

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those Present:

Chairman: Councillor Gloria Keaveny  
Vice-Chairman: Councillor Belinda Phipps  
Councillors: Councillor Sara Bedford  
Councillor Martin Brooks  
Councillor Jean Bowman  
Councillor Derryck Croker  
Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst  
Councillor Jeff Hill  
Councillor Brenda Kersey  
Councillor Jane Lay  
Councillor David Major  
Councillor Owen Roe  
Councillor John Wyatt  
Officers: Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

### 204. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Angela Laval (unavailable) and Councillor Keith Williams.

### 205. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Martin Brooks declared an interest in agenda item 11a. the Leavesden Hospital Memorial Project.

### 206. Public Participation

Mr Simon Ash, Henderson Hub Project Working Group, had signed in and requested to speak on agenda item 10, Budget 2014-2015

Ms. Sarah Cunnane, Abbots Langley Players, had signed in and requested to speak on agenda item 11b, Abbots Langley Players Community Project.

### 207. Hertfordshire Police

No officers were present. The Clerk was asked to raise the following issues with Sgt. Canning.

- Residents in Parsonage Close are using cones to block public parking bays. Officers attention is requested.
- Motorcycle speeding on Aerodrome Way. It is understood this is receiving attention, but the Clerk was requested to get an update.

### 208. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September and 9<sup>th</sup> October 2013, 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.

### 209. 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 - 18<sup>th</sup> September, 9<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013

Leisure Committee - 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013

Finance & Administration Committee - 21<sup>st</sup> October 2013

**210. Calendar of Meeting 2014-2015**

It was proposed by Councillor Gloria Keaveny, seconded by Councillor Belinda Phipps and **RESOLVED** that the draft calendar (v1.1) for 2014-2015 be accepted, with the February, April, June and September Parish Council meetings shown subject to confirmation.

A vote was requested, eight members were in favour, four against.

The Clerk was asked to include a rolling monthly report on open meeting actions to keep members updated on progress. The Clerk advised that meeting actions were already tracked and most items that were not completed soon after a meeting were items like leases and other longer term projects.

**211. NALC Larger Council's Committee**

No nominations were forthcoming.

**212. The Electoral Commission - Standing for Election**

Councillor Sara Bedford, as an experienced Electoral Agent, summarised the report for members.

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk submit the following comments to the consultation to the Electoral Commission.

- A paper rather than email nomination form should still be required. It was felt that the opportunity for fraud was much higher with emailed or electronically submitted nominations.
- Candidate pictures should not be included on ballot papers as the variation in quality and presentation could unduly influence voters.
- If independent candidates were allowed a descriptor on ballot papers, such as "Local solicitor, resident of Langley Lane", then the same text space should be available to party nominated candidates, in addition to the party name.
- The "three mile residency rule" for Parish Council candidates be reviewed and consideration given to reducing this to one mile, or within the parish boundary. In the case of this Parish, which has extensive boundaries, this rule currently qualifies candidates who live in distinctly different and unconnected areas, such as the far side of Hemel Hempstead.

The above will be submitted to the Electoral Commission as the view of the Parish Council, members can submit their own views direct to the commission.

**213. Budget 2014-2015**

Mr Simon Ash, Henderson Hub Project Working Group, addressed members on the need for continuing revenue support to ensure the short and medium term success of the Henderson Hub. A copy of Mr Ash's notes will be circulated to members by the Clerk.

The Clerk had received, via HAPTC, a copy of a ministerial letter from the Department of Communities and Local Government to the National Association for Local Councils which said that the funding extended to District Council's in this financial year to support council tax would be repeated in 2014-2015, although the funds would be as part of the overall funding to local authorities, rather than separately identified. This has potentially significant consequences on the budget setting process.

Further advice and guidance is expected from Three Rivers District Council over the coming weeks.

Members were asked to raise any specific issues on items in the budget directly with the Clerk.

