

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20th October 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 Ruth Clark
Councillor Jon Tankard
Councillor Jon Wyatt

Also Present: Mr Rob Stimpson - Allotment Representative (PH)
Mrs Tricia Buttress - Allotment Representative (KF)
Mr Tim Denyer - Sports Representative

Officers: Isabel Montesdeoca - Chief Officer & Clerk to the Council
David Abbott - Facilities Manager
Mark Ellis - Works Manager

The meeting opened at 7:34 pm.

183. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Roxanne Yau (unavailable).

Apologies also received from Councillor Liz Burns and Councillor Jean Bowman (both unavailable).

Messrs Chris Bromwich, John Kersey (Allotment Representatives) and Mark Ward (Sports Representative) had advised the Clerk that they were unable to attend the meeting.

184. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Jane Lay declared an interest in agenda item 7iii Fees and Charges, and in agenda item 9 as a member of the Gardening Society and an allotment tenant.

185. Public Participation

One member of the public attended the meeting to address members on agenda item 9, Manor House Allotments Beekeeping Agreement.

186. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Ruth Clark, seconded by Councillor Simon Stanley and RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th August 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.

187. Reports from the Allotments Representatives

Jacketts Field - Mr John Kersey

Request for clarification on length of waiting list for an allotment on Jacketts Field site. Works manager clarified the waiting list is held across all four parish sites not per site. Those on the waiting list are given the option of taking the next available plot on any site or staying on the waiting list until a plot on a specific site becomes available.

Primrose Hill - Mr Rob Stimpson

Plots 3,22,25,26 and 28 do not appear to have been worked.

Manor House - Mr Chris Bromwich

Report sent ahead of meeting.

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Most plots being worked.

Plot holders neighbouring the path that the Parish Council has been working on to make level and safe want to express their appreciation and thank the Parish Council for addressing the problem.

Plot holder adjacent to the gardens that boarder the allotment has a large tree on the border which is shedding branches and is asking if branches can be cut back to the point of safety.

Kingsfield - Mrs Tricia Buttress

Representative thanked Parish Council Works team for replacing allotment padlock and keys quickly when an issue arose.

Half a dozen allotments do not appear to be worked. Numbers to be provided to the Works manager. Also identified two allotment tenants (23a) (29a) that have now moved.

188. Reports from the Sports Representatives

Mr Tim Denyer

Request for clarification on the prerequisites for a team from outside the parish wishing to rent a football pitch at Bedmond. Facilities manager clarified that only affiliated members of the Bedmond club were allowed to rent the football pitch.

189. Budget 2022-2023

a. Key Projects 2021-2023

Members reviewed the October 2021 update of the above document. The following actions were requested. (Numbering refers to Key Project reference)

i. Key Project 1 - Tree Management Plan

Members noted the completion of the High Street works and Roman Gardens arboriculturist's report recommending the removal and replacement of some overbearing trees with more appropriate species.

ii. Key Project 3 - Manor House Footpath (Dellmeadow-Standfield)

Members discussed the benefit of replacing the footpath. Members will consider it as one of the potential candidates for prioritisation in 2022-2023.

iii. Key Project 9 - Langleybury Play Area - Legacy Play Equipment

Members noted the report from the Works manager on the state of the equipment. Members asked officers to obtain a quote to repair rubber matting.

iv. Key Project 10 - South Way Playing Fields - Car Park

Works manager is in the process of obtaining a quote for the work. Members will consider it as one of the potential candidates for prioritisation in 2022-2023.

v. Key Project 14 - Primrose Hill Footpath Lights

Members noted the update from the Works manager regarding potential issues with solar lights in this location. Members asked officers to review costings and options for LED lights. Members will consider it as one of the potential candidates for prioritisation in 2022-2023.

vi. Key Project 19 - Equipment for Fitness Groups

Members noted update from Facilities manager on increased interest in fitness equipment. Members asked officers to review costings and

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location options for poles to be used for physical training. Members will consider it as one of the potential candidates for prioritisation in 2022-2023.

vii. New Key Projects

a. Manor House Tennis Court Floodlights & Netball

Members asked officers to review costing and options to replace current flood lights with LED lights, and upgrade tennis courts to allow for use as netball courts during the winter season. Members will consider it as one of the potential candidates for prioritisation in 2022-2023.

b. Queen's Green Canopy

Members asked officers to explore costing and options for the planting of an orchard of semi-mature fruit trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. Members will consider it as one of the potential candidates for prioritisation in 2022-2023.

Final selection of key projects to be prioritised for 2022-2023 to be discussed at December meeting of the Leisure committee.

b. Budget Expenditure 2021-2022

Members noted the Clerk's report and the first revision of the committee pages for the above.

c. Fees & Charges 2022-2023

Members noted the Clerk's report. No issues were raised.

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

Members also agreed the freeze of venue hire charges for the new financial year and Delegation of Authority is granted to the Facilities Manager/Clerk to agree discounts as appropriate to secure bookings which offer a significant booking and bar revenue opportunity. Any discounts of greater than 10% to be reported to this committee.

190. Evergreen FC - FA Pitch Improvement Programme

Members noted the Clerk's report on progress and the report from Mark Ward regarding discussions with the FA. Members discussed the opportunities and challenges the project presented. Further updates will follow as discussions progress.

191. Manor House Allotments Beekeeping Agreement

Members noted the report from Chris Bromwich thanking the Parish Council for the extensive follow-up work done by the past and present Clerk in establishing the draft process and agreement.

Members noted the draft agreement and discussed the comments shared by the member of the public. Officers were asked to amend the draft report to incorporate the feedback from the member of the public and make the revised agreement available to existing allotment tenants ahead of the December meeting of this committee. Existing allotment tenants seeking to comment on the amended agreement are invited to attend the December meeting of this committee, where final approval on the agreement will be sought.

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192. Updates

Members noted the Clerk's report on the following:

- i. *Pitch Fees 2021-2022* - Noted and appreciated.
- ii. *Christmas Tree and Lights* - Updates noted.
- iii. *Fireworks* - Updates noted.
- iv. *Allotments (verbal update)* - Updates noted. Members asked officers to provide a tenancy report for discussion at the December meeting of this committee. Members also requested officers to undertake a comparison of our allotment prices, terms and conditions vs. those of other comparable parish councils.

The meeting closed at 10.09 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____