

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd August 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those present:

Vice Chairman: Councillor Jane Lay

Councillors: Councillor Sara Bedford
Councillor Jean Bowman
Councillor Liz Burns (substitute)
Councillor Alison Ward

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

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

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

137. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillors John Wyatt, Robin Powell and Hitesh Tailor. (all unavailable)

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

David Abbott, Facilities Manager, was on annual leave.

138. Declarations of Interest

None.

139. Public Participation

Ms Belinda Phipps, representing Abbots Langley Transition Towns Association addressed the committee on Key Projects (agenda item 7.) requesting consideration be given to installing water fountains on Parish Council owned open spaces that had the facility to fill non-disposable water bottles.

140. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Alison Ward, seconded by Councillor Jean Bowman and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st June 2017, 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.

141. Reports from the Allotments Representatives

Jacketts Field - Mr John Kersey

The grass at the Shepherd Close entrance to the allotments is overgrown and access is all but impossible. The Clerk will raise with Three Rivers District Council, requesting action is taken with the Metropolitan Housing Association.

(Update: The Clerk checked the site the morning after the meeting and it appeared the grass had been cut in the last 24 hours.)

Primrose Hill Community Orchard

There has been some theft of trees from the orchard, but most trees are thriving. The Clerk advised that up to £200 could be spent on new and/or replacement stock.

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Kingsfield - Mr Vince Watts

Plots across all sites had been judged for the annual awards. Mr Watts will contact the Facilities Manager to arrange the production of award certificates ahead of the Abbots Langley Gardening Society presentation evening in the autumn.

Residents of Creasy Close are meeting with officers from Three Rivers District Council to discuss the maintenance of various trees around the area, some of which impact on the allotment.

The Parish Council's cyclic tree risk assessments will take place in the near future. This year the trees for which the Parish Council is responsible on all allotment sites will be assessed.

Manor House - Mr Chris Bromwich

The Works Manager advised that an order had been placed for remedial works on the footpath following the replacement of the boundary wall. The contractor was expected to carry these out in the near future.

Allotment tenants had expressed some concern about the car park signage that required cars to be parked in marked bays. Any questions should be addressed to the Facilities Manager.

Primrose Hill - Mr Robert Stimpson

No report.

142. Reports from the Sports Representatives

Mr Tim Denyer - Abbots Youth Football

The club is asking if it would be possible to install a full sized pitch on the Manor House playing fields. The Works Manager advised that this had been tried in the past and found to be impractical when usage and other pitch requirements were taken into consideration.

Any further questions of pitch layout should be addressed to the Works Manager.

143. Key Projects 2017-2019

Ms. Belinda Phipps, Abbots Langley Transition Town, addressed the committee. It was requested that to reduce plastic waste and reduce the consumption of sugar based drinks if the Parish Council would consider installing water fountains with a facility to fill reusable water bottles.

Members agreed to investigate and will ask the Clerk to add to the Key Projects list.

Following further items were discussed on the Key Projects list.

Manor House Play Area - Phase 2

Members noted the report from the Clerk and at this stage were unwilling to commit any further funding to the project.

Councillor Sara Bedford will review with Three Rivers District Council the currently levels of funding for the project and how this compares to similar projects around the district.

Manor House Toilet Block

Members noted the outline costs which were broadly in line with expectations. The project will remain on the list pending consideration of the expenditure during budget discussions.

If the project does go ahead members requested a time lock be installed to manage the hours the block was open.

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Vehicle Charging Points

Officers were asked to investigate further. Sponsorship and/or grants maybe available. Officers at Three Rivers District Council are also researching, so contact will be made to see if joint working is practical.

144. Football Pitches

To consider officers reports on the following:

i. Pitch Maintenance Costs

Members noted the costs report prepared by the Works Manager which was informative.

ii. Revenue

Members asked that the Finance Officer and Facilities Manager review the mismatch between the teams declared by tenant clubs and those reported on club and league websites.

iii. Charging Model

Members considered the current charging model on a “per team” basis was appropriate as it went some way to reflect the actual usage of the pitches, which an area or space based model would not.

It was suggested that in future years the booking form should be updated to include the team name, days they played and the league to which they are affiliated, this would eliminate possible errors and also allow easier reconciling between the booking form, club and league websites.

Officers were asked to meet with Langleybury Cricket Club to discuss the on-going issue of vehicle parking on the field.

145. Primrose Hill Changing Rooms

Members noted the report from the surveyor and agreed that the structure was close to end of life and that the cost of the remedial works detailed would probably be unjustifiable on a building of that age and condition.

Officers were asked to investigate the cost of a replacement “flat pack” type building.

To be added to the Key Projects list.

146. South Way Car Park

Members noted that a purchase order had been placed for the remedial works and that the cost of the full resurfacing which would be required in the next few years would be considered through the budget process.

147. Roman Gardens Trees

Members noted the report from the Clerk and that complaints had been received from residents.

The Parish Council’s consultant arboriculturist will be asked to report on the actions necessary on the above. Members noted that the trees have grown significantly over the past few years and this was impacting on resident’s amenity, also given the proximity of the tree line to some properties there is potentially the risk of structural damage.

The arboriculturist will be asked to report on the maintenance works necessary, possible removal of trees, replacement with more appropriate species, the likely costs of the proposed works and any recovery value from any felled trees.

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148. Correspondence - Manor House Play Area

Members noted the correspondence and asked the Clerk to respond. Members view was the play area had been designed with five to ten year olds particularly in mind. There was play value for all age groups although the level of supervision required for younger children was probably higher.

The vast majority of the feedback received both by members and officers on the new Manor House and Bedmond play areas was positive.

149. Clerk's Report

Members noted the schedule of tree risk assessments to be carried out this year.

150. Exclusion of the Press and Public (Part II)

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay and seconded by Councillor Sara Bedford and **RESOLVED** that as the possible early stages of a contract into which the Parish Council may be entering, the press and public be excluded from the discussion, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and the Local Government Act 1972, ss100 & 102.

151. Club Supreme - Tennis Club

Members were broadly in agreement with the proposal.

Officers were asked to consider the following points:

- Review £5,000/pa rental and benchmark if possible.
- No automatic right of renewal in the lease.
- Cost of electricity to be separately metered and be the responsibility of the club.
- Leisure Committee to review the tender, which is being prepared by Three Rivers District Council, prior to submission.
- Quality of the fence to be robust to limit any possible vandalism issues, which have been a problem with the light gauge fencing currently installed.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____