

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th November 2021 at 7.30 pm in The Manor House, Gallows Hill Lane, Abbots Langley WD5 ODD.

Those Present:

Chairman: Councillors Stephen Giles-Medhurst

Councillors: Councillor Liz Burns
Councillor Ruth Clark
Councillor Jane Lay
Councillor David Major
Councillor Robin Powell
Councillor Owen Roe
Councillor John Swallow
Councillor Jon Tankard
Councillor John Wyatt
Councillor Roxanne Yau

Officer: Isabel Montesdeoca - Chief Officer & Clerk to the Council
Jayshree Patel - Finance Officer & Deputy Clerk

Police: Sergeant 488 Jon Brown

Others: Mr Peter Warman - Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

209. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Sara Bedford, Simon Stanley and Fran Deschampsneufs (all unavailable).

210. Declarations of Interest

None.

211. Public Participation

None.

212. Hertfordshire Police

Sergeant Jon Brown updated members on various topics:

- Sergeant moved into current role as of 11th Oct 2021.
- Current Priorities - (to be reviewed in Jan 2022)
 - Speeding on the high street - PCSOs are stopping vehicles and sending out a warning letter for those found to be speeding. On a single day, caught 23 people driving above 20 mph speed limit. Sergeant Brown noted that unless there is a PC in uniform present, a ticket cannot be given.
 - Antisocial behaviour
 - Violence against women
- Police updated members with current crime stats in area.

213. To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings

It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2021, 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.

214. 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 - 15th September, 6th & 27th October 2021.

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Leisure Committee - 20st October 2021.

Finance & Administration Committee - 25th October 2021.

215. Depot Surface Project
(Budget approval - Leisure Committee min. 135 and Parish Council min. 156)
Council discussed the need for a 5% headline cost increase to cover contractors additional costs.
It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor Jon Wyatt and RESOLVED that the project cost increase be approved.
216. Staffing - Recruitment
Members noted the appointment of the new Finance Officer & Deputy Clerk.
217. Henderson Hall - Managing Trustee Appointment
No nominations submitted. Councillors requested this item be left on the agenda for the following Parish Council meeting.
218. Calendar of Meetings
Members agreed the calendar of meetings for 2022-2023.
219. Budget 2022-2023
Members noted the current version of the budget (v1e) and agreed it is consistent with what is expected for this stage of the budget planning process.
220. External Audit 2020-2021
(Referred from the Finance & Administration Committee min. 197.)
It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns seconded by Councillor Robin Powell and RESOLVED that the Parish Council accept the External Auditor's Report and Certificate as recommended by the Finance and Administration Committee.
221. Member Leave of Absence
It was proposed by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, seconded by Councillor Ruth Clark and RESOLVED that Councillor Fran Deschampsneufs be granted Leave of Absence for six months due to ill health. A vote was requested and all members were in favour.
Councillor Fran Deschampsneufs may be unable to undertake any council duties by telephone or mail, in which case any residents of her ward will be directed to the Parish Council office and officers and an appropriate member will be allocated to support.
222. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Report
Members noted the report from the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.
Three Rivers District Council has announced the next stage of the consultation (known as Regulation 19) may be delayed until November/December 2022, due to the level of public response.
Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst noted that additional properties have been proposed by land owners, as well as owners of some properties that had been excluded have requested these be reconsidered having overcome the reasons for exclusion. These sites will need to be discussed further via consultation.
This delay suggests the Abbots Langley Neighbourhood Plan can be submitted to Three Rivers District Council by Spring 2022 allowing additional time to apply for funding to create a master plan for the central area of Abbots Langley Village in line with aspirational project 3.
Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst advised that Three Rivers District Council strongly recommends avoiding scheduling a consultation period during the local election period.

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Members asked the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to circulate a draft of the master plan for central area of Abbots Langley Village for comment prior to next Parish Council meeting.

Members expressed thanks to the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and the working group's members for their continued work on this important project.

223. Breakspeare School Consultation

(Referred from the Planning & Highways Committee min. 206.)

Members noted the proposal regarding the permanent enlargement and relocation of Breakspeare School in 2023.

Members support the principle of the move, however urge Hertfordshire County Council to retain community support facilities as part of any redevelopment planning such as the opportunity to provide for larger health facilities.

It was proposed by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, seconded by Councillor Liz Burns and RESOLVED that Officers submit on behalf of the Parish Council comments reflecting the above points in response to the Breakspeare School planning consultation via the online portal before the 22nd November 2021 closing date.

224. District and County Council Member's Reports

County Councillor Sara Bedford

- Councillor Bedford submitted a written report which was distributed to members at the meeting.

Councillor David Major

- Councillor Major informed members of the new crematorium annex in DACROUM.

Councillor Ruth Clark

- Councillor Clark reported on a recently undertaken Primrose Hill parking survey.

Councillor Jon Tankard

- Councillor Tankard attended an open day at the Warner Bros field backing on to Gypsy Lane. The outcome of the public consultation was the public would prefer the field to be an open field accessible on foot.

225. Chairman's Report

The Chairman attended the following events.

- 3rd October - Abbots Langley Tough Ten Race to start the race and award prizes / cups.
- Chairman reported that Leavesden Country Park has achieved the Heritage Green Flag award.
- Chairman reported that Warner Bros are doing substantial work at Dowding way, planting 50 new trees. The Ginkgo Biloba tree will be the feature green tree for Queens Jubilee. Chairman will attend an event to plant it in February 2022.

226. Clerk's Report

Members noted:

- Wreath laying arrangement for Remembrance Day services, 14th November 2021.
- Upcoming diary dates

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227. Monthly Statement of Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns and seconded by Councillor Jon Tankard and RESOLVED that the Statement of Accounts for September 2021 as notified to the Council be approved and published on the Parish Council's website.

The meeting closed at 8:49 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____