

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th March 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those Present:

Chairman: Councillor Jane Lay
Vice Chairman: Councillor Belinda Phipps
Councillors: Councillor Sara Bedford
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

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

382. Apologies for absence

None received.

383. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Sara Bedford as a member of Hertfordshire County Council declared an interest in agenda item 9, Hertfordshire County Council - Youth Connexions Cycle Shed.

Councillor Keith Williams, as Lead Member for Leisure on Three Rivers District Council Declared an interest in agenda item 16, Henderson Hall Managing Trustees.

384. Public Participation

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

385. Hertfordshire Police

Not present.

386. Minutes of the Meetings

It was proposed by Councillor Derryck Croker, seconded by Councillor Jeff Hill and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th January, 9th & 23rd February 2015, 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.

387. 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 - 14th January, 4th & 25th February 2015

Finance & Administration Committee - 26th January 2015

Leisure Committee - 18th February 2015

388. Financial Regulations

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor Brenda Kersey and **RESOLVED** that the core Financial Regulations as recommended by the Finance & Administration Committee be approved.

The Finance & Administration Committee will deal with the additional work plan items and sectional updates to the core regulations will be brought back to the Parish Council for approval.

389. Hertfordshire County Council - Funding for Bus Services (2nd Consultation)

Members noted the revised consultation on the reduction in bus subsidies. There was still significant concern about the reduction in services after 19:30 weekdays and all day Sundays and the effect that this would have on the most vulnerable in our community and those that had employment outside of "9 to 5 Monday to Friday".

Members were particularly concerned about the threat to the 322 service (Hemel Hempstead to Watford) ^[1] which serves the Primrose Hill area of the parish. If the service is discontinued then this area, which has a significant number of residential and business premises including the Happy Valley Industrial Estate, will be left without any bus service.

The Clerk was asked to respond to the consultation accordingly.

[1] HCC Consultation p22.

390. Hertfordshire County Council - Youth Connexions Cycle Shed

Councillor Sara Bedford, having previously declared an interest, took no part in the discussions on the following item.

Members noted that the draft tenancy agreement was close to being finalised.

Members fully supported the Clerk's instructions to the Parish Council's solicitors that this matter should not proceed to completion unless Hertfordshire County Council had committed to paying the Parish Council's legal costs.

391. Three Rivers District Council - Council Tax Support Grant

Members noted that the above had been set at £31,617 for the financial year 2015-2016.

The Finance & Administration Committee will consider the disposition of the funds.

392. District and County Council Member Reports

County Councillor Sara Bedford

The County Council has agreed an increase in the Council Tax of 1.99%. Savings accruing from the reduction in bus service subsidies, currently under consultation, have been taken in the budget. Amendments to the proposed bus subsidy reductions, changes to road maintenance and other services proposed by the opposition were defeated.

The County Council has decided that due to the reducing need for school places they will not be proceeding with a new school on the proposed Woodside Road development. There is some scepticism about the data given the significant number of housing developments in the area.

District Councillor Keith Williams

Three Rivers District Council's Leisure, Wellbeing and Health Committee will be considering a report on leisure services in Abbots Langley when it meets on 11th March 2015.

A Heritage Lottery Fund application is also being considered, the option areas are Abbots Langley and Rickmansworth (Potential £1m).

A further report on the wider Arts and Culture, Active Communities Officer and Park Ranger position at Leavesden Country Park (currently shared with the Rickmansworth Aquadrome) is also being considered. Capital projects and the resources to deliver are also included.

Further funding may also be available for leisure related projects in the parish, with stakeholders such as Watford Community Housing Trust, Warner Bros., Youth Connexions, YMCA and Public Health England all having possible funding available. Further discussions with the Parish Council will take place post elections.

393. Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended the following events.

21st January - Abbots Langley Gilbert & Sullivan Society Pirates of Penzance, Henderson Hall.

23rd January - Abbots Langley Tough Ten, Presentation Evening, Breakspeare School.

4th February - Three Rivers District Council, Chairman's Quiz Night, Rickmansworth.

16th February - Abbots Langley Scouts Curry Night, Abbots Tandoori.

20th February - Abbots Langley Biz, Meeting on Carol Concert, Henderson Hall.

23rd February - Abbots Langley Biz Meeting, Pin Wei.

394. Clerk's Report

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

- Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) - Hertfordshire County Council Division
- Manor House - Freehold Registration
- Trade Waste Recycling
- Three Rivers District Council - Election Expenses
- Office Copies
- Diary Dates
- Absence from Office

Members noted the Clerk's report on the outstanding elections expenses and agreed that a charging model needed to be developed that eliminated the disputes over charging.

The model would also need to take into account the costs of preparing the electoral register and producing Notices of Poll in the parishes that do not routinely hold elections.

395. Monthly Statement of Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor John Wyatt and seconded by Councillor Derryck Croker and **RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts for January & February 2015 as notified to the Council be approved and published on the Parish Council's website.

The Clerk to ask the Works Manager to ensure purchase orders note which site materials are to be used on, or "stock" when materials are for routine maintenance around the parish.

396. 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 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.

397. Henderson Hall Managing Trustees

Councillor Keith Williams, having previously declared an interest, left the room for the discussion on this item.

Members noted the report from the above.

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford and seconded by Councillor Brenda Kersey and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk instruct solicitors to advise on the Parish

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Council's position should the Managing Trustees decide to grant a lease to an external organisation and in addition seek advice from the Parish Council's employment advisors on related matters.

Members note that they have no management responsibility if a lease should be granted, but that they need assurance that they have discharged their responsibilities both properly and lawfully.

Consideration will need to be given in the new financial year about grant funding arrangements with the Managing Trustees. If there is a change in the operating structure for the hall then the grant funding will need to reflect this change.

398. Chairman's Closing Comments

The Chairman thanked all members for their support during her term of office and in particular thanked those members that would not be seeking re-election in May.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____