

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th November 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those Present:

Chairman: Councillor 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 Brenda Kersey
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

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

230. Apologies for absence

None.

231. Public Participation

None.

232. Hertfordshire Police

Not present.

The Clerk was asked to circulate the report from the police received just prior to the meeting and also to ask that they make every effort to attend the next Parish Council meeting.

Members asked that when there were serious Road Traffic Collisions in the parish if the police could give a brief report on the outcome of investigations and the reasons behind the incident.

233. Declarations of Interest

As members of Three Rivers District Council Councillors Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Sara Bedford, Martin Brooks and David Major declared an interest in agenda item 7, Election Expenses (min. 236).

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

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor Sara Bedford and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meetings held on 14th September and 21st October 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.

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235. 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 - 23rd September and 14th October 2015

Leisure Committee - 21st October 2015

Finance & Administration Committee - 26th October 2015

Staffing Committee - 28th October 2015

236. Election Expenses

Members of Three Rivers District Council who had previously declared an interest in this item withdrew from the meeting.

Councillor Alex Michaels, Vice-Chairman, took the chair for this item only.

It was proposed by Councillor Alex Michaels, seconded by Councillor Brenda Kersey and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council agrees the settlement of election expenses invoices for 2011-2013 at the revised value of £23,393.55.

Invoices will be settled during w/c 5th January 2016, subject to the Clerk confirming that detailed proposals for a revised process for election expenses, including an agreed timeline for introduction, have been received from Three Rivers District Council as well as fully supported invoices detailing the expenses for elections held in 2015.

Invoices for elections held in May 2015 must show the proportional cost split between the various elections held on that day, as required by the Representation of the Peoples Act.

Members further **RESOLVED** that they would refuse payment of any election expenses invoices received after 31st December in any year in which ordinary elections are held and also those received later than ninety days after any by-election.

A vote was requested on the resolutions and all members present were in agreement.

Members were disappointed in the manner in which these costs has been handled by the District Council. The invoices were received in some cases over three years after the elections and the Clerks in Three Rivers were given no warning of the likely value of the invoices, creating a significant financial challenges for the Parish Councils.

Members thanked the Clerk for his diligent attention to this matter.

237. Internal Audit 2015-2016 & External Audit 2014-2015

Members noted the Finance and Administration Committee's review of the above. (mins. 201 & 202.)

Members acknowledged the significant contribution made by Gail Kiely, Finance Officer, in achieving these audit results.

238. Budget 2016-2017

Members considered the latest revision of the budget (v3).

The grant to the Henderson Hall Trustees, (p6, code 5625) was noted as a pro forma entry that has been included in the budget so as not to unduly inflate the General Fund balance. It does not commit the Parish Council to any grant which will be subject to consideration at the January meeting of the Parish Council.

Members that want an Excel version of the budget were asked to email the Clerk.

239. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group - Terms of Reference

It was proposed by Councillor Alex Michaels, seconded by Councillor Brenda Kersey and **RESOLVED** that the draft Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group terms of Reference be accepted.

The Clerk was asked to amend “Chairperson” to “Chairman” and place the document under version control. Final version of the document to be circulated to Steering Group members.

240. Calendar of Meetings 2016-2017

Members noted the above.

Parish Council meetings in June, October, December, February and April, which are shown on the calendar as “to be confirmed” should be noted as “(tbc)” and not colour highlighted as this was causing confusion.

The Clerk to discuss any “to be confirmed” meetings with the Chairman and advise members giving, when possible, two weeks’ notice if the meeting is to be held or not.

241. District and County Council Member's Reports

District Councillor Martin Brooks

Arundel Road parking restrictions were initially effective, now proving less so. Communication with some of the heavy goods vehicle drivers is proving difficult as many do not have English as a first language. Tesco have so far proved unresponsive as well. Being progressed.

High Elms Lane safety works held up pending a safety audit from Hertfordshire County Council. Due for further discussion at a meeting on 24th November.

Leavesden Country Park Heritage Centre development is being discussed with Three Rivers District Council and also Warner Bros.

County & District Councillor Sara Bedford

A consultation on a traffic management plan for Station Road, Kings Langley will take place over the coming weeks.

CCTV cameras have been installed in School Mead and are operational.

There are significant concerns about Thrive Homes plans to redevelop the flats on Summerhouse Way. Residents who have lived in the flats for many years may end up being allocated housing outside of the area. It is proposed that the current two bedroom units will be replaced by one bedroom units. Residents are also concerned about proposed developments on garage sites in Broomfield Rise, The Garth and other sites.

The petition to Three Rivers District Council on the proposal to introduce charges to the main High Street car park has in excess of 2,000 signatures.

The consultation on parking restrictions in The Crescent has met with considerable negative reaction from residents.

The speed reduction humps in Toms Lane are scheduled for remedial work.

A pedestrian footpath under the Toms Lane railway bridge is under consideration.

County & District Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst

Leavesden Country Park car park has been resurfaced, following some initial comments from users the height of the speed humps has been reduced. The planning application for the development on the YMCA site will be considered by Three Rivers District Council’s Planning Committee in November.

The hybrid planning application for the Warner Bros. site will be considered by Three Rivers District Council’s Planning Committee in December.

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242. Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended the following events.

20th September - Battle of Britain Parade, St Paul's Church Langleybury and laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

4th October - Tough 10 Road Race, Manor House playing fields and presented medals and trophies. (Councillor Alex Michaels stood in.)

6th November - Abbots Langley Fireworks display, Manor House playing fields.

8th November - Remembrance service, St Lawrence Church and laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

8th November - Remembrance service at the Church of the Ascension, Bedmond.

243. Clerk's Report

Members noted:

- Community Infrastructure Levy meeting
- Staffing Committee Terms of reference
- Office Copies
- Diary dates
- Absence from Office

244. Monthly Statement of Accounts

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

The meeting closed at 8.26 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____