

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday, 28th November, 2001 at 7.30 pm
in Church House, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given.

Present: Cllrs: PJ Charles, LG Ferguson (L Fe below), L Fox, KA McLoughlin, CN Talbot (Chairman), M Tonking, and S Wilson.

Also present: PJ Youngs (Clerk)

Apologies for absence: Cllrs. RSV Jarman and MM Moore, and Borough Cllr. Fox

Members of the public attending: none.

Minute 76: Public Session

Since there were no members of the public present a public session was not held.

Minute 77: Approve and sign the Minutes of the previous Meeting (31st October)

It was proposed, Cllr. Ferguson, seconded, Cllr Fox and agreed that the Minutes be signed as an accurate record of proceedings subject to the following:

- (i) *page 3, Minute 66.2. correct "011110" to read "011101"*
- (ii) *page 4 Minute 66.5. delete the end of the paragraph so that the last sentence reads "It was carried."*

Minute 78: Matters arising and Matters of Report

78.1. Cllr. Tonking reported that she had now taken the **Minute Books** to the Stafford Record Office. She further stated that the remainder of the material in the cupboard had been sorted and would be taken to the Record Office. The Chairman, speaking for the Council, thanked Cllr. Tonking for all the work she had done in this area; thanks were also expressed to Cllr. Charles who had assisted her.

78.2. With reference to **Minute 71** it was reported that a static exhibition concerning Uttoxeter Plus had taken place in the village hall but, apparently, had been poorly attended. It was the general view that publicity beforehand had been poor; the Clerk stated that he would bring this fact to the attention of the organisers at the next meeting.

78.3. The Clerk pointed out that he still has a considerable stock of Spring bulks that require planting.

Minute 79: Planning

79.1 **Applications**

(i) **HO/20021/005: 1 Lichfield Road:** erection of rear extension.
PC response: No objections

(ii) **HO/20715/002: 6 Cecil Payton Close:** erection of a two storey side extension

PC response: No objections

- (iii) **PC/01695/012: The Cottage, Radmore Wood:** change of location to form a gated access to comply with condition 4 of HO/01695/010 dated 23rd September 1999

PC response: No objections

79.2 Decisions

The following applications have been **approved**:

- (i) **HO/03923/008: 59 Seedcroft Lane:** erection of a single storey side extension for use as granny flat/bedsit.
- (ii) **PA/11528/017: Yeatsall Farm:** erection of a 20 metre high steel lattice mast with 6 antennae and 4 dishes together with equipment cabin.
- (iii) **CU/21434:009: Abbots Bromley Vicarage Parish Rooms:** use of ground and first floor of parish rooms as offices.
- (iv) **PA/26905/001: Bagots Park:** installation of a 40m high anemometry mast for the measuring of wind data for a temporary period of 24 months.

79.3 Other Planning Matters.

- (i) Red Oak, Market Place Following an enquiry after the last Meeting the Borough's Planning Department confirmed that it would be necessary to seek formal approval for the trimming of the red oak on the Green. The necessary forms have been completed and returned. If no further contact is made by the Department over the next six weeks it can be assumed that permission is granted and the work can proceed.
- (ii) Site at Ash Farm, Glass Lane A notice has been received that the Informal Hearing will now take place on 14th January 2002 in the Mayor's Dining Room, Town Hall, Burton upon Trent
- (iii) Sycamore House, Radmore Lane Extract of a letter from the householder, Mr Peter Dale, the Senior Planning Officer writes:

"The Council's Landscape Architect has now visited the site ... he does not object to the removal of the two Wild Cherries, the two hollies, two sycamores, four damsons, one robin and one Crab Apple tree .. he does object to the felling of the mature, multi-stemmed Sycamore tree. He consider it to be a visually important and significant specimen in a prominent position within the AB Conservation Area with potential to form a more impressive feature in years to come. ..."; "some minor tree surgery" would be permitted.

- (iv) Grange House, Bromley Wood. The Planning Inspector has rejected an appeal by Mr E Ferneyhough to use the premises for the storage of motor vehicles, though it does permit the use of the garage for office use. The chief reason for the rejection is that the change of use would involve the removal of some 240 metres of mature hedging and this is considered to be unreasonable. The appellant is reminded that he does have the right of appeal to the High Court.

- (v) Shade Elm, Goose Lane. Cllr. Charles questioned whether planning approval had been given in respect of the car parking area which is being created by digging away a section of the bank. The Clerk said that he would look into the matter and report back.

