

Abbots Langley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th July 2023 at 7.30 pm in Council Chambers, Abbots Langley Parish Council, Council Office, Langley Road, Abbots Langley, WD5 0EJ.

Those Present:

Chairman:	Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst
Councillors:	Councillor Susie Arbon Councillor Ruth Clark Councillor Elinor Gazzard Councillor Kareen Hastrick Councillor Jane Lay (Vice Chairman) Councillor David Major Councillor Jon Tankard Councillor Marianne Tankard (arrived 7:40 pm)
Officers:	Isabel Montesdeoca - Chief Officer & Clerk to the Council Jayshree Patel - Finance Officer & Deputy Clerk
Police:	Sgt Jon Brown (488) (departed @ 7:53 pm)
Others:	Peter Warman - Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (arrived 7:40 pm)

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

83. Apologies for absence
 - i. Apologies received, recorded and accepted: Councillors Sara Bedford, Councillor John Swallow, Councillor Kate Turner, Councillor Vince Watts, Councillor Roxanne Yau (all unavailable).
 - ii. Apologies received but not accepted: None.
 - iii. Other absences: Councillor Kristina Allison.
84. Declarations of Interest

None.
85. Public Participation

None.
86. To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings

It was proposed by Councillor Jane Lay, seconded by Councillor Kareen Hastrick and RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th May and 21st June 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.
87. 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* - 24th May, 7th June and 28th June 2023
 - ii. *Staffing Committee* - 14th June 2023
 - iii. *Leisure Committee* - 21st June 2023
88. Chairman's Report

The Chairman attended Abbots Langley Carnival (10th June) and led the parade around village. The event was well attended. The Chairman thanked the Police for their support of the event and road closures traffic management.

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The Vice Chairman attended the Armed Forces Day lunch (22nd June) and also attended the Abbots Langley Carnival thank you evening (11th July) where she was presented with a certificate of appreciation by Watford Lions.

89. Hertfordshire Police

Sgt Brown (488) reported resourcing remains an issue. The local policing team should have a team of 4 PCs and 5 PCSOs. Since last December, the team has been running with 3 PCs and 2 PCSOs. Two new PCSOs joined the team last March and they are doing very well. However, one of the PCs is likely to move to another department in August which would result in the team having 4 PCSOs (one short) and 2 PCs (two short). There is the potential for candidates to fill some of these vacancies.

The Chairman offered to write a letter of concern to the Constabulary regarding the staffing shortages. Sgt Brown thanked the Chairman but said that at this time, there is focus on pursuing potential candidates.

Apr to Jun YoY Crime Statistics

- Burglary: 9 last yr vs 3 this yr
- Theft from car: 14 last yr vs 8 this yr
Note: Catalytic converter theft seems to be a national issue but incidents of this are ok in this area
- Theft of car (mostly keyless vehicles): 13 last yr vs 21 this yr
Note: Most of these thefts are of keyless vehicles which have inherent vulnerabilities.
- Anti-Social Behaviour: only TRDC-wide statistics available
Incidents are down but this is dependent on incidents being reported. Locally the police have seen an increase, specifically of people using e-scooters, speeding (South Way and Toms Lane are hot spots), and violence against women and girls (VAWG).

Sgt Brown invited input on the main issues Councillors would like the Police to focus on with their limited resources. Members agreed speeding was a top issue. Members also mentioned mobility scooters on the road, and parking on footpaths as ongoing issues.

90. Party in the Park, Coronation Celebration

Members noted the final budget expenditure report for the above event. Members thanked all Staff for their work on this event and agreed it was an appropriate way to mark the historic event. The Chairman confirmed there are no current plans for future events.

91. Abbots Langley Neighbourhood Plan

Members noted the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Report from Mr Warman, Chairman of the Steering Group.

Mr Warman provided a high-level summary of TRDC feedback report. This feedback has already been incorporated into a revised version of the draft plan which is now available on Parish website.

The Chief Officer & Clerk reminded Councillors of the informal discussion meeting scheduled on 19th July 2023 to review the draft plan. Mr Warman requested any feedback be sent to him by 12th August to allow time to incorporate changes prior to next PC meeting 13th September.

