

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12th July 2021 at 7.30 pm in Tanners Wood Hall, School Mead, Abbots Langley WD5 0LA.

Those Present:

Chairman: Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Fran Deschampsneufs

Councillors: Councillor Sara Bedford
Councillor Liz Burns
Councillor Ruth Clark
Councillor Jane Lay
Councillor David Major
Councillor Robin Powell
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

Police: PC 1592 Sarah Calcutt

Others: Mr Peter Warman - Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

77. Apologies for absence

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

78. Declarations of Interest

None.

79. Public Participation

None.

80. Hertfordshire Police

Overall reported crime statistics are down slightly three hundred and fourteen to three hundred year on year.

Weapons crime up from one to two over the same period following recovery of a knife being carried in Abbotswood. Residential burglary down slightly nine to six and vehicle crime thirty one to twenty five.

PC Calcutt did not have separate statistics for catalytic convertor theft but would check these and advise the Clerk.

More proactive patrols are taking place in the Abbotswood area, following multiple reports of anti-social behaviour including the riding of motorcycles on the grassed areas and footpaths.

Priority is being given to speed enforcement in the High Street. Toms Lane is also a speeding hot spot but there are very limited locations to mount a safe area to stop motorists. Members asked that attention be given to speed enforcement on South Way.

Attention is being given to a property on Toms Lane where there has been a long term concern about a business being run from a residential property. Police and other agencies are involved. Residents have expressed repeated concerns about obstructive parking from customers attending the business.

Members thanked PC Calcutt for attending as Sgt. Amy Stansbury was acting up for an inspector.

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81. To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings

It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns, seconded by Councillor John Swallow and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th May and 16th June 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.

82. 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 - 12th May, 2nd & 23rd June 2021

Staffing Committee - 12th May 2021

Leisure Committee - 16th June 2021

83. Member Leave of Absence

No action required.

84. Appointment of a Chief Officer and Clerk to the Parish Council

The Chairman updated members on the selection process and thanked the other members of the Selection Panel for their support.

It was proposed by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, seconded by Councillor Fran Deschampsneufs and **RESOLVED** that Isabel Montesdeoca be appointed Chief Officer and Clerk to the Parish Council.

A vote was requested all members were in favour.

85. Appointments to External Bodies

(Deferred from the Annual Council Meeting min. 9.)

No nominations were received.

86. Annual Parish Meeting

(Deferred from the Annual Council Meeting min. 17.)

Members agreed to hold the next Annual Parish Meeting on 2nd March 2022.

A decision on which community group to ask to present was deferred, but the Clerk's suggestion to invite Midshires Search and Rescue, the Herts and Beds Lowland Search organisation, was noted.

87. Model Councillor Code of Conduct

It was proposed by Councillor Robin Powell, seconded by Councillor John Wyatt and **RESOLVED** that the draft model Code of Conduct be adopted as presented.

The Clerk will circulate a version in the Parish Council format.

88. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Report

The Chairman of the Steering Group referred members to version two of the draft plan that has been posted on the Parish Council's website, also to the exhibitions that have opened in Henderson Hall and Bedmond Village Hall.

A four page summary leaflet for residents has been printed and will be available from the exhibitions and also the website.

There was also consideration of how the leaflet should be distributed and members were asked to pass any specific comments to Mr Warman.

The Parish Council will need to format a response to the Three Rivers District Council Local Plan, consideration of which will start at the Planning and Highways committee meeting on 14th July 2021.

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89. District and County Council Member's Reports

County Councillor Sara Bedford

Members were updated on very early stage discussions that had taken place with Home-Start Watford & Three Rivers on their possible long term use of Tanners Wood Hall as a new base for the family support services they provide.

Further updates will follow, but progress will be dependant on Home-Start's access to funding and also the practicalities of converting the building for the charity's use.

County Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst

Hertfordshire County Council have allocated funds to purchase the coach depot next to the Waterdale Recycling centre to expand the centre and adjacent Waste Transfer Station, both of which are running close to capacity.

At the Abbots Langley Local Area Forum District Councillor Matthew Bedford delivered a presentation on the Local Area Plan which members may find useful to explain the background to the plan and site allocations. A copy will be passed to the Clerk for circulation.

District Council Jon Tankard

The Moto M25 Service Station application was rejected by Three Rivers District Council.

Members need to ensure when talking to residents that the site allocations in the Local Plan are there to support government imposed targets and are not areas that Three Rivers District Council want to see built upon.

90. Chairman's Report

The Chairman has attended the following events.

17th May 2021 - 1st Abbots Langley Scouts Group AGM (Vice-Chairman attended online).

The Chairman advised members he was planning on holding a Chairman's Reception in February 2022 to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and also to recognise community contributions during the pandemic. Date and details to be confirmed.

Following a complaint received from a member of the public, the first time the Complaints Policy has been tested since it was introduced in 2013, areas for improvement have been noted and the policy will need review. The Clerk will note specific areas to be addressed in a report to the Review Panel.

91. Clerk's Report

Members noted:

- Kings Langley Neighbourhood Plan
- Bank Hub
- Retirement Dates
- Review Panel Meeting
- Small Grants 2021-2022
- Manor House - Sports Summer Activities

92. Monthly Statement of Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor Robin Powell and seconded by Councillor Liz Burns and **RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts for May & June 2021 as notified to the Council be approved and published on the Parish Council's website.

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

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay and seconded by Councillor Ruth Clark and **RESOLVED** that as the following matters related to the terms and conditions of Parish Council 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 & 102.

94. Lemonfield Play Area - Liability Claim

Members noted the verbal report.

95. Abbots Langley Tennis Club - Club Supreme

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay and seconded by Councillor Sara Bedford and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk instruct the Parish Council's solicitors to start proceedings to recover possession of the tennis courts at the manor House playing fields.

The meeting closed at 8.54 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____