Minute 80: Finance

- 80.1 Finance Statement for November The Chairman drew attention to the statement which had been circulated as *enclosure a* prior to the Meeting. Following a number of points of explanation by the Clerk **it was proposed (PC), seconded (SMT) and agreed that the statement be accepted.**

- 80.2 Bills paid since last Meeting. None.

- 80.3 Bills to pay. The Clerk introduced the following for payment:

voucher no /cheque no	Payee	Sum due	Details
46 378	ESBC	57.58	Annual inspection report on Millennium Green play area.
47 379	District Audit	285.53	Audit fee 2000/01 - 9 hours @ £27.00 per hour.
48 380	GC McCulloch	90.00	Highways maintenance work: weed killing in main streets and clearance of Narrow Lane: to be reimbursed by SCC from devolved monies.
49 381	AB.RBL	20.00	Wreath for Remembrance Service on 11 th November

It was proposed (LFe), seconded (LF) and agreed that the payments be made.

- 80.4 Section 137 requests The Chairman stated that he had been in correspondence with Mrs Jill Crooks regarding her request for financial assistance in connection with Golden Jubilee celebrations next year. The most up-to-date account of the campaign had been given by Cllr. Moore who had sent a note stating that the organisers were hoping to receive a grant for the fireworks display being organised. Councillors considered that it was a legitimate use of the Council's funds to contribute to a public entertainment in the form of a "properly organised function" to mark Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee and **it was proposed (SMT), seconded (KM) and agreed that £300.00 be allocated to this event.**

- 80.5 Fleming Premier Bank The Clerk reported on the need to address a difficulty with the bank concerning unsuccessful attempts which the bank had made to "identify" five of the councillors in standard checks which had been undertaken through the electoral register. It became clear that certain councillors had identified themselves by using their business associations rather than their personal address details. It was left for the Clerk to carry out liaison between the bank and individuals on a one-to-one basis in attempts to address the difficulties to mutual satisfaction. The Clerk was asked to report on the outcome to the next Meeting.

- 80.6 Borough proposals for co-operation with the Council in respect of street cleaning.

Nothing further to report.

- 80.7 Budget setting 2002/03. It was reported that the Council needs to reach agreement on setting the precept in order to instruct the Borough by 21st January. The Chairman invited the Vice Chairman and Councillors Fox and Tonking to join him in pre-budget discussions,

agreed for 7th January, in order to prepare a set of proposals to bring before a full meeting of the Council. The full Budget Council Meeting was set for 16th January. The Clerk issued a set of guidance notes to assist in the process.

80.8 Millennium Green

80.8.1. Replacement trees. Cllr. Tonking reminded councillors that the Millennium Green Trust possesses no funds in its own right and therefore the Green's running expenses would effectively fall to the Council. She went on to state that she had met representatives of Trent Force to discuss the replacement of four trees recently vandalised. The meeting had been helpful on a number of counts and it remained for the Council to approve expenditure on the trees. Before the Council were two sets of figures: £187.67 for the supply and planting of four 12 ft. trees and £267.02 for four 20ft. trees. In the expectation that taller and sturdier trees would be the more likely to withstand further wilful damage **it was proposed (SMT), seconded (KM) and agreed that trees be purchased from Trent Force at a price of £267.02.**

80.8.2. Winter maintenance on the Green. Cllr. Tonking went on to explain that a quotation of £120.00 had been received from Mr GC McCulloch for carrying out necessary maintenance and to do so in two stages. Initially, he would generally tidy, prune back trees where necessary and rake and top up bark chippings and, on a further visit in the Spring, he would treat the footpaths with herbicide to deal with weeds. **It was proposed (LFe), seconded (SW) and agreed that Mr McCulloch be asked to undertake this work at the quoted price.**

80.8.3. Annual maintenance contract. Cllr. Tonking said that the Millennium Green Trust would meet to consider the terms of a contract for Mr McCulloch, covering annual maintenance, to commence at the beginning of the grass-growing season next year. This would be brought back to the Council for consideration at their Budget meeting in January, given the cost implications. Mr McCulloch had offered various quotations for the work which would be considered.

80.8.4. Annual inspection of play equipment and report. Cllr. Tonking summarised the contents of the annual inspection report which had been received. It was satisfactory in the main though did draw attention to the need to address the following points:

- (i) the bark chippings were of insufficient depth and were somewhat scuffed,
- (ii) a slight risk to injury was identified on one item of equipment, and
- (iii) a hole needed to be made in the tyre to prevent the accumulation of rain water.

