

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 1st March 2017, 7:30 pm at Tanners Wood Hall, School Mead, Abbots Langley.

Those present:

Councillors: Councillors Liz Burns (Chairman), Jean Bowman, Brenda Kersey, Jane Lay, David Major, Robin Powell, Owen Roe, Alison Ward and John Wyatt.

Apologies: Councillors Sara Bedford, Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Alex Michaels, Lyn Ferguson, and Hitesh Taylor.

Officers: Tim Perkins (Clerk to the Council) & Janet Pearce (Planning and Meetings Officer).

Others: Peter Warman (Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group) and Alison Eardley (Consultant to the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group).

Public: 27

Press: 0

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

1. Welcome

Councillor Liz Burns, Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed all attendees to the meeting. The Chairman was unable to attend due to an urgent family commitment.

2. Apologies

Apologies from Councillors as detailed above were noted.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2015-2016

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, held on 3rd March 2016, were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Annual Report and Committee Reports

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

The Vice-Chairman also acknowledged the service of Councillor Les Proctor who had died last year.

The Chairmen of the Council's Planning & Highways, Leisure and Finance & Administration Committees introduced their reports.

The Vice-Chairman explained that as the work of the Staffing Committee involved the employees of the Parish Council much of its business was confidential.

The Review Committee deals with formal complaints raised against services the council provides. The committee has not needed to meet in the past year as no such complaints were received.

The reports having been summarised the Chairman asked for questions.

Questions from residents:

Q: Drains in Hyde Lane are continually blocked and overflowing, can anything be done?

A: Road drainage is the responsibility of Hertfordshire County Council, if details can be passed on to the office this will be reported.

Q: Planning permission is being given for multiple extensions to properties in Trowley Rise, this creates displacement parking onto the road causing traffic congestion and obscuring sight lines when residents are trying to park. Can anything be done?

A: Planning permissions are approved by Three Rivers District Council, the Parish Council is a consultee. Under current "permitted development" regulations there is often little that can be done to refuse applications to extend properties.

Q: A number of footpaths and pavements are obstructed as residents are not maintaining hedges.

A: This is the responsibility of the Hertfordshire County Council as the Highways Authority and if reported they will follow up.

Q: Mini buses pulling into Breakspeare School sometimes drive aggressively and cause congestion by blocking the main road.

A: The Clerk will be asked to raise with the Community Police Sergeant.

Q: As an allotment tenant thanks to the Parish Council for putting in place controls at Primrose Hill as I can now park when I want to work on my plot.

A: Noted

5. Civic Awards

Mrs Pat Waterton was presented with the "Service to the Community" award for her exemplary service to many community groups over the years.

6. Financial Grants

Grants certificate were presented to the following organisations.

- i. Royal Air Force Association
£250 to support the cost of supporting meeting, outing and hall hire costs.
- ii. CAB in Three Rivers
£2,000 to support a Home Visiting & Case Worker at Abbots Langley CAB.
- iii. St Lawrence Church
£2,000 to support the cost of churchyard maintenance and maintaining the environment.
- iv. Abbots Langley Flower Arranging Society
£300 to support the cost of staging demonstrations and flowers.
- v. Lions Club of Watford
£2,000 to support the cost of staging Abbots Langley Carnival & Fireworks.
- vi. St. Paul's Church Langleybury
£1,500 to support the cost of maintenance and improvement of church grounds.
- vii. Abbots Langley Women's Institute
£100 to support the cost of supporting meeting and hall hire costs
- viii. Abbots Langley Methodist Church
£2,500 to support the cost of a new entrance ramp (disabled access)
- ix. The Henderson Hub
£35,000 be awarded to The Henderson Hub for the purpose of supporting the development of Henderson Hall as a community resource.

7. Neighbourhood Plan

Peter Warman, Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, gave a brief overview of the work of the Steering Group. It was hoped that those present would take the time after the formal meeting to discuss the progress on the development of the plan with Steering Group members and review the information displayed.

There would be more communication with residents as development of the plan progressed. The group was aware that whilst communicating and capturing information digitally was both practical and efficient they did need to make sure they did make contact with residents who were "offline" .

8. Meeting Closed

There being no further business the Chairman closed the formal meeting at 8:33 pm, thanking colleagues and the Parish Council staff for all their hard work during the year.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____