

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those Present:

Chairman: Councillor Brenda Kersey

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Robin Powell

Councillors: Councillor Jean Bowman  
Councillor Lyn Ferguson  
Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst  
Councillor Jane Lay  
Councillor David Major  
Councillor David Monk  
Councillor Owen Roe  
Councillor Hitesh Tailor  
Councillor Alison Ward  
Councillor John Wyatt

Officers: Janet Pearce - Planning and Meetings Officer  
Jodie Copeland - Bookings & Front Desk Officer  
Gail Kiely - Finance Officer (part of meeting)

Police: Sergeant 1971 Christopher Simmons (part of meeting)

Also present: Peter Warman - Chairman, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group  
Alex Pearson - Press, Abbots News (part of meeting)

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

### 223. Apologies for absence

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

### 224. Public Participation

None.

### 225. Hertfordshire Police

Sergeant Simmons updated members on various topics:

- As a result of the large attendance at this year's Remembrance Parade, investigations will be made with regard to a temporary road closure order for next year.
- Reported crime statistics are still increasing, however the published figures include surrounding areas where crime is high, but in Abbots Langley crime is overall down almost 4% from the same period last year, which is the largest reduction in the whole of Hertfordshire, with burglaries down 32% (68 offences) - Operation Thunder remains. Majority of burglaries forced rear entry to properties. The only crimes that have increased are fuel theft and online fraud.
- Crime prevention push now in the run up to Christmas.
- Operation Amang at Parmiters School, use of stolen cars and false number plates. Handbags/property taken from vehicles using distraction techniques. Possible culprit now identified.
- Section 59 notices (Police and Reform Act 2002) continue to be used to address anti-social behaviour by motorbike riders. The Sergeant advised that if members of the public witness speeding bikes, to get their number plate as they are now able to seize them.
- Work in progress to improve information on social media with an increase in OWL messages and a Facebook account.

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The Chairman thanked Sgt Simmons for their presence at the Remembrance Parade in the High Street, Abbots Langley, after which he left the meeting.

### 226. Declarations of Interest

None.

### 227. To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor John Wyatt and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 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.

### 228. Minutes for adoption

The following committee minutes were adopted, approved for publication on the Council's website and passed to the committees for resolution.

Staffing Committee - 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Planning & Highways Committee - 19<sup>th</sup> September, 10<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

Leisure Committee - 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

Finance & Administration Committee - 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018.

### 229. Budget 2019-2020

Members discussed various aspects of the budget with the following points being raised:

- Expenditure on playgrounds and car park - reserve needs bolstering above £25,000 - further discussion required.
- The Chairman advised that preparations were being made for an informal inspection of all the play areas, with the Works Manager. Possibly send a questionnaire to all Councillors to gain a fair view of the work required and priorities.
- Members questioned whether resurfacing the depot was an appropriate use of CIL money.
- As the planned playground on the new development at Fairways Farm was not now going ahead, CIL could be used to upgrade the existing one at Lemonfield Drive in view of its close proximity to the new housing.
- Members requested some background history for all the existing play areas with dates of refurbishment/replacement and costs. Councillor John Wyatt had this information from 2006 and would circulate.
- Members agreed they should look objectively at each play area across the Parish.
- It was felt that there were not enough funds budgeted for the future maintenance of the play areas.
- Members were in agreement with the proposed 2.5% increase in the precept.

### 230. External Audit 2017-2018

*(Referred from the Finance & Administration Committee min. 210.)*

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council accept the External Auditor's Report and Certificate as recommended by the Finance and Administration Committee.

### 231. Internal Audit Report (First Interim) 2017-2018

*(Referred from the Finance & Administration Committee min. 211.)*

Members noted the above and that no significant items were raised.

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### 232. Henderson Hall Managing Trustees

It was proposed by Councillor John Wyatt, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that Mr Chris Whately-Smith and Mr Richard Baldwin be appointed for a further term of office (four years, or until replacements can be found, to provide short term continuity) as Managing Trustees of Henderson Hall. The Chairman asked Members to speak to anyone they feel would be a suitable trustee.

### 233. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Report

Members noted the report which brought to their attention the Three Rivers Local Plan - Potential Sites Consultation.

### 234. District and County Council Member's Reports

County Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst

- The Heritage Centre at Leavesden Country Park scheduled for a "soft opening" on 12<sup>th</sup> December with Christmas Carols at 6pm. Works still to be completed include the cycle hub, cafe and additional lighting on the south side. The formal opening will be in early January 2019.
- Two consultations have been carried out with regard to the parking problems in Parsonage Close, but changes to the current restriction arrangements are unlikely.
- LED lighting across the county due to be completed within the next 18 months. Will be dimmed at 9pm; further dimmed at 12pm and turned off at 1am.

### 235. Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended the following events.

16<sup>th</sup> September - Battle of Britain parade, service and wreath laying, St. Lawrence Church.

17<sup>th</sup> September - Meeting with MOTO Hospitality, Council Offices.

19<sup>th</sup> September - Hertfordshire County Council "Herts Forward 2018" Conference, Rothamsted Research Centre.

20<sup>th</sup> September - Parmiters School, Senior Speech Night.

22<sup>nd</sup> September - Abbots Autumnfest opened event and final prize draws, School Mead.

7<sup>th</sup> October - Tough Ten road race, presented cups and medals.

16<sup>th</sup> October - Informal meeting with the CEO of the Hospice of St Francis, Henderson Hub.

31<sup>st</sup> October - Opening of the refurbished Multi use Games Area with the Chairman of Three Rivers District Council, Manor House Playing Fields.

1<sup>st</sup> November - Three Rivers District Council Local Area Forum, Manor House.

2<sup>nd</sup> November - Abbots Langley Firework Display, Manor House playing fields.

7<sup>th</sup> November - Hertfordshire Independent Living Service - a morning out with Meals on Wheels.

11<sup>th</sup> November - Remembrance Sunday wreath laying and service at St. Lawrence Church and Remembrance Day service at Church of the Ascension, Bedmond.

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### 236. Clerk's Report

Members noted:

- Elections 2019
- Henderson Hall Lease
- Manor Lodge Lease
- Christmas Lights
- Tough Ten
- Small Grants
- Office Copies

### 237. Monthly Statement of Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor Hitesh Tailor and seconded by Councillor John Wyatt and **RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts for September & October 2018 as notified to the Council be approved and published on the Parish Council's website.

The meeting closed at 9.18 pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_