

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 17th October 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those present:

Chairman: Councillor John Wyatt
Vice Chairman: Councillor Jane Lay
Councillors: Councillor Jean Bowman
Councillor Liz Burns
Councillor Alex Michaels (in attendance, non-voting)
Councillor David Monk
Councillor Robin Powell
Councillor Hitesh Tailor
Councillor Alison Ward

Also Present: Mr Robert Stimpson - Allotment Representative
Mr Tim Denyer - Sports Representative

Officers: Janet Pearce - Planning and Meetings Officer
David Abbott - Facilities Manager
Mark Ellis - Works Manager

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

196. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Sara Bedford (unavailable). Mr John Kersey, allotment representative, had advised the Clerk that he was unable to attend and apologies were also received from Mr Vince Watts and Mr Chris Bromwich, allotment representatives.

197. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Jane Lay declared an interest in agenda item 7.iii., Fees and Charges, as Secretary of Abbots Langley Gardening Society.

198. Public Participation

Two members of the public attended the meeting and Mr Matthew Hunt signed in to speak for item 7.i.(16) - Primrose Hill play equipment.

199. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd August 2018, 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.

200. Reports from the Allotments Representatives

Jacketts Field - Mr John Kersey

The Officer had received a report prior to the meeting that the Shepherd Close gate is fouling on the concrete and only opens a little way.

Primrose Hill - Mr Robert Stimpson

Judging had been completed. Details to be sent to the Facilities Manager, to produce new certificates, who reported that some had not been collected from the previous year.

Councillor John Wyatt reported damage to the fencing and approximately 12 trees which had gone from the community orchard. It was felt the site was unsuitable due to the poor soil conditions and asked that an item is added to the next agenda to consider moving the orchard to an alternative location before replanting/replacing any trees.

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201. Reports from the Sports Representatives

Mr Tim Denyer asked when the MuGA refurbishment would be completed and open.

The Facilities Manager advised that the delays were due to the poor quality workmanship by the Three Rivers contractors and the many snagging issues. The protective paint surface has still to be applied but cannot be done until the warmer/dryer weather next spring. (min. 204.). The hire process to be through the office for organised events. Tennis court bookings through the Club Supreme website.

202. Budget 2019 - 2020

The Chairman varied the agenda to allow discussions on Primrose Hill Play Equipment as the first item due to the public participation.

Councillor Alex Michaels addressed the committee setting out his reasons for the need to replace the existing play equipment in line with the new areas at Manor House and Bedmond. At present it is underused with few items which are insufficient for this built up area with a substantial population. He requested that the Parish Council used CIL funds to finance the project and applied for any grants available.

Mr Matthew Hunt spoke: The area is the main focal point and open space in the vicinity for families to meet but is unattractive with people not staying long due to the lack of facilities. It would benefit greatly from new play equipment and a cafe to make the most of the site as a community asset.

Committee members agreed that the play equipment did need replacing and an earmarked reserve established.

Councillor Alex Michaels and the members of the public left the meeting.

i. Key Projects

The following actions were requested. (Numbering refers to Key Project reference)

- Manor House Tennis courts, MuGA and Skate Park - MuGA should be opened for casual public users now, prior to completion of surface treatment next spring. (4)
- Playing Fields/Football Pitches - As teams have progressed in their leagues the standard of the pitches in some cases do not meet league requirements. The Facilities Manager to talk to the various clubs about their requirements. (11)
- Langleybury Play Area - Legacy play equipment - Old equipment to be removed and disposed of. Costings to be investigated by the Facilities Manager for part of area to be used to increase size of existing car park and also costs for removing the huck swing and replacing it with a conventional double swing including one disabled seat. (12)
- Water Fountains + Bottle refill stations - Investigate practicalities of installing one at Bedmond near the play area; one just outside the play area at South Way playing fields and another at Primrose Hill pending refurbishment of the play area with one year between installations. (15)
- Primrose Hill - Play Equipment - Facilities Manager to investigate costs for new equipment, Clerk to talk to Three Rivers District Council regarding funding. £20,000 to be reserved this year from Budget. (16)
- Primrose Hill Changing Rooms - Demolish and possibly use site for future community hall/cafe, pending decision on the play equipment. Low priority. (17)

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- Christmas Lights - Confirm extra white lights supplied have been replaced by blue ones to match those originally installed. (19)
- Lamp Posts Flags (Carnival and other events) - A double flag bracket to be installed on each lamp post in the High Street from the northern end of The Crescent to Kitters Green. Union flags to be purchased for alternate posts with others to be supplied by the Lions and the British Legion. Parish and Union flags to be erected and removed by works team. (22)

ii. Budget 2019-2020 - Committee Pages

Members noted the above and requested that £20,000 be allocated towards the Open Spaces Projects earmarked reserve for possible future re-development of the Primrose Hill play area.

iii. Fees and Charges

No issues were raised.

Councillor Jane Lay requested clarification on the difference between the costs charged to clubs using the playing fields/pavilions.

The Finance and Administration Committee to look at the new Service Level Agreements introduced last year for Grants. Clubs need annual support from the Parish to maintain their pitches.

203. Code of Conduct - Open Spaces

Members agreed the example Royal Parks Code of Conduct set out appropriate guidelines for their requirements and that a licenced operator type arrangement should be introduced for fitness groups. Item to be added to next agenda for further discussions regarding charges - to be investigated by the Facilities Manager.

204. MuGA - Tennis Courts Refurbishment

This item was discussed as above (min 201.)

205. Evergreen FC - Pitch Fence

Members agreed that Evergreen FC should continue to take down their pitch fence every weekend in accordance with their lease, as this is a public playing field. For consistency, Bedmond FC to be contacted to ensure their posts and rails are also removed following use. Councillors asked that the Clerk report back to Committee before any lease is signed.

The meeting closed at 10.14 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____