

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th March 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 Hitesh Tailor
Councillor Alison Ward
Councillor John Wyatt

Officers: Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

372. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Leslie Procter.

373. Public Participation

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

374. Hertfordshire Police

Not present. No report received.

375. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Sara Bedford, David Major & Martin Brooks as members of Three Rivers District Council expressed an interest in agenda 11, Election Expenses.

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

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor Liz Burns and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2016, 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.

377. 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 - 13th January, 3rd & 24th February 2016

Finance & Administration Committee - 25th January 2016

Staffing Committee - 2nd March 2016

The Clerk was asked to delay publishing the minutes for the Leisure Committee meeting held on 17th February 2016 as there was concern about their accuracy on one item. This to be resolved by the committee at its next meeting.

378. Internal Audit 2015-2016

Members noted the review carried out by the Finance and Administration Committee and recorded in minute 327.

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379. Planning & Highways Committee - Meetings Calendar

Members noted the dates of the Planning and Highways Committee originally shown in the calendar as being held on 25th May 2016 will now take place on 18th May 2016.

380. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

The Clerk was asked to add a report from the above as a standing item on all Parish Council meetings.

The Chairman of the Steering Group will be asked to submit a brief report.

381. Civic Awards Policy

Members discussed the above. The Clerk was asked to bring back to the Parish Council an updated version of the policy for consideration at the Annual Council Meeting in May. The revised policy to take account of members views, which included:

- No serving or past Parish Councillor should be considered for an award.
- Former, non-serving, members of other authorities were eligible for an award.
- The restriction on staff, or former staff, being eligible is maintained.

382. Election Expenses

It was proposed by Councillor Brenda Kersey and seconded by Councillor Lyn Ferguson and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk be asked to write to the Chief Executive Officer of Three Rivers District Council to offer the sum of £12,500 in full and final settlement of the invoices related to expenses for elections held prior to May 2015. Three Rivers District Council proposed a settlement of £23,394 but it has not satisfied the Parish Council on the basis of this calculation, as it did not support these costs with an apportionment formula as required by the Representation of the Peoples Act.

The Parish Council removes the Clerk's delegated authority to negotiate this matter further. This represents the Parish Council's full and final offer and it is not prepared to allow officers to spend more valuable time on further discussions.

It was further **RESOLVED** that the invoices for the elections held in May and June 2015 (£9,158 and £7,551) be settled in full.

The Clerk is also asked to advise the Chief Executive Officer of Three Rivers District Council that the Parish Council will only consider settling future invoices for election expenses if they are submitted within three months of an election being held, that full supporting paperwork detailing the costs invoiced is provided and a breakdown of the proportionality of cost allocation to the Parish Council is fully detailed.

Members thanked the Clerk for his diligent work on this matter and appreciated that the failure to reach an agreed settlement in this matter was completely outside his control.

383. District and County Council Member's Reports

District Councillor David Major

Changes to the Town & Country Planning Act allows the conversion of office accommodation to residential use providing prior notice is given by the owner. There may be a notice forthcoming relating to a building on Link Road, Kings Langley.

District Councillor Martin Brooks

The Heritage Lottery Fund bid for Leavesden Country Park has been submitted. Following further discussions a 14m x 6m Heritage Centre has been included in the bid. At least 51% of the space will be allocated to displays relevant to the heritage of the area.

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County Councillor Sara Bedford

The County Council have advised that in the foreseeable future a school is unlikely to be built on the Woodside Road site. The pressure on primary school places has been reduced due to the re-opening of an additional form of entry at Leavesden Green School.

Secondary school places are under considerable pressure. There are currently no free spaces in any Hertfordshire secondary schools and the only chance of children who move into the area getting a place, is if an appropriate vacancy has been created by a child leaving a school.

Twenty four children (more than 10%) did not get a place at any of their four preferred local secondary schools.

384. Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended the following events.

3rd March - Annual Parish Meeting, Tanners Wood Hall

10th March - Presentation of the "Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur" to Flt. Lt. David Francis DFC, Royal Air Force Association meeting at the Manor House.

The Clerk was asked to write to Flt. Lt. David Francis DFC to offer the Parish Council's congratulations on the prestigious award.

Members were reminded of the Chairman's Reception being held at the Manor House on the evening of 18th March 2016.

Members thanked the Chairman for his generous donation of the new Chairman's regalia which had its first official use at the Annual Parish Meeting.

385. Clerk's Report

Members noted:

- Financial Grants 2016-2017

Members asked that Small Grant awards be noted in the Clerk's report to the Parish Council, rather than the Finance & Administration Committee.

Also that the Finance & Administration Committee consider the publication of grants that have been awarded.

- Office Copies
- Diary dates

Members noted the correction to the time of the Staffing Committee advised for 27th April 2016, start time is 09:00 not 09:30 as reported.

- Absence from office

386. Monthly Statement of Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford and seconded by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst and **RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts for January & February 2016 as notified to the Council be approved and published on the Parish Council's website.

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

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford and seconded by Councillor David Major and **RESOLVED** that as the following matters related to the terms and conditions of members of staff, 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.

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388. Indemnity Claim

Members noted the Clerk's verbal report on the above.

389. Support Staff & Henderson Hall Managing Trustees Lease

The Chairman proposed to take this item as urgent business under Standing Order 14. All members were in agreement.

Members noted the advice from the Parish Council's employment advisors which had been finalised earlier on the day of the meeting. The Clerk will urgently communicate this to the Henderson Hall Managing Trustees and the Henderson Hub.

When agreed by all parties the lease can be signed. When the Clerk is ready to proceed Councillors Brenda Kersey and Sara Bedford will sign, Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst as substitute. The Clerk to witness.

Signing of the lease had previously been resolved by the Parish Council in September 2015 (min. 163) and was pending resolution of the above before this was finalised.

The meeting closed at 8.36 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____