

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th January 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those Present:

Chairman:	Councillor Alex Michaels
Vice-Chairman:	Councillor Liz Burns
Councillors:	Councillor Sara Bedford Councillor Jean Bowman Councillor Lyn Ferguson Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst Councillor Brenda Kersey Councillor Jane Lay Councillor David Major Councillor Robin Powell Councillor Owen Roe Councillor Hitesh Tailor Councillor Alison Ward Councillor John Wyatt
Officers:	Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council
Police:	PCSO 6600 John Diaz

The meeting opened at 7:31 pm.

302. Apologies for absence

None.

303. Declarations of Interest

None.

304. Public Participation

None.

305. Hertfordshire Police

PCSO John Diaz updated members on the following:

- Attention has been given to speeding in the Bedmond and Gallows Hill area. Local schools have been visited to increase awareness on vehicle speeding and children have participated in speed checking. Around 300 children have been involved in various vehicle safety awareness activities. Additional speed checks have been carried out in Toms Lane, High Street Kings Langley, Corners of Bedmond Road and High St. Bedmond. 30 mph stickers for wheelie bins have been effective in Hertsmere and are being rolled out in the area.
- A number of Section 59 notices (Police Reform Act 2002) have been issued to motorcyclists who have been riding in an anti-social manner.
- Burglary and crime prevention advice has been ongoing. Officers have visited a number of community groups and held roadshows at various locations in the parish. Around 600 timers have been issued so lights can be switched on in a property even if it is unoccupied.
- Opportunist vehicle theft is ongoing. Vehicle handles are being tested and any loose cash or valuables stolen. Operation Tarantula targeted vehicle crime, officers and volunteers write to registered keepers when high value items are seen on display in unoccupied vehicles.
- Abbots Langley Community Police Office is up to full establishment for officers and PCSOs.

Abbots Langley Parish Council

- The current local priority is vehicle related crime and operations are ongoing.
- An application to Hertfordshire County Council is ongoing to have the street lights in the South Way area left on overnight. This follows a spate of vehicle crime in the area. County Councillor Sara Bedford has been supporting the application which is currently held up in HCC.
- No major issues over Christmas and the New Year.
- Shift patterns are under review to optimise cover.

Councillor Robin Powell asked about arrangements for processing those arrested.

PCSO Diaz advised that the custody suite for the area is Hatfield and transport to custody is decided on a risk basis with some prisoners having to be transported by van, others in a “cell car” which has been deployed in Three Rivers. Decisions are taken on a case by case basis.

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

It was proposed by Councillor Brenda Kersey, seconded by Councillor Liz Burns and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 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.

307. 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 November, 7th and 21st December 2016.

Finance & Administration Committee - 28th November and 19th December 2016.

Leisure Committee - 30th November 2016.

Staffing Committee - 7th December 2016.

The Staffing Committee minutes had been omitted from the agenda for this meeting, but as the minutes had been circulated and reviewed by members the Chairman permitted their consideration.

308. Fees & Charges 2016-2017

It was proposed by Councillor John Wyatt, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that the schedule of Fees and Charges for Halls, Open Spaces and Sports Facilities, as recommended by the Leisure Committee (min. 290.), be approved.

Members asked that the Leisure Committee review the rates for hiring the Manor House, particularly those for Friday and Saturday nights, in relation to the current level of bookings.

309. Budget & Precept 2017-2018

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

a. Budget 2017-2018

During debate under Standing Order 18 m. iv. It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Sara Bedford and seconded by Councillor Jane Lay that “the question now be put”.

A recorded vote was requested.

For: Councillors Major, Burns, Lay, Kersey, Bowman, Bedford, Ferguson, Ward, Powell, Giles-Medhurst. (10)

Against: Councillors Michaels, Wyatt, Roe, Taylor. (4)

Abbots Langley Parish Council

It was proposed by Councillor Brenda Kersey, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council's budget for 2017-2018 be set at £596,298. (Expenditure = £842,585 and Income = £246,287).

A vote was requested and all members were in favour.

b. Precept 2017-2018

It was proposed by Councillor Brenda Kersey, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that the Precept for 2016-2017 be set at £652,275.

