

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th March 2022 at 7.30 pm The Manor House, Gallows Hill Lane, Abbots Langley, WD5 ODD.

Those Present:

Chairman: Councillors Stephen Giles-Medhurst

Councillors: Councillor Sara Bedford
Councillor Liz Burns
Councillor Ruth Clark
Councillor Jane Lay
Councillor David Major
Councillor Robin Powell
Councillor Owen Roe
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:

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

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

362. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor John Swallow, Councillor Simon Stanley and Councillor Fran Deschampsneufs (all unavailable).

Sergeant Jon Brown advised the Chief Officer that he was unable to attend the meeting.

363. Declarations of Interest

None.

364. Public Participation

None.

365. To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings

It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns, seconded by Councillor Robin Powell and RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2022, 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.

366. 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 - 5th January 2022, 26th January 2022, 16th February 2022

Finance & Administration Committee - 31st January 2022

Staffing Committee - 12th January 2022

Leisure Committee - 23rd February 2022

367. Chairman's Report

The Chairman requested a minute's silence in solidarity with the people of Ukraine. Chairman noted a number of organisations currently running fund raising campaigns for Ukraine. These can be found on the Three Rivers District Council

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website and a similar page will be made available on the Parish Council website. A Ukrainian flag has also been ordered for the parish.

The Chairman shared with members Cllr Fran Deschampsneufs (Primrose Hill Ward) has tendered her resignation on grounds of ill-health. Members wish to thank Cllr Deschampsneufs all the best and thank her for her contributions during her period on the Council. Three Rivers Returning Officer has been informed and the vacancy will be posted in accordance with regulations.

The Chairman attended the following events:

- Leisure Committee - 23rd February 2022
Presented Mark Ellis, ALPC Works Manager, with a Long Service award at the last Leisure Committee meeting and thanked him on behalf of the Council for 20 years of service to the parish.
- Leavesden Country Park @ HIVE - 10th February 2022
Presentation to acknowledge the successful completion of the National Lottery Heritage Fund project at Leavesden Country Park and thank all those who supported the project.

The Chairman updated members on plans for the Chairman's Reception (26th March 2022). Warner Bros has agreed to sponsor the event. To mark their 10th anniversary, Tough Ten will be the guest speaker at the reception.

The Chairman updated members on plans for Abbots Langley Parish Queen's Jubilee Beacon event on 2nd June 2022. This date is in line with public guidance setting out activities recommended for each day of the bank holiday weekend. The Chairman thanked Councillor Sara Bedford for the grant provided to fund the installation of a bespoke gas and fire beacon to be lit on the evening of June 2nd alongside thousands of others across the country.

368. Hertfordshire Police

Not present.

369. Internal Audit Report (Second Interim) 2021-2022

Members noted the Second Interim Internal Audit report for 2021-2022 and that no significant items were raised by the auditors.

The Chief Officer & Clerk was asked to write to Auditing Solutions confirming the review by the Parish Council.

Members thanked Finance Officer & Deputy Clerk for all her work in this area.

370. Standing Orders

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor Liz Burns and RESOLVED that the draft version of the above shared with members be adopted and it was agreed delegated authority be granted to the Chief Officer & Clerk to make minor amendments.

371. Financial Regulations

(Referred from F&A Committee, January 2022 min 339)

Members noted the Finance and Administration Committee has approved an updated version of the above.

372. Delegation of Authority - Recruitment Policy

(Referred from Staffing Committee, January 2022 min 319)

Members noted the Staffing Committee has approved an updated version of the above.

373. Bereavement Policy

(Referred from Staffing Committee, January 2022 min 320)

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Members noted the Staffing Committee has approved an updated version of the above.

374. Complaints Policy

(Referred from Staffing Committee, January 2022 min 321)

Members noted the Staffing Committee has approved an updated version of the above.

375. Henderson Hub Financial Grant SLA Award Annual Review

(Referred from F&A, January 2022 min 335)

Members noted the report referred by the Finance & Administration Committee. Members asked the Chief Officer & Clerk to write to Henderson Hub Trustees and formally request to be notified in writing of the dates of their AGM. Members asked the Chief Officer & Clerk to convey their disappointment that no one from Henderson Hub attended the Annual Parish Meeting to collect the grant certificate.

