

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th January 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those Present:

Chairman:	Councillor Robin Powell
Vice-Chairman	Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst
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 Councillor John Wyatt Councillor Roxanne Yau
Officers:	Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council
Police:	Sergeant 2324 Mark Palmer PC 429 Amanda Douglas

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

296. Apologies for absence

None.

297. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Jane Lay declared an interest in agenda item 7, Fees & Charges 2020-2021 as Secretary of Abbots Langley Gardening Society.

298. Public Participation

None.

299. Hertfordshire Police

Sgt. Palmer gave an overview of recent policing topics:

- Residential burglary. Three offences in one day. Similar offences in Watford and Dacorum areas. Investigations ongoing but thought to be out of area offenders. Overall residential burglary down 12.5% year on year. A reduction in business burglaries has also been reported.
- A conviction has been obtained for graffiti (tagging), offenders awaiting sentencing.
- Theft from unlocked motor vehicles ongoing. One offender has been arrested and released under investigation. Property has been recovered and efforts being made to match the property to offences.
- Arrests have been made outside the area in relation to the theft of catalytic converters from motor vehicles. No repeat offences since the arrests made.
- "Mini Police" programme being set up to educate primary school children on road safety and other risks.
- "Safer Streets" initiative in being run in various areas. Attendance has been disappointing at "Meet the Cop" sessions, the last of which was held at the YMCA in Leavesden Country Park.

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Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst said there was concern in the Coates Way area about the residential burglaries referenced above. The police were aware and are taking appropriate action.

300. 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 11th November 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.

301. 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 - 20th November, 4th and 18th December 2019.

Finance & Administration Committee - 25th November and 16th December 2019.

Staffing Committee - 4th December 2019.

Leisure Committee - 11th December 2019.

302. Fees & Charges 2020-2021

It was proposed by Councillor John Wyatt, seconded by Councillor Sara Bedford and **RESOLVED** that the schedule of Fees and Charges (v1b) for Halls, Open Spaces and Sports Facilities, as recommended by the Leisure Committee (min. 183iii.) be approved.

303. Budget & Precept 2020-2021

Councillor Liz Burns, Chairman of the Finance & Administration Committee, introduced the budget and summarised the discussions that had been held in committee and with members.

a. Budget 2020-2021

It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns, seconded by Councillor Sara Bedford and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council's budget for 2020-2021 be set at £842,660. (Expenditure = £996,198 and Income = £153,538).

b. Precept 2020-2021

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor John Swallow and **RESOLVED** that the Precept for 2020-2021 be set at £763,000.

Both of the above had been recommended by the Finance & Administration Committee (min. 281).

304. Annual Report 2019-2020

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor John Wyatt and **RESOLVED** that the draft Annual Report be approved and delegated authority granted to the Clerk to finalise.

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305. Henderson Hub - Grant Application

It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that a grant of £37,400 be awarded under The General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011 Sec 1 (1) to the Henderson Hub for the purpose of supporting the Hub's activities.

A condition of the grant is that the directors of the Henderson Hub Company report to the April 2020 meeting of the Finance & Administration Committee on the progress of current business initiatives. The committee may also require further reporting later in the year. Arrangements and timing of the reports to be confirmed with the Clerk.

The grant will be paid in one tranche in April 2019.

The Managing Trustees had advised the Clerk that they supported the grant application.

A vote was requested, all members were in favour.

306. Neighbourhood Plan

- i. It was proposed by Councillor John Wyatt, seconded by Councillor John Tankard and **RESOLVED** that the Executive Summary as presented by the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group be accepted as the views of the Parish Council

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst restated his comments that the plan had to reflect the needs of the whole parish, including the outlying areas such as those in the Bucknalls Lane Gardens and Coates Way areas. A similar view was expressed for the Primrose Hill area.

A vote was requested. Fourteen members were in favour, one abstained.

- ii. Members noted the bi-monthly report of the working group.

