

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 5th March 2015, 7:30 pm at Tanners Wood Hall, School Mead, Abbots Langley.

Those present:

Councillors:	Councillors Jane Lay (Chairman), Sara Bedford, Jean Bowman, Brenda Kersey, Gloria Keaveny, David Major, Owen Roe, and John Wyatt.
Apologies:	Councillors Derryck Croker, Jeff Hill, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Belinda Phipps and Keith Williams.
Officers:	Tim Perkins (Clerk to the Council), Janet Pearce (Planning and Meetings Officer) & Gail Kiely (Finance Officer).
Public:	56
Press:	2

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The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

### 1. Welcome

Councillor Jane Lay, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies from Councillors as detailed above were noted.

### 3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2013-2014

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, held on 5th March 2014, were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting, having been proposed by Councillor Brenda Kersey and seconded by Mrs Joan Gentry.

### 4. Annual Report and Committee Reports

An overview of the Annual Report of the Parish Council was presented by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

The Chairman of the Council's Planning & Highways and Leisure Committees summarised their reports. The Vice-Chairman of the Finance & Administration Committee deputised for the committee Chairman who was unavailable.

#### Planning & Highways Committee

Councillor David Major thanked committee colleagues for their work in reviewing all planning applications in the Parish area and to Janet Pearce, Planning and Meetings Officer, for her work in presenting information to the committee and researching previous applications.

Questions from residents:

Residents GC, DG, Orchard Avenue area, related to the proposed development on Woodside Road/High Elms Lane area.

Q: Residents are concerned about the proposed development, but more so about the lack of consultation around the removal of the green belt status.

A: (DM) As yet no planning application has been received, so the Parish Council cannot comment.

A: (SB) Any direct campaigning must be related to the specific application as good and valid comments cannot be taken into consideration unless directed at the application.

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Q: Concern about the timing of the process in terms of the timing of the application to change the status of the green belt.

A: (SB) Three Rivers District Council had to agree to change the green belt status in July and stand by the planning inspector's decision. It was unfortunately the best decision that could be taken at the time as otherwise further areas would have been opened for development.

Q: The main concern was lack of consultation.

A: (SB) The Planning Inspector said the development had to go ahead. Subsequently Hertfordshire County Council have said that the school proposed for the development may not now be needed due to a reduction in the projected number of school places needed by 2016. There is some scepticism about the data due to the significant numbers of developments, such as those on the Leavesden Aerodrome site, which will inevitably drive up the requirement for school places.

Resident's concerns are understood but all councillors can do is to try and brief residents on the process and the constraints placed on councils by the planning process.

Q: Will Parish Councillors object to the planning application when it comes forward for consideration.

A: (SB) All councillors have to respond to the application when it is going through the review process, they cannot take a position prior to seeing the application as they would then be accused of pre-determination.

Residents will be welcomed at both Parish and District Council meetings when the formal application is considered and they will be able to speak at the meetings, within the arrangements at both meetings for public speaking.

The Chairman brought discussion on this item to an end, so the rest of the business could be conducted. Residents were referred to the Three Rivers District Council Abbots Langley Local Area Forum, which is being held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 7:30 pm at St. Michael's Catholic High School.

Councillor Sara Bedford and a number of residents withdrew from the meeting and carried on discussions.

### Leisure Committee

Councillor John Wyatt thanked volunteer groups, particularly AIMS for all their work on gardening and improving the growing environment around the parish. Also, other groups such as Watford Lions for their considerable work on the carnival and fireworks. The committees work is covered in the report, but car parking and dog fouling has featured repeatedly.

Q: (PH) Does the Parish Council employ a Dog Warden? There is a dog fouling hot spot where the Marlin Square to Trowley Rise footpath splits. Also, are there any restrictions of professional dog walkers who handle sometimes up to six or seven dogs?

Has the Parish Council tried any chemical treatment to stop dogs fouling in particular areas?

A: (Clerk) No but the Three Rivers District Council Animal Control officer can be called in to deal with particular "hot spots" and they are authorised to issue fixed penalty notices to owners who allow their dogs to foul. There are currently no restrictions on professional dog walkers.

No chemical treatments have been used, but officers would investigate.

### Finance & Administration

The committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman had met privately with the Internal Auditor during a recent audit. No matters of concern were raised, the audit report raised no issues. The primary focus of the committee was to ensure every penny collected through the precept was spent wisely.

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

Q: (DB) Congratulations are due to the Parish Council on its high standard of financial management. Has any consideration been given to merging Parish Councils with the District Council?

A: (Clerk) No as that would require primary legislation. In fact the reverse is happening in many areas with residents campaigning to establish Parish Councils (Rickmansworth) due to the local focus and value for money they provide.

### Staffing Committee

This report was noted.

### Review Committee

This committee deals with formal complaints raised against services the council provides. The committee has not needed to meet in the past year.

## 5. Financial Grants

Grants certificate were presented to the following organisations.

- i. **Lions Club of Watford**  
£2000 to support the cost of the firework display and carnival.
- ii. **Abbots Langley Gilbert & Sullivan Society**  
£500 to support the costs of staging a summer production.
- iii. **St. Lawrence Church**  
£1500 to cover the cost of maintenance of the churchyard.
- iv. **Abbots Langley Carers Network**  
£250 to support meeting and event costs.
- v. **Royal Air Force Association - Abbots Langley & Kings Langley Branch**  
£250 to support meeting and association event costs.
- vi. **Abbots Langley Women's Institute**  
£200 to support meeting, speaker and other costs.
- vii. **Abbots Langley Flower Arrangement Society**  
£400 to support hall hire and demonstrator costs.
- viii. **Citizens Advice Bureau in Three Rivers**  
£2000 to support the costs of engaging a home visiting and case worker at the Abbots Langley branch.
- ix. **Abbots Langley Players**  
£500 to support the costs of staging a wider community event as part of the RSC's Open Stage project.
- x. **St. Pauls Church Langleybury**  
£1500 to support improvement and ongoing maintenance of grounds, grave areas and garden of remembrance.
- xi. **Bedmond Women's Institute**  
£200 to support meeting and event costs.

## 6. Civic Awards

The Chairman presented the Civic Awards.

The recipients were:

- i. **Outstanding Individual Achievement (Cup)**  
Alison Warner - Abbots Langley Tough Ten
- ii. **Service to the Local Community (Cup)**  
Roger Yapp - Back to the Front
- iii. **Local Community Group (Shield)**  
Abbots Langley Cricket Club Colts

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**7. Community Public Access Defibrillators**

The Clerk to the Council gave a brief presentation on the above and made all attendees aware of the walk-in session that was being held at the Manor House on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

**8. Meeting Closed**

There being no further business the Chairman closed the formal meeting at 8:50 pm, thanking colleagues and the Parish Council staff for all their hard work during the year.

**9. Neighbourhood Plan**

Councillor Wendy Jordan, Croxley Green Parish Council, gave a presentation on the Community and Neighbourhood plans that have been developed in our neighbouring parish.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_