80.9 Other financial matters.

80.9.1. St Nicholas Churchyard. The Clerk read a letter from the Vicar, Rev Simon Davis requesting financial support on two counts:

- (i) summer grass cutting (with invoices attached amounting to £650.00) and
- (ii) extension of the churchyard into the former garden of the Vicarage; a quotation for this had been received amounting to £670.00.

Councillors were reminded that £600.00 had been ear-marked for summer maintenance when the budget had been set in January and £2,900.00 remains of £5,000.00 identified in 1998 for churchyard extension/development work. **It was proposed (PC), seconded (LFe) and agreed that £600.00 be allocated as a contribution towards summer maintenance. It was further agreed, following a proposal (SMT) which was seconded (LF), that £670.00 be promised for the development work on the basis of Mr Christopher Dunmore's quotation.** However, in respect of the latter, the Clerk was asked to point out that any work involving mature trees should be referred to the Planning Department of ESBC before the work was commenced.

80.9.2. Display of archive material. Councillors debated how best to display a large map of the parish and past Best Kept Village certificates. No decisions were reached and the Chairman commented that consideration should be given to the matter and that it should be debated again in January.

80.9.3. Christmas lights Cllr. Wilson reported that, in his view, it would be necessary to purchase new lights next year and it was agreed to consider this matter in the context of forthcoming budget-setting. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Shenton of South Staffs. Water Company thanking him, once again, for the supply of a Christmas tree.

Minute 81 Group Reports

81.1. Recreation

Schoolhouse Lane play area. The Clerk reported that the fencing has now been completed at an agreed price of £668.00. A decision will need to be taken as to whether the money for this will ultimately be drawn from the Deposit or the Recreation Accounts. There was inconclusive discussion upon what should be done with the two concrete seats on the site. The Chairman said that he would investigate and report to the next Meeting.

81.2 Village Property

81.2.1. Buttercross. Following recent damage caused by a vehicle running into one of the pillars the Clerk reported that he was in contact with the Conservation Officer of SCC. Early suggestions were that specialist contractors would have to be employed to undertake repairs and that the work would be supervised by English Heritage. There is little prospect that the work will be carried out in the immediate future.

81.2.2. Temporary bus shelter. The Clerk said that he would follow up the suggestion of one councillor that a temporary bus shelter might be erected near the site to give some protection against the weather for school children who board school busses

there. It was also noted that it is unsatisfactory that the protective fencing currently compels pedestrians to step into the road.

81.2.3. Christmas tree lights. Cllr. Wilson reported that MEB would be checking out the safety of the lights - hopefully at no cost to the Council.

81.2.4. Bottle Bank: Crown car park There was criticism that the bottle bank is sited too close to adjacent properties and residents are experiencing the nuisance of late night noise. The Clerk was asked to request the appropriate department of the Borough to move the "bank" from its present position.

81.3 Highways and Pathways

81.3.1. Correspondence with SCC Divisional Engineer. The Clerk reported upon the extensive correspondence which he had had with the Divisional Engineer based at the Lichfield Office regarding issues and concerns raised at the last Meeting. These covered the following matters:

- (i) proposed footway in Lichfield Road, opposite Ashbrook Lane
- (ii) flooding problems in Seedcroft Lane, Orange Lane and Lichfield Road
- (iii) fly tipping - declared to be a matter for ESBC
- (iv) Ashbrook Lane - new bollards
- (v) The Orchard, Market Place
- (vi) Salter Grange
- (vii) Miresbrook Lane - subsidence
- (viii) Narrow Lane - where the loan of a flail mower is offered.

Commenting upon the above councillors variously offered the following remarks:

(v) The Orchard: Borough Councillor Fox has sought the views of other residents in the Market Place regarding the alleged nuisance of parked vehicles; the investigation was inconclusive since some of the residents prefer to park their own vehicles there.

(vii) Miresbrook Lane. The subsidence is now very serious and requires immediate attention.

(viii) Narrow Lane. The Clerk was asked to take up the offer of a flail mower being used.

81.3.2. Goblins Lane. It was reported that despite the fact that some rubbish has been removed there are still some items of discarded material that need to be moved. The Clerk was asked to arrange for this to be done in consultation with the relevant adjacent landowners.

