

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 p.m.  
in Church House, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given.

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

Also present: PJ Youngs (Clerk)

Apologies for absence: Cllr. RSV Jarman

Members of the public attending: none.

**Minute 110 : Public Session**

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

**Minute 111: Approve and sign the Minutes of the Meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2002**

**It was proposed (SMT), seconded (LF) and agreed that the Minutes be signed as a true record of proceedings, subject to:**

- (i) p 5. Min. 97.1.3. to read "*encountered*", not "*encounter*"
- (ii) p.9. Min. 99.2.4. to read "*roof*" not "*rook*"
- (iii) p.10 Min. 99.3.3. to read "*Mill Green*" not "*Hall Hill*"

**Minute 112: Matters arising and Matters of Report**

- i) Refer Minute 94. Cllr. Charles confirmed that he had attended the funeral of former Councillor, Mrs Betty Robertson.
- ii) Refer Minute 98.6.3. It was announced that Mrs Wendy Averill wishes to relinquish her responsibilities in respect of the Millennium Green play area. Cllr. Charles stated that he is willing to undertake the duties, unpaid.
- iii) Refer Minute 98.8. In connection with Minute 98.8. Cllr. Tonking suggested that a number of certificate frames might be disposed of through the next St Giles Hospice Jumble Sale. There was unanimous agreement to this proposal.
- iv) Refer Minute 99.3.2. Cllr. Tonking, who had attended the site meeting at the Newton junction on the B5014, stated that councillors of Blithfield Parish Council were grateful for this Council's support over attempts to secure road improvements at this point.
- v) Refer Minute 93.3. Cllr. Fox stated that that the work carried out at Mill Green was not entirely satisfactory. Cllr. Charles said that he would get the Footpaths Society to look into it.
- vi) Refer Minute 107 (ii). Cllr. Tonking, having perused the material received from the Commission for Racial Equality, stated that she thinks that it has little bearing

upon the activities of this Council since it is largely concerned with employment issues.

## **Minutes 113: Planning**

### **113.1 Applications**

- (i) **LB/07418/019 Manor Farm House, Hall Lane:** erection of a rear conservatory  
*PC response:* *No objections*
- (ii) **CN/01967/047 Latham House, High Street:** demolition of outbuildings and part of front boundary wall  
*PC response:* (see (iii) below)
- (iii) **CU/01967/046 Latham House, High Street:** conversion of offices and barns to 4 dwellings, including raising of eaves to Units 3 and 4, two storey rear extensions and chimney and alterations to existing vehicular access.  
*PC response:* The Parish Council raises *no objections* to the main proposals. However, all councillors express deep misgivings regarding the amount of additional road-side parking this number of new dwellings is likely to generate. Therefore it is proposed that any approval of application should be made conditional upon the provision of off-street parking for at least six vehicles.
- (iv) **TP/01967/048 Latham House High Street:** crown raise canopy of one Irish yew tree and one sycamore tree and cut back and selectively prune 2 yew trees of Tree Preservation Order 178  
*PC response:* (see (iii) above)
- (v) **HO/07418/018 & LB/07418/019 Manor Farm House, Hall Hill Lane:** erection of rear conservatory **Amended Plan** - see (i) above.  
*This application was discussed with the Chairman who saw no reason to have it circulated.*
- (vi) **LB/05395/009 Maxstoke House, Bagot Street:** Internal alterations to roof space.  
*PC response:* *No objections*
- (vii) **PA/25107/106 Ash Farm Glass Lane:** retention of caravan to be used for storage of sheep products, tools, animal medicines and protective clothing  
*PC response:* *No objections*

### **113.2. Decisions**

113.2.1. The following applications have been **APPROVED** subject to stated conditions:

- (i) **CN/21560/007: Ashtree House, Lichfield Road:** demolition of existing garages & store.
- (ii) **PA/19865/005: Ashtree House, Lichfield Road:** erection of garden room and entrance, part single and two storey extension for use as office with studio above and alterations to existing access.

113.2.2.. The following applications have been **REFUSED:**

- (i) **PC/01890/012: Barkley House Farm, Bromley Hurst:** Application under s. 73 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 to continue to use the dwelling without with Condition 9 of planning permission 01890/01 dated 170775 relating to the agricultural occupancy of the dwelling.