376. Henderson Hall - Managing Trustee Appointment

(Deferred from the Parish Council January 2022, min. 304)

No nominations received. Members requested this item be left on the agenda for the following Parish Council meeting.

377. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Report

Members noted the report.

Councillor Sara Bedford updated members regarding efforts to lobby Hertfordshire County Council to ensure public use land is retained for the use of services needed by the parish.

It was agreed by general assent that Neighbourhood Plan leaflets should be printed and distributed to residents prior to submission of the plan to Three Rivers District Council.

Councillor Sara Bedford requested the insertion of text into the Neighbourhood Plan restrictions specifying areas where new build houses will be limited to 2 to 4 bedroom houses to support the needs of young families.

Members thanked Peter Warman and the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group for their continued work in this area.

378. District and County Council Member's Reports

County Councillor Sara Bedford

- Summary of school place allocation results shared. Last year twenty-one children were not allocated a place in one of the five school they listed. This year that number is down to fourteen, however, they have been allocated places further afield.
- Changes to bus timetables have not yet been formally registered. The first draft included no buses between Abbots Langley and the Dome / Sainsbury's.
- Zebra crossing issues continue. Councillor has lobbied to put in a signalised crossing on the high street but there are issues with line of sight.
- Urgent attention is being drawn to cancer patient waiting lists in this health authority. Currently 25% of cancer patients are having to wait more than two months on an urgent referral.
- Attended Hunton Bridge Foot Tunnel re-opening unveiling the refreshed mural created by St Paul school children and painted by local artist, Mark Tanti.

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- Noted a petition has been created calling for additional safety measures at the intersection of Station Road and Home Park Mill Link Road after a person on bike was knocked off and badly injured.
- Noted that planning permission for Riverside bar was turned down by Three Rivers District Council.

Councillor Ruth Clark

- Noted that planning permission for demolition of existing building at old West Herts College and redevelopment for a residential development of 65 flats has gone to appeal and was overturned so development will go ahead.
- Shared Three Rivers District Council is investigating parking problems on Hazelbury Avenue as part of an informal public parking consultation.
- Noted Primrose Hill area parking consultation resulted in 26% of respondents being in favour of some form of parking controls. This will move to a formal consultation later in the year.

Councillor David Major

- Noted the government is now allowing shops and banks to be converted into habitable accommodation without full planning permission.

Councillor John Tankard

- Noted the Biodiversity Opportunity Audit report will be published on 14th March 2022. Following the survey, TRDC are now looking at more opportunities to create biodiversity.

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst

- Shared Three Rivers District Council is investigating parking problems in Lemonfield Estate as part of an informal public parking consultation.
- Attended Warner Bros public consultation event on 21st February 2022. Received limited feedback from public.
- Noted Three Rivers District Council budget was passed and no alternative budget was proposed. Also passed a £5 /yr increase on Band D. Key portion of additional funding being put invested in biodiversity projects. All other services will continue.

379. Chief Officer & Clerk's Report

vii. *Location of Parish Council & Committee Meetings*

Members noted the update and the resumption of Parish Council and Committee meeting in the Council Offices as of April 2022.

viii. *Small Grants Awarded*

Members noted the following small grants have been awarded:

- a) Abbots Autumn Fest 2022 - £250 to support cost of holding and promoting the event.
- b) Abbots Langley SNT, Hertfordshire Constabulary - £234 to cover the cost of the venue hire for six self-defence sessions for women in the local community.

ix. *Members Attendance - Six Month Rule*

The Chief Officer & Clerk advised that no members were at risk of breaching the "six month rule" until the May 2022.

x. *Absence from Office*

Members noted the Chief Officer & Clerk's update.

380. Monthly Statement of Accounts

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It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns and seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and RESOLVED that the Statement of Accounts for January and February 2022 as notified to the Council be approved and published on the Parish Council's website.

The meeting closed at 20:44 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____