers were asked to look at possible reuse options for the newer light arrays that would no longer be required. Bedmond shops and possibly the Village Hall may have a use. Officers to contact the Bedmond Task Force

141. Three Rivers District Council - Abbots Langley Play Area Projects

Members were broadly in agreement with the arrangements for The Elms Tennis Club to set up operations in the Manor House.

The Clerk and Facilities Manager were asked to draft “heads of terms” to be included in a lease to The Elms and report back to the October meeting of this committee. Multiple issues to resolve but attention will need to be given to:

- Annual rent.
- Possible further capital contribution from The Elms.
- Responsibility for cost of running and maintaining the floodlights and associated cabling.
- Responsibility for general repairs and maintenance, particularly fencing, surfaces, markings, etc.

Abbots Langley Parish Council

It was proposed by Councillor John Wyatt, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that:

- Within the current reserves £18,000 be allocated as an earmarked reserve for a possible further contribution to the skate park project.

The current earmarked reserve for play area projects is £151,700, with £135,600 allocated to the projects going out to tender, leaving a balance of £16,100.

The Clerk advised that the additional funding of £1,900 could be made up from the General Fund without impact on any other budgeted expenditure.

- To minimise ongoing maintenance costs metal “bow top” fencing be specified in the play area tender.

Officers were asked to progress discussions with Three Rivers District Council on the on-going maintenance costs for the newly installed play areas in the parish.

Members want to ensure the costs for maintaining play areas was equitable amongst all the Parish Councils in the Three Rivers District Council area. Members are concerned that this Parish Council was being asked to take responsibility for costs that currently others were not.

142. Clerk's Report

Members noted the number of vacant plots on the allotment sites.

Members agreed that the formation of an Allotment Association to take on responsibility for the management of all allotment sites would be appropriate, but appreciated that it would require officer time to bring this to fruition.

The Chairman agreed to arrange an informal meeting with the Clerk and allotment representatives to discuss further.

The meeting closed at 9.09 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____