

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at 7.30 p.m. in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those Present:

Chairman:	Councillor Jane Lay
Councillors:	Councillor Sara Bedford Councillor Martin Brooks Councillor Jean Bowman Councillor Derryck Croker Councillor Jeff Hill Councillor Brenda Kersey Councillor Gloria Keaveny Councillor David Major Councillor Owen Roe Councillor Keith Williams Councillor John Wyatt
Officers:	Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council
Police:	PC 317 Sarah-Ann Feeney

The meeting opened at 7:30pm.

Members were sad to hear of the recent death of Mr John Peatey, who had served on both the Parish Council and Three Rivers Districts Council. Mr Peatey was Parish Council Chairman during municipal year 1999-2000.

Members stood for a few moments of silence.

### **85. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Councillor Belinda Phipps and Councillor Angela Laval (all unavailable)

### **86. Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **87. Public Participation**

No members of the public had expressed an interest in addressing the Parish Council.

### **88. Minutes of the Meeting**

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Brooks, seconded by Councillor John Wyatt and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014 and 18<sup>th</sup> June 2014, 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.

### **89. 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 - 21<sup>st</sup> May, 4<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

Staffing Committee - 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

Leisure Committee - 18<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

### **90. Matters Referred from Committees**

Leisure Committee (min. 73.) - Youth Connexions Cycle Store

It was proposed by Councillor John Wyatt, seconded by Councillor Martin Brooks and **RESOLVED** that permission be given to Youth Connexions to install a cycle store adjacent to the entrance to the Manor House Allotments.

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

All costs were to be borne by Youth Connexions as will be responsibility for compliance with planning regulations.

A short form tenancy agreement will be drawn up by the Parish Council's solicitors, the costs of which must be agreed by Youth Connexions in advance. The agreement must be in place before any works take place.

A photographic record will be taken prior to any construction taking place and the agreement will specify full remediation of the area, if required by the Parish Council, at the end of the tenancy period. The tenancy period will not exceed five years.

### **91. Hertfordshire County Council - Draft Parish and Town Council Charter Consultation**

Members noted the above draft.

They were disappointed with the general nature of the proposed charter and the lack of specific support for Parish Councils. Whilst the introduction of a charter is welcomed it is hoped that the final version will be more specific in the support the County Council and its officers will give to Parish Councils. The current document implies that Parish Council's will only be afforded levels of communication similar to those offered to members of the public, when the County Council is hoping for higher levels of partnership working.

The Clerk will respond to the consultation accordingly.

Members were encouraged to respond to the consultation in their own right, the link to which will be circulated by the Clerk.

### **92. Transferable Bus Tickets**

Members noted the correspondence between the Clerk and Hertfordshire County Council on the above.

The Clerk was asked to write further of the County Council requesting the current anomaly between the Hemel Hempstead and Watford bus ticketing zones be reviewed. The current boundaries are not co-aligned so there is a gap, between Abbots Langley, Kings Langley and Primrose Hill and residents in this area cannot benefit from PLUSBUS and BUSnet ticketing.

### **93. Hertfordshire Police**

The Chairman agreed to vary the order of the agenda as PC Sarah-Ann Feeney, was delayed by operational duties. Report as follows:

A distraction burglary on Summerhouse Way is being investigated, those involved were telling residents they were cutting hedges, jewellery and cash was stolen in this incident.

New cameras which record HD video and audio are being installed in the homes of vulnerable residents who have been repeat victims of crime.

PCSO Marijke Stevens-Keijzer is working with the "Meals on Wheels" service to make contact with residents and provide community safety advice.

Following residents comments made at the recent Local Area Forum held in Bedmond Village Hall a speed check was carried out in Pimlico. The highest speed recorded was 44 mph in the 40 mph limit.

During the summer period anti-social behaviour is being targeted as is theft from insecure property, particularly where windows and doors have been left open.

