

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11th May 2020 at 7.30pm on the Zoom Video and Teleconferencing Platform. ^[1]

Those Present:

Chairman:	Councillor Robin Powell
Vice-Chairman	Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst
Councillors:	Councillor Liz Burns Councillor Fran Deschampsneufs Councillor Jane Lay Councillor David Major Councillor Owen Roe Councillor Simon Stanley Councillor John Swallow Councillor John Wyatt Councillor Roxanne Yau
Officers:	Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council
Police:	Sergeant 1490 Amy Stansbury

^[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.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Jean Bowman (unavailable).

2. Public Participation

None.

3. Chairmanship Arrangements

Members agreed that the appointment of Councillor Robin Powell from the previous municipal year would roll over.

Members did not preclude a change of Chairman later in the municipal year.

4. Hertfordshire Police

Sgt. Amy Stansbury has recently taken up post as Community Sergeant and introduced herself to members. Members raised the following points:

- Unsocial driving has been reported at the Kathrine Place/College Road roundabout. The last incident was on the previous Saturday evening at around 10:00 pm. A number of skid marks were evident in the area of the roundabout.
- Obstruction parking on pavements has been an issue over recent weeks. This has been a particular problem in the High Street area. Officers will be asked to monitor the situation as there was concern for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.
- Officers will as far as practical try to implement government COVID guidance on social distancing and groups gathering in the open spaces.

Members thanked Sgt. Stansbury for calling into the meeting and looked forward to working with her in the future.

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5. Declarations of Interest

None.

6. To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

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

7. 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 - 11th March 2020.

8. Annual Parish Meeting

Members noted the draft minutes of the above which was held on 4th March 2020.

9. Calendar of Meetings

Members agreed the following revised dates for meetings during June.

All meetings will be virtual and held on the Zoom platform.

1st June (Mon) Finance & Administration Committee (6:00 pm)

3rd June (Wed) Staffing Committee (6:00 pm)

17th June (Wed) Leisure Committee (7:30 pm)

The Planning & Highways Committee will continue to consider plans and submit comments to the Council Administration Officer. The Committee Chairman will decide if it is appropriate to call a virtual committee meeting

The July Parish Council (13th) will be held as planned. Arrangements for the July Parish Council meeting and committee meetings in July and August, will be considered nearer the time and based on prevailing HMG advice.

10. Financial Grant - Henderson Hub

At the January Parish Council meeting a grant of £38,400 to the Henderson Hub was approved (min. 305).

The business plans submitted in support of the grant were now fundamentally changed as operations of the Hub were brought to a standstill by the pandemic.

The Clerk asked members to reconsider the grant in the light of the present situation and the report submitted by the Chairman of the Henderson Hub Co.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor Liz Burns and **RESOLVED** that £28,000 of the grant be paid immediately and £9,400 held over for future consideration.

11. Summerhouse Way Garages

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor Liz Burns and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk be asked to conclude the end of lease discussions with Three Rivers District Council.

Members agreed that the Parish Council would fund the cost of demolition of the garages in lieu of dilapidations. The cost of demolition currently estimated at apx. £6,500, plus additional as yet unquoted costs to safely terminate the electricity supply.

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12. Pandemic Update

Members noted the Clerk's report on the above.

The Clerk was asked to thank all members of staff for their hard work during this difficult time.

13. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Report

Members noted the report from the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

The pandemic situation has delayed progress on the Neighbourhood Plan.

It is unlikely that the plan will be submitted to the Three Rivers District Council until 2021, prior to its review by an External Examiner. This is likely to delay its approval by Public Referendum until 2022. There have also been delays with the publication of the New Local Plan for the Three Rivers District. This may be available by Summer 2020. If so, the document will be useful when reviewing any changes required in our Neighbourhood Plan.

Following the pandemic, changes may be introduced to local and national planning policy which may impact Neighbourhood Plans.

For the last three years Three Rivers District Council has fallen short of its government imposed new housing targets. It is unclear what action may be taken by the Secretary of State to address this and the subsequent potential impact on local development.

14. District & County Council Member's Reports

No reports.

15. Chairman's Report

Due to the current situation the Chairman has not attended any events and has none scheduled in the immediate future.

Advice is expected soon on any possible VJ Day commemorations, which may be at risk due to the need to start planning now for the 15th August date.

The Chairman thanked colleagues for their guidance when dealing with a resident at risk issue.

16. Clerk's Report

Members noted:

- Small Grants

17. Monthly Statement of Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor Simon Stanley and seconded by Councillor John Wyatt and **RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts for March & April 2020 as notified to the Council be approved and published on the Parish Council's website.

The meeting closed at 8.54 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____