

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Council Offices
Langley Road
Abbots Langley
Herts
WD5 0EJ

8th March 2016.

To Members of the Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at the above address on Monday 14th March 2016 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. **Hertfordshire Police**
To receive a report from the Police (if present).
5. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th January 2016.**
6. **Minutes for adoption**
To adopt the following minutes and approve publication on the Parish Council's website.
 - Planning & Highways Committee - 13th January, 3rd & 24th February 2016
 - Finance & Administration Committee - 25th January 2016
 - Leisure Committee - 17th February 2016
7. **Internal Audit 2015-2016**
To note the review carried out by the Finance & Administration Committee (see min. 327.)
8. **Planning & Highways Committee - Meetings Calendar**
To note the meeting calendar change requested by the committee moving the 27th May meeting to 18th May 2016.
9. **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**
To consider if a report from the above should be a standing item on Parish Council agenda.
10. **Civic Awards Policy**
To consider a change to the wording of the above, as requested by the Chairman. (See Clerk's report item 1.)

Abbots Langley Parish Council

11. Election Expenses

To consider is the above, which have been in dispute with Three Rivers District Council should be settled. (See Clerk's report item 2.)

12. District and County Council Member's Reports

To consider any reports submitted by members of the above authorities.

13. Chairman's Report

To consider the Chairman's report.

14. Clerk's Report

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

15. Monthly Statement of Accounts

To consider the monthly statement of accounts for January & February 2016 and approve their publication on the Parish Council website.

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

As the following items will consider matters related to legal dispute a resolution to exclude the press and public may be required, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and the LGA 1972, s100 & 102.

17. Liability Claim

To receive a verbal report from the Clerk on a liability claim previous reported as closed.

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Abbots Langley Parish Council

Clerk's Report - March 2016

1. Civic Awards Policy

The wording of the Civic Awards policy has worked well since the awards were introduced in 2006. In considering this year's awards the Chairman has asked that members consider a revision to para. 8 of the policy.

The current wording is:

"The awards are not open to serving councillors at any level or to past or present members of staff and their immediate families, although groups in which they are officers may be entered."

The Chairman is proposing that past members of staff could be considered for an award, but that the restriction on present staff remains. This would then be the same as for serving councillors.

2. Election Expenses

I refer members to my November 2015 report.

Three Rivers District Council proposed a settlement on the legacy election expenses invoices that go back to 2011-2013. A reminder on the numbers.

The settlement proposed reduced the overall Parish Council liability from £36,075 to £23,394. A reduction of £12,681 (35%).

Invoices have now been received for the 2015 elections, with very detailed back up paperwork that on its own is difficult to analyse.

May 2015 Elections - £9,158

June 2015 Election - £7,551

No breakdown of the proportionality of costs, as required by the Representation of the Peoples Act has been provided for any of the elections.

The total of all outstanding election expenses is £40,103. Reserves currently held total £40,000, with an additional £10,000 reserve allocated in the 2016-2017 budget.

I am really at a loss as to what more I can do. This has already absorbed a huge amount of my time, with multiple meetings in an attempt to resolve.

A pragmatic solution members may like to consider is to settle the invoices as detailed above. But in doing so the PC writes to the Chief Executive at Three Rivers District Council advising that the PC will only consider settling any future invoices if they are submitted with three months of an election being held, that full supporting paperwork is provided and that the proportionality of the costs allocated to the Parish Council is fully detailed.

An alternative would be to identify a suitable brick wall that I can continue to bang my head against.

3. Financial Grants 2016-2017

Letters acknowledging and thanking the Parish Council for the grants awarded at F&A in January have been received from:

St Lawrence Church

CAB in Three Rivers

Abbots Langley Flower Arrangement Society

Bedmond WI

Copies of the letters are in the member's information tray.

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4. Office Copies

Copies of the following are available in the office for member's reference.

WCHT Councillors News - January & February 2016

HCC Public Health eNews - January 2016

Community Infrastructure Levy (TRDC presentation) - February 2016

Visit Herts Newsletter - February 2016

Chiltern Society Magazine - Spring 2016 (.pdf available on request)

5. Diary Dates

18th March - Chairman's Reception

27th April - Staffing Committee 09:30 (additional meeting)

5th May - Internal Audit (Final audit 2015-2016 & Accounts sign-off)

4th June to 10th July - Abbots Langley Festival of the Arts

11th June - Abbots Langley Carnival

6. Absence from Office

7th & 18th April - Both half day (PM)

I have carried over five days annual leave, in line with the Staff Handbook. I "lost" three days annual leave in 2015-2016.

I will though carry forward an additional day's leave as I had to cancel a day off (4th March) at short notice, due to staff sickness. This caused some significant personal and family disruption.

Tim Perkins

Clerk to the Council

8th March 2016

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