

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Leisure Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 8th February 2023 at 7.30 pm in Council Chambers, Abbots Langley Parish Council, Council Office, Langley Road, Abbots Langley, WD5 0EJ.

Those present:

Chairman: Councillor Jane Lay

Councillors: Councillor Liz Burns
Councillor Ruth Clark
Councillor Roxanne Yau

Also Present: Mrs Tricia Buttress - Allotment Representative (KF)
Mr Rob Stimpson - Allotment Representative (PH)
Mr Tim Denyer - Sports Representative
Mr Mark Ward - Sports Representative

Officers: Isabel Montesdeoca - Chief Officer & Clerk to the Council
David Abbott - Facilities Manager
Mark Ellis - Works Manager
Rebecca Finlay - Leisure & Council Administration Officer

Not Present: Councillor Jon Andrews
Councillor Sara Bedford
Councillor Simon Stanley
Councillor John Wyatt

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

330. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received, accepted and recorded from Councillors Jon Andrews, Sara Bedford, and John Wyatt (all unavailable).

Allotment Representatives (MH) Chris Bromwich, and (JF) John Kersey also sent their apologies.

331. Declarations of Interest

None.

332. Public Participation

None.

333. Minutes of the Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns, seconded by Councillor Ruth Clark and RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2022, copies of which had been sent to all members of the Parish Council prior to the meeting, be taken as read with the above amendment and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

334. Reports from the Sports Representatives

Tim Denyer

Mr Denyer requested clarification on the timing of any proposed improvement works to the Bedmond MUGA. The Chief Officer & Clerk explained that this project was not on the list of priority projects for the coming year (2023-2024) as the project would be expensive. The Council has approved the earmarking of funds towards a potential project there in future years.

Mark Ward

Mr Ward thanked the Works Manager for arranging for the Lime Tree overhanging the 3G pitch a South Way to be cut back.

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Mr Ward shared that Evergreen has been successful in obtaining a grant to purchase for new goals for use by the club. These will be ordered shortly and are expected to arrive towards end of season. Mr Ward confirmed he has been in conversation with the Chief Officer & Clerk regarding a change in the lease to allow the club to set-up / take-down their own goals. This agreement would need to be in place before the club could use its own goals.

Mr Ward stated that after a hiatus due to the pandemic, Evergreen plans to run 2 tournaments over the summer - Sat for girls, Sun for boys. The club have submitted an event application to the Council for consideration.

335. Reports from the Allotments Representatives

Kingsfield - Patricia Buttress

Mrs Buttress stated it was the first time in recent memory there are no vacancies.

The Works Manager confirmed next inspections will be done in late February / early March. The Works Manager also confirmed the trough on 14A had been repaired as it had split and water was escaping.

The Leisure & Council Administration Officer confirmed one tenant at Kingsfield has informed the Office of their intention to hand back their keys in the coming weeks.

Primrose Hill - Rob Stimpson

Mr Stimpson shared that he has recently inspected all plots and five plots are not up to standard. A fence panel at the allotments is still damaged but not dangerous. Mr Stimpson complimented the work done on the Primrose Hill Orchard.

336. Allotment Tenancy Report

Members noted the report and thanked Officers for their work on the report and the allotments.

The Leisure & Council Administration Officer highlighted there are 0 vacant plots at this time. The Leisure & Council Administration Officer also confirmed that the new plot signs should arrive next week.

All Allotment reps were asked to send any feedback on the state of the plots to Rebecca prior to the planned inspections late February / early March.

It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns, seconded by Councillor Ruth Clark and RESOLVED that the Leisure & Council Administration Officer's proposal to create a 'Best Newcomer' annual award to be selected from tenants across all four allotment sites that rented their first plot within the previous 15 months.

337. Bookings Update

Members noted the bookings update and thanked Officers for the report.

Facilities Manager provided an update on the Manor House kitchen refurbishment.

The Facilities Manager also shared the Manor House dance floor has developed a bump in the middle which is being looked at for repair. The Facilities Manager also shared he is requesting quotes for a number of front-of-house refurbishment as the hall is starting to look dated.

The Facilities Manager stated Manor House bookings are not yet back to pre-pandemic levels however takings over the bar have bounced back, with customers preferring to pay via card vs cash confirming that adding additional wireless card payment facilities were the right investment.

The Facilities Manager confirmed Manor House is taking all Tanners Wood Hall bookings it can to help while Tanners Wood Hall is closed for repairs due flooding.

338. Key Projects 2022-2024

Members noted the latest updates on the Key Projects report and the dates scheduled for upcoming projects.

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Members noted the issues found by the surveyor at Primrose Hill Changing Rooms. The Chief Officer & Clerk confirmed discussions with Kings Langley Parish Council and Community Action Dacorum representative regarding the proposed Repair Shed project at Primrose Hill have been reopened. The Chief Officer & Clerk will come back to this Committee and full Council as soon as practical with further details and recommendations on how best to proceed with this property.

339. Tanners Wood Hall

The Works Manager provided an overview of the flooding experienced at Tanners Wood Hall. The Works Manager confirmed ongoing discussions with Watford Community Housing Trust to agree the repairs needed and expedite them.

Officers have indicated to Watford Community Housing Trust that the Council plans to submit a claim for lost income at Tanners Wood Hall to Watford Community Housing Trust for the period of time the venue remains closed for repairs.

Members thanked the Works Manager for his efforts to get Tanners Wood Hall reopened as quickly as possible.

340. Football

i. Off Season Football -

Members noted Officers plans to send a reminder notice to the Chair of all football clubs reminding them off-season play is not permitted, on or off the pitch.

Members also noted the issues Officers raised regarding multi-day events held during the summer on playing fields being maintained and rested. Members agreed to a tour of the football pitches to be arranged by the Works Manager on 1st or 3rd of March.

ii. 2023 Football Pitch Maintenance -

Members thanked the Works Manager for his report and noted his recommendation that both the pitches and the outfield be reseeded at locations that are in poor condition. The Works Manager will share the pitch maintenance schedule with this Committee at its next meeting in April.

Members agreed to attend a site visit of Bedmond and South Way playing fields to better understand the issues the Council is facing in maintaining all of its pitches. The site visit will be held on either 1st or 3rd of March 2023.

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

It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns and seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and RESOLVED that as the following matters related to the early stages of a contract discussion 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, s100.

342. Manor House Tennis Coaching

Members noted the Chief Officer & Clerk's proposal to renew the current service level agreement between the Council and GetSet4Tennis for a term of one year at a zero rent and with no insurance recharge. This recommendation is based on a review of the club's net income specifically from Abbots Langley members over the past year. The club forecasts it will need a total of 3 years to ramp up to a sustainable level of members in order to become profitable.

It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns and seconded by Councillor Ruth Clark and RESOLVED that under delegated authority the Chief Officer & Clerk enter into a short term agreement with GetSet4Tennis to provide tennis coaching at Manor House Grounds during the period of May 2023 to April 2024 based on the draft Service Level Agreement presented to Councillors and based on the rental terms discussed.

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Members noted the suggestion by the Chief Officer & Clerk that GetSet4Tennis apply for a small grant (£250) to help cover marketing costs to continue to promote the clubs programmes and increase membership in Abbots Langley.

The meeting closed at 8:43 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____