

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th November 2020 at 7.30 pm on the Zoom Video and Teleconferencing Platform. ^[1].

Those Present:

Chairman:	Councillor Robin Powell
Vice-Chairman	Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst
Councillors:	Councillor Sara Bedford 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 Councillor John Wyatt Councillor Roxanne Yau
Officers:	Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council

^[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.

178. Apologies for absence

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

179. Declarations of Interest

None.

180. Public Participation

None.

181. Hertfordshire Police

Not present.

182. To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor Liz Burns and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 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.

183. 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 - 16th September, 7th & 28th October 2020

Leisure Committee - 21st October 2020

Finance & Administration Committee - 26th October 2020

184. Internal Audit Report (Final Report) 2019-2020

(Referred from the Finance & Administration Committee min. 167i.)

Members noted the Final Internal Audit Report for 2019-2020 has been reviewed by the Finance & Administration Committee and that no significant matters were raised.

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185. Member Leave of Absence

No members requested Leave of Absence.

The Clerk advised that no members were at risk of breaching the “six month rule” until the New Year.

186. Calendar of Meetings 2021-2022

Members noted the calendar of future meetings which will be published on the Parish Council’s website.

187. Christmas & New Year 2020-2021

Members noted the arrangements.

188. Staffing Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor John Wyatt and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Fran Deschampsneufs be added to the membership of the above committee.

189. Parish Council Donation

(Agenda item requested by Cllr Roxanne Yau.)

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst and **RESOLVED** that a hardship fund of £2,000 be made available to the Abbots Langley Citizens Advice Bureau for distribution to local families. Funds to be drawn from the grants budget.

Delegated authority granted to the Clerk to manage the expenditure and if necessary, following discussion with the Chairman, redirect the funding to another appropriate organisation(s).

190. Budget 2021-2022

Members noted the latest draft of the budget (v3a).

The Band D Base data is not yet available from Three Rivers District Council. The Clerk was asked to allow for a 2.5% increase in the precept, above any Band D increase.

191. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Report

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst advised that Three Rivers District Council officers have been asked to review various aspects of the draft local plan considering the impact of the pandemic. Most research and decisions built into the plan and the potential sites for development were derived prior to the pandemic. Provision of open spaces, footpaths and access to areas for leisure may need to be considered differently in a post pandemic world.

Members asked the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee to expedite as far as possible production of the plan, so it is in place as soon as practical. This will put the Parish Council in a stronger position when discussing with the District Council, site allocation, community design and related matters. The Parish Council would also benefit from a 25% Community Infrastructure Levy contribution from the District Council rather than 15%.

Members asked the Clerk to agenda a wider discussion on the Neighbourhood Plan at the January Parish Council meeting.

Members noted that the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee would not be available in December.

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192. District and County Council Member's Reports

County Councillor Sara Bedford

i. Moto Service Area.

Earliest the planning application will be reviewed by the District Council is February 2021. The Environment Agency have withdrawn their objections and Affinity Water are expected to withdraw their objections.

Highways England and Hertfordshire County Council still have significant objections to the proposed junction layout and the impact of traffic congestion locally and in the wider area.

Three Rivers District Council are also objecting to the development within the green belt.

ii. East Lane Cemetery.

Significant works taking place on landscaping, the lych gate, grave markers and the memorial wall, supported by grant funding from Three Rivers District Council.

County Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst

i. Road and Pavement Flooding

Multiple issues have been raised with County Councillors and at the Abbots Langley Local Area Forum.

Following recent heavy rain major flooding problems at Bedmond Road and Primrose Hill. Speeding in Toms Lane also an issue.

ii. Pandemic

Pandemic Tier 2 provides no support for particularly the hospitality industry whereas Tier 3 does provide support. A number of hospitality businesses have indicated that they may not open when the second national lockdown lifts on 2nd December.

iii. Free School Meals

On going discussion on free school meals and in particular provision outside of term time.

193. Chairman's Report

18th September - Herts Highways, update by Mark Kemp, Zoom meeting.

25th September - , Invitation from St George's Charity Club to play in their Charity Golf Day. Presented their Chairman with £250.00 cheque from my allowance. Shendish Manor.

28th October - Watford North Scouts District AGM, Zoom meeting.

4th November - Three Rivers District Council Abbots Langley Local Area Forum, Zoom meeting.

8th November - Service of Remembrance and wreath laying, St. Lawrence Church.

8th November - Laid Cross of Remembrance, Bedmond Church of the Ascension.

194. Clerk's Report

Members noted the Clerk's report on the introduction of new bylaws by Three Rivers District Council and the recommendation that at some time in the future the Parish Council will need to review their bylaws.

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195. Monthly Statement of Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay and seconded by Councillor John Wyatt and **RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts for September & October 2020 as notified to the Council be approved and published on the Parish Council's website.

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

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay and seconded by Councillor John Wyatt and **RESOLVED** that as the following matters related to staff employed by the Parish Council and the early stages of a legal dispute, 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.

197. Staffing Matters

Members noted the report from the Clerk and agreed that it was essential that confidentiality around this matter was strictly maintained.

The Chairman of Staffing fully supported and reinforced the importance of confidentiality around this and all staffing discussions.

198. PC Freehold - Encroachment

Members noted the report from the Clerk.

The Clerk was asked to write to the freeholder in a further effort to recover costs.

The meeting closed at 9.09 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____