

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11th January 2016 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 Owen Roe Councillor Alison Ward Councillor John Wyatt
Officers:	Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council
Police:	Sergeant Barry Eldridge 1578 (part of meeting)

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

296. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillors Hitesh Tailor and Leslie Proctor.

297. Declarations of Interest

None.

298. Public Participation

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

299. Hertfordshire Police

Sergeant Barry Eldridge introduced himself to members, having taken over from Sergeant Neil Canning.

Key priorities have been set by Sgt. Eldridge, these are:

- Speeding. Particularly in Toms Lane, Bedmond Road and Station Road.
- Illegal substance dealing.
- Anti-social behaviour in School Mead.

Officers will be allocated to each of the key priorities to ensure a consistent and coordinated approach across the area. Focus will be given to the top ten anti-social behaviour offenders. Their details will be circulated to the response officers who deal with incidents when the regular Abbots Langley team are not on duty.

Members thought it was a positive step to have specific officers allocated to the key priorities.

Standard operating practices will be developed for the Abbots Langley based officers, so they focus on the key priorities and also spend more time on the streets, rather than in the office working on administration. "Tough pads" are being deployed to assist officers with administration when they are out of the office.

Unattended vehicle crime has been rising. Mainly minor thefts from unlocked vehicles and thefts of plant and equipment from commercial vehicles.

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Members asked that at future meetings officers report on any staffing changes, key offences and operations in the area and any court outcomes. It was also asked if the local Twitter feed could be kept up to date, with more relevant and timely information.

OWL emails will be used to keep residents updated on key local issues, including emerging “scams” and incidents of rouge traders. It is hoped that Senior Watch, which is currently under development will be helpful in keeping older residents who do not use the internet updated with similar information as they are often vulnerable to this type of crime.

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

It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns, seconded by Councillor Jean Bowman and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 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.

301. 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 - 4th & 25th November, 7th & 22nd December 2015.

Finance & Administration Committee - 23rd November & 21st December 2015.

Leisure Committee - 16th December 2015.

Councillor Sara Bedford asked that her reason for absence from the Finance & Administration Committee on 21st December 2015 be recorded as “family funeral”.

302. Bank Mandate

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor Liz Ferguson and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Hitesh Tailor be added to the bank mandate as an approved signatory.

303. Fees & Charges 2016-2017

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Brooks, seconded by Councillor John Wyatt and **RESOLVED** that the schedule of Fees and Charges for Halls, Open Spaces and Sports Facilities, as recommended by the Leisure Committee (min. 279.), be approved..

304. Budget & Precept 2016-2017

Councillor Brenda Kersey introduced the budget and summarised the discussions that had been held in committee and with members.

Whilst there were a number of changes in the budget related to the ongoing operational requirements of the Parish Council the key additional provisions were for increased office staff and an additional member of the Works Team to maintain the woodlands.

a. Budget 2015-2016

It was proposed by Councillor Brenda Kersey, seconded by Councillor Martin Brooks and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council’s budget for 2016-2017 be set at £640,479. (Expenditure = £878,954 and Income = £238,475).

A vote was requested eleven members were in favour, two abstained.

b. Precept 2015-2016

It was proposed by Councillor Brenda Kersey, seconded by Councillor Martin Brooks and **RESOLVED** that the Precept for 2016-2017 be set at £631,000.

A vote was requested eleven members were in favour, two abstained.

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Members thanked Councillor Kersey for her hard work in putting together the budget and presenting it to members in a clear and concise manner.

Further committee discussion on staffing levels and the deployment of staff will be required prior to any final recruitment decisions being made.

305. Annual Report 2015-2016

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor John Wyatt and **RESOLVED** that delegated authority be given to the Clerk to finalise the Annual Report.

An updated version to be circulated for comment to all members when available and the Clerk to confirm any updates with the Chairman prior to publishing the report.

306. Henderson Hall - Managing Trustees Grant Application

It was proposed by Councillor John Wyatt, seconded by Councillor Liz Burns and **RESOLVED** that a grant of £38,000 be awarded to the Henderson Hall Managing Trustees for the purpose of supporting the development of Henderson Hall as a community resource, this will be paid in one tranche in April 2016.

