

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Council Offices
Langley Road
Abbots Langley
Herts
WD5 0EJ

7th March 2017.

To Members of the Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at the above address on Monday 13th March 2017 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 9th January 2017**
6. **Minutes for adoption**
To adopt the following minutes and approve publication on the Parish Council's website.
 - Planning & Highways Committee - 11th January, 1st & 22nd February 2017
 - Finance & Administration Committee - 23rd January 2017
 - Leisure Committee - 15th February 2017
7. **Internal Audit 2016-2017**
To note the review carried out by the Finance & Administration Committee (see min. 331.)
8. **Civic Awards Policy**
To consider a change to the wording of the above. (Clerk's report item 1 and updated policy enclosed.)
9. **Annual Parish Meeting 2016-2017**
To note the draft minutes for the above meeting held on 1st March 2017. (enclosed)
10. **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Report**
To note the report from the Chairman of the above. (Clerk's report item 2 and enclosed report.)
11. **District and County Council Member's Reports**
To consider any reports submitted by members of the above authorities.

Abbots Langley Parish Council

12. Chairman's Report

To consider the Chairman's report.

13. Clerk's Report

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

14. Monthly Statement of Accounts

To consider the monthly statement of accounts for January & February 2017 and approve their publication on the Parish Council website.

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Abbots Langley Parish Council
Clerk's Report - March 2017

1. Civic Awards Policy

I refer members to min. 381 from the March 2016 Parish Council Meeting

"Members discussed the above. The Clerk was asked to bring back to the Parish Council an updated version of the policy for consideration at the Annual Council Meeting in May. The revised policy to take account of members views, which included:

- *No serving or past Parish Councillor should be considered for an award.*
- *Former, non-serving, members of other authorities were eligible for an award.*
- *The restriction on staff, or former staff, being eligible is maintained."*

Mea culpa. I did not bring the amended policy to the Annual Parish Meeting in May and did not spot the omission until looking at the policy for this year's awards.

The revised draft policy is enclosed for members consideration.

2. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Report

The report from the Chairman of the above is enclosed. The report mentions the "Health Check" report that was drafted by the consultant to the steering group. I understand copies have been circulated to members that serve on the steering group, if any other members would like a copy then please let me know.

3. Parish Council Vacancy

No co-option applications were received by the deadline of 6th March 2017 (12:00).

4. Bedmond Sports & Social Club

There are a number of outstanding matters with the club which were discussed at the Leisure Committee meeting in February (min.353).

Following the meeting I checked the lease, the body of which says the expiry date is 1st January 2018.

However, the lease was not actually completed until nearly twelve months later. Penman Sedgwick have confirmed that despite the late completion the expiry date of 1st January 2018 still stands, so I have include the expiry in the matters to be discussed with the club.

5. Legal Services

The Parish Council has used Penman Sedgwick and its previous incarnations for many years, mainly for property based legal advice and services. I reported to members some service issues that I was experiencing these have been resolved, but I will still look to tender legal services later in the year.

We have more recently used Hedleys for more sector specific advice on particularly charity, but also some aspects of local government legislation. Some of you met Ian Davison from Hedleys when we came here a few years ago to advise on matters related to Henderson Hall.

Hedleys were taken over by the Weller Law Group in 2015 and they now trade as Wellers Hedleys. A number of the staff from the firm, including Ian Davison, have left Wellers Hedleys and have set up "Surrey Hills Solicitors". One of the new firms main business streams will be advising Parish Councils. The quality and timeliness of Ian's advice has been exemplary and I suggest we continue to work with him at his new firm, when appropriate advice is needed.

6. Jury Service

Two members of the office staff have been called for jury service at St Albans Crown Court. One has had their service deferred the other will be reporting on 13th March.

If involved in a lengthy case there is the potential for this to be disruptive to the office, especially if there was other unplanned absence at the same time.

I expect we will be able to manage the absence without much difficulty but I thought members should be aware.

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7. Correspondence

The Henderson Hub, CAB in Three Rivers and the RBL Legionnaires have written to thank the Parish Council for the grants recently awarded.

Marion Seneschall, District Manager for CAB, apologised that for the first time neither she or their case worker would be able to attend the Annual Parish Meeting, as it clashed with a board meeting.

Copies of the letter are on the grants file if members want to review.

The Chair of Finance and Fundraising Committee at St. Lawrence Church has also written and asked that his letter be circulated to members, a copy is enclosed. He has also apologised for not attending the Annual Parish Meeting due to a diary malfunction.

8. Small Grants

A small grant of £250 was awarded to AIMs to support their volunteer activity around the parish.

9. Office Copies

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

HCC - Hertfordshire Transport Facts & Road Casualty Facts 2016 (based on 2015 data).

HCC Public Health eNews - January & February 2017

10. Diary Dates

25th June 2017 (Sun) - Evergreen five-a-side, South Way.

3rd July 2017 (Mon) - Joint Parishes Meeting, 19:30 @ Croxley Green PC

30th November 2017 (Thu) - Carol Concert & Lights On.

Tim Perkins

Clerk to the Council

7th March 2017