

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.30 pm on the Zoom Video and Teleconferencing Platform. <sup>[1]</sup>.

Those Present:

Chairman: Councillor Robin Powell  
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  
Officers: Tim Perkins - Clerk to the Council

<sup>[1]</sup> *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.

**125. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst (other authority meeting).

**126. Public Participation**

None.

**127. Hertfordshire Police**

Not present

*Sgt. Amy Stansbury contacted the Clerk after the meeting and apologised for not attending. Officers had been involved in an ongoing operation.*

**128. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Sara Bedford declared a non-pecuniary, non-prejudicial interest as a member of Three Rivers District Council in agenda item 10, Jacketts Field Allotment Lease.

**129. 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 13<sup>th</sup> July and 19<sup>th</sup> August 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.

**130. 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 - 15<sup>th</sup> July, 5<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Finance & Administration Committee - 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Leisure Committee - 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Staffing Committee - 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

**131. Member Leave of Absence**

The Clerk advised that as all but one member had attended the July Parish Council meeting no members were at risk of being disqualified under the "Six Month Rule". Councillor Simon Stanley who submitted apologies for the July meeting has attended subsequent meetings.

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

### 132. Pandemic Update

Members noted the Clerk's report.

- i. Staffing matters covered in the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020.
- ii. Discretionary Small Business Grant of £25,000 received from Three Rivers District Council.

### 133. Lease Rents 2020-2021

Members noted the Clerk's report and were not minded to offer any rent free periods on leases to tenant clubs, as these were low rent community rather than commercial leases.

The Clerk was asked to review with the Tennis Club deferred payment terms.

### 134. Jackett's Field Allotments

It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that the lease from Three Rivers District Council for the above be approved at a rent of £50/pa for a period of fifteen years.

The Clerk was authorised to execute the lease and to make any minor administrative amendments under delegated authority.

### 135. Calendar of Meetings

Members agreed that in line with other authorities, meetings up to the end of January 2021 will be virtual. This will be reviewed if there was any significant change to the pandemic situation.

Members noted that additional meetings may be required through the budget preparation process.

### 136. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Report

Members noted the above.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and request a virtual Steering Group meeting be arranged.

Members want to better understand the impact of the possible changes to planning regulations and the imminent release of Three Rivers District Council's "Selected Sites for Housing" document and associated policies will have on the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

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

County Councillor Sara Bedford

- i. Three Rivers District Council

Selected Sites for Housing document will be released later in the month and will be under consultation through to December. The underpinning policies will also be released. HMG new building targets are also due for publication, it is expected there will be changes to planning classes (A1, A2 etc.) and further amendments to "Change of Use" regulations.

The planning application for the Moto service station at the junction of the M25(J21) and the A41 will probably be considered at the October meeting of the TRDC Planning Committee. The Environment Agency have withdrawn their objections and Affinity Water are expected to do the same. Highways England and Hertfordshire County Council are in ongoing discussions on possible traffic schemes.

Authority recycling rates have been increasing, where other authorities have seen a fall. But the overall rate may fall in the future as residents have not been separating waste at previous levels during lockdown.

- ii. Hertfordshire Unitary Authorities

Discussions are at an early stage. The current likely outcome is two unitary authorities covering West and East Herts, roughly split by the A1M.

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### iii. Footpaths

There have been a number of complaints about overgrown footpaths which are the responsibility of Hertfordshire County Council. Contractors are due to catch up maintenance backlogs over the coming weeks and members are asked to pass on any comments they receive to Councillor Sara Bedford.

### 138. Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended the following events.

15th August - Laid wreaths to commemorate VJ Day, St Lawrence Church and Leavesden High Road War Memorials.

13th September - Laid wreath to commemorate Battle of Britain Day, St Lawrence Church War Memorial.

### 139. Monthly Statement of Accounts

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

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

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay and seconded by Councillor Fran Deschampsneufs and **RESOLVED** that as the following matters related to the terms and conditions of members of staff, 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.

### 141. PC Freehold Land - Encroachment

It was proposed by Councillor Sarah Bedford and seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that efforts be made to recover the Parish Council's costs (external and internal) in this matter. If necessary, recourse be made to the small claims process.

A vote was requested, Councillors Simon Stanley, Jane Lay, Sara Bedford, Liz Burns and Owen Roe were in favour.

The Clerk advised members that there are significant workload pressures on senior staff at the moment. The budget process is going to be complex, demanding and stressful.

Members need to take regard of this difficult situation and not continue to demand more from the existing staff resources.

The meeting closed at 8.44 pm.

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

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