## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2002 at 7.30 p.m. in Church House, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given.

<u>Present</u>: Cllrs: PJ Charles, L Fox, RSV Jarman, KA McLoughlin, MM Moore, CN Talbot (Chairman) and S M Tonking.

Also present: PJ Youngs (Clerk)

Apologies for absence: Cllrs. LG Ferguson and S Wilson

Members of the public attending: none.

## **Minute 91 Public Session**

Since there were no members of the public present it was not possible to hold this session.

## Minute 92: Planning

Consideration was given to the following planning applications

- 92.1 **HO/02246/009:** Woodland View, Uttoxeter Road: erection of a conservatory on the rear elevation.
- 92.2 **PA/11009/007: Ashbrook Lane:** housing development by Walton Homes: substitution of house type on plots 1,3 4 & 5.

There were no objections to either set of proposals

## Minute 93: Setting the budget 2002/03

The Chairman drew attention to copies of a paper which had been prepared and circulated. This summarised the discussion, which had taken place in a meeting held some days previously, of a group of councillors consisting of himself, Cllr. Ferguson (Vice Chairman), Cllr. Fox (Finance Officer) and Cllr. Tonking. He requested Cllr. Tonking to introduce the papers. (The papers are attached to these Minutes.)

- Paper 1: Anticipated balances at the end of the financial year 2001-02: £4,005.20
- <u>Paper 2</u>: **Draft Budget proposals** for 2002-03 listed as Heads of Expenditure covering anticipated requirements, allowing for inflation at 2 ½ % £12,920.54
- <u>Paper 3</u>: Possible **projects** for 2002-03: **£2,750.00**
- <u>Paper 4:</u> **Precept Details** for 2002-03: taking the above into account and regarding the balance of £4,005 as a sufficient cushion or contingency in the event of unforeseen circumstances arising the proposal put before the meeting was the setting of a precept of £15,670.54, rounded up to £15,700.00

In the discussion that ensued particular attention was focused upon Paper 2 and why, specifically, this should indicate a significant increase above 2001-02 commitments. In addressing this Cllr. Tonking stressed the following:

- (i) The costs involved in maintaining the Millennium Green are now falling wholly upon the Council since set-up grants have come to an end. This is not unforeseen, but the reality is that an annual outlay of some £1.200.00 is called for. This, moreover, will be recurring year on year.
- (ii) With the impact of national developments concerning parish councils, in the wake of the Rural White Paper, it is clear that more money needs to be "ear marked" for training, both of the clerk and councillors.

In connection with items listed on paper 3 - "2002/03 Projects - Cllr. Tonking, supported by other councillors, defended the need for having in place a Village Plan (as opposed to a Village Design Statement) since its possession would put the Council and the village in a much stronger position to consider a variety of initiatives and issues - including planning proposals - as they arise, as they undoubtedly will. As a device for responding to all such initiatives the Plan should avoid the necessity to make, at best, ad hoc decisions and, at worst, decisions that are ill-considered and deny the village the benefits (including monetary benefits) of co-operation with the principal authorities and other agencies.

With regard to the proposals to pay for bulky household waste skips it is recognised that uncertainty exists; it is not known at this stage whether the skips will be financed through the WASP scheme. Also, it is possible that the gates for the Schoolhouse Lane play area may legitimately by financed from the Recreational Account.

After discussion lasting for approximately three quarters of an hour it was proposed (MM), seconded (RJ) and agreed that a precept for the financial year 2002 - 03 be set at £15,700 and that the Clerk be instructed to convey this information to the relevant department of the Borough Council forthwith.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Cllr. Tonking in particular for all the preparatory work which she had undertaken in preparing the ground for the decision taken.

The Meeting concluded at 8.30 p.m.

Chairman	 date
Proposed	Seconded