

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

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7th April 2021.

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 virtually <sup>[1]</sup> on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7:30 pm when your presence is summoned for the purpose of transacting the business outlined below.

The meeting will be held on the Zoom platform. Login details are available from the Clerk to the Council.

The press and public are welcome to attend the meeting.

*Prior to the meeting at 7:00 pm Mr Mark Ward, Chairman of Evergreen FC will be presenting on the FA's Pitch Improvement Programme. The same Zoom link will be used for the presentation.*

Tim Perkins  
Clerk to the Council

<sup>[1]</sup> *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.*

### 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**  
24<sup>th</sup> February 2021.
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. **Evergreen FC - FA Pitch Improvement Programme**  
To consider any actions following the presentation on the above.
8. **Leisure Committee - Sports and Allotments Representatives**
  - i. To consider the "Role of the Leisure Committee Representatives" and if any updates are required. (enclosed)
  - ii. To consider the arrangements for the nomination of representatives. (Clerk's report item 1.)

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

### 9. Depot Project

To note the report from the Clerk. (Clerk's report item 2)

### 10. Abbots Langley Cricket Club - Request to Rebuild Nets

To consider the above request, deferred for further review by officers from the February meeting of this committee (min. 313).

(Report to committee February 2021, Clerk's report item 3 and enclosed plan.)

### 11. Kitters Green - Emergency Drainage Works

To consider the report from the Works Manager. (Clerk's report item 4.)

### 12. Abbots Langley Tennis Club - Club Supreme

To consider the Clerk's report. (Clerk's report item 4.)

### 13. Clerk's Report

To consider items not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

- i. Reopening of Facilities (Clerk's report item 6.)
- ii. Primrose Hill Play Area (Clerk's report item 7.)
- iii. Clerking Arrangements - Leisure Committee Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021 (Verbal update)
- iv. Works Team Staffing (Verbal update).

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**Abbots Langley Parish Council**  
**Clerk's Report - Leisure Committee - April 2021**

**1. Leisure Committee - Sports and Allotments Representatives**

The current serving reps came to the end of their appointment last year, it was agreed to extend the appointments into this year.

Suggested timetable for new appointments:

April 2021	Nominations sought, signs on allotment notice boards and emails to sports club chairman. One month nomination window.
June 2021	Nominations considered by Leisure Committee and appointments confirmed.
August 2021	Appointments effective. First committee meeting for newly appointed, or re-nominated, reps.

Initial term of office two years and then rolled over for a further two years.

The Clerk and committee, has not been particularly good in monitoring the attendance of reps. In future final para. (5) needs monitoring and followed up if no apologies received after two missed meetings without a reasonable reason.

**2. Depot Project**

There has been significant work required to pull together the tender package. This would have been impossible without the support from the procurement team at Watford BC.

The pricing schedule and quality questions are still pending being finalised. Input is required from Frankham Consultancy and they have not been the quickest to respond.

It is hoped that these will be resolved in the next couple of weeks and the tender process launched.

The Works Manager is looking at potential alternative sites to relocate the depot when the works are taking place.

**3. Abbots Langley Cricket Club - Request to Rebuild Nets**

At the February meeting of this committee members were supportive of the plans to rebuild the nets at Manor House playing fields, but members had concerns about the extent of the new facility and the impact it may have on the grounds.

Officers met with the club officials, alternative orientations were considered.

Moving the new nets parallel to the car park would cause the loss of mature trees, impact on the visual amenity and sight lines from the car park and road. Moving them parallel to the pavement of Gallows Hill Lane would cause the loss of two junior football pitches.

The proposed location is the only practical option although the increased extent does impact on the perimeter walking line as the new facility would extend further into the playing fields.

*(Update: Just as I finished this report the Cricket Club submitted further alternate location plans and sizes. The Works Manager is on leave and it is impractical to meet with the club and review these plans ahead of the committee meeting. It is suggested that this item is deferred to the next meeting of this committee.)*

**4. Kitters Green - Emergency Drainage Works**

*(Report from the Works Manager)*

The following problems came to light when the works to refurbish the sheep pound on Kitters Green were underway.

Two large pipes have been exposed underneath the sheep pen. Both these pipes are active. One runs from the top of the Kitters Green pathway; the road drain gully might join that section to help disperse road water and the other runs from Pound Cottage, allowing rain water from the guttering to drain away.

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Both pipes at some stage have been damaged, possibly when the sheep pen was installed or have collapsed over a period of time, either way they run into a very old brick soakaway, which has over the years filled with mud and debris.

What started out to be a very simple installation with a post hole ten inches wide and two feet down, has turned into a massive project. Both the pipework and soakaway have to be repaired, replaced and rebuilt to current regulations.

