

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th January 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those Present:

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Brenda Kersey

Councillors: Councillor Sara Bedford
Councillor Jean Bowman
Councillor David Major
Councillor Robin Powell
Councillor Owen Roe
Councillor Hitesh Tailor
Councillor Alison Ward
Councillor John Wyatt

Also present: Peter Warman - Chairman, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Officers: Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council

The meeting opened at 7:31 pm.

315. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Jane Lay, Alex Michaels, Stephen Giles-Medhurst (all unavailable), Lyn Ferguson (work commitment), Liz Burns (other commitment).

316. Declarations of Interest

None.

317. Public Participation

None.

318. Hertfordshire Police

Not present.

319. To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Robin Powell, seconded by Councillor Alison Ward and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 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.

320. 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 - 22nd November, 6th and 20th December 2017.

Finance & Administration Committee - 27th November and 18th December 2017.

Staffing Committee - 6th December 2017.

Leisure Committee - 13th December 2017.

321. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Report

Members noted the report and in particular the meeting held with Planning Officers at Three Rivers District Council which covered a number of topics related to the development of the plan.

Key were the discussions on sites for potential "change of use". Further National and District Council guidance will be forthcoming in 2018. The group will focus on the development of draft planning policies for the Neighbourhood Plan rather than site evaluation, as this will be impacted by the guidance when this is available.

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322. Fees & Charges 2018-2019

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor Robin Powell and **RESOLVED** that the schedule of Fees and Charges (v1c) for Halls, Open Spaces and Sports Facilities, as recommended by the Leisure Committee (min. 295.) be approved.

323. Budget & Precept 2018-2019

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

a. Budget 2018-2019

It was proposed by Councillor Brenda Kersey, seconded by Councillor Hitesh Tailor and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council's budget for 2018-2019 be set at £729,716. (Expenditure = £874,383 and Income = £144,667).

b. Precept 2018-2019

It was proposed by Councillor Brenda Kersey, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that the Precept for 2018-2019 be set at £686,743.

Both of the above had been recommended by the Finance & Administration Committee (min. 304i & ii).

324. Annual Report 2016-2017

The Clerk expressed disappointment that only one contribution for the above had been received, despite members having significant advanced notice of the deadline.

It was proposed by Councillor John Wyatt, seconded by Councillor Robin Powell and **RESOLVED** that delegated authority be granted to the Clerk to finalise the Annual Report, following consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council.

325. Henderson Hub - Grant Application (2018-2019)

It was proposed by Councillor John Wyatt, seconded by Councillor Jean Bowman and **RESOLVED** that a grant of £32,000 be awarded under The General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011 Sec 1 (1) to the Henderson Hub for the purpose of supporting the Hub's activities.

The grant will be paid in one tranche in April 2018. Half of the grant will be retained if at the time of payment, the clock on the external face of the building is not in working order.

A further condition is the Parish Council require a prominent notice to be displayed both inside and outside the building detailing the grant. The notice to be displayed during the whole of the 2018-2019 financial year.

Members encourage the Hub to pay employed staff the Living Wage Foundation "Living Wage" (£8.75/hr from November 2017), as does the Parish Council.

326. Henderson Hall Managing Trustees

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor Alison Ward and **RESOLVED** that Mr Marcus Coultrup be appointed a Managing Trustee of Henderson Hall for a four-year term of office from the resignation of the Hon. Arabella Stuart-Smith.

327. Internal Audit Report (First Interim) 2017-2018

(Referred from the Finance & Administration Committee min. 270ii.)

Members noted the above and that no items were raised that required action.

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328. District and County Council Member's Reports

County Councillor Sara Bedford

i. 318 Bus Service.

Effective from 3rd February 2018 the service north of Abbots Langley to Kings Langley and Hemel Hempstead will be suspended. The route south to Watford town centre will be retained, but a rerouting will take the service via Watford Junction.

Usage figures are being sought and Hertfordshire County Council will be asked to review if any subsidy can be made to maintain the northern section of the service.

ii. Heritage Lottery Fund

A £582,900 grant from the above plus a significant contribution from Warner Bros. as creative partner will mean that the Heritage Trail and Wildlife Centre will go ahead in Leavesden Country Park later in 2018.

iii. Hertfordshire County Council Gritting Routes

Discussions are ongoing to ensure secondary routes with a significant gradient are gritted.

iv. Drains and Gully Clearance

Remaining funds from the Highways Locality Budget will be used to clear multiple drains and gullies.

v. College Road Pelican Crossing

Work is ongoing to improve reliability of the above, which on occasions does not respond to pedestrian crossing requests or alternatively stops traffic when no one is waiting to cross.

vi. Royal Oak - Generator

An appeal is ongoing following the penalties imposed for disruption to neighbours when the pub was running an electricity generator.

vii. Social Housing

The Planning Inspectorate will carry out an informal hearing in February to consider the variation of the conditions for the provision of social housing on the Leavesden Aerodrome development. The Housing Association wants to make the properties available for open market sale to raise funds for further social housing developments.

329. Chairman's Report

The Chairman was unable to attend the meeting, her report was circulated to members. The Chairman has attended the following events.

17th November	Opening of the newly rebuilt Steps and Ramp, Methodist Church, Langley Road.
25th November	Scouts Christmas Fayre, Langley Road.
28th November	Christmas Lunch, Baptist Church, School Mead.
30th November	Abbots Langley Christmas Lights Switch on from the Library at 5:30 pm to St Lawrence Church 6pm then to Henderson Hall ending up at the High Street for main switch on at 7:30pm.
13th December	Christmas Meal, Lions Club.
14th December	Carol Service, Parmiters School.
16th December	Christmas Flower Festival, Bedmond Church.

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21st December Abbots Langley Gardening Society to present cups and certificates to Allotment winners, Manor House.

330. Clerk's Report

Members noted:

- Precept Referendum Principals
- Abbots Langley 20 mph Zone
- Insurance Claim - High Street
- Long Service Award - Janet Sands
- Office Copies

331. Monthly Statement of Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor John Wyatt and seconded by Councillor Sara Bedford and **RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts for November & December 2017 as notified to the Council be approved and published on the Parish Council's website.

The meeting closed at 8.51 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____