A vote was requested, twelve members were in favour one abstention.

The Finance & Administration Committee will be asked to consider the requirements of any future application for grant funding from the Managing Trustees. This will be diarised for the October committee meeting, with any grant application for 2017-2018 being considered at the January 2017 Parish Council meeting.

The committee will be asked to consider in particular how any future application needs to clearly define the reserves held by the Managing Trustees, what income and expenditure projections are required and over what timescale.

307. Election Expenses

Members were exasperated that this matter was still unresolved in line with the requirements they set out at the November Parish Council meeting (min. 236.).

The Clerk was asked to further update the Parish Council at its March meeting.

308. Abbots Langley Bowls Club

Members noted the Clerk's report and confirmation that the lease dilapidations had be finalised and agreed by both parties. It was also reported that;

- The club has been given notice that the Parish Council will cease maintenance of the green on 30th September 2016.
- The Parish Council will withdraw all its equipment on this date and the club will be advised, in advance, of the list of equipment being withdrawn.
- The club has confirmed that they do have trustee indemnity insurance in place.

309. District and County Council Member's Reports

District Councillor David Major

The detailed application for the expansion of the Warner Bros. site has been approved by Three Rivers District Council. Planning & Highways committee members have asked that when the outline permission for the five story car park is considered action is taken to reduce the visual impact of the height of the structure. Members were also concerned about the potential increased traffic volume from the proposed television studio, particularly from invited audiences.

The Three Rivers District Council "Barrow Beat" operative is taking early retirement.

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District Councillor Martin Brooks

The safety audit that was undertaken on High Elms Lane is being further reviewed, there are concerns that the continual reduction in the proposed works will render the scheme ineffective. Discussions are ongoing.

Further problems have arisen from HGVs accessing the Tesco Express store at Katherine Place. Significant safety concerns have been raised by residents. The situation has not been helped by some of the drivers having limited English skills.

A speed awareness operation took place on South Way. Further grant funding is being sought to provide speed measuring equipment for the local police.

County Councillor Sara Bedford

The County Councillor's Highways Locality Budget is being used to fund two Speed Indication Displays (SIDs). These will initially be deployed in Toms Lane, close to the playing fields and in the 40 mph zone in Church Hill Bedmond, towards Pimlico. Further installations will be considered in future financial years.

County Councillors can specify up to ten gullies for clearance in their areas. There are a number of blocked gullies in the area and these are being prioritised.

Provision of primary school places in the area is causing concern. The lack of clear statistical data is not helping the situation.

The proposed refurbishment work at the Post Office has been delayed and Mr & Mrs Merali have delayed their retirement until the works commence, which is estimated to be early February. The Clerk was asked to draft a letter for the Chairman to send to Mr & Mrs Merali to thank them for their years of service and to wish them well in their retirement.

County Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst

The outline planning application for the Warner Bros. site will be further considered by Three Rivers District Council, car parking and traffic congestion on Ashfields are key topics. Proposed works on the Ashfield junction will be brought forward to coincide with the expansion of the Studio Tour.

Legal action is being taken against the owners of the 48 Bucknalls Lane site which has been derelict for a number of years.

The recently laid surface on Orchard Avenue is lifting, there are multiple problems which will be addressed by the contractors.

310. Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended the following events.

4th December - Christmas Carols & Lights, High Street.

16th December - Christmas Carols around the Tree, Bedmond.

The Clerk was asked to write to Ms. Lynn Luck and to thank her for all her work and that of Abbots Langley Biz, on the expanded Christmas Carols event.

311. Clerk's Report

Members noted:

- Post Office Closure
- Community Infrastructure Levy
- Office Copies
- Diary dates
- Absence from office

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312. Monthly Statement of Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford and seconded by Councillor Martin Brooks and **RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts for November & December 2015 as notified to the Council be approved and published on the Parish Council's website.

The meeting closed at 9.07 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____