

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Council Offices
Langley Road
Abbots Langley
Herts
WD5 0EJ

3rd February 2015.

To Members of the Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at the above address on Monday 9th February 2015 at 7:30 pm when your presence is summoned for the purpose of transacting the business outlined below.

The press and public are welcome to attend the meeting.

Tim Perkins
Clerk to the Council

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive and accept apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

3. Public Participation

To note if any members of the public have requested to speak at this meeting, in accordance with the Parish Council's Public Speaking Arrangements.

4. Abbots Langley Bowls Club

To agree by resolution the lease of the Pavilion and Bowling Green to the above. (See enclosed draft lease and Clerk's report item 1.).

The lease to be signed by two members, witnessed by the Clerk. Delegated authority to be granted to the Clerk to make any minor corrections and amendments necessary.

5. Evergreen Football Club

To agree by resolution the amendment of the lease for the club buildings at South Way. Mr Mark Ward (Chairman of Evergreen FC) to replace Mr Ron Smith (Past Chairman) as a Trustee.

A Licence to Assign will be required, signed by two members, witnessed by the Clerk. (See Clerk's report item 2.)

6. Clerk's Report

To consider items on the Clerk's report not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

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1. Abbots Langley Bowls Club

The enclosed lease is not much different from the one circulated to members for the November 2014 Parish Council meeting and approved in principle. (min. 257.)

Changes are:

- Correction of some typos and formatting errors.
- Re-written clause 24.3 as at the time the arrangements for maintenance of the green were still unclear.
- Amendment that any notice the tenant has to serve on the landlord should be in writing.
- There are no other changes that affect the substance of the lease.

The Deed of Appointment for the club trustees has been drafted, Penman Sedgwick have highlighted a number of problems and these have been referred back to the Bowls Club. The club's advisor has been noticeably absent in these proceedings.

The club's constitution calls for four trustees to be appointed, I understand that this is being amended to three at the club's EGM and they will be Michele Cayne, Roy Graves and John Sutton.

The only real risk outstanding is around the dilapidations. As previously advised the cost of these are covered by the R&M budget for the Bowls Club (2014-2015) and the dilapidations allowance of £5,000 agreed by PC, with a bit of contingency in reserve.

Quotes have been received from various contractors but these are based on a visual inspections, further problems may lurk when panels are taken down, windows removed, etc. We have done everything possible to mitigate this risk, but it is impossible to eliminate until works are underway.

Work on the dilapidations will start as soon as practical post-completion and will be dependent on contractor availability and the weather, as most works are external. I expect the works will be completed with three months.

I did report to members that the club has asked that the PC would not enforce any covenants on remedial works for two years post-completion. I have advised the club that aside from the dilapidations that are the PC's responsibility and agreed in the schedule, the club will be liable from completion.

Note: Just as I was finalising this report I received an email from the club secretary pointing out a spelling correction, in the lease, on one of the trustee's names and another couple of minor typos that do not affect content. I assume these are the only outstanding issues the club has.

2. Evergreen Football Club

The "Licence to Assign" is an administrative action to replace one of the trustees. All other terms of the lease remain unchanged.

Costs of the licence will be paid by the club.

3. Meeting at Three Rivers

Clerks met earlier today with Cllr Matthew Bedford - Lead Member for Resources, Jo Wagstaffe - Director of Finance and Fred Alnutt - Elections Manager.

We were advised that the Council Tax Support Grant that was being recommended for approval by Three Rivers District Council on 24th February 2015 will be:

2015-2016 - £31,617 & 2016-2017 - £16,044.

This is a reduction of c. 33% year on year, the grant in 2014-2015 being £47,189. There will be no grant after 2016-2017.

There is no legal requirement on District Councils to pass on this grant, many have not. NALC are campaigning at ministerial level to place a requirement of District Councils to

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forward the full amount of grant to Parish Councils, they do not appear to be getting much traction at the moment.

Following confirmation of the level of grant the Finance & Administration Committee will be asked to review the allocation of the grant.

There is no immediate resolution to the outstanding issue of election costs, although Clerks will be meeting later this month with Fred Alnutt to better understand the breakdown and cost allocation.

As much as resolving the current issues around the outstanding invoices, developing a fair and equitable charging model, that is well understood and does not require huge amounts of discussion every time an election is held is also important. "Double Hatters" support in this regard would be helpful.

Tim Perkins

Clerk to the Council

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