

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 29th June 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those Present:

Chairman:	Councillors Stephen Giles-Medhurst
Vice-Chairman:	Councillor Alex Michaels
Councillors:	Councillor Sara Bedford Councillor Jean Bowman Councillor Martin Brooks Councillor Liz Burns Councillor Lyn Ferguson Councillor Jane Lay Councillor David Major Councillor Leslie Proctor Councillor Owen Roe Councillor Hitesh Tailor Councillor Alison Ward Councillor John Wyatt
Officers:	Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council Janet Pearce - Planning and Meetings Officer

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

43. Declarations of Acceptance of Office

The Clerk confirmed that Councillors Jean Bowman, Brenda Kersey, Jane Lay and David Major and John Wyatt all of whom were elected at the postponed poll in Abbots Langley and Bedmond ward held on 26th June 2015 have signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office and these had been countersigned by the Clerk as the Proper Officer of the Council.

44. Variation of the Agenda

The Chairman, as permitted under Standing Orders, varied the agenda to allow for the following two additional items of business.

45. Member Introductions

As this was the first meeting of the Parish Council following the postponed election held on 26th June 2015 the Chairman asked members and officers present to briefly introduce themselves.

46. Tunisian Beach Resort Terrorist Attack

The Chairman asked all those present to stand and respect a minutes silence in memory of all those that lost their lives in the Tunisian Beach Terrorist Attack which took place on 26th June 2015.

47. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Brenda Kersey (unavailable).

48. Public Participation

None.

49. Hertfordshire Police

No officers were present but Sgt. Neil Canning had emailed the following points to the Clerk.

- A cannabis factory with over 300 plants was found in the Lemonfield Drive area. One person was arrested and charged with cultivation of cannabis.
- Station Road speed enforcement was carried out at the request of residents. One driver recorded doing 36 mph was given words of advice.

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County Councillor Sara Bedford advised that Hertfordshire County Council would shortly be consulting with residents on vehicle speed management options.

- Efforts to reduce pavement parking are ongoing and are appearing to be successful. A number of letters have been written to registered vehicle keepers.
- An officer suffered minor injuries after being hit by a stolen car in Hunton Bridge, the offender made off and was arrested, subsequently charged and remanded in custody
- Burglary rates remain low across the area. Residents being made aware to be vigilant during the warm weather when doors and windows are left open.

50. Declarations of Interest

None.

51. To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor Liz Burns and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2015, 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.

52. Minutes for adoption

To adopt the following minutes and approve publication on the Parish Council's website.

Planning & Highways Committee - 27th May & 10th June 2015.

53. Election of Vice Chairman

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Alex Michaels be elected Vice-Chairman for the municipal year 2015-2016.

There were no further nominations. All members present were in agreement.

54. Appointments to Other Bodies

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that the appointments to outside bodies as detailed below be made for the municipal year 2015-2016. All members present were in agreement.

There were no further nominations. All members present were in agreement.

Community Centre Management Committee - Councillors John Wyatt and Lyn Ferguson.

Joint Committee of Parish Councils - Chairman, Leader and Clerk

Citizens Advice Bureau - Councillor Owen Roe

Abbots Langley History Society - Councillor Jane Lay

Three Rivers District Council Environmental Forum - Councillor Liz Burns with Councillor Jane Lay as substitute ^[1]

Parmiter's School Sports Centre - Councillor David Major

YMCA Woodlands - Councillor Sara Bedford and Councillor Lyn Ferguson

Abbots Langley Carnival Committee - Councillor Jane Lay with Councillor John Wyatt as substitute.

Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town Councils - Cllr Owen Roe serving until July 2015, Councillor Sara Bedford from July 2015.

Henderson Hall Managing Trustees (Councillor contact) - Councillor John Wyatt

^[1] *Open meeting which any members can attend. The Clerk was asked to circulate future agenda to all members.*

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55. Election of Committees

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor Martin Brooks and **RESOLVED** that members be assigned to committees as detailed below.

Planning & Highways (6)	Councillor Jean Bowman Councillor Liz Burns Councillor David Major Councillor Alex Michaels Councillor Leslie Proctor Councillor Owen Roe
Leisure (6)	Councillor Sara Bedford Councillor Martin Brooks Councillor Jane Lay Councillor Hitesh Tailor Councillor Alison Ward Councillor John Wyatt
Finance & Administration (5)	Councillor Sara Bedford Councillor Lyn Ferguson Councillor Brenda Kersey Councillor Jane Lay Councillor Hitesh Tailor
Staffing (6)	Councillor Liz Burns Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst Councillor Brenda Kersey Councillor Jane Lay Councillor David Major Councillor Owen Roe
Review Panel	All members of the Parish Council

If a Review Panel meeting is required the Chairman and Leader will nominate six members, who have not been involved in that matter under consideration, to serve on the committee, the quorum of three remains unchanged.

