

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd August 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those present:

Chairman:	Councillor John Wyatt
Vice Chairman:	Councillor Jane Lay
Councillors:	Councillor Sara Bedford Councillor Jean Bowman Councillor Liz Burns Councillor David Monk (in attendance non-voting) Councillor Hitesh Tailor Councillor Alison Ward
Also Present:	Mr Chris Bromwich - Allotment Representative Mr Robert Stimpson - Allotment Representative Mr Tim Denyer - Sports Representative
Officers:	Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council David Abbott - Facilities Manager

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

134. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Robin Powell (other commitment).

Mr John Kersey and Mr Vince Watts advised the Clerk that they were unable attend the meeting.

Mark Ellis, Works Manager, was on annual leave.

135. Declarations of Interest

None.

136. Public Participation

No members of the public had expressed an interest in addressing the committee.

137. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor Liz Burns and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2018, 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.

138. Reports from the Allotments Representatives

Primrose Hill - Mr Robert Stimpson

Nothing significant to report. It was confirmed that the Works Team have cleared some of the vacant plots and arrangements are being made for tenants to be allocated.

A number of trees in the community orchard are looking in a poor condition due to the extended hot weather. Replacement planting will need to be considered if they do not recover in the spring.

Manor House - Mr Chris Bromwich

Nothing significant to report. Officers confirmed that vacant plots are being let.

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139. Reports from the Sports Representatives

Abbots Youth Football Club (AYFC) - Mr Tim Denyer

Mr Denyer reported that there are overhanging branches on one of the junior pitches. Officers advised that a purchase order had been placed with a tree surgeon to carry out remedial works to trees which were encroaching on pitches.

Due to the Works Manager's absence it was not possible to confirm the exact location of the works being carried out. Mr Denyer was asked to advise the Facilities Manager within the next two weeks if the branches had not been cut back.

140. Key Projects 2018-2020

Following updates to the Key Projects list were discussed and agreed, (n) refers to the project reference in the August revision of the report.

i. Manor House Play Area

Prior to the meeting members had received a briefing from Freestyle the contractor selected to design and build the new "wheeled facility". Three outline plans were discussed.

Members expressed a preference for design option three. Four members supporting this design, two supported option two and none option one. (4)

The Facilities Manager was asked to update Three Rivers District Council.

Officers were asked to look at the relocation of the huck swing, zip wire and youth shelter which will be taken down when the skate park project works commence. It was hoped that the structures will maintain their integrity when dismantled and can be relocated, but as they have been installed for many years there may be structural issues to resolve.

ii. Electric Vehicle Charging Points

Delete from list, pending clarification of HMG grants and technology updates. No further grants are available for charging points to be installed in car parks, the emphasis now being on street points. (14)

iii. Water Fountains & Bottle Refill Stations

The Clerk was asked to add a new budget line to cover the costs (£3,500) of installing a further unit per year. (15)

iv. Primrose Hill Play Equipment

Cllr Alex Michaels to be asked to attend the next meeting of this committee to discuss refurbishment works at the play area. Cllr Michaels has discussed this play area with officers from Three Rivers District Council, but the committee has not been updated on those discussions. (16)

v. Depot

The Clerk was asked to make budget provision of £60,000 to cover the cost of reinstating the depot surface. (20)

vi. New Projects

The following new projects were discussed, officers were asked to add to the report, obtain costings and update the committee.

- Lamp Post Flags (Carnival and other events)

Officers were asked to review with Hertfordshire Highways and obtain costings that would allow brackets to be installed on the High Street lamp posts so up to four flags per post can be easily installed and taken down.

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Budget code 7231 "Carnival Costs" will be amended to "Carnival Costs and Street Dressing" with an initial additional £3,000 cost allocation.

- Equipment for Fitness Groups.

Officers to obtain initial costs to cover the cost of installing passive equipment, initially in the Manor House, that could be used for step ups, strength, conditioning and resistance training.

141. Usage of Playing Fields by Commercial Fitness Groups

Members noted the report on fitness groups using the open spaces for organised sessions, some of which were commercial enterprises.

It was appreciated that there was a balance to be struck between the public use of these spaces, but business use by large groups needed to be managed.

Members expressed disappointment at the challenging behaviour some members of these groups have directed at officers and members.

Officers were asked to draw up a "Code of Conduct" for use of the open spaces by organised groups. This is to include references to treating each other with respect, managing the use of the grounds and the potential damage, high impact and high energy training, such as that organised by "military fitness" type groups can cause.

142. Clerk's Report

- vii. Aligning Fees & Charges Junior Teams with FA age groups

Members noted that the revision of Fees and Charges to be discussed at the October meeting of this committee will have football teams age groups aligned with those of the FA.

- viii. Contractor Performance - Quotes and Specifications

Members noted the challenges officers were facing getting appropriate contractors to specify and quote for works.

- ix. Leisure Committee Meeting - October 2018

Clerking and staff attendance arrangements for the October meeting of this committee were noted.

The meeting closed at 9.13 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____