

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Council Offices
Langley Road
Abbots Langley
Herts
WD5 0EJ

5th December 2019.

To Members of the Leisure Committee

Councillors Sara Bedford, Jean Bowman, Liz Burns, Jane Lay, Simon Stanley, John Wyatt (Chairman) & Roxanne Yau.

The next meeting of the Leisure Committee will be held at the above address on Wednesday 11th December 2019 at 7:30 pm when your presence is summoned for the purpose of transacting the business outlined below. The press and public are welcome to attend the meeting.

Tim Perkins
Clerk to the Council

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**
To receive and accept apologies for absence.
2. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.
3. **Public Participation**
To note if any members of the public have requested to speak at this meeting, in accordance with the Parish Council's Public Speaking Arrangements.
4. **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd October 2019.**
5. **Reports from Allotments Representatives**
To receive reports from the Allotments Representatives.
6. **Reports from Sports Representatives**
To receive reports from the Sports Representatives.
7. **Budget 2020-2021**
 - i. To consider the latest update of Key Projects. (Report enclosed. ^[1])
 - ii. To consider the latest revision of the committee pages for the above. (Enclosed budget pages. ^[1])
8. **Langleybury Playing Fields - Environment Agency Borehole**
To consider a request from the Environment Agency. (Clerk's report item 1 and enclosed plan.)
9. **Langleybury Playing Fields - Request to Rename**
To consider the request from Langleybury Cricket Club to rename the playing fields. (Clerk's report item 2 and biography enclosed.)
10. **"Happy To Chat" Benches**
To consider designating a limited number of benches as above. (Clerk's report item 3 and enclosed newspaper article.)
11. **Primrose Hill Play Area - Funding**
To consider the report from the Clerk. (Clerk's report item 4.)

Abbots Langley Parish Council

12. Updates

- i. Pollinator Strategy
- ii. Great War Wall
- iii. Abbots Youth Football Club Storage Container
(Clerk's report item 5)

13. Clerk's Report

To consider items on the Clerk's report not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

^[1] *Committee members only, other members on request.*

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Abbots Langley Parish Council
Clerk's Report - Leisure Committee - December 2019

1. Langleybury Playing Fields - Environment Agency Borehole

The following from the EA is self explanatory.

"In fulfilment of its statutory duty under the Water Resources Act 1991 the Environment Agency maintains a strategic network of rain gauges, river flow gauges and groundwater level monitoring to ensure we have the necessary information to underpin our abstraction licensing and other water resources management decisions.

We occasionally lose boreholes in this network for various reasons. To maintain the integrity of the network we have to replace those boreholes that cannot be recovered by any other means to continue to meet our statutory obligations.

We also need to drill new boreholes in areas where we lack critical information on the subsurface geology and groundwater behaviour to enable us develop a good understanding of the aquifer systems we are required to manage; and to ensure that we understand how groundwater might increase the risk of property and infrastructure flooding.

Scope:

A recent review of the network shows a big gap in the Lower River catchment that needs to be closed. After very careful consideration we have identified the Langleybury Cricket Grounds as the most suitable location to drill the boreholes, hence we seek your kind permission to complete two boreholes (one deep – 60m and one shallow -10m) at the Langleybury Cricket Club grounds.

Powers:

Though we have the power of entry under the Water Resources Act sighted above, we have always preferred to develop a good long-term relation with land owners as the best solution. We prefer a voluntary agreement that is acceptable to you."

2. Langleybury Playing Fields - Request to Rename

I have received a request from Langleybury Cricket Club to rename the playing fields. Their request and my response are detailed below.

Request from Club Secretary:

"On behalf of Langleybury Cricket Club, I request that Langleybury Playing Fields be renamed The Gordon Riddick Sports Ground. I attach a resume of his sporting life and you'll see he was a Langleybury man through and through, as well as a professional footballer. At his funeral, many sporting names attended, including football commentators, Jim Rosenthal and John Motson.

I know Three Rivers have a procedure to rename a house, but I don't know the procedure to rename a piece of land.

I look forward to your response and advice."

My response:

"This is a new one on me, I will take it to the Parish Council's Leisure Committee.

I am not sure what their view on it will be as we do not have any other "named" fields in the parish.

A couple of immediate thoughts. If the PC do agree to the change there will be costs, the leases and freehold (subject to HCC approval) will need updating and there will be solicitors' costs for the work, HCC will expect any costs they have to be covered.

Bit of a stab in the dark, but knowing roughly how these things cost up I would have thought legal fees and land registry costs would be somewhere around £1,000-£2,000, would the club be prepared to pick these up, as I cannot see the PC being too keen to underwrite them?"

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3. "Happy to Chat" Benches

The enclosed newspaper article explains the background. I have spoken to colleagues at TRDC and they are seeking views. The thought was we could designate a few benches on our open spaces and possibly Leavesden Country Park with consistent signage.

4. Primrose Hill Play Area - Funding

In the 2020-2021 financial year Three Rivers District Council have £38.5k allocated to the refurbishment of the above.

Discussions in this committee have indicated that members were expecting the expenditure on the play area would be in the region of £100k.

Unless TRDC can find additional funding, at some stage in the New Year members will need to consider if a 50/50 joint funding is agreed, so limiting expenditure to £77k or if members are prepared to consider a 60/40 split, so the PC contribution would be closer to £60.0k.

At the start of the next financial year there will be £55k in the Open Spaces earmarked reserve and around £180k in the Community Infrastructure Levy Fund.

Enclosed is a graphic that shows a similar sized play area in Croxley Green that cost around £95k.

5. Updates

i. Pollinator Strategy

Following the departure of the Biodiversity Officer at Three Rivers District Council it has not been possible to get any further information on projects they are considering.

Approaches have been made to other District Councils' and the Works Manager may have a further update at the meeting. Progress slow due to limited information so far.

ii. Great War Wall

See following from Roger Yapp who was leading the above project.

"The Wall is on hold at the moment. Will need to find out what is needed for planning permission or any alternatives etc. The Artist has very recently just had a baby, and the builder is busy. I'm also busy with the Festival, and Christmas is approaching, so I'll get back to it in the New Year."

iii. Abbots Youth Football Club Storage Container

The Facilities Manager did a lot of work on this project and nothing further was heard from the club. It was chased and the project will be discussed at a club committee meeting on 10th December.

6. Royal Air Force Association - Christmas Social

RAFA have held their monthly social in the Manor House for as long as anyone can remember. They had their Christmas Social booked for Thursday 12th December, when the Manor House will be used as a polling station.

The Facilities Manager worked hard to find a suitable alternative date. Unfortunately, as RAFA had entertainment and caterers booked and they could not be rescheduled at this busy time of year, they had to find an alternative venue.

We were pleased that RAFA have made provisional bookings in the Manor House for 2020 and into 2021, so we have not lost this regular and important community booking.

Tim Perkins

5th December 2019.