Members were reminded that they can attend any committee meetings, including those on which they are not nominated to serve. They can take part in the meeting but will not have a vote.

56. Election of Committee Chairman

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor Liz Burns and **RESOLVED** that committee chairman be appointed as detailed below..

Planning & Highways	Councillor David Major
Leisure	Councillor John Wyatt
Finance & Administration	Councillor Brenda Kersey
Staffing	Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst
Review Panel	Councillor Sara Bedford

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57. Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk was asked to publicise the forming of a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group through social media, notice boards and the local press. Volunteers would be sought to serve on the Steering Group.

Editorial press coverage to be sought from myAbbots and also myGarston and myKings Langley to ensure boundary areas of the parish are reached.

The Clerk to review publicity materials with the Chairman and Leader.

Further review to be added to the agenda of the September Parish Council meeting to formalise the membership of the Steering Group.

58. Matters Referred to the Parish Council by Committee

Finance & Administration Committee min. 434b.

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Liz Burns and **RESOLVED** that the items in the report from the past Chairman of the committee following his meeting with the Internal Auditors are pursued by the Clerk who will report back in six month's time.

59. Hertfordshire Rail Strategy Public Consultation

Cuts to the Abbey Flyer link are strongly opposed, this being the most widely used service. The need for the link should be reinforced to encourage the use of public transport.

Members support increasing the capacity and frequency of trains on the West Coast Main Line but want to see more direct services to cities such as Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow stopping at Watford Junction.

Individual responses from members were encouraged. The Clerk was asked to submit member's comments to the consultation.

60. Local Government Ombudsman

Councillor Sara Bedford felt this was a worthy organisation but had severe concerns that extending the Ombudsman's remit to cover larger Parish and Town Councils would create an enormous amount of extra work for which there was no resource available and would be of no tangible benefit to residents.

The view of the Parish Council was that the scheme should not be extended to Parish and Town Councils as the costs were potentially large and the benefits minimal.

61. Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended the following events.

10th June - Watford North District Scouts Council AGM, 9th North Watford Scouts, Hope Green

13th June - Abbots Langley Carnival

25th June - Armed Forces Day Lunch, Manor House

The Chairman informed Members that he will be holding his Chairman's Reception on 18th March 2016.

62. District and County Council Member's Reports

County Councillor Sara Bedford

The proposed new service station for the M25 could be at J20, Hunton Bridge (behind the bund site) or J17, Maple Cross. The Department of Transport are exempt from Green Belt rules. Unlikely there will be a planning application before the end of the year.

No further developments on Woodlands YMCA.

Councillors are fighting the bus cuts. Further information in September as to details.

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County Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst

The contract with Watford and Three Rivers Home-Start will be terminated in September affecting several hundred families across the county. Hertfordshire County Council set to agree this cut in July. It was proposed by Councillor Hitesh Taylor, seconded by Councillor Martin Brooks and **RESOLVED** that a motion would be submitted to county objecting to the changes and that Home-Start had not been given the opportunity to re-tender.

The Clerk to submit the motion following input from Councillors Sara Bedford and Hitesh Tailor.

Work had now started on the Horsefield site with the play area due to be completed in October. Rare nesting linnets have been identified near the proposed service access entrance in Furtherfield which will delay works until the birds have fledged.

District Councillor David Major

Questioned the current situation regarding the road improvements in High Elms Lane. Councillor Martin Brooks informed members that work was on hold with regard to the safety rails as a safety audit was awaited.

District Councillor Martin Brooks

Has reported parking violations with regard to obstruction parking on pavements in the Katherine Place area. Police are monitoring.

Three Rivers District Council Environmental Protection Officers will be recommending a no idling law to help prevent air pollution for areas in front of schools. Three Rivers District Council are to prepare an Air Quality Action Plan.

63. Clerk's Report

Members noted:

- NALC Star Councils Award
- Three Rivers District Parish Council Chairman & Vice Chairman
- Office Copies
- Diary Dates

64. Monthly Statement of Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Brooks and seconded by Councillor Liz Burns and **RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts for May 2015 as notified to the Council be approved and published on the Parish Council's website.

The meeting closed at 8.44 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____