92. District and County Council Members' Reports

Ruth Clark

Cllr Clark confirmed the Primrose Hill Permit Parking consultation closed last Wednesday and the responses are now being collated.

Two main planning applications are still in progress - Lidl and Langleybury Film Hub. Cllr Giles-Medhurst confirmed the Lidl has not yet overcome Highway's

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objections to the application. He also confirmed the Langleybury Film Hub application is scheduled to be reviewed by TRDC in September.

David Major

Cllr Major attended the West Herts Crematorium Annual Open Air Service on 9th July 2023. The event was very successful with the next annual event scheduled for 14th July 2024. Councillor Giles-Medhurst recommended this event be added to the Parish Website.

Jon Tankard

Cllr Tankard has been appointed lead member for Environmental Services, Climate Change, and Sustainability at TRDC. This group has approval to implement a fast followers' innovation project to help a whole community or street of houses implement changes that would allow them to become more sustainable and environmentally friendly. Candidate communities or streets must offer a mix of styles of houses in order to meet the criteria for consideration for this project.

Cllr Tankard advised the TRDC Sustainability scheme (scheme supports Three Rivers businesses to become greener and more sustainable) is coming back again. Current plan is to once again run the program supporting the purchase of solar panels by households at a reduced price. Not start date has yet been agreed.

Cllr Tankard shared TRDC is planning to begin inspecting trees in the District for Ash dieback disease. Cllr Giles-Medhurst confirmed TRDC is ringfencing funds to cover the cost of tree maintenance linked to Ash dieback.

Stephen Giles-Medhurst

Cllr Giles-Medhurst shared the developers responsible for a Data Centre hub planning application on Bedmond road, will attend the Abbots Langley Local Area Forum on 20th July. Cllr Giles-Medhurst confirmed that the data centre project is classed as a national strategic project. The developers will present information to residents regarding the plans for the data centre and implications to the greenbelt. The proposed land's rating on greenbelt scale is low harm.

Cllr Giles-Medhurst shared the next phase of Waterdale Recycling Centre's consultation process kicked off last week. A planning application to remake the tipping hall will now be submitted, to include turning the tipping hall around to face the motorway and installation of mega fast doors to reduce the escape of fumes.

Post consultation, Leavesden Country Park is submitting a formal planning application to widen the main entrance and make it more accessible as well as changing the layout of the first car park.

Cllr Giles-Medhurst relayed the Cycle Hub at Leavesden Country Park has unfortunately had to close last week due to resourcing issues. There is a proposal to have the YMCA extend the café into that unit and create a work hub there. The Cycle Hub will still have a presence at Leavesden Country Park, but not a permanent location.

Cllr Giles-Medhurst confirmed TRDC's intention not to put forward a Local Plan that meets the government current housing targets. The plan will likely meet only 50% of the current target as part of the District Council's goal of greenbelt restraint. Greenbelt sites included in the plan will only be ones ranked as low harm to medium harm sites. All high harm greenbelt sites have been excluded. Cllr Giles-Medhurst noted no sites have been decided at this time. Once agreed, a plan by TRDC is submitted to the government's Planning Inspector who can amend the plan and include other sites etc and make the final decision.

93. Small Financial Grant Award

Members noted the small grant award made to Art in the Park Community Association for £250 towards the cost of providing materials for free public have-a-go activities and a children's art trail booklet as part of the 'Art in the Park' event in Leavesden Country Park on 28th August 2023.

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94. Monthly Statement of Accounts

It was proposed by Councillor Ruth Clark and seconded by Councillor Jon Tankard and RESOLVED that the Statement of Accounts for April and May 2023 as notified to the Council be approved and published on the Parish Council's website.

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

It was proposed by Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst and seconded by Councillor Jane Lay and RESOLVED that as the following item will consider legal and contract matters 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, s100m and 102.

96. Bedmond Pavilion

(Parish Council 17 May 2023 min 29)

Members noted a verbal update from the Chief Officer & Clerk regarding the resolution passed by the Council to request Bedmond Sports and Social Club vacate Bedmond Pavilion due to the club's failure to establish itself as a legal entity and subsequently their ineligibility to sign a lease with the Council for use of Bedmond Pavilion. The date set for the return of the keys and property is 26th July 2023.

The meeting closed at 8:52 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____