### 113.3. Other Planning Matters

In response to a question concerning the continued use of the premises at Grange Farm for the sale of motor vehicles, the Clerk stated that he was aware that the Planning Department of the Borough was monitoring the situation carefully, but he would enquire as to the precise current position.

### 114. Finance

114.1 Finance Statement for February. The Clerk said that he wished to draw attention to a minor error on the January statement. In connection with the New Village Hall account the *opening balance* should read £2,944.91 (not £2,944.67) and the *current balance* should read £2,945.16 (not £2,944.92). The Chairman initialled the correction on the statement. After sundry comments and points of explanation **it was proposed(LFe), seconded (PC) and agreed that the February Statement be accepted.**

114.2 Report on payments made since the last meeting The Clerk reported that the following payments had been made with Chairman's approval since the last meeting:

voucher no / cheque no.	Payee	sum due	details
040402	Dickinson	1,436.44	NVH Authority given by Cllr. Fox & K Webb
60/392	npower	84.59	Quarterly payment
61/393	GC McCulloch	85.00	Clearance of debris from Narrow Lane, Miresbrook, Harley and Goose Lane; to be reclaimed from SCC
62/394	Community Council of Staffs	14.00	BKV Competition fee and order for 20 posters.

114.3 Bills to pay The Clerk introduced the following for payment.

voucher no /cheque no	Payee	Sum due	Details
63/395	Local Council Review	32.97	Subscription for 3 copies for year 2002/03
64/396	ABPCC	155.00	Church House hire fee for PC (12) & Neighbourhood Watch (3) meetings .
65/397	Office World	130.64	(includes VAT of £19.46) Main items - Photocopy toner cassette @ £76.59, copier cartridge @ £15.31 and case of paper at £10.20
66/398	SPCA	3.50	Copy of Tenancy Agreement.
67/399	GC McCulloch	85.00	Clearance of drains in Ashbrook Lane & High Street, & litter clearance along Uttoxeter Rd. Devolved monies: being reclaimed from SCC

68/400	TrentForce	220.51	Replacement trees on Millennium Green
69/401	ABPCC	17.00	Printing of Newsletter
70/402	Ingrestre Sawmill	199.75	Stile sets. This money has been held in our deposit account from 2000/01 under SCC Community Paths Initiative. £50.00 remaining
71/403	Studiocraft	4.64	1 ream copy paper for newsletter

**for New Village Hall**

cheque 047	Bonar Floors	504.08	For work as directed.
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**It was proposed (LFe), seconded (PC) and agreed that the above should be paid.** However, there was considerable disappointment that 12ft. trees had been supplied on the Millennium Green, as opposed to 20ft. trees which had been ordered in an attempt to reduce the risk of vandalism. Whilst accepting that, given the approach of the end of the planting season, it was too late to replace the trees with taller specimens, **it was proposed (SMT), seconded (LF) and agreed that a letter registering dissatisfaction should be sent to TrentForce with a statement to the effect that the Council expects to receive a favourably adjusted price for 20ft trees in the future should it be necessary to replace those recently planted.**

114.4. Section 137 payments

None. The Clerk pointed out that no response had been received from the local Scout Group in reply to his letter of 1<sup>st</sup> February requesting further information about the funding of the group's activities as part of a willingness to consider offering the further financial support that had been requested.

115.5 Grass cutting contract 2002/03

**It was proposed (LF), seconded (SMT) and agreed that the agreed contract price should be increased in line with inflation by 2.5%, rounded up, for the 2002/03 season.** This would have the practical effect of raising the cost of each regular operation by £3.00 to £88.00.

114.6 Millennium Green - maintenance arrangements 2002/03

**It was proposed (L Fe), seconded (MM) and agreed that a contract be offered to Mr GC McCulloch as follows: 12 cuts per year at £20.00 per visit during the course of the grass-growing season, and three days of winter work during the winter season 2002/03 at £85.00 per day.** The total cost to the Council would therefore be £495.00 in a full year. The Clerk was asked to communicate this offer, based upon Mr McCulloch's own tender, to him.

