

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10th July 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those Present:

Chairman:	Councillor Liz Burns
Vice-Chairman:	Councillor Brenda Kersey
Councillors:	Councillor Sara Bedford Councillor Jean Bowman Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst Councillor Jane Lay Councillor David Major Councillor Robin Powell Councillor Owen Roe Councillor Hitesh Tailor Councillor Alison Ward
Officers:	Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council
Police:	Sergeant 1971 Christopher Simmons

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

86. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received accepted and recorded from Councillors Lyn Ferguson, Alex Michaels and John Wyatt (unavailable).

87. Public Participation

None.

88. Hertfordshire Police

Sergeant Simmons introduced himself following his recent appointment as Community Sergeant. He has served fourteen years in Hertfordshire Constabulary, six years as a Sergeant recently in the Hatfield Custody Suite.

Sergeant Simmons reported that Abbots Langley has some of the lowest levels of crime in the county, reported crimes are mainly acquisitive and vehicle related crime. Attention is being given to recent burglaries (12) some of which are similar in nature. Officers will be working with local Neighbourhood Watch groups, Online Watch Link (OWL) users and also extending social media presence to improve communication with residents.

There is a low level of violent crime. Although there were sixty six recorded assaults this number was inflated as malicious communication, often between parties known to each other, also reports from schools and school children are categorised as assaults.

Anti-social cycle and moped use is being given attention, there will be education visits to schools. Residents will be encouraged to report instances as soon as possible as it is often difficult to take action when reports are delayed.

89. Declarations of Interest

None.

90. To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor Robin Powell and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meetings held on 15th May and 21st June 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.

91. 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 - 17th May, 7th & 28th June 2017.

Staffing Committee - 7th June 2017.

Leisure Committee - 21st June 2017.

92. Subscriptions and Corporate Memberships

Members noted the report.

The Clerk was asked to check if members could use the Costco card.

93. Review Panel

It was proposed by Councillor Brenda Kersey, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Robin Powell be nominated Chairman of the above committee and Councillor Alison Ward is Vice-Chairman.

94. Committee Membership

It was noted that Councillor Alex Michaels has stood down from the Staffing Committee. No other members were appointed to the committee, but Councillor Sara Bedford advised that she would be available to substitute, subject to other commitments.

95. Three Rivers District Council - Lease of Jacketts Field Allotments

Members noted the communications with Three Rivers District Council and asked the Clerk to keep members updated.

96. External Audit 2016-2017 & Revised Arrangements for 2017-2018

Members noted the report and the appointment of PFK Littlejohn as External Auditor to smaller authorities in Hertfordshire for a period of five years effective from the 2017-2018 financial year.

97. Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner

Consultation on the Potential Transfer of Governance of the Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service (HFRS) to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Members noted the report from the above on the proposed transfer of governance for the Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS). County Councillors Stephen Giles-Medhurst and Sara Bedford briefed members.

The following summarises the key points raised by members:

- Members agreed that there is a need for the re-provisioning of HFRS as the nature of the operational requirements change. Innovative changes such as locating other county services, libraries, etc. on sometimes extensive HFRS sites needs to be addressed. This will be best achieved with HFRS being part of the wider County Council structure.
- The HFRS has been the responsibility of Hertfordshire County Council for seventy years. Effective oversight has been provided through the seventy eight elected members of the council, the council cabinet and the Community Safety Directorate.
- The proposed transfer would create a democratic deficit, with limited oversight.
- The services provided by HFRS go far beyond their primary emergency response services. Programmes such as "Safe and Well" provide prevention and safety advice to some of the county's most vulnerable residents. These services would be at risk under any governance transfer.
- As part of the Community Protection Directorate HFRS has delivered positive outcomes across multiple cross-service partnerships. These initiatives were commended in an October 2016 peer review.

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- The report refers to potential costs savings that would arise from the transfer of governance, but does not detail from where these savings would be made.

It was proposed by Councillor Stephen Giles Medhurst, seconded by Councillor Sara Bedford and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk submit a formal response to the consultation detailing the points minuted above.