307. Langleybury Playing Fields - Environment Agency Borehole

It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns, seconded by Councillor Simon Stanley and **RESOLVED** that a lease of twenty-five years be granted to the Environment Agency for a water resources borehole on Langleybury Playing Fields.

Members noted that the Parish Council's lease to the area from Hertfordshire County Council was less than twenty-five years and the Clerk was asked to work with the Parish Council's solicitors on appropriate legal arrangements.

308. District and County Council Member's Reports

County Councillor Sara Bedford

- The planning application from Moto for the Motorway Service Area at the junction of the M25 (J21) and the A405 was expected to be considered by Three Rivers District Council's Planning Committee on 27th February 2020. There are still significant objections from Herts County Council, Highways England and the Environment Agency. The main objections concern the potential for major traffic congestion at the junction.
- Three Rivers District Council are consulting on proposals to allow cattle to graze on the Horses Field at the junction of South Way and Langley Lane. The proposal has significant bio-diversity benefits. The consultation closes on 10th February 2020. There is not time for the Parish Council to make a formal response, members are asked to respond individually.
- Abbots Road has been resurfaced. There are still gaps in yellow lines to be restored.
- Lighting repairs at the Nash Mills railway bridge are being addressed.
- Three Rivers District Council has a consultation on parks and open spaces which can be responded to until 30th January 2020.
- The issues around the footpath at Numbers Farm have been resolved and the footpath is now open.

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- Areas of flooding, some serious, on the highways around the parish are being addressed.
- Three Rivers District Council have been placed third in the country for recycling levels.
- Three Rivers District Council have appointed Ms. Jo Wagstaffe as Chief Executive, effective 3rd February 2020. Ms. Wagstaffe is currently Director of Finance at Watford Borough Council & Three Rivers District Council.

County Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst

- Double yellow lines have been laid at Arundell Road and Bucknalls Lane. Light touch enforcement will be undertaken by Civil Penalty Officers for the first few weeks, prior to penalty tickets being issued.
- Issues on the Aerodrome Way estate with house numbering are being addressed. There is significant confusion, particularly with delivery services being unable to locate properties.
- Traffic management proposals at High Elms Lane (A405 end) have been initially costed at apx. £1m. Alternative and phased programmes are being investigated.

District Councillor Jon Tankard

- Footpath 35 that crosses Trowley Rise and runs behind properties on Oak Green and Greenways is almost impassable due to mud and erosion. Hertfordshire County Council will be laying a compacted type 2, wooden edged surface. The overgrowth will be mechanically cleared and no weed killers used.

309. Chairman's Report

19th November - Meeting with Sgt Palmer to discuss general local policing issues, Abbots Langley Community Police Station.

23rd November - Presentation of cheques to One Vision Charity, Abbotswood Cooperative.

28th November - Neighbourhood Planning Meeting, Parish Council Offices.

5th December - Bedmond Seniors Christmas Tea Party, Bedmond Village Hall.

5th December - Carols and Switch On of Christmas Lights, St. Lawrence Church.

9th December - Presentation of cheques, Veterans Christmas Lunch, Abbots Langley Club, Trowley Rise.

19th December - Carols by the Tree, Church of the Ascension, Bedmond.

19th December - Presentation of awards to allotment tenants, Abbots Langley Gardening Society, Manor House.

310. Clerk's Report

Members noted:

- Code of Conduct for Councillors
- Primrose Hill Laundry
- St Stephen Parish Council
- Small Grants
- Diary Dates

311. Monthly Statement of Accounts

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

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312. Exclusion of the Press and Public (Part II)

It was proposed by Councillor John Wyatt and seconded by Councillor Simon Stanley and **RESOLVED** that as the following matters related the early stages of a dispute 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.

313. PC Freehold Land - Encroachment

Members noted the report from the Clerk.

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay and seconded by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk work with the Parish Council's solicitors to take action to assert the Parish Council's freehold rights to the land in front of 81 High Street that has been subject to encroachment.

Members hoped that the matter could be resolved by correspondence, but the Parish Council's solicitors should be instructed to take action if this was not possible.

The meeting closed at 9.09 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____