

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 14th April 2021 at 7.30 pm on the Zoom Video and Teleconferencing Platform. ^[1].

Those present:

Vice Chairman: Councillor Jane Lay
Councillors: Councillor Liz Burns
Councillor Ruth Clark (attending non-committee member)
Councillor Simon Stanley
Councillor Roxanne Yau

Also Present: Mr Chris Bromwich - Allotment Representative
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

^[1] *Permitting legislation - The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.*

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

366. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Sara Bedford and Jean Bowman (unavailable).

367. Declarations of Interest

None.

368. Public Participation

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

369. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2021, 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.

370. Reports from the Allotments Representatives

Manor House - Chris Bromwich

Plot 2a	Slow start but under cultivation.
Plot 11	Mostly under cultivation.
Plot 1a	Does not appear to be under cultivation.
Plot 8b	Slow but some progress.

Primrose Hill - Mr Robert Stimpson

Plot 12 & 19	Not worked.
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Some other plots slow starting, but most in good condition.

The water leak on one of the troughs appears to have cleared. The Works Manager will install stop cocks on each trough, so the whole site supply will not have to be turned off in the event of a leak.

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Jacketts Field - Mr John Kersey

All plots generally being worked well.

Works Manager to check site water supply which should now be on.

The Community Orchard at Primrose Hill is looking in a sorry state. Vandalism is the major issue. Alternative locations will need to be considered, possibly as part of the rewilding project that is getting underway.

371. Reports from the Sports Representatives

Abbots Youth Football - Mr Tim Denyer

Reports on social media that glass bottles have been buried on some grounds.

Officers were unaware and asked for any further information such as location and pictures. A <https://what3words.com/> location would be particularly helpful.

372. Evergreen FC - FA Pitch Improvement Programme

Members thanked Mr Mark Ward, Chairman of Evergreen FC for his presentation on the Football Foundation's Pitch Improvement Programme.

To enable Evergreen FC to open initial discussions with the Football Foundation members agreed that the Clerk should sign the required agreement on a non-binding, no commitment basis.

Members and the Clerk raised the following points, to be considered when discussions develop:

- Parish Council funding has not been an issue in regards to pitch maintenance, access to the pitches, overplaying and irrigation during summer maintenance are the major challenges.
- Consideration will need to be given to the potential impact of the agreement on the management of the grounds, which are first and foremost public open spaces.
- The Parish Council has not previously worked with third party grounds maintenance contractors, who will have a contractual relationship with a pitch hirer and not the Parish Council.
- Financial consideration of the agreement on fees income and the funding available for all pitches.
- Concerns were raised about the quality and robustness of the agreement document. It did not appear to have undergone legal review and had a very "home brewed" feel about it. This had the potential to open all parties to risk. If discussions develop positively the Clerk recommends that prior to execution the agreement is subject to review by the Parish Council's solicitors.
- If approval is granted, given the extended football season due to the pandemic restrictions, it is unlikely that it will be practical to agree and execute the agreement in this closed season.

The Clerk will circulate the presentation to members.

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373. Leisure Committee - Sports and Allotments Representatives

i. Role of the Leisure Committee Representatives

Members noted the above document and suggested amendments to the introduction and paragraph five of the arrangements.

The Clerk will update the document accordingly.

ii. Nomination of Representatives.

Members agreed the following:

April 2021 Nominations sought, signs on allotment notice boards and emails to sports club chairman. One month nomination window.

June 2021 Nominations considered by Leisure Committee and appointments confirmed.

August 2021 Appointments effective. First committee meeting for newly appointed, or re-nominated, reps.

Initial term of office two years and then rolled over for a further two years.

374. Depot Project

Members noted the Clerk's report.

375. Abbots Langley Cricket Club - Request to Rebuild Nets

Members noted the request from the club to consider alternative locations for the nets, which was received too late for consideration by officers.

Item was deferred and will be brought back to this committee when officers have discussed with the club.

376. Kitters Green - Emergency Drainage Works

Members noted the report from the Clerk and thanked the Works Manager for managing the remedial works.

377. Abbots Langley Tennis Club - Club Supreme

Members noted the Clerk's report and agreed to defer consideration of matters related to the club's rent when officers have made contact with the club.

378. Clerk's Report

i. Reopening of Facilities

Members noted the discussions from the Staffing Committee and the intention, based on current guidelines to open Tanners Wood Hall in on 12th April and 17th May 2021, dependant on the category of the hirer.

The Manor House will reopen on 1st September 2021.

All reopenings are dependent on HMG guidance in place at the time.

ii. Primrose Hill Play Area

Members noted the delay to rebuilding the play area due to a planning requirement to produce a "Tree Protection Method Statement". Dependant on contractor availability it was hoped works will start later in Aril.

iii. Clerking Arrangements - Leisure Committee Meeting 16th June 2021

The meeting will be clerked by the Finance Officer if the Clerk is unavailable.

iv. Works Team Staffing.

Members noted the retirement of a member of the Works Team in September 2021.

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The meeting closed at 8.18 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____