The two pipes are apx. eight-ten inch in diameter and repair connections are being added. The two pipes are now feeding into a chamber, that fills up and runs into a new soakaway made up of soakaway crates and shingle. The soakaway is now approximately three meters wide, six meters long and three meters deep. Any additional water will slowly drain naturally into the soil. The original soakaway Victorian brickwork was quite impressive and in parts had held up well over the years.

We will have to do a chamber inspection every 6 months to clear out any muck that may have built up in the chamber.

What was a simple job has now cost £4,000 in pipework and drainage works. We could not bodge and scarp and hope for the best, this would have backed up and caused more damage later on in the winter months.

This was a job that had to be done right.

Thanks due to the Works Manager for significant unplanned work on this project.

*(Images in appx. 1 of this report.)*

**5. Abbots Langley Tennis Club - Club Supreme**

The Facilities Manager has tried to contact the club by email and phone and there has been no response. At the time of writing, the club website currently has no information on spring/summer programmes.

Enquires from MoPs to the club has been responded to along the lines of "*we will be in touch when the summer programme is announced.*"

I did speak to the club during lockdown. They explained that they had no funds and were not in a position to pay the rent and there was an expectation that the Parish Council would write off the outstanding rent for 2020-2021.

The 2020-2021 rent invoice of £5,000 was tendered in April 2020 and £1,249 has been paid.

**6. Reopening of Facilities**

As the above has significant staffing implications the Staffing Committee have been considering the reopening plans in detail. Full details are in the reports to and the minutes of the March and April meetings of the committee.

Currently it is planned to reopen Tanners Wood Hall on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Manor House is more complex.

Due to the staffing challenges and the low level of bookings it has been agreed that the Manor House will reopen on 1st September 2021, assuming HMG guidelines in place at the time permit.

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**Clerk's Report - Leisure Committee - April 2021**

**7. Primrose Hill Play Area**

Planning permission for the Primrose Hill play area has been granted. But!

Due to the proximity of trees to the play area a "Tree Protection Method Statement" is required. Patrick Stilemen our consultant arboriculturist has been instructed to work with the contractor to produce the statement.

This requirement will delay the start date to at least mid-April, as the contractor has had to reschedule their workload.

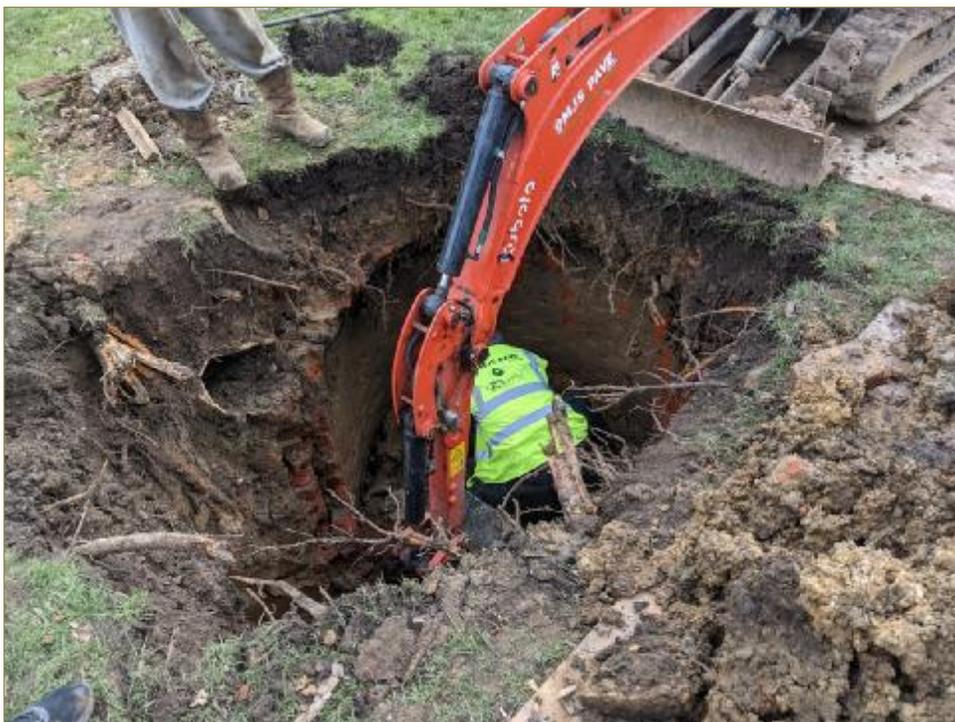
Tim Perkins  
7th April 2021.

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Appendix 1 - Kitters Green - Emergency Drainage Works



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Abbots Langley Parish Council  
Abbots Langley Cricket Club - Proposed Nets Extension



*Red line = extent of current nets - Green = Extent of proposed nets.*

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