

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th March 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 Sara Bedford
Councillor Ruth Clark
Councillor David Major
Councillor Robin Powell
Councillor Mo Rattab
Councillor Owen Roe
Councillor John Swallow
Councillor Jon Tankard
Councillor John Wyatt
Councillor Roxanne Yau

Officers: Isabel Montesdeoca - Chief Officer & Clerk to the Council
Jayshree Patel - Finance Officer & Deputy Clerk

Police:

Others:

Those Not Present:

Councillors: Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst
Councillor Simon Stanley

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

350. Apologies for absence

Councillors Stephen Giles-Medhurst and Simon Stanley sent their apologies (both unavailable).

Peter Warman, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, and Sgt Jon Brown also sent their apologies.

351. Declarations of Interest

None.

352. Public Participation

None.

353. To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings

It was proposed by Councillor Ruth Clark, seconded by Councillor Liz Burns and RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2023, 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.

354. Minutes for adoption

The following committee minutes were adopted, approved for publication on the Council's website and passed to the committees for resolution.

i. Planning & Highways Committee – 11th January, 1st & 22nd February 2023

Abbots Langley Parish Council

- ii. Finance & Administration Committee – 23rd January 2023
- iii. Leisure Committee – 8th February 2023

355. Chairman's Report

Councillor Jane Lane formally thanked the six members of the Council – Councillors Owen Roe, John Wyatt, Robin Powell, Liz Burns, Jon Andrews and Mo Rattab that would not be standing for re-election in May 2023 for their work during their time on the Council, in many cases across several terms. A formal vote was taken and the vote was unanimous.

356. Hertfordshire Police

(update provided in advance via email by PS 488 Jon Brown)
Members noted the crime figures update provided by Sgt Jon Brown (488).

357. ALPC Standing Orders

It was proposed by Councillor Sara Bedford, seconded by Councillor Liz Burns and RESOLVED that the amended Standing Orders v2.0 be adopted with one minor change:
Section 24 b – change 'letter' to 'communication'.

358. ALPC Civic Awards Policy

It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns, seconded by Councillor Robin Powell and RESOLVED that the amended Civic Awards Policy be adopted with two minor changes:
2.3.3 – add 'aged between 16 and 25' to Local Young Persons award category
4.1 – add 'once winners have been notified' to clarify timing of announcement of winners.

359. ALPC Media Policy

Members agreed to defer discussion of the new ALPC Media Policy until the next meeting of the full Parish Council to allow members more time to read through and send comments to the Chief Officer & Clerk.

360. Policy Review Schedule

It was proposed by Councillor Liz , seconded by Councillor Owen Roe and RESOLVED that the Policy Review Schedule be adopted as drafted. It was agreed the ALPC Media Policy would be removed from the list pending further discussion at the next full Council meeting.

361. Coronation Celebration

Councillors noted the update from the Chief Officer & Clerk on preparations for the Coronation celebration event. Members thanked Officers and Staff for their work on this event.

362. Abbots Langley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Report

Members noted the report from the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Members thanked Peter Warman for his clear and concise report.

As Peter Warman was not present, members agreed to submit any questions to the Chief Officer & Clerk.

363. District and County Council Member's Reports

Councillor David Major
Nothing to report.

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Councillor Jon Tankard

Councillor Tankard shared that the TRDC sustainability report would be reviewed on Wednesday, 22nd March. The focus for the report is on reaching the zero carbon target by 2045.

Councillor Ruth Clark

Nothing to report.

Councillor Sara Bedford

Councillor Bedford shared that Council tax letters are being sent out this week. The letters contain an invitation to residents to reply to the TRDC Local Plan Additional Sites consultation by 10th March. Unfortunately, the letters were sent out later than planned and therefore received after the 10th March deadline for consultation comments. Councillor Bedford has requested the Council reconsult.

Councillor Bedford noted that those involved with planning will know as part of their planning application, Warner Brothers had to provide a travel & transport plan to meet National Highways and HCC Highways requirements. Councillor Bedford shared that a similar requirement has not been placed on developers of the Langleybury Film hub as part of their planning application, however, now that the Warner Brothers application has been permissioned, the Langleybury Film Hub application must be updated to take Warner Brothers traffic into account in their travel & transport plan.

Councillor Bedford stated that ~25% of children in parish have not received a place in any of the secondary schools on their list of choices. All of these were applications that did not put down Francis Coombe (now Future Academies Watford). As a result, they have been allocated schools further afield and they will not be eligible for transport. Primary school allocations will be communicated in the next few weeks.

Significant issues with provisions for children with special needs are being experienced. Children with special needs are being assigned to main stream schools and finding themselves unable to cope. Furthermore those schools do not have sufficient special needs teachers to support the students needing help. Hertfordshire County Council is going to look for extra funding to address this issue.

Abbots Langley High street has some new railings and bollards. This has been funded through Councillor Bedford's Locality Budget. More bollards will be added on the High Street to try to address the issue with people parking on the pavement in the evening while going to eat in the local restaurants.

TRDC is holding a consultation and hosting sessions this week in Leavesden Park on the proposed changes to the entrance into Leavesden Country Park. Changes proposed are to make it safer to enter and exit. The consultation runs from 16th March to 28th March.

Councillor Liz Burns thanked Councillor Sara Bedford for all the information she has brought back over the years in her role as County Councillor and for all the hours she has invested in her role as County Councillor to help ALPC members be more informed.

Abbots Langley Parish Council

364. Chief Officer & Clerk's Report

v. *Small Grants Awarded*

Members noted a small grant has been awarded to:

- a. GetSet4Tennis - £250 towards the marketing costs for an open day event at Manor House Grounds Tennis Courts.

365. Monthly Statement of Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor Liz Burns, seconded by Councillor John Wyatt and RESOLVED that the Statement of Accounts for December 2022 and January 2023 as notified to the Council be approved and published on the Parish Council's website, with one minor amendment:

Line items 26 & 26a, Dec 2022 - Amend description to specify these were by-election charges due to TRDC.

The meeting closed at 8:35 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____