

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11th November 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those Present:

Chairman:	Councillor Robin Powell
Councillors:	Councillor Sara Bedford Councillor Jean Bowman Councillor Liz Burns Councillor Ruth Clark Councillor Fran Deschampsneufs Councillor Jane Lay Councillor David Major Councillor Owen Roe Councillor Simon Stanley Councillor John Swallow Councillor Jon Tankard
Officers:	Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council
Police:	Sergeant 2324 Mark Palmer PC 1592 Sarah Calcutt

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

210. New Member

- i. The Chairman and members welcomed Councillor Fran Deschampsneufs to the Parish Council. The Clerk confirmed that Councillor Deschampsneufs had completed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which has been signed by the Clerk as Proper Officer to the council. A completed Register of Interest form was submitted within the statutory deadlines.
- ii. It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and RESOLVED that Councillor Deschampsneufs be appointed to serve on the Finance & Administration Committee.

211. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst (unavailable).

212. Public Participation

None.

213. Hertfordshire Police

The Chairman thanked the officers noted above for attending the meeting. Sgt Harper updated members on local year to date crime statistics, which are summarised below.

- 16.9% rise in reported domestic abuse. There has been focus on reporting abuse crimes with specialist officers assigned.
- Criminal damage reports down 2.9%. Hot spots like Leavesden Country Park being patrolled more frequently.
- Reduction in burglaries of business premises by 20%, 24% decrease in residential burglaries.
- Reduction of 36% in drug related offences.
- Increase of 25% of offensive weapons offences. This was from a low base and intervention and gangs unit officers are targeting this offence, which is sometimes knife related but other weapons also involved.
- Reduction of 19% in public order offenses. This has been another target area.

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- Increase in cycle related theft, some when owner present, being targeted.
- Crime prevention efforts being targeted at number plate and tool theft.

Members asked officers to pass on thanks to the Intervention Team who assisted an elderly lady who was involved in an incident in Bedmond the previous week. Sgt. Harper will ensure officers are advised.

Sgt. Harper drew attention to the “echo” programme which will allow residents to pass on comments about policing matters via text or website. Also, “Coffee with a Cop” at the YMCA in Leavesden Country Park on 27th November @ 1700-1900 for crime prevention advise, etc.

Officers advised that two had just been arrested for graffitng and also acknowledged attention would be given to defective lights on both cycles and vehicles.

214. Declarations of Interest

None.

215. To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2019, 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.

216. 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 - 18th September, 9th & 30th October 2019

Leisure Committee - 23rd October 2019

Finance & Administration Committee - 28th October 2019

217. Calendar of Meetings 2020-2021

Members noted the above.

The Clerk will publish on the website and re-circulate to members, due to an error in the early draft mistakenly circulated for the meeting.

218. External Audit 2018-2019

(Referred from the Finance & Administration Committee min. 194.)

It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns and seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council approve and accept the External Auditor’s Report and Certificate as recommended by the Finance and Administration Committee.

219. Internal Audit Report (First Interim) 2019-2020

(Referred from the Finance & Administration Committee min. 195.)

Members noted the committee’s review of the First Interim Internal Audit for 2019-2020 and that no significant items were raised by the auditors.

220. Councillors - Apologies for Absence

Members noted the report from the Clerk.

221. Henderson Hall Managing Trustees

- i. Members asked that the Clerk pass on thanks to Chris Whately-Smith for his service as Chairman of the Managing Trustees. Stephen Moore takes over a Managing Trustee having been previously nominated by the Parish Council (min. 86.).
- ii. It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay and seconded by Councillor Liz Burns and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council re-appoint Mrs Alison Cornes and Mr John Dunne as Managing Trustees for a further four year term of office.

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222. Budget 2020-2021

Members noted the report from the Clerk that summarised the actions taken on the budget following review by the Leisure Committee and Finance & Administration Committees.

The Clerk reminded members that the November Finance and Administration Committee meeting is the final meeting that significant changes can be made to the budget. The December meeting of that committee is to consider any last minute amendments and to recommend the budget to the Parish Council for approval in January.

223. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Report

- i. Members noted the report from the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group
- ii. Members noted the report from the Clerk and will resolve the Parish Council's input to the plan at the January Parish Council Meeting.
- iii. Councillor Robin Powell will join the Steering Group to replace members that have stood down. The Clerk was asked to approach Mrs Brenda Kersey to see if she would re-join the Steering Group as a lay member.

224. District and County Council Member's Reports

County and District Councillor Sara Bedford

- Three Rivers District Council have been nominated in the LG Chronicle Awards "Community Involvement" category, for the Leavesden Country Park project.
- Following objections from the Highways Authority, Moto Services have until the year end to submit revised plans for access to the proposed motorway service area site at J21/A41. The earliest Three Rivers District Council will be considering a planning application is February/March 2020.
- Three Rivers District Council have stopped the use of Glyphosate, which had been used as part of an HCC Highways Maintenance contract from which the council has exited. Alternative treatments are being trialled on council land.
- Staff are being briefed on, as far as practical, eliminating the idling of council vehicles.
- Following the severe rain over the past few weeks flooding hot spots have been identified. Changes to the grass cutting contract on highways verges have meant arisings are not being cleared quickly and this is causing gully blockages.
- Hertfordshire County Council footpath maintenance contractors have not been properly carrying out contracted works. This has been identified following complaints raised by local residents and is being addressed.
- No signs yet in any increase in schools' provision in the area. All local Y6 parents are being advised to select two local schools in their preferences, otherwise they risk their child being allocated to an out of area school.

District Councillor Jon Tankard

- Will be attending Climate Emergency Training with an officer from Three Rivers District Council.

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225. Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended the following events.

13th September - Watford Lions Charter Evening, Mercure Hotel, Hunton Park.

15th September - Battle of Britain Thanksgiving Service & Wreath Laying, St. Lawrence Church.

19th September - Senior Speech Day, Parmiters School.

21st September - Abbots Autumn Festival, opening & prize giving, School Mead.

6th October - Abbots Langley Tough Ten, starting and medal presentations, Manor House.

18th October - Meeting to discuss Christmas carols and lights on, Council Offices.

21st October - Joint Parishes Meeting, Watford Rural Parish Council, South Oxhey.

22nd October - Meeting with Vicar & Church Wardens re Christmas carols and lights on, St. Lawrence Church.

26th October - Welcoming the return of volunteer litter pickers (Abbots in Transition), Leavesden Country Park. Coffee provided from Chairman's allowance.

1st November - Watford Lions Fireworks welcome and countdown, Manor House.

10th November - Abbots Langley Remembrance Service & Wreath Laying, St. Lawrence Church.

11th November - Armistice Day Service, St. Lawrence Church.

The Chairman was concerned that local press coverage has not adequately reflected the Parish Council's involvement in key local events. Members have in the past considered a Communications Working group as it is recognised now that local media outlets do not have the levels of reporting staff that they used to have in the past and instead use press releases and supplied images to produce copy.

226. Clerk's Report

Members noted:

- NALC Legal Briefing
- Small Grant
- Memorial Bench - Councillor Betty O'Neill
- Tough Ten 2019 & 2020
- Office Copies
- Diary Dates
- Absence from Office

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227. Monthly Statement of Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford and seconded by Councillor John Swallow and **RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts for September & October 2019 as notified to the Council be approved and published on the Parish Council's website.

The meeting closed at 8.59 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____