

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 15th February 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those present:

Chairman: Councillor John Wyatt
Vice Chairman: Councillor Jane Lay
Councillors: Councillor Robin Powell
Councillor Hitesh Tailor
Councillor Alison Ward

Also Present: Mr Chris Bromwich - Allotment Representative
Mr Robert Stimpson - Allotment Representative
Mr Vince Watts - Allotments Representative
Mr Tim Denyer - Sports Representative

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

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

344. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Sara Bedford (unavailable).

Mr Chris Daily, Sports Representative, had advised the Clerk that he was unable to attend the meeting.

345. Declarations of Interest

None.

346. Public Participation

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

347. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor Robin Powell and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 30th November 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.

348. Reports from the Allotments Representatives

Kingsfield - Mr Vince Watts

New tenants are starting to work plots. Few plots appeared untended and these will be addressed when the Works Manager undertakes allotment inspections at the end of March.

Primrose Hill - Mr Robert Stimpson

New tenants starting to work plots. Minor works on the community orchard took place in December, tree guards were removed and surrounds strimmed. Fortunately there has been no further vandalism damage.

Manor House - Mr Chris Bromwich

Most plots being worked.

Plot holders had asked about the timescales for the removal of the allotment wall. The Chairman advised that this was covered later in the agenda.

349. Reports from the Sports Representatives

Mr Tim Denyer

Following the works to build out the Manor House patio, users had asked if there were any plans to extend the patio towards the Cricket Club. The Chairman advised that this was not on the committee's priority list and it was unlikely that funding would be available.

Abbots Youth Football Club is revisiting the plans to build a storage bench for goalposts in front of the scoreboard. The Clerk advised that grant funding may be available to support the costs and some preliminary discussions would be helpful once outline project costings are known.

350. Matter Deferred from a Previous Meeting - Allotment Judging and Prize Giving

Members supported the offer from the Allotment Representatives, led by Mr Vince Watts, to take over judging of the plots. Representatives will judge sites other than those they represent.

Judging will be in line with the criteria for allotments detailed in the Royal Horticultural Society Show Handbook (rev. February 2016).

Once the arrangements have been agreed the Facilities Manager will be asked to produce a poster for the allotment noticeboard to advise tenants.

Arrangements for certificates, cups and the presentation at the Gardening Society awards evening remaining unchanged.

351. Manor House Play Area

i. Handover Agreement - Three Rivers District Council

Members agreed the above asking that in the second paragraph "equipment" be amended to "equipment and fencing".

Authority to sign the agreement was delegated to the Clerk. Members requested that agreement was not signed until Works Team staff had been properly trained in the day to day maintenance of the equipment, maintenance schedules had been received and agreed and any specialist tools were in the possession of the Parish Council.

ii. MuGA/Hard Standing Refurbishment

Members were not supportive of the suggestion that a "sail" be installed as part of the above. A similar installation at School Mead has been subject to vandalism twice in the past year and the suggested location in the Manor House is secluded and would also be at risk of vandalism.

352. Southway Play Area - Condition Report

Councillor Sara Bedford has held initial discussions with Three Rivers District Council on the condition of the play area. Unfortunately Councillor Bedford was unable to attend this meeting.

The Clerk was asked to review with officers at the District Council.

A fungi is growing on one of the timber structures in the play area. Officers will check with experts on any possible risk.

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353. Bedmond Sports and Social Club - Pitch Fees

Members noted the Clerk's report. The Clerk was asked to follow up with the club:

- Use of the pitches by unauthorised clubs.
- Unpaid use of the pitches for training.
- Outstanding accounts.

The Clerk advised members that the lease for Bedmond Sports and Social Club comes up for renewal in 2018.

Clerk's note: The lease expires 1st January 2018. This will be included in the above.

354. Tree Works inc. Manor House Greenspace Action Plan (CMS)

Members noted the report and agreed that the works as detailed should proceed.

355. Manor House Allotments - Legacy Wall

Members noted the report.

Confirmation was awaited from the contractor, currently the works are expected to start in the second or third week in April and take around two weeks.

The meeting closed at 8.28 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____