

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 18th August 2021 at 7.30 pm in Tanners Wood Hall, School Mead, Abbots Langley WD5 0LA.

Those present:

Chairman: Councillor Jane Lay
Vice Chairman: Councillor Simon Stanley
Councillor Jean Bowman
Councillor Liz Burns
Councillor Ruth Clark

Also Present: Mr Chris Bromwich - Allotment Representative (MH)
Mr John Kersey - Allotment Representative (JF)
Mr Rob Stimpson - Allotment Representative (PH)
Mrs Tricia Buttress - Allotment Representative (KF)
Mr Tim Denyer - Sports Representative
Mr Mark Ward - Sports Representative

Officers: Tim Perkins - Chief Officer & Clerk to the Council ^[1]
Isabel Montesdeoca - Chief Officer & Clerk to the Council ^[2]
Mark Ellis - Works Manager
^[1] Retiring ^[2] Appointed

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

128. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Sara Bedford, Jon Tankard, John Wyatt and Roxanne Yau (all unavailable).

129. Declarations of Interest

None.

130. Public Participation

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

131. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns, seconded by Councillor Ruth Clark and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th June 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.

132. Reports from the Allotments Representatives

Jacketts Field - Mr John Kersey

On-going issues with some plots.

Primrose Hill Community Orchard, a few trees are fruiting, others have not thrived and others have been vandalised. Probably not worth investing further funds in the immediate future.

Primrose Hill - Mr Rob Stimpson

About eight plots are showing very low levels of work.

Manor House - Mr Chris Bromwich

Kingsfield - Mrs Tricia Buttress

Similar problems to other sites. Thanks to the Works Team for fixing the water leak promptly.

The Works Team are under staffing pressures at the moment. Representatives are asked to advise the office of any issues with plots not being worked.

Inspections will be restarted as soon as possible.

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Tenants can trim and maintain edging on plots that are not being worked. If tenants were to undertake wider maintenance of sites this would require a volunteer agreement to be drafted and a risk assessment of works to be carried out. If these were in place the Parish Council's liability insurance would cover.

Manor House - Mr Chris Bromwich

One plot not being worked. The Works Manager advised a viewing was being arranged.

The Abbots Langley Gardening Society have three beehives located in a residential property, which is currently on the market. When sold the new owners may be happy to keep the hives on site, if not they will need to be relocated, ideally in the winter as this is the optimum time for hives to be moved.

Members agreed that up to three hives could be sited on plot 12 at Manor House allotments, subject to an agreement being reached between the Parish Council and the Gardening Society. A draft agreement will be brought back to the next meeting of this committee.

If the hives have to be relocated prior to an agreement being finalised members asked that officers worked with the society to agree arrangements for the hives to be relocated.

133. Reports from the Sports Representatives

Mr Tim Denyer

No major issues raised by Abbots Langley Cricket Club or Abbots Youth Football.

Officers confirmed that there was no pitch availability on any grounds managed by the Parish Council and the pitch at Primrose Hill was no longer usable due to mole infestation, which has caused the ground to subside and no longer be safe for organised sports.

Mr Mark Ward

The Works Manager confirmed that pitches would be marked out and goal posts installed prior to the start of the season on 4th September.

134. Abbots Langley & Kings Langley Repair Shed

Members thanked Dr Simon Aulton, Chief Executive of Community Action Dacorum for his presentation on the above.

Members fully supported the project and agreed that it was a practical community use of the building. It was hoped that the Parish Council and other partners would support the project with grant funding. A lease of twelve to fifteen years would be required to access external grant funding.

Officers were asked to progress the project with Community Action Dacorum and other partners and report back on progress.

135. Depot Surface Project

Members discussed the Clerk's report that detailed the project costs and outstanding cost elements.

It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns, seconded by Councillor Simon Stanley and **RESOLVED** that the project be approved and awarded to Murrill Construction at a headline cost of £121,236.

Murrill are a long standing public works contractor and they fulfilled all the requirements of the tender.

Costs for the works required on the sump will be determined when the works commence. A cost for these works have been provided on a per m² basis but until the dig out is complete the extent of the sump is unknown. If the sump is as estimated apx. 30m² the cost will be £4,800.

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Costs for the temporary relocation of the Works Team and their equipment to be confirmed when a project start date is agreed and suitable arrangements finalised.

Officers will check the tender expiry date.

In view of the cost of the project members referred the matter to the Parish Council for final financial approval. Officers will be recommending the Capital Reserve of £85,000 be used to fund this project.

136. Evergreen FC - Pitch Improvement Project

Members noted the Clerk's report and discussed the opportunities and challenges the project presented.

Discussions are ongoing between the club and the officers and further updates will follow.

137. Primrose Hill Play Area

Members noted the Clerk's report and agreed that in future projects of this type, where the Parish Council is committing a significant part of the costs, the council should be party to the contract and have formal sign off on project acceptance

The Parish Council's external play area inspection will take place in September. This objective assessment will be used to raise any post-installation issues that need to be addressed.

138. Manor House - Skate Park

Members noted the issues with some areas of the concrete which were starting to break down.

Officers will continue to pursue the contractor to undertake remedial works under the warranty.

Members made the same comments as above, that the Parish Council should in future be joint party on contracts of this nature.

139. Clerk's Report

Members noted the following.

- i. Three Rivers District Council - Tree Strategy 2022-2027
- ii. Parking Ticket Machine - Primrose Hill

140. Exclusion of the Press and Public (Part II)

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay and seconded by Councillor Liz Burns and **RESOLVED** that as the following matters related to the early stages of a legal dispute, the press and public be asked to leave the meeting.

141. Abbots Langley Tennis Club - Club Supreme

Members were updated on the progress being made by the Parish Council's solicitors on regaining possession of the above.

There will be a further update at the Parish Council meeting in September.

The meeting closed at 9.04 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____