

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th November 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those Present:

Chairman:	Councillor Liz Burns
Vice-Chairman:	Councillor Brenda Kersey
Councillors:	Councillor Sara Bedford Councillor Jean Bowman Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst Councillor Jane Lay Councillor David Major Councillor Alex Michaels Councillor Robin Powell Councillor Owen Roe Councillor Hitesh Tailor Councillor Alison Ward Councillor John Wyatt
Officers:	Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council
Police:	Sergeant 1971 Christopher Simmons

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

235. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Lyn Ferguson (unavailable).

236. Declarations of Interest

None.

237. Public Participation

None present.

238. Hertfordshire Police

i. Report

Reported crime statistics are up year on year. There has been a 117% increase in vehicle crime, 52% of the offences related to insecure vehicles. Public awareness messages about the risk of thefts from insecure vehicles are being issued through multiple channels. Travelling offenders using the M25 and other trunk routes are believed to be responsible, they are operating across the county and county borders. Multiple resources are being deployed to address the problem and some progress has been made.

Dwelling burglaries are static year on year, with thirty one reported last year and thirty two in the same period this year. Criminal damage to vehicles spiked in the summer.

Attention is being given to the play area at the junction of South Way and Langley Lane, which has been vandalised on a number of occasions. Officers have been working with Three Rivers District Council on preventative measures.

Reported violent crime is down. Attention is being given to anti-social behaviour in the Summerhouse Way, Love Lane Play Area and South Way areas.

Pavement parking is being addressed where there are particular safety issues.

Volunteers are being sought to cover the Community Police Office opening hours, there are currently no volunteers available for Saturday and some afternoon duties.

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Members raised the following points:

Clarification was sought on the levels of anti-social behaviour around Summerhouse Way. This was due mainly to the empty properties and also the remote nature of the garages.

Attention was requested to pavement parking outside the car dealers in Bedmond High Street.

Clarification was sought on the approach taken when dealing with cannabis. Members were advised that this had not changed and possession was dealt with on a case by case basis.

Members reported problems in trying to report incidents via the constabulary smartphone app. This will be reported through internal channels.

Attention was requested to traffic management in the area of St Paul's Langleybury for both the Battle of Britain and Remembrance Parades, whilst it is appreciated this is a key and busy junction, safety of those parading is vital.

ii. Summerhouse Way - Offender Caution

Members noted the police caution issued to an offender who had broken in to the Summerhouse Way garages.

239. To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor Brenda Kersey and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11thth September 2017, 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.

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst asked that his apologies for September meetings be consistently recorded, one was shown as "holiday" the other "unavailable".

240. Minutes for adoption

The following committee minutes were adopted, approved for publication on the Council's website and passed to the committees for resolution.

Staffing Committee - 6th September 2017.

Planning & Highways Committee - 20th September and 11th October 2017.

Leisure Committee - 18th October 2017.

Finance & Administration Committee - 23rd September 2017.

The Planning and Highways Committee will resolve a disagreement between the committee chairman and the Clerk on the minutes of the 1st November meeting, of that committee.

241. Chairman Varied the Agenda

As permitted under Standing Order 14, the Chairman proposed to vary the agenda to discuss the following item earlier in the meeting (original agenda item 15.).

This was put to the vote without seconding and all members present were in agreement.

242. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Report

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group have carried out some initial work on site selection. They are aware of the current “Green Belt” review being carried out for Three Rivers District Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor Alex Michaels and **RESOLVED** that the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group carry out informal discussions with Planning Officers at Three Rivers District Council on site selection topics that will assist in informing the Neighbourhood Plan.

Planning Officers to be made aware that these discussions are not attributable to the Parish Council. A small number of members that serve on the Working Group will attend the meeting.

243. External Audit 2016-2017

(Referred from the Finance & Administration Committee min. 220.)

It was proposed by Councillor Brenda Kersey, seconded by Councillor Hitesh Tailor and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council accept the External Auditor’s Report and Certificate as recommended by the Finance and Administration Committee.

244. Delegation of Responsibility - Officer & Staff Recruitment

(Referred from the Staffing Committee min. 164.)

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor Stephen-Giles Medhurst and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council approve the above subject to the following amended first paragraph.

Clerk to the Council

Interview panel, five members, recommend appointment to Parish Council.

The panel to be chaired by the Chairman of the Staffing Committee, unless they are unavailable or otherwise disqualified. The panel needs to be representative of the council.

External HR and selection advice will be required.

The appointment of a Clerk has to be a Parish Council decision.

245. Henderson Hall - Lease Amendments

It was proposed by Councillor John Wyatt, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that the amended lease to the Henderson Hub be approved.

The Clerk will instruct the Parish Council’s solicitors accordingly, when the revised lease is ready for execution two members to sign, the Clerk to witness.

