

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 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.

### 316. Apologies for Absence

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

### 317. Leave of Absence

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor Sara Bedford and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Jean Bowman be granted Leave of Absence for six months due to ill health.

Councillor Bowman will be unable to undertake any council duties by telephone or mail, any residents of her ward will be directed to the Parish Council office and if officers are unable to deal with any issues an appropriate member will be allocated to support.

### 318. Declarations of Interest

None.

### 319. Public Participation

None.

### 320. Hertfordshire Police

Sgt. Amy Stansbury was unable to attend the meeting or send a delegate due to operational priorities.

Sgt. Stansbury advised by email the key policing priorities for the immediate future were speed enforcement in "hot spots" such as Bedmond Road and Toms Lane and addressing reports of anti-social behaviour on Manor House playing fields and at Leavesden Country Park.

Officers are also giving attention to COVID related concerns as we move out of lockdown.

Members asked that officers give urgent attention be given to obstructive pavement parking. There were multiple hotspots in the parish, Abbots Road, Trowley Rise, Langley Road and Primrose Hill were mentioned.

In many of these areas residents were parking on the pavements, when the road and drives were clear, making it impossible for parents with pushchairs, mobility scooter users and those with visual impairments to pass safely without having to move into the road.

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

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

It was proposed by Councillor Simon Stanley, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 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.

### 322. 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 - 6<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> January and 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

Leisure Committee - 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

Finance & Administration Committee - 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

### 323. Internal Audit Report (Second Interim) 2020-2021

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

Members noted the committee's review of the Second Interim Internal Audit for 2020-2021 and that no significant items were raised by the auditors.

### 324. Henderson Hub Co. - Service Level Agreement

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and **RESOLVED** that the above agreement be approved and delegated authority granted to the Clerk to conclude with the Henderson Hub Co.

### 325. Parish Council & Committee Meetings from May 2021

It was proposed by Councillor Robin Powell, seconded by Councillor Liz Burns and **RESOLVED** that the Annual Council Meeting be held virtually on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 19:30, instead of the planned 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Legislation that permits virtual meetings lapses on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and at this stage it is unclear if the legislation will be extended.

Arrangements for following meetings will be agreed at the Annual Council Meeting.

### 326. Neighbourhood Plan

Mr Peter Warman, Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, will arrange a virtual meeting for members to review the latest draft of the plan. The Clerk will provide access to the Parish Council's Zoom account.

To ensure the fourteen diverse communities within the parish are represented, planning consultancy AECOM will be setting up three virtual meetings to allow interested residents to have a virtual tour of their area and input local community views into the plan.

Their report will also include recommendations relevant to Building Design Guidelines for the different areas of the parish. AECOM will be working on the project over the next six months, submitting their report by the end of August.

Pending finalisation of the plan, members views on Chapter 12 "Aspirational sites and projects" will be sought.

The intention is to publish the Working Draft of the Neighbourhood Plan on the Parish Web site at the end of March 2021 for public consultation until October 2021.

The Chairman thanked Mr Warman for the huge efforts he has put into developing the plan.

## Abbots Langley Parish Council

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

District & County Councillor Sara Bedford

- Twenty-six pupils who live in the parish have failed to get any of their four nominations for secondary school places. Students have been offered places at Westfield Academy (West Watford) and Laureate Academy (Hemel Hempstead), both of which are almost impossible public transport journeys from the parish.

A further allocation of places is due in the coming weeks and it is hoped these will assist a number of students.

- Warner Bros. temporary planning permission for backlot development has been granted by Three Rivers District Council.
- There were significant areas of surface water flooding during periods of heavy winter rain, these are primarily due to a lack of gully clearance by the County Council. Areas where flooding is encroaching on properties are being prioritised.

### 328. Chairman's Report

Apart from the following, the Chairman has not attended any functions due to the lockdown.

2<sup>nd</sup> March - Three Rivers District Council Abbots Langley Local Area Forum, Zoom meeting.

### 329. Clerk's Report

Members noted:

- Citizens Advice Bureau - Emergency Funds Grant
- Three Rivers District Council - Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
- Office Copies

### 330. Monthly Statement of Accounts

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

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

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay and seconded by Councillor Liz Burns and **RESOLVED** that as the following matters relate to staff employed by the Parish Council, 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.

### 332. Staffing Matters

Members noted the verbal report from the Clerk.

Staffing matters will be covered in more detail at the Staffing Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

The meeting closed at 8.38 pm.

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

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