

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 11th December 2019 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

Also Present: Mr John Kersey - Allotment Representative
Mr Robert Stimpson - Allotment Representative
Mr Tim Denyer - Sports Representative

Officers: Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council
Mark Ellis - Works Manager

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

265. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Simon Stanley (other commitment).

Mr Chris Bromwich, Allotment Representative, advised the Clerk that he was unable to attend the meeting.

David Abbott, Facilities Manager, was unavailable.

266. Declarations of Interest

None.

267. Public Participation

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

268. 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 23rd October 2019, 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.

269. Reports from the Allotments Representatives

Jacketts Field & Primrose Hill Community Orchard - Mr John Kersey

The padlock at the Shepherd Close end of the allotments is jamming. Works Manager will replace.

Twelve fruit trees in the Community Orchard are growing reasonably well. Two or three need replacing, these will be sourced by Mr Kersey and costs reimbursed via the Clerk.

Manor House - Mr Chris Bromwich

Mr Bromwich was unable to attend the meeting, but asked the Clerk for an update on the works required to the retaining wall (adjacent to The Grange) that had failed.

The Clerk advised that quotes had been received, a PO would be issued and the works would be scheduled to commence in January, weather and ground conditions permitting.

Primrose Hill - Mr Robert Stimpson

No issues, new tenants appear to be enthusiastically working on their plots.

Abbots Langley Parish Council

270. Reports from the Sports Representatives

No report. Matters related to the storage container will be addressed in the relevant agenda item.

271. Budget 2020-2021

i. Key Projects

Members noted the progress and updates on key projects.

ii. Committee Budget

Members considered the committee budget and had no significant updates.

272. Langleybury Playing Fields - Environment Agency Borehole

Members noted the above request and asked officers to work with the Environment Agency on the location and installation logistics.

The Clerk was waiting on papers from the EA and expected permission would be granted through a wayleave or lease which will require Parish Council approval.

273. Langleybury Playing Fields - Request to Rename

Members considered the request from Langleybury Cricket Club to rename the playing fields after Mr Gordon Riddick, a prominent club member who had died in 2018.

Whilst members had sympathy for the request, they felt the renaming would cause local and wider confusion and asked that the club consider alternative ways of commemorating Mr Riddick.

The Clerk was asked to advise the club accordingly.

274. "Happy to Chat" Benches

Members agreed to designate a bench in the Manor House and one on the High Street (not in a high use location), as "Happy to Chat" benches.

Officers to work with colleagues at Three Rivers District Council to see if they are prepared to designate a bench on either side of Leavesden Country Park.

If so, consistent branding to include signage, perhaps coloured bench slats and local awareness information on notice boards to be agreed.

275. Primrose Hill Play Area - Funding

Members noted the options on funding for the above and the level of contribution from the Parish Council, which will have an impact on the project spend.

Whilst members will need to understand project costings, they were prepared to consider a higher contribution from Community Infrastructure Levy funds as capital expenditure in the Primrose Hill part of the parish was significantly lower than in more central parts.

The Clerk was asked to discuss the above with colleagues at Three Rivers District Council and update members with project timings at the February meeting of these committee.

276. Updates

i. Pollinator Strategy

Progress has been slow due to the short notice resignation of the Biodiversity Officer at Three Rivers District Council.

The Works Manager was asked to contact the Principal Landscape Officer at Three Rivers District Council, who will be able to provide contact information to relevant staff at the Countryside Management Service.

ii. Great War Wall

Members noted the project was currently on hold and officers will update when further information is available.

Abbots Langley Parish Council

iii. Abbots Youth Football Club Storage Container

The club has advised that it wants to proceed with the project, with a possible construction time in summer 2020.

Funding, planning permission and formal Parish Council approvals to be addressed in the New Year.

277. Clerk's Report

- Members noted that the Royal Air Force Association Christmas Dinner had to be rearranged due to the Manor House being used as a polling station for the general election.
- Councillor Sara Bedford updated members on the recent and potential national awards that Leavesden Country Park has received.

The meeting closed at 8.14pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____