**214. Reports**

a. The Leavesden Hospital Memorial Project

Councillor Martin Brooks updated members on the above.

Three Rivers District Council have agreed to fund the project, the funding will cover the installation of interpretive boards which detail the site and history. The funding will not cover the cost of the stone memorial, which would have been c.£936. Councillor Brooks was asked to talk to colleagues and the Clerk about other potential funding opportunities.

b. Abbots Langley Players - Community Project (2015)

Ms. Sarah Cunnane updated members on the project and the report submitted in advance of the meeting.

Members were fully supportive of the initiative and asked the project team to keep the Clerk updated on progress and on any assistance that may be required.

Councillor Martin Brooks offered to act as liaison with members.

**215. District and County Council Member Reports**

County and District Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst

- The planning permission for c.100 houses on the Building Research Establishment site was going to appeal. Whilst the site is in St. Stephens Parish, the infrastructure links impacted particularly on the Lemonfield and Bucknalls Lane part of this parish. Currently the main access point to the development will be through Bucknalls Drive, in St. Stephens Parish, a bus link will be provided through Bucknalls Lane, which may open up vehicle access at a later date.
- Consideration is being given to removing the Warner Bros. studio site and the adjacent housing development from the green belt. Similar consideration is being given to the triangle of land bordered by Ashfields, Aerodrome Way and the A41 slip road.
- Three Rivers District Council was in the top five councils in England for recycling. Members were updated on the changes to recycling and waste collection planned for 2014.

County and District Councillor Sara Bedford

- Considerable time is being spent on highways related issues. There have been multiple problems with poor quality work and contractors failing to turn up when roads have been closed and cleared for work to take place.

District Councillor David Major

- District Councillors received a report on the Croxley Rail Link construction plans. Work is due to start in June 2014 and is likely to take around eighteen months.

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst reminded members that as a result of the rail link works there would be extensive track works between Kings Langley and Bushey rail stations and Watford Junction station would be closed for a period of time in summer 2014. Contingency plans were being drawn up.

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

### 216. Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended the following events.

12th September	Renewable Energy Systems - Queens Award Presentation by Lord Lieutenant.
14th September	Abbots Langley Gardening Society Autumn Show - Presented Prizes.
15th September	St. Pauls Langlebury - Wreath laid on Battle of Britain Day
18th September	Parmiters School - Senior Speech Night.
23rd September	Tough Ten Road Race - Curry night at Viceroy restaurant.
6th October	Tough Ten Road Race - Presented medals with Luther Blissett and Adam Ginder.
17th October	HAPTC Training - Dealing with challenging people.
25th October	Three Rivers District Council Chairman's Charity Quiz.
8th November	Abbots Langley Fireworks, Manor House playing fields. (Vice-Chairman deputised.)
10th November	St. Lawrence - Wreath laid on Remembrance Day.
11th November	St. Lawrence War Memorial - Attended 11th hour, 11th day, 11th month Remembrance commemoration.

### 217. Clerk's Report

Members noted the following items which were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

- Henderson Hall
- Evergreen FC
- Abbots Langley Tough Ten
- Office Copies
- Diary Dates
- Absence from Office

### 218. Monthly Statement of Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor Derryck Croker and seconded by Councillor Martin Brooks and **RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts for September and October 2013 as notified to the Council be approved and published on the Parish Council's website.

The Clerk was asked to check why the Virgin Media broadband account was not on direct debit.

### 219. Exclusion of the Press and Public (Part II)

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay and seconded by Councillor Belinda Phipps and **RESOLVED** that as the following matters related to the terms of a contract into which the Parish Council may be entering, 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.

### 220. Parish Council Property Portfolio

It was proposed by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst and seconded by Councillor Belinda Phipps and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should review the optimum future use of Parish Council premises and report to the January Parish Council meeting. Expenditure on professional fees of £2,000 is authorised.

**Abbots Langley Parish Council**

The meeting closed at 9.52 pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_