A recorded vote was requested.

For: Councillors Major, Burns, Lay, Kersey, Bowman, Bedford, Ferguson, Ward, Powell, Giles-Medhurst, Roe. (11)

Against: Councillors Michaels, Wyatt, Tailor. (3)

310. Annual Report 2016-2017

It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that the draft of the above be approved and delegated authority granted 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.

311. Henderson Hall - The Henderson Hub Grant Application

It was proposed by Councillor Brenda Kersey, seconded by Councillor Liz Burns and **RESOLVED** that a grant of £35,000 be awarded to the Henderson Hub. The grant to be paid in one tranche during April 2017.

A vote was requested and all members were in favour.

The grant application had been reviewed and was supported by the Managing Trustees.

312. Procedure for the Co-Option of a Member of the Parish Council

It was proposed by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst seconded by Councillor Liz Burns and **RESOLVED** that the draft procedure for co-opting a member to the Parish Council be agreed subject to the following amendments and that delegated authority be granted to the Clerk to make minor amendments and updates to the procedure as required.

This procedure to be used for any future co-options.

- Applicants for co-option will be able to address the PC for up to three minutes. If an applicant is unable to attend the meeting they may submit a statement which the Clerk will read on their behalf.
- Voting will be by a show of hands.

The Clerk was asked to publicise the vacancy as widely as possible. The notice should be worded such that it is clear that members want to co-opt a resident from, or with a close connection to, the Hunton Bridge community.

The co-option will be decided at a Parish Council meeting on 13th February 2017.

Given the timescales it was not possible to advertise the vacancy in publications such as "My Abbots" as the next edition will be circulated on or very close to the closing date for applications.

313. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Report

Members noted the report from the Chairman of the above.

The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group advised that the mail drops to residents were 75% complete and that the group was working with distribution channels to ensure the remaining 25% was completed by February.

The Parish Council particularly thanked the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and all the other group members for all their hard work on this important project.

314. District and County Council Member's Reports

County Councillor Sara Bedford

- Hertfordshire County Council have exercised an option on land in the Woodside Road development. Originally a primary school was being located on this site, but currently the County Council have no intention of building a school on the site.
- Studies on the introduction of a 20 mph zone in the High Street and the conversion of the zebra crossing to a pelican crossing are ongoing. The results are expected imminently.

County Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst

- Remedial and improvement works on the play area at Langley Lane and South Way have been completed or are scheduled. The sand pit which has proved very popular will be extended. Parking provision will not be made available as it is a neighbourhood play area and within the Green Belt.
- A public exhibition is being held at Warner Bros. Suite 12 Hercules Way between 15:00 and 20:00 on 11th January to update residents on the plans for the site, in particular the decked car park which has been modified to improve the visual amenity.

Changes are also being proposed to the "island" site adjacent to the Ashfield bridge and A41 slip road, these address concerns about access.

315. Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended the following events.

19th November - Meeting with Abbots Langley Community Police, discussed local issues, mainly vehicle speeding and afterwards attending speed testing at four locations within the parish.

1st December - Christmas Carols and Lights On, High Street.

12th December - Presented long service awards to Parish Council staff, Parish Council Chambers.

19th December - Visited Parmiters School for meeting and tour with Headmaster.

19th December - Visited Tanners Wood School for meeting and tour with Head Teacher.

30th December - Toms Lane Coffee Morning

316. Clerk's Report

Members noted:

- Charity Commission.
- College Road Neighbourhood Watch.
- Small Grant - RBL/Abbots Legionaries.
- Office Copies.
- Diary dates.

Abbots Langley Parish Council

The Clerk also made members aware of concerns he had about service levels from Penman Sedgwick the Parish Council's solicitors. These have been raised with a partner of the firm and the Clerk will discuss tendering the Parish Council's legal services with the Finance and Administration Committee.

317. Monthly Statement of Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford and seconded by Councillor John Wyatt and **RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts for November & December 2016 as notified to the Council be approved and published on the Parish Council's website.

The meeting closed at 9.12 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____