

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 17th June 2020 at 7.30 pm on the Zoom Video and Teleconferencing Platform. ^[1].

Those present:

Chairman: Councillor John Wyatt
Vice Chairman: Councillor Jane Lay
Councillors: Councillor Liz Burns
Councillor Ruth Clark
Councillor Simon Stanley

Also Present: Mr Chris Bromwich - Allotment Representative
Mr John Kersey - Allotment Representative
Mr Tim Denyer - Sports Representative

Officers: Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council
David Abbott - Facilities Manager
Mark Ellis - Works Manager

^[1] *Permitting legislation - The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.*

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

39. Apologies for absence

None received.

40. Declarations of Interest

None.

41. Public Participation

No members of the public had expressed an interest in addressing the committee.

42. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor Liz Burns and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2020 copies of which had been sent to all Members of the Parish Council prior to the meeting, be taken as read and will be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

43. Reports from the Allotments Representatives

Jacketts Field - Mr John Kersey

No report, most plots being worked.

Manor House - Mr Chris Bromwich

No reports. Most plots being worked, some better than others.

The Clerk advise that allotment inspections and site visits for new tenants would restart when appropriate. As all activities this will need to be risk assessed, a reduction in social distancing requirements would be helpful in this regard.

Officers will review the situation on 1st July based on then currently available guidance.

44. Reports from the Sports Representatives

Abbots Youth Football Club - Tim Denyer

Due to the current pandemic not much progress has been made on the storage facility. A planning permission has not yet been submitted.

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Sports clubs are struggling due to loss of revenue during the pandemic and there is concern about costs, including pitch hire, when amateur sport returns.

The Chairman asked that the impact on club's and the Parish Council revenue of the pandemic shutdown be covered in the later agenda item.

45. Personal Alert Trackers

(Referred from the Staffing Committee 06/2020 min. 34.)

It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council enter into an initial three year contract for seven Personal Alert Trackers for the Works Team and Community Warden.

46. Pandemic Impact on Leisure Revenue

Members noted the Clerk's report on potential loss of revenue.

Based on current guidance it is unlikely that a significant number of bookings will return to the Manor House and Tanners Wood Hall before the calendar year end.

Discussions with regular hirers have indicated that even if government restrictions were significantly lifted, there is a reluctance amongst the public to return to well attended events.

As noted in minute 44 above the committee understands that the impact on sports clubs is potentially serious.

It is difficult at this stage for officers to give any clear guidance on possible charging options for pitch hire as the timescales on when amateur sports will return are currently unclear. It is likely that most of the cricket season will be lost and it is unlikely that the football season will start as usual in early September.

Members and officers were of the view that arrangements for pitch hire would have to be flexible and supportive of the clubs, as they attempt to return to normal levels of activity. Any arrangements would need to be forward looking, as at this stage there seemed little to be gained from getting involved in discussions over the weeks lost at the end of last season.

Officers will update further at the August meeting of this committee.

47. Summer Pitch Maintenance

Goal mouths have been treated by the Works Team, the lack of rain is still a major challenge as the ground is solid. A period of intensive rain over a number of days is needed to soften the ground. There are also significant challenges in the supply chain in getting materials many of which are still on very short supply. So far from the usual summer order of one hundred bags of grass seed, six have been delivered.

Members thanked the Works Manager for the update.

48. Abbots Langley and Kings Langley Repair Shed

Members supported the outline proposal and asked officers to proceed to more detailed project plans and costings.

The Clerk advised that a building survey would probably be appropriate to get a clear view on required maintenance and to ensure there was not any significant structural problems.

Members asked that consideration be given to making available an area in the building for community meetings and small gatherings.

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50. Key Projects 2020-2021

i. Key Projects Report.

Members noted the update of the above and thanked the Clerk for the work on the new footpath walks which have been well received.

ii. Primrose Hill Play Area

Members noted the timescales on the above, the next key stage will be public and member consultation which will take place online in early July.

Members asked that a water fountain be considered once the play area has been completed. As project completion is not due until early 2021, if approved, this could be funded out of the 2021-2022 budget.

The Clerk will further update the Finance and Administration Committee on the potential levels of funding for this project at the next committee meetings.

iii. Depot Surface Project (Plans enclosed.)

Members noted the report from the Clerk and agreed that option two was the most practical and officers were asked to instruct the consultants to proceed to the tender process.

The Works Manager and Facilities Manager were thanked for their work on this project.

51. Clerks Report

- Abbots Improvement Group (AIMs) have restarted their community gardening activities.
- Members noted the verbal report on levels of litter in the open spaces which have been significant and created a huge level of work. One week 850kg of litter was taken to the dump, much of which was food, drink and other waste from consumables.

The meeting closed at 8.34 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____