A vote was requested. All members were in favour.

98. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Report

Members noted the above report.

Members acknowledged all of the hard work undertaken by the Steering Group and particularly the Chairman.

Whilst there was budget provision made and grants were being applied for, the Clerk was asked to advise the Chairman of the Steering Group that given the importance of this project to the Parish Council any request for further funds, particularly for external expert support, would be considered promptly.

Councillor Sara Bedford advised members that initial figures from central government indicated that five hundred and eleven new homes/pa would be required over the next twenty three years in the Three Rivers District Council area.

Three Rivers District Council were undertaking a review of the Local Plan and a "Call for Sites" and also a Green Belt review were imminent.

Whilst infill developments will go some way to achieving government new build targets, only larger developments will bring additional infrastructure such as schools, health services, etc.

99. District and County Council Member's Reports

District Councillor David Major

The Annual Open Air Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance was held at West Herts Crematorium on 9th July 2017. It was very well attend and the weather kind. The service next year will be on Sunday 8th July 2018.

County Councillor Sara Bedford

Summerhouse Way

The latest plans for the redevelopment of the Summerhouse Way flats have changed from the originally proposed thirty eight units for social rent. The current plan is for twenty three units for social rent, fourteen for affordable rent and six shared ownership.

This is under urgent review with Thrive Homes.

Roads

Resurfacing of Trowley Rise and Gallows Hill Lane have been approved and are in the works plan. The works will be completed by the financial year end.

Schools Places

Still some problems at a primary level, due to a shortage of places. Some families have maybe not made the most appropriate choices when deciding their initial preferences.

Emergency Plans

Three Rivers District Council's plan is in place and subject to review. Advice to councillors in the event of a major incident is to stay at home and await any call for assistance.

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Heritage Lottery Fund Bid

The above bid for c. £600k for heritage works at Leavesden Country Park is due for submission this month. A response is expected in late October to early November.

High Street

A pelican crossing to replace the current zebra crossing is at the planning stage. Installation is expected prior to the calendar year end. An extensive 20 mph zone along the High Street and feeder roads is also being planned.

Locality Budget

Funds will be available shortly a call for grants will be made, with some locally established rules.

County Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst

YMCA

The planning application for the café and community hub is due for submission. There is a possibility that the site will also become the local cycle hub.

Thrive Homes

The above have confirmed that the cladding used in properties for which they are responsible does not present a fire risk. Fire doors have also passed safety checks.

100. Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended the following events.

12th May - 1st Langley Scouts AGM, Scout HQ Langley Road.

25th May - Ascension Service, Bedmond Church.

2nd June - Funeral of Councillor Ann Shaw OBE, St. Mary's Rickmansworth.

15th June - Opening of Bedmond Play Area, Bedmond Playing Fields, Toms Lane.

21st June - North Watford Scouts AGM, East Drive.

29th June - Veterans Lunch, Manor House, Abbots Langley

1st July - Gadebridge Armed Forces Day event, followed by opening St. Lawrence Church Fete, Abbots Langley.

2nd June - Handmade Heritage Day Event, Henderson Hall, Abbots Langley.

Members were also asked to note there will be a commemoration of the Battle of Passchendaele at the St. Lawrence War Memorial on 31st July 2017 at 7:00 pm.

101. Clerk's Report

Members noted:

- Parmiters Sports Centre Committee
- Local Parish Councils Chairman and Vice-Chairman
- Memorial Bench

Members asked if the bench that will be removed from Kitters Green could be reused in the area of Rosehill Gardens as there is no provision of benches in that area. The Planning & Highways Committee will be asked to consider.

- Abbots Langley Community Centre
- Grants
- Office Copies
- Diary dates

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102. Monthly Statement of Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor Robin Powell and seconded by Councillor Alison Ward and **RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts for May & June 2017 as notified to the Council be approved and published on the Parish Council's website.

The meeting closed at 9.18 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____