### **94. Hertfordshire County Council Waste Recycling Sites**

Members were concerned about the planned closure of the Waterdale recycling centre on two days in the week and the reduced operating hours which will result if the centre closes two hours earlier.

Members believe the centre is a vital community resources, benefiting not only residents of the parish, but those from neighbouring St. Albans, Watford and Dacorum council areas. The site is well located and well designed, the staff have good customer service skills.

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

Members felt that as considerable sums had been invested in educating the public about the cost and environmental benefit of recycling it was counterproductive to then limit easy access to vital facilities. There was also a risk that fly tipping would increase, the cost of which is borne by authorities other than the County Council.

The Parish Council does not support any reduction in the opening hours of the Waterdale facilities, the overall plan does not appear to have been well thought through as mid-week closures of neighbouring facilities such as the recycling centre on the far north of St. Albans are overlapping.

As an absolute last resort if a reduction in hours was to take place, consideration should be given to this being in the morning, with afternoon hours protected.

The Clerk was asked to submit these comments to the consultation. Members were encouraged to submit their own comments, the Clerk will circulate the consultation link.

### 95. Neighbourhood Plan

Members noted the Clerk's report.

A members Working Party will be formed of c. six members, those interested in serving should advise the Clerk.

The initial target is to hold an introduction meeting for residents in September. Councillor Sara Bedford will give some consideration as to who could present the outlines of Neighbourhood Planning to the meeting and will discuss with the Clerk.

### 96. Evergreen FC and Langleybury CC

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Brooks, seconded by Councillor Sara Bedford and **RESOLVED** that the leases to the above should be reassigned to the newly appointed trustees of both clubs.

The Clerk will progress this matter with the Parish Council's solicitors. When the relevant documents are finalised two members will sign, the Clerk will witness.

### 97. District and County Council Member Reports

District Councillor David Major

The report on the Abbots Langley Conservation Area review will be considered by Three Rivers District Council's Sustainable Development, Planning and Transport Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014. It is understood that no significant changes are proposed.

District Councillor Martin Brooks

Meetings are ongoing with the schools, crematorium and other stakeholders in an effort to find a solution to the congestion and parking problems on High Elms Lane. Specialist plans have been submitted and these will be reviewed at a meeting to be held in the near future.

County and District Councillor Sara Bedford

The County Council is consulting on changes to the subsidies that bus services receive. The initial proposals will remove subsidies for services after 18:00 and all day Sunday on the 8, 320, 321, 322 and H19 services, the full impact is detailed in the consultation, the link to which will be circulated by the Clerk. Members are encouraged to respond to the consultation. The Clerk was asked to write to the County Council expressing the Parish Council's concern the impact of these changes will have on residents.

A consultation is also ongoing on bus services for school children. Buses from Abbots Langley to Kings Langley School will not run in the new school year, alternate schemes are being investigated, possibly based on a season ticket arrangement.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is reviewing the County Council divisions in Hertfordshire. The Abbots Langley division will be recommended for change as it is currently the second largest, by population, in the county.

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

The consultation on the initial proposals will start on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2014. The Clerk was asked to agenda a discussion on the proposals at the September meeting of the Parish Council.

District Councillor Keith Williams

Members were advised that Councillor Chris Lloyd had been appointed Chairman of Three Rivers District Council. As part of his year in office he is planning on walking as much of the District as he can.

The initial five year management plan for Leavesden Country Park is due to be published in the near future. The Clerk advised that he had not yet received any information, Councillor Williams will progress.

The Clerk was asked to write to Mr John Sutton to acknowledge the efforts the organising committee of the Abbots Langley Festival of the Arts in staging the bi-annual event.

