

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday, 29 January, 2003 at 7.30 p.m.
in the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given.

Present: Cllrs: PJ Charles, C Cook, LG Ferguson (Chairman - L Fe below), L Fox, KA McLoughlin, JA Needham and S Wilson.

Also present: EA Roy (Clerk), Borough Councillor AJH Fox

Apologies for absence: PC Boulter, Cllr RSV Jarman, RT Esling

Members of the public attending: Margaret Sanderson, Chris Kemp, Sue Knight, Tina Bailey, Martin Brown

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Minute 96: Visit by PC Boulter

Apologies were received from PC Boulter whose duties had once again been changed. He hoped to attend the next meeting.

Minute 97: Public Session

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public present and invited them to raise their topics of interest.

Mrs Sanderson said that they were here to represent the Bromley Wood residents who were extremely concerned following an accident and near miss. They had been told that a reduction in speed limits is not possible, but believe that this needs to be re-considered as most incidents are caused by excess speed. They are in discussion with Richard Rayson of SCC Highways and wondered if the Parish Council would like to be involved in a site meeting. It was agreed that the Council would like to have representatives at any meeting.

In closing the public session, the Chairman thanked those present for their contributions.

Normal business was resumed at 7:40 pm.

Minute 98: Approve and sign the Minutes of the previous Meetings

It was proposed (PC), seconded (LF) and agreed that the Minutes of both meetings be signed as a true record of proceedings subject to the following corrections:

Minute 84.1 final line, change "bridleway" to "footpath"; Minute 84.10 final line, insert "heard" after "have never"; Minute 84.12 final line; change "country" to "county".

Minute 99: Matters arising and matters of report

- 99.1 Harley Lane hedge erosion (Minutes 75.3.4, 81.2, 87.3.5):** The Clerk has discussed the problem with SCC and been advised that some warning signs have been ordered and will be erected on arrival. Imposing a width restriction appears to offer the only effective form of control. However, this is a long and complex process that is likely to encounter opposition and will need to be raised as a high priority for the whole village in order to attract funding. Although the matter could be raised with SCC now, they will not work on any new proposals until after the end of the transport consultations. i.e. April at the earliest. Once started, the process would then take around 6 months due to the notice periods involved.
- 99.2 Race Relations Act (Minute 76.2):** A meeting had been held to consider the action the Parish Council ought to take, and it is suggested that this be considered again at the February meeting when recommendations and a draft resolution will be available.
- 99.3 Ashbrook Lane spring (Minutes 70, 84.1):** The Clerk will report on progress at the meeting.
- 99.4 Public notices (Minute 85.3.2):** The Clerk has been in communication with Mike Waldron, who reports that Lichfield Mercury was used for notices in the past, but was dropped due to their inability to guarantee dates of entry. He would be happy to review the policy if we can demonstrate that a particular paper has a stronger readership in the parish. It was suggested that we could poll the newsagents to see what quantities they sell/distribute in the village.
- 99.5 Independent Internal Auditor (Minute 86.5.7):** Dealt with under Finance.
- 99.6 Millennium Green laburnum tree (Minute 87.1.1):** The Clerk has received authorisation from the Trustees to have the tree removed and is making arrangements for this to happen.
- 99.7 Traffic/speed (Minutes 87.3.1, 87.3.2, 92):** The Clerk has written again to Inspector Mason who has reported that PC Boulter has issued two notices to badly parked cars. He also points out that they will not carry out random speed checks but will respond if we make specific complaints. The Clerk has therefore requested action in Uttoxeter Road on the basis of the complaints received from Mrs Templier and Mr Eatough. Inspector Mason has confirmed that checks will be carried out there.
- 99.8 Britain in Bloom (Minute 87.4.1):** The Clerk contacted the organisers who quoted Great Haywood as a local entrant. The information they promised to send has not yet arrived and the person is now on long-term sick leave.
- 99.9 Freedom of Information Act (Minute 88):** The Clerk has sent off the return to the Information Commissioner. A publication scheme will be prepared for review at the February meeting.
- 99.10 Help for rural shops (Minute 89.4):** Help is principally for those villages having only one shop at risk of closing. However, the advisor may be able to offer some guidance if there are specific diversification projects needing support to prevent a business closing.
- 99.11 Ambulance Service visit (Minute 89.5):** A visit is arranged for 1830 on Wednesday 19 February for Cllrs Wilson, Fox, Needham, McLoughlin and Cook. A further visit is available on Tuesday 18 March when the Clerk, Cllrs Charles and Ferguson will attend (with Cllrs Esling and Jarman if they wish to visit.)

Minute 100: Planning

100.1 Applications

- (i) **237 - PC/19865/008: Walnut Grange, Schoolhouse Lane:** Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the development of 2 detached dwellings without complying with condition 8 of the planning permission requiring vertically boarded side-hung garage doors
Received: 210103 Despatched: 310103 Response: No objection
- (ii) **238 - RM/25481/007: Port Lane Farmhouse:** Reserved matters application for approval of materials, landscaping and fencing
Received: 230103 Despatched: 310103 Response: No objection

100.2 Decisions

The following applications have been AGREED:

- (i) **222 - CU/18950/007: Spring Bank Farm, Radmore Lane:** Change of use of agricultural land for the riding of horses
- (ii) **225 - CU/05685/006: The Barn, Harts Farm, Bromley Hurst:** Conversion and extension to barn to form dwelling including installation of rooflights, erection of detached stable and garage block, installation of septic tank and reed bed and alterations to vehicular access
- (iii) **226 - HO/27678/001: 1 Ashbrook Lane:** Erection of an attached car port
- (iv) **227 - HO/27683/001: Heatley Green Cottage, Heatley Green:** Erection of a two-storey rear extension and single storey side extension
- (v) **228 - PA/26905/002: Bagots Park:** Upgrading existing anemometry mast from 40m to 50m and installation of second mast 40m high
- (vi) **231 - TN/27210/002: Eastmans Croft, Bagot Street:** Lopping branches from one ash tree
- (vii) **233 - PA/27683/003: Heatley Green Cottage, Heatley Green:** Temporary siting of a static caravan for a period of 12 months
- (viii) **234 - HO/18735/003: 9 Alfred Lyons Close:** Erection of