81.3.3. Footpath 51. It was agreed that the Clerk should liaise with the appropriate resident, behind whose property in Paget Rise the rubble is situated, to get it removed, either by the resident or ESBC.

81.3.4. Public Bridleway No 9 The Clerk reported that action that needed to be taken on this, as reported to SCC in June, had been delayed owing to the Foot and Mouth

epidemic. Now it is reported that the problems of access are being investigated with one suggestion being that gates are placed at each end of the bridleway.

81.3.5. Community Paths Initiative, 2002/03. The Clerk was asked to refer the documents, as previously, to Mr Roger Rooke of the Footpaths Society. (Councillors were reminded that the Council still holds in its accounts the £155.00 grant from 2000/01.)

81.4: Competitions

Top Team Quiz The Clerk reported that Mr Ron Pagel had kindly agreed to organise the team again next year. The first round of the competition is expected to be held in January, 2002.

84.5: Rural Housing

Nothing to report

84.6 Newsletter.

Cllr. Ferguson stated that he hoped to assemble material for the next edition to be published in February or March.

84.7 School Governor's Report

Cllr Ferguson reported that he did not feel able to report on the recent meeting owing to the fact that the minutes had not been signed.

Minute 85: Village Design Statement/Village Plan

Cllr Tonking reported that a meeting had been arranged for 17th December with Borough Councillor Fox, and Messrs. Waldron and Somerfield, senior officers of ESBC. The purpose of the meeting had been to consider, in the broadest terms, the scope of a Village Plan. A Village Plan can incorporate a Design Statement as well as other community aspirations such as transport, social activities, leisure requirements, etc. Cllr. Tonking said that she would report further to the next meeting.

Minute 86: New Ethical Framework for Local Government/Standards Board for England.

Reference was made to the document "The Standards Board for England" which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The main points were itemised as follows:

- The Standards Board for England is the keystone of the Local Government Act of 2000 and is chiefly concerned to examine complaints against elected and co-opted members.
- It comes into force on 27th November 2001 and will be progressively implemented until May 2002.

- Whilst there will not be discrete Standards Boards linked to individual parishes, every parish council will be subject to the Standards Board of its principal authority, in this case, the East Staffordshire Standards Committee.
- The East Staffordshire Standards Committee is currently being established with a membership drawn from the Borough and the parishes and, crucially, a number of individuals who will be independent members.
- In its scrutiny arrangements, the Committee will be solely concerned with the conduct of members.
- There will be a sixth month lead-in period, during which councils will have the opportunity to draw up codes of conduct, based upon clear advice.
- Once in place, councils will be given a two-month period during which councillors - if they are to remain councillors - will be required to signify assent to the code.

The Clerk stated that NALC/SPCA will be offering advice which will enable councils to meet the requirements of the legislation.

The Council, responding to a letter from the Chief Executive's office of ESBC, declined to make a nomination for the place of Parish Member on the East Staffordshire Standards Committee. It is anticipated that the Committee will be fully constituted by 10th December and will hold its first meeting on 19th December.

Minute 87: Provisional dates of Meetings, 2002.

Councillors set the following as provisional dates of Meetings for next year:

Regular Meetings: 30th January, 27th February, 27th March, 24th April, 29th May, 26th June, 31st July, 25th September, 23rd October and 27th November.

Special Meetings: budget-setting Meeting: 16th January
Annual Parish Assembly: 17th April.

Venues: Meetings until the end of March will be held in Church House; thereafter they will be held in the Memorial Room of the Village Hall.

Minute 88: Correspondence, Bulletins and Reports.

The Chairman drew attention to details of publications received in the course of the month and itemised in the Clerk's "conduct of business" notes.

The Clerk introduced a letter received from the Environmental Health Manager of ESBC in which an offer was made for officers to visit the Council to give a presentation on local air quality. It was decided that such a talk would not be necessary; however, the Clerk was asked to reply stating that there is keen interest here in the possibility of pollution from Rugeley power station and any assessment or comments regarding this would be welcome.

Minute 89: Items for the Agenda of the next Meeting

The following were put forward for discussion at the next Meeting:

- (i) Village Plan
- (ii) Parish Council Records
- (iii) Jubilee Cup

Minute 90: Date and time of the next Meeting

It was agreed that the next regular meeting should be held in Church House, Abbots Bromley, at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 30th January.

The Meeting concluded at 10.00 p.m.

Chairman date

proposed seconded