

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

Council Offices  
Langley Road  
Abbots Langley  
Herts  
WD5 0EJ

29th January 2020.

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 12th February 2020 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 11<sup>th</sup> December 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. **Open Casket Funerals**  
To consider the report from the Clerk. (Clerk's report item 1.)
8. **Primrose Hill Play Area Project Timelines**  
To consider the above (Clerk's report item 2.)
9. **Langleybury Cricket Club**  
To consider the report from the Clerk. (Clerk's report item 3.)
10. **Christmas Lights Bedmond**  
To consider the report from the Clerk. (Clerk's report item 4.)
11. **Abbots Improvement Group (AIMs)**  
To consider the annual report from the above. (Enclosed report and Clerk's report item 5.)

**12. Key Projects Update**

- Allotment Wall - Manor House
- Water Fountain - South Way
- Youth Shelter Reinstallation - Manor House

(Clerk's report item 6.)

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## Abbots Langley Parish Council

### Clerk's Report - Leisure Committee - February 2020

#### 1. Open Casket Funerals

We received a request to hold an open casket funeral at the Manor House. After considerable work by the Facilities Manager a way was found to facilitate this, but the organisers then made alternative arrangements.

It does though present some future challenges and members guidance is sought.

- Is the Manor House a suitable venue for such funerals?
- Staff consultation will be required, as some may not feel comfortable working in such situations.
- In future recruitment this would also need to be addressed.
- Are there any health and hygiene issues that will need to be considered?
- How would current hirers feel about maybe eating meal in the hall, after earlier in the day there had been an open casket funeral?
- Local perception. Will residents and hall users view the building differently if they see a coffin being carried in? Security will need to be addressed so those passing the building are not able to see the open casket.

Officers realise it is potentially a tricky decision and suspect there is no right or wrong answer. But we need to come up with some policy for future requests, as if we hold an open casket funeral there may well be a "word of mouth" effect and other requests will follow.

Officers need to understand members views, as we felt this was a decision that fell outside of our discretion and the decision needed to be one considered by this committee.

After very careful consideration officers view is that there are more appropriate venues for open casket funerals.

#### 2. Primrose Hill Play Area

Members asked for outline timescales on the above project (December Les. Comm. min. 275.)

The following are only outline at this stage and subject to change.

Critical decision points will also have to be aligned with both Three Rivers District Council and Parish Council committee meetings.

May 2020	Consultation (online).
Jun - Aug 2020	Tender process (Five week tender, two week assessment and three week design amendments).
Sep - Nov 2020	Planning Process (Planning application preparation, submission and then twelve week timescales for planning to process, review, public consultation and submit recommendations).
Jan-- Feb 2021	Installation (dependent on planning process and outcome).

**3. Langleybury Cricket Club**

At the December meeting of this committee members declined a request from the above to rename Langleybury Playing Fields after a long serving member of the club (min. 273.). The club were advised accordingly.

Officers were surprised to see the following.



I have asked the club for comments. As it is currently the "closed" season their next committee meeting is not until just prior to this Leisure Committee meeting, so I may have a further verbal update.

**4. Christmas Lights Bedmond**

The Bedmond Residents Association have requested that consideration be given to the Parish Council installing Christmas lights in Bedmond village.

Officers have done no work on this as there would likely be a significant "first time" cost in installing the appropriate connections in lamp columns, along with all the electrical and safety testing.

As members that have served on this committee for some time will be aware, the decorations themselves are not cheap.

Members views are sought and officers can put together options if required.

**5. Abbots Improvement Group (AIMs)**

The enclosed report covers the collective's activities.

I have exchanged a number of emails with the organiser and whilst the Parish Council's small grants go some way to cover the costs of plantings, as mentioned in the report they have costs for liability insurance and also capital costs for equipment.

There maybe some benefit in asking the Finance & Administration Committee to see if the collective could be supported by a recurring "Service Level Agreement" grant to better cover their costs.

Abbots Langley Parish Council  
Clerk's Report - Leisure Committee - February 2020

6. Key Projects Update

Officers will update with timescales at the meeting.

The heavy rains in mid-January have meant it has been impossible for vehicles or heavy plant to access any of our playing fields. Grounds will have to dry out significantly before heavy works can be carried out.

Then if the weather turns cold it may not be possible to use any cement or concrete.

We are rather in the hands of the weather. POs have been issued for all these projects, it is just a case of finding the right weather window in which to get them completed.

Tim Perkins  
29th January 2020.

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