114.7 Allotment tenancy arrangements

**It was proposed (PC), seconded (LF) and agreed that the annual tenancy payment should be set at £25.00 per annum** It was further agreed that the tenancy document, currently issued by the National Association of Local Councils, should be used as the basis of the contract with the new tenant.

114.8. Schoolhouse Lane play area.

See under Recreation (Minute 115) below.

#### 114.9 Appointment of Clerk

After lengthy discussion on the most appropriate way to proceed **it was proposed (SW), seconded (LF) and agreed that a group of three councillors, consisting of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Cllr. Tonking, should be authorised to prepare and place the advertisement for the post and to report back to the next Meeting.**

#### 114.10 Arrangements for Annual Parish Assembly

It was agreed that the date of the APA be fixed for Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> May. The Clerk was asked to invite representatives of village organisations.

#### 114.11 Disposal of Parish Council items of furniture in Church House.

It was decided that the best course would be to leave the furniture in Church House, subject to the willingness of the church wardens to this arrangement. The Clerk was asked to check that all the items were listed on the Council's inventory.

#### 114.12 Other Financial Matters.

None.

### **Minute 115: Group Reports**

#### **115.1 Recreation**

##### Schoolhouse Lane Play Area.

1. Cllr. Tonking reported on her contacts with Mr Boucher-Giles regarding the access to the play area. It had been agreed that he would level the ground for the length of the pathway.
2. There was general agreement that the cost of play equipment for young children be investigated, - i.e. five to eight-year-olds - together with seating and perhaps a picnic bench or two. The Clerk was asked to investigate and to report to the next meeting.
3. There was further a suggestion that a grant from Uttoxeter Plus might be sought for this project. Cllr. Moore stated that the executive committee is now open to receive bids.
4. In terms of regular maintenance, it was reported that the grass is due to be cut on a regular basis (twelve times a year) according to the three-year contract which is in operation.

#### **115.2 Village Property**

1. Fly tipping, Goblins Lane. There is nothing to report since the Environmental Protection Team agreed on 14<sup>th</sup> February to investigate the matter.

2. Floodlighting of church The Clerk reported upon his continued, unsuccessful efforts, to have lighting repaired on the east facing side of the Church tower.
3. Ashbrook Lane. It was reported that vegetation which for long had obscured street lights outside the properties of Chailey and Tanglewood has now been removed.
4. The Buttercross The County Highways Engineer reports that there is no further news regarding its repair; he apologises for the fact that he has not yet arranged for safe pedestrian passage-way on the road side.
5. Dog fouling. Concerns were expressed regarding the amount of dog fouling that there is in the village, notably around Schoolhouse Lane. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the relevant department of the Borough to ensure that more notices were posted.

### 115.3 Highways and Pathways

115.3.1. The Clerk reported on the following incomplete highways operations in the village:

- (i) Miresbrook Lane: Some exploratory work has been undertaken and some repair work done to a gully and manhole. However, it will be necessary to delay more extensive remedial work until the new financial year.
- (ii) Goose Lane. The building of a footpath was stopped when it was considered that an adjoining wall was unsafe. It is understood that the current delay is due to communications taking place between the owner and his insurance company.
- (iii) Lichfield Road - construction of footpath opposite Ashbrook Lane. The delay has been due to problems encountered in the building of walls and with services and ground conditions. The work has been recommenced and will continue until complete. The road will then be re-surfaced.

115.3.2. Other Highways matters:

- (i) Lichfield Road. It was reported that a hole in the highway needs attention by the first traffic calming build out - approaching the village - in Lichfield Road.
- (ii) Goose Lane. There was a report that the surface is breaking up at one point and requires attention
- (iii) Parking on pavements. Concerns were expressed regarding the continued parking by some owners of vehicles on pavements, notwithstanding the higher kerbs along the main streets. The Clerk was asked to discuss the matter with the police.

- (iv) Schoolhouse Lane: (see Minute 98.9.3.) The damaged fence by the footpath - adjacent to the Old School House, has now been repaired, thanks to the Footpath Society.

#### **115.4 Competitions.**

115.4.1. Top Team Quiz. It was reported that the Quiz has been cancelled this year owing to the untimely death of the event's sponsor.

115.4.2. Best Kept Village Competition. The Clerk reported that the village's submission has been made. Posters, advertising this year's competition were circulated.

