

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd October 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 Jean Bowman Councillor Ruth Clark (attending not-voting) Councillor Robin Powell (substitute) Councillor Simon Stanley Councillor Roxanne Yau
Also Present:	Mr Robert Stimpson - Allotment Representative
Officers:	Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council David Abbott - Facilities Manager Mark Ellis - Works Manager

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

178. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillors Liz Burns and Sara Bedford (unavailable).

179. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Jane Lay declared an interest in agenda item 7iii Fees and Charges as a member of the Gardening Society and an allotment tenant.

180. Public Participation

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

181. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor Jean Bowman and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st 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.

182. Reports from the Allotments Representatives

Primrose Hill - Mr Robert Stimpson

Three plots are not being worked and the Works Manager confirmed that they were in the process of being offered to tenants.

The trees in the community orchard are not thriving and a new location needs to be agreed and re-planted.

183. Budget 2020-2021

i. Key Projects

Car Parks (Key Project 13) - Further earmarked reserve of £25k to be added.

Water Fountains (Key Project 15) - Members discussed the cost of the trenching works for the water fountain at South Way. The preferred location is close to the play area, but this has an additional cost of £3,200 for trenching and installation works. Officers confirmed the trenching would be through grass and not the car park surface. There would be additional limited costs for the meter and connection to the clubhouse water supply.

Budget provision for an additional fountain to be included next year. Costs for connection to mains water at Bedmond would be apx. £9k which did concern members.

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Officers will get costs for installation and trenching at Primrose Hill. These would be much lower due to the proximity of the play area to the pavilion where there is an available water supply.

Primrose Hill Play Area (Key Project 16) - The Clerk confirmed that the play area was in Three Rivers District Council's programme for refurbishment in 2020-2021 and £31,800 funding had been allocated. The cost of the project will be apx. £100k so consideration will be required on how much the Parish Council is prepared to commit to this project and from what sources.

Depot Surface (Key Project 20) - The Clerk confirmed that further extensive and detailed discussions had been held with the two preferred contractors. A contractor has been selected in line with the delegated authority granted to the Clerk by this Committee at its August meeting (min. 133.). Cost of the works will be £31.4k.

Thanks were due to the Facilities Manager and Works Manager for their work on this project.

Street Dressing (Key Project 22) - Officers were asked to investigate the possibility of having further bunting runs across the High Street in addition to the current four runs. Locations opposite the Millennium Gardens to be investigated, although there was concern that the "dip" in supporting cables may not meet required minimum clearances required for buses and large vehicles.

ii. Budget 2020-2021

Members reviewed the budget pages that are the responsibility of this committee.

The updates required are covered in Key Projects above.

iii. Fees & Charges 2020-2021

It was proposed by Councillor John Wyatt, seconded by Councillor Simon Stanley and **RESOLVED** that there being no further amendments to the schedule as presented members recommend approval to the Parish Council.

Members specifically agreed the freeze of venue hire charges for the new financial year.

184. Abbots Youth Football Club

It was proposed by Councillor John Wyatt, seconded by Councillor Roxanne Yau and **RESOLVED** that permission be granted to Abbots Youth Football Club to site a storage container in the Manor House playing fields.

The final specification and location to be agreed with the Facilities Manager but these are unlikely to vary significantly from the proposed location.

Maintenance, installation of a concrete base, planning permissions and insurance all to be the responsibility of the club.

A licence to occupy will be required and the Clerk will review with the Parish Council's solicitors when the final specification and location is agreed.

185. Memorial Benches

Members discussed various options on memorial benches. The Clerk will refer his report to the Planning and Highways Committee for their comments.

It was noted that benches on the public highway required considerably more work and expense than those on open spaces as approved contractors have to be used and extensive permissions obtained.

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186. Updates

i. Pollinator Strategy

Further investigation required. The Works Manager is trying to arrange a meeting with Councillor Jon Tankard to discuss the work already carried out for the Neighbourhood Plan.

The officer dealing with this strategy at Three Rivers District Council has recently resigned.

ii. Great War Wall

The committee wanted to revert to the original plan of a memorial wall in the garden behind the Community Police Office and noted that there had been some discussions with stakeholders that had at times not been overly helpful.

The committee Chairman will review with all stakeholders. Plans need final confirmation as planning and conservation area permissions will be required.

Costs of consents and ongoing maintenance, of which there are concerns, to be covered by the Back to the Front Project.

iii. Spraying Training

Members noted the update on the above.

There are still concerns about the Parish Council's use of Glyphosate. If members want a further discussion this needs to be based on specific evidence to be presented to the committee, as there have been plenty of general discussions on this subject.

187. Christmas Carols and Lights On

Members noted the costs of staging the above and the reducing charity collections.

Although discussions with St Lawrence Church were at an early stage and there are logistical and operational issues to be resolved, there was support for combining the Parish Council's event with those held at the church.

Officer and members will continue to work with the church on the arrangements.

The meeting closed at 9.51 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____