### 98. Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended the following events.

- 16<sup>th</sup> May - Abbots Langley Scouts, Langley Road Headquarters
- 19<sup>th</sup> May - Abbots Langley Local History Society 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Manor House
- 11<sup>th</sup> June - District Scouts AGM, 1<sup>st</sup> North Watford Scouts, Leggatts Way
- 13<sup>th</sup> June - Spoke on BBC 3CR, recorded at Henderson Hall
- 14<sup>th</sup> June - Abbots Langley Carnival
- 19<sup>th</sup> June - Abbots Langley Festival of the Arts, Abbots Langley Gardening Society Cheese and Wine Event, The Abbots House
- 26<sup>th</sup> June - Armed Forces Day Lunch, Manor House
- 26<sup>th</sup> June - HAPTC Chairman's Seminar, Hatfield
- 4<sup>th</sup> July - Pygmalion by Abbots Langley Players, Henderson Hall
- 5<sup>th</sup> July - Abbots Langley Local History Society Archive Day, Methodist Hall
- 8<sup>th</sup> July - Junior Speech Day, Parmiters School
- 10<sup>th</sup> July - Watford Community Housing Trust, Clarendon Road (Clerk attended HAPTC AGM on same evening)
- 13<sup>th</sup> July - Rededication of the War Memorial, Leavesden High Road

### 99. Clerk's Report

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

- Parish Council Chairman and Vice-Chairman 2014-2015.
- External Audit.
- Complaints Policy.
- Parish Council Election 2015.
- Financial grants 2014-2015.
- Office Copies.
- Diary dates.
- Absence from Office.

### 100. 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 May & June 2014 as notified to the Council be approved and published on the Parish Council's website.

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

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

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay and seconded by Councillor John Wyatt and **RESOLVED** that as the following matters related to the terms and conditions of employees of the Parish Council and 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.

### 102. Living Wage

It was proposed by Councillor Keith Williams and seconded by Councillor Martin Brookes and **RESOLVED** that the Living Wage (£7.65 as at 06/06/2014) be implemented for all staff currently earning under this level, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.

The implementation of the Living Wage to be reviewed annually and paid as a supplement to current scale points.

Members noted that current pay negotiations may mean that the hourly rates affected may increase above the Living Wage.

The Chairman of the Staffing Committee will discuss with the Clerk various issues raised by members.

### 103. Abbots Langley Bowls Club

It was proposed by Councillor Keith Williams and seconded by Councillor John Wyatt and **RESOLVED** that:

1. Response to Penman Sedgwick advice.
  - a. The Parish Council is disappointed that we have not been able to reach an agreement on a new tenancy.
  - b. The Parish Council is keen that bowls continues to be available to Parishioners.
  - c. The Parish Council re-offer the agreement to the Bowls club on the terms previously stated.
  - d. The Parish Council notes that the Bowls Club feels that there has been a lack of maintenance to the exterior of the club premises. The Parish Council refutes this suggestion, pointing out that in the last 10 years over £26,000 (excluding direct wages and green keeping) has been spent maintaining the premises.
  - e. In order to protect the Parish Council's position, to align the lease with those in place for other sports club which are tenants of the Parish Council and also to reduce the subsidy from Council Tax payers, as no agreement has been reached, the PC will reluctantly have to ask the Bowls Club to vacate the premises. However in order not to disrupt the current bowls fixtures for the club, its members and their visitors and to enable agreement on the offered terms to be further considered by the club; the PC will defer actual vacation of the green and premises in the ownership of the Parish Council until 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014.
2. The Clerk is instructed to request Penman Sedgwick to send the two letters circulated to members prior to the meeting. Letter (A) to be amended "towards the maintenance of the club premises." to be deleted and "to comply with our obligations under the previous tenancy agreement" inserted. Letter (B) first option (a) to be included along with option (b).
3. The Clerk to review with Penman Sedgwick how access can be provided to the Bowls Club to the currently landlocked building within the Bowls Club ownership.

**Abbots Langley Parish Council**

4. The Council also request the Clerk open urgent discussions with the Hertfordshire Bowls Development Officer and Three Rivers District Council's Sports Development Officer regarding either working with the current club to continue bowls in the Parish, or to develop a new club which might take over the facilities and provide Parishioners with the opportunity of participating in the sport of bowls.

The meeting closed at 9.42 pm.

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

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