#### **115.5 Rural Housing**

Nothing to report

#### **115.6 Newsletter**

Copies of the Newsletter, Number 17, were distributed for circulation.

#### **115.7. School Governor's Report**

Cllr. Ferguson reported that the school has found it possible to reduce class sizes in years 1 and 2 to 21/22. He said that the school's success is underpinned with very satisfactory support staff arrangements. Mrs Gill Meads has announced her resignation; her departure is regarded as a significant loss to the school.

#### **Minute 116: Village Plan**

Cllr. Fox, reporting Borough Councillor Fox's comments, stated that:

- (i) the Council's joint application to register an interest in producing a Village Plan, together with Kingstone and Blithfield Parish Council's, has been received by the Countryside Agency;
- (ii) a banker needs to be appointed to manage the moneys involved in the joint grant - it is suggested that Abbots Bromley Parish Council might undertake this role.

Lastly, Cllr. Tonking kindly agreed to act as this Council's representative on the committee to be formed jointly with the other two parishes; this committee will be steered initially by Borough Councillor Alex Fox.

#### **Minute 117: Uttoxeter Plus**

Cllr Moore reported upon a meeting which she had attended on 21<sup>st</sup> February. She stated that the initial steering group is being replaced by an executive group now that the main priorities have been established. It will meet twice a year. A "community chest" will be established to support local projects.

Cllr. Moore reminded the Council of the four main strategic objectives which had been selected for this project:

- (i) to increase employment and encourage diversification of the economy in the area,
- (ii) to improve the town centre of Uttoxeter for the benefit of residents and visitors,
- (iii) to improve facilities for local people,
- (iv) to improve all types of movement throughout the Uttoxeter Plus area.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Moore for attending the meeting on behalf of the Council.

**Minute 118: Jubilee Cup Nominations.**

**It was proposed (SMT), seconded (KM) and agreed that the Cup be awarded to Borough Councillor Alex Fox for the year 2002/03**

**Minute 119: New Ethical Framework for Local Government: Code of Conduct**

There were numerous expressions of disquiet regarding the draconian nature of this legislation and the manner in which it was being implemented - "a sledge-hammer to crack a nut", as one councillor put it. Whilst there was acknowledgement that the Council had little alternative but to accede to the requirements of the law in every respect, there was a strong feeling that a letter of "objection in principle" should be framed and sent to the Minister responsible. This would be considered at the next meeting.

It was agreed that Councillors would come to the next meeting, i.e. on 27<sup>th</sup> March, prepared to sign the forms which had already been issued.

**Minute 120:Correspondence**

The Clerk drew attention to the following items of correspondence:

- (i) GPU Power report dated 19<sup>th</sup> February indicating that the metal casings of a number of street lamps in the village had been found to be unsafe in the course of a recent cleaning operation. The letter has been sent to the County's Lighting Engineer at Lichfield for appropriate action.
- (ii) Parish Councils' Forum for Chairmen and Clerks. In response to a recent enquiry from the Chief Executive of the Borough regarding whether it would be best to continue to hold separate meetings or to amalgamate them, the Council took the view that, whilst there are not strong feelings either way, there seems to be no argument in principle to amalgamating the meetings.

- (iii) Staffordshire Local Transport Plan Rural Area Strategy: questionnaire. The Clerk was asked to complete on behalf of the Council.

**Minute 121: Items for the Agenda of the next Meeting - 27<sup>th</sup> March**

- (i) (under Finance) Appointment of Clerk - progress report
- (ii) New Ethical Framework, Code of Conduct: consideration of formal objection to the Code of Practice.
- (iii) New Ethical Framework, Code of Conduct: formal acknowledgement by the Council and by individual councillors,
- (iv) Celebration of Golden Jubilee
- (v) Recycling.

**Minute 122: Date, time and place of the next Meeting**

The next Meeting will be held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 p.m. in Church House. The Clerk tendered his apologies for absence from this Meeting owing to hospitalisation; he stated that Cllr. Moore had kindly agreed to take the Minutes for that Meeting.

The Meeting concluded at 10.00 p.m.

Chairman: ..... Date: .....  
Proposed: ..... Seconded: .....