

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 7th January 2013 in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those Present:

Chairman:	Councillor K D Williams
Vice Chairman:	Councillor Mrs G Keaveny
Councillors:	Councillor S L Bedford Councillor Mrs J Bowman Councillor D Croker Councillor J Hill Councillor Mrs D J Lay Councillor D J Major Councillor Ms B Phipps Councillor O Roe Councillor J Wyatt
Officers:	Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council
Police:	Sergeant 1275 Neil Canning
Also present:	County Councillor Paul Goggins

The Chairman gave members a brief update on Councillor Ivy Young, who is currently a patient in Hemel Hempstead hospital.

Members observed a minute's silence in memory of Mr Geoff Emery who passed away suddenly before Christmas. Mr Emery had served for a number of years as a Parish Councillor for the Bedmond ward and was also a past Chairman of the Parish Council.

The meeting opened at 7:32pm.

344. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst (other authority meeting), Councillor Samantha Heilling (work commitment) and Councillor Leon Lay (unwell).

345. Declarations of Interest

None.

346. Public Participation

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

347. Hertfordshire Police

Only low levels of crime had been reported over the Christmas period. Two burglaries were reported, the low level is probably due to Operation Scorpion that had been targeting repeat and prolific burglary offenders. Ten cars and the bus shelter in Station Road Kings Langley were vandalised, enquiries are ongoing and appeals for further information will be made.

On New Year's Eve a party got out of hand on Long Elms, an officer was injured and a significant number of officers, including the tactical team, were required to restore order.

Speeding and mobile phone use whilst driving operations are scheduled over the coming weeks. As well as a Three Rivers wide operation utilising Automatic Number Plate Recognition equipment to detect moving vehicle crime.

Officers are dealing with incidents of vandalism to street lighting and low level anti-social behaviour in the Bedmond area. The offenders have been identified and parental visits undertaken.

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Problems with ongoing irresponsible parking are being addressed, a vehicle was removed over the Christmas period and tickets have been issued. Parking in the "zig zags" close to pedestrian crossings is rigorously enforced.

348. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Derryck Croker, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2012, 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.

349. Minutes for Adoption

The following committee minutes were adopted, approved for publication on the Council's website and passed to the committees for resolution.

Planning & Highways Committee - 14th & 28th November and 5th & 19th December 2012.

Finance & Administration Committee - 26th November 2012

Leisure Committee - 12th December 2012

350. Arrangements for Setting the Budget 2013-2014 and the Precept

Members noted the arrangements for setting the budget and the delays caused by changes, imposed by the government, to the way the crucial "Band D Base" calculations were made by district councils.

As a result of these delays the Parish Council could not set its budget and precept as is usual at this January meeting, as it had not been formally advised of Three Rivers District Council's "Band D" and council tax levels.

As a result of this an additional Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 18th February 2013 (7:30 pm) to set the budget and precept. The Finance and Administration Committee meeting scheduled for Monday 21st January 2013, will be moved to Monday 25th February 2013 (6:00 pm).

The Clerk will update calendars and the website accordingly.

351. Members Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Setting the Precept

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor Belinda Phipps and **RESOLVED** that a dispensation be granted to members, enabling them to take part in the budget and precept setting discussions, without having to declare a pecuniary interest (DPI).

352. Annual Report 2012-2013

Members noted the arrangements for the Annual Report. The chairman of committees were asked to submit their report to the Clerk by 6th February 2013.

The Chairman advised members that he would not be holding a Chairman's reception, but instead will use the Annual Parish Meeting on 6th March 2013 to hold a "Parish Fair" which will be an opportunity for local organisations to showcase their contributions to the local community.

353. Matters Referred from Committees

Members noted the need to increase the membership of the Planning and Highways committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Owen Roe, seconded by Councillor John Wyatt and **RESOLVED** that Councillors Sara Bedford and Jane Lay be added to the membership of the above committee.

354. Standing Orders

It was proposed by Councillor Jean Bowman, seconded by Councillor John Wyatt and **RESOLVED** that Standing Order 35a, which requires the Parish Council to set its budget and precept in January, be suspended until such time as the budget and precept are set. Standing order 46 permits.

355. District and County Council Member Reports

County Councillor Paul Goggins

Updated members on his Locality and Highways Discretionary Budgets.

County members have been asked to suggest works that take up apx. 60% of their £90,000 highways budget, Hertfordshire Highways officers have made recommendations which are mainly carriageway, not pavement repairs. Members raised their concerns about the continual breaking up of the road surface opposite Budgens in the High Street, which results in ponding in wet weather, with the shops and pedestrian being subject to spray from vehicles.

There is an ongoing issue with Ringway, the new highways contractor, concerning the removal of fly tipping from the highway, this is being discussed at director level between the Three Rivers District Council and Hertfordshire Highways. This was also raised at the recent Highways Liaison meeting.

Applications for funding from the discretionary budget of £10,000 currently are in excess of the funds available. This includes an application for leisure project funding from Three Rivers District Council

The Chairman handed over the chairmanship of the meeting to the Vice-Chairman, as he declared an interest due to his role as Leisure portfolio holder on Three Rivers District Council.

Following a brief discussion on the application from Three Rivers District Council the Chairman took back chairmanship of the meeting.

Councillor Paul Goggins will consult with Parish Council members on the final allocation of both discretionary budgets.

356. Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended the following events.

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| 17th November | Attended 25th Anniversary celebrations at Three Rivers Museum. |
| 6th December | With Councillor Jane Lay, Chairman of Leisure Committee, judged the Christmas Shop Window competition. |
| 6th December | Hosted the Christmas Carol Concert and switching on of the lights. |
| 10th December | With Councillor Sara Bedford, Leader of the Parish Council and the Clerk, attended the Joint Parish Councils meeting with TRDC. |
| 18th December | With Councillor Gloria Keaveny, attended Partimer's School's Nine Lessons and Carol Service. |
| 19th December | Attended Carols around the Christmas Tree in Bedmond. |
| 27th December | Delivered a tribute on behalf of the Parish Council at the funeral of former Parish Council Chairman Geoff Emery. |

Members asked that the Leisure Committee consider the longstanding request from Geoff Emery's time as a councillor to replace the "rocking horses" in the Toms Lane playing fields play area.

357. Clerk's Report

Members noted the following items which were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

- Office Copies
- Absence from office

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358. Monthly Statement of Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor John Wyatt and seconded by Councillor Sara Bedford and **RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts for November and December 2012 as notified to the Council be approved and published on the Parish Council's website.

The meeting closed at 8:32 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____