246. Henderson Hall Managing Trustees

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor Robin Powell and **RESOLVED** that The Hon. Arabella Stuart-Smith be appointed for a further term of office (four years) as a Managing Trustee of Henderson Hall.

Lady Stuart-Smith has indicated that she would like to stand down as a Managing Trustee at the earliest opportunity, her re-appointment is to ensure continuity of trustees for meeting purposes.

Members will be asked to nominate a replacement Managing Trustee at the January Parish Council meeting. One nomination has already been received, members are asked to submit any further nominations to the Clerk no later than 08:00 on Tuesday 2nd January 2018, so these can be circulated in accordance with meeting notification requirements.

247. Henderson Hall Clock

Members discussed the required repairs to the above.

As the lease to the Henderson Hub is “full repairing” the responsibility for repairs falls to the Hub.

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248. Calendar of Meetings 2018-2019

It was proposed by Councillor Sarah Bedford, seconded by Councillor Robin Powell and **RESOLVED** that the above be agreed.

The Clerk was asked to check any possible clashes with Three Rivers District Council Local Area Forums.

249. Budget 2018-2019

Members discussed various aspects of the budget.

No changes were requested. Further committee reviews of their respective budgets will take place in line with the Budget Preparation Schedule.

250. Parish Council Offices Car Park

Members discussed the neighbour's proposals for revised parking arrangements. Members did not want to take the proposals any further and asked the Clerk to advise the neighbour accordingly.

251. District and County Council Member's Reports

County Councillor Sara Bedford

- Speed reduction measures in Station Road, Kings Langley have seen average speeds reduce by apx. 4mph, mean speeds are now below 30mph.
- Anonymised data is being downloaded from Speed Indicating Devices to build up further information on vehicle speeds around the area.
- The Countryside Management Service is working on the open fields adjacent to South Way and Furtherfield. Replanting will take place in this area to improve the ecology and return the area close to its original state supporting the multiple wild life habitats.
- Pavement refurbishment in the High Street has created some puddling which will be addressed in the near future .

County Councillor Alex Michaels

- Positive feedback following the Youth Council meetings, with many local schools involved.
- Discussions are ongoing with the Welcome Trust on issues related to the permissive pathway that is currently blocked. The pathway runs between 42 Toms Lane and Egg Farm Lane.

252. Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended the following events.

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| 17th September | Battle of Britain Parade & Service at St Pauls Langleybury. |
| 21st September | Senior Speech Night at Parmiters School. |
| 22nd September | Official opening of the Henderson Hub, Henderson Hall. |
| 23rd September | Applefest at School Mead. |
| 25th September | Meeting Sukhvinder Rai re The Armed Forces Covenant and Veterans Champion for Hertfordshire at County Hall. |
| 26th September | Annual General Meeting at Abbeyfield, Greenways. |
| 29th September | International Lunch day at Arden House, Kings Langley. |
| 1st October | Tough Ten to take entries, present medals, give out trophies and prizes at Manor House playing fields. |
| 8th October | Harvest Festival at St Lawrence Church. |
| 11th October | HAPTC Training Course, Employment & Appraisals at Kimpton Parish Council. |

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12th October	NHS Seminar, consultation results and voting re changes to prescriptions in Herts Valley.
14th October	Annual General Meeting, Women's Royal British Legion at Hatfield.
14th October	Harvest Festival Supper at Bedmond Church.
20th October	Three Rivers District Council Chairman's Quiz with a team of Abbots Langley Parish Councillors at Penn House, Rickmansworth.
27th October	Pensioners Forum at Penn House Rickmansworth.
28th October	Lions 47th Charter evening and dinner at Town & Country Club Watford
30 th October	Unveiling of paving stone honouring Major General George Pearks VC at High Street, Watford.
1st November	HAPTC Training Course, New External Auditor and Grants at Kimpton Parish Council.
3rd November	Abbots Langley Fireworks Display organised by Watford Lions at Manor House.
5th November	Thanksgiving and Remembrance Service at St Saviours Church.
11th November	Remembrance at St Lawrence Church War Memorial
12th November	Parade and Service for Remembrance at St Lawrence Church. Also visited local shops, library, churches and schools re Christmas Carols and Lights.

The Chairman ask that thanks be passed on to staff for the clean-up efforts on the Manor House playing fields following a recent party at Abbots Langley Cricket Club that left huge amounts of waste on the fields.

The Chairman has received much positive feedback for the large poppies that were installed on the High Street.

253. Clerk's Report

Members noted:

- Office Copies
- Diary dates

254. 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 September & October 2017 as notified to the Council be approved and published on the Parish Council's website.

The meeting closed at 9.37 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____