

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th March 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Council Offices, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Those Present:

Chairman:	Councillor Robin Powell
Councillors:	Councillor Liz Burns Councillor Ruth Clark Councillor Fran Deschampsneufs Councillor Jane Lay Councillor David Major Councillor Owen Roe Councillor Simon Stanley Councillor John Swallow Councillor Jon Tankard
Officers:	Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council
Police:	PCSO 6493 Michael Jefferson

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

349. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillors Stephen Giles-Medhurst (unavailable), Sara Bedford (other authority meeting) and Jean Bowman (unwell).

350. Public Participation

None.

351. Hertfordshire Police

PCSO Jefferson gave an overview of recent policing topics:

- Reduction in theft from motor vehicles. Following targeted operations two were arrested and released under investigation.
- Safer Neighbourhoods events on-going. Latest in Coates Way and School Mead.
- On-going attention to residential burglaries. Focus on advice to residents where properties appear dark during the winter months.
- New online programme highlighting the risks of drugs use for those caught in possession of cannabis.
- A further spike in theft of catalytic convertors.
- Anti-social behaviour has reduced but it often does during the winter months. Particular attention being given to Leavesden Country Park following recent reports.
- Policing priorities being informed through the new "Echo" system that collects residents input online and via mobile devices.

Staffing update: Sgt. Mark Palmer is leaving Abbots Langley to take up a role in Watford, Sgt. Amy Stansbury will be moving over from South Oxhey.

Councillor David Major asked if there was any feedback on the 20 mph zone, recently implemented on roads in the High Street area. He was advised that it was too early but officers were monitoring.

352. Declarations of Interest

None.

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353. To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2020, 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.

354. Minutes for adoption

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

Planning & Highways Committee - 8th, 29th January and 19th February 2020.

Leisure Committee - 12th February 2020.

Finance & Administration Committee - 20th January 2020.

355. Internal Audit Report (Second Interim) 2019-2020

(Referred from the Finance & Administration Committee min. 320.)

Members noted the review by the Finance and Administration Committee.

356. District and County Council Member's Reports

District Councillor Jon Tankard

Three Rivers District Council is continuing to develop its Sustainability & Bio-Diversity Strategy. If members have any suggestions for areas to be "re-wilded" these should be forwarded to Councillor Tankard.

The works to the footpath between Trowley Rise and Oak Green started in the New Year although no progress has been made recently. This is being followed up, but the work force may have been diverted to urgent works following the recent storms.

357. Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended the following events.

14th January - Follow up meeting with Vicar and other stakeholders to discuss Christmas Lights switch on and hand over donation cheque, St. Lawrence Church.

24th January - Tough Ten Presentation Evening, Breakspeare School.

5th February - Meeting to discuss commemoration of VJ Day (15th August 2020), Parish Council Offices.

14th February - Presentation to leaving employee, Parish Council Offices.

17th February - Joint Parish Council Meeting, Watford Rural Parish Council.

358. Clerk's Report

Members noted:

- Environment Agency Borehole
- Financial and Small Grants
- First Aid Training
- Works Team
- Office Copies
- Diary Dates

The Clerk gave members a verbal update on the following which were not included in his formal report:

- Coronavirus disruption preparation.
- Change in email systems.

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359. Monthly Statement of Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor Ruth Clark and seconded by Councillor Fran Deschampsneufs and **RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts for January & February 2020 as notified to the Council be approved and published on the Parish Council's website.

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

It was proposed by Councillor Simon Stanley and seconded by Councillor Ruth Clark and **RESOLVED** that as the following matters relate to the employment of staff and the early stages of legal dispute into which the Parish Council may be entering, the press and public be excluded from the discussion, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and the Local Government Act 1972, ss100.

361. Unauthorised Release of Information

Members noted the Clerk's report and the actions taken by the Facilities Manager.

The response from the Information Commissioners Office was also noted.

Members asked for their thanks to be passed on to the Facilities Manager for his exemplary handling of this matter when the Clerk was on annual leave.

362. PC Freehold Land - Encroachment

Members noted the progress on this matter which was being dealt with by the Parish Councils solicitors.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____