

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th January 2014 at 7.30 pm. in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those Present:

Chairman:	Councillor Gloria Keaveny
Vice Chairman:	Councillor Belinda Phipps
Councillors:	Councillor Sara Bedford Councillor Martin Brooks Councillor Jean Bowman Councillor Derryck Croker Councillor Jeff Hill Councillor Brenda Kersey Councillor Jane Lay Councillor David Major Councillor Owen Roe Councillor Keith Williams Councillor John Wyatt
Officers:	Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council
Police:	PCSO 6220 Emma Coyle PC 2091 Danielle Howletts-Bolton

The meeting opened at 7:30pm.

275. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst (residents meeting) and Councillor Angela Laval.

The Chairman varied the order of business and this item was added to the agenda as urgent business. (Standing Order 14.)

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor Martin Brooks and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council approve the absence of Councillor Angela Laval due to ill health.

276. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Keith Williams as Leisure portfolio holder at Three Rivers District Council declared an interest in agenda item 19, Henderson Hall Lease.

277. Public Participation

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

278. Hertfordshire Police

Officers briefed members on the following:

- Number plate theft is an ongoing problem, anti-theft kits are available from multiple outlets.
- Attention is being given to an increase in garage break ins.
- Burglary rates still low.
- A successful prosecution followed a cannabis factory raid.
- The Police & Crime Commissioner has set up a programme where residents can get involved in speed control initiatives in their area. Further details on the P&CC website.
- Scam phone calls are on-going. Officers are trying to make residents aware through coffee mornings and communication through residents groups and organisations.

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Officers are working with their headquarters staff to try and improve local website updates on events such as street meets and also changes to local officers.

279. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor Jean Bowman and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2013, 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.

280. 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 - 20th November, 4th & 18th December 2013.

Finance & Administration Committee - 25th November 2013.

Leisure Committee - 11th December 2013.

Minute 235 (F&A) was amended. The members proposing were incorrect, the amendment was in line with the Clerk's contemporaneous notes.

281. Meeting Agenda and Supporting Papers

Members asked that general items included in the Clerk's report be detailed in the agenda and that the report be posted on the website with the agenda.

Reporting on key projects will be considered at a later date.

282. Budget & Precept 2014-2015

Members noted the revised process.

The Clerk was asked to raise the delayed setting of the Band D Base rate by Three Rivers District Council at the next Joint Meeting of Parish Councils.

283. Local Strategic Partnership

No nomination was forthcoming.

284. Three Rivers District Council - Polling Places Review

Members noted the review and had no comment.

285. Correspondence with Councillor Martin Trevett (TRDC)

Members noted the correspondence.

There was a general view that a more appropriate time to plant poppies would be the commemoration of the end, rather than the beginning, of World War One.

A number of commemorations are in the early stages of planning and the Clerk will keep members updated.

286. District and County Council Member Reports

County and District Councillor Sara Bedford

- Drainage works at the bottom of Toms Lane appear to have been effective as the road did not flood during the recent heavy rain.
- Works are scheduled on the drainage soakaways under the High Street which it is hoped will improve the drainage and ponding.
- Members were updated on the funding allocation from both the Highways and Locality budgets. Further details are available from the Clerk or Councillor Bedford.
- The Planning Inspector has ruled that apx. 100 houses can be built on land adjoining Woodside Road and also a 400 seat primary school.
- The High Street conservation area is being reviewed by Three Rivers District Council.

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287. Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended the following events.

12th November	HAPTC Neighbourhood Planning Drop-in, Kimpton.
14th November	Manor House playing fields. Walk round with arboriculturist. Hillside Residents Association Committee meeting.
19th November	Abbots Langley Local Area Forum, Manor House.
22nd November	Meeting with AImS and Richard Harrington MP (MP cancelled). Abbots Langley Players production, The Herbal Bed, Henderson Hall.
5th December	Unable attend Warner Bros. residents update. Possible further session in New Year. Opened Parish Council Carols and Christmas Lights, High Street.
7th December	BJ Tak Kwon Do Academy Fund Raiser, Tanners Wood Hall
6th December	Parmiter's School production, Black Comedy.
9th December	Joint Parish Councils in Three Rivers and District Council meeting.
11th December	Bedmond Village Carols, Bedmond Village Hall.
17th December	Parmiter's School Christmas Carol Service and Nine Lessons.
19th December	Abbots Langley Gardening Society, Presentation of allotment trophies, Manor House.

288. Clerk's Report

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

- Nash Mills Village Hall
- Evergreen Lease
- Legislation Changes
- Henderson Hall - Structural Engineers Report
- Wreath Laying
- Sarratt Parish Council
- Public Access PC
- Abbots Langley Cricket Club
- Office Copies
- Diary Dates
- Absence from Office

Members noted that the date for the Bedmond Village Summer Fair is 19th July 2014, not 14th as reported.

289. Monthly Statement of Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor Brenda Kersey and seconded by Councillor John Wyatt and **RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts for November & December 2013 as notified to the Council be approved and published on the Parish Council's website.

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

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay and seconded by Councillor Belinda Phipps and **RESOLVED** that as the following matters related to the terms of contracts 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.

291. Abbots Langley Bowls Club

Members noted the progress on the above and the update received that day from the Parish Council's solicitors.

Members asked that the Clerk proceed with instructing a surveyor to carry out an initial dilapidations and repairing obligations survey.

292. Parish Council Property Portfolio

Members agreed that the proposals as presented were not proceedable. A member and officer working group is to be formed to move the project forward, volunteers are asked to advise the Clerk and Chairman of their availability.

The draft terms of reference for the working group would be developed from the following.

- Solve the Depot and Office problems.
- Improve communication and management.
- Sustainable future, low energy build and running costs.
- Community benefit.
- Affordable.
- Convinced parishioners.
- Safe access and parking.

293. Henderson Hall Lease

Members were not willing to consider granting a 25 year lease on an externally repairing basis. It was felt that this was too long a period in which to underwrite unknown costs in a building that is over one hundred years old. There may be some compromise with break clauses or a limited extent of the externally repairing obligation period.

The Clerk was asked to investigate a "sinking fund" or similar arrangements with the Managing Trustees.

The Clerk was asked not to instruct solicitors at this time.

The Managing Trustees will be asked to carry out a full structural survey on the building, to understand better what remedial works will be required in the next two, five and ten years.

The Clerk was asked that he resign his position as Secretary to the Managing Trustees, to eliminate possible conflicts of interest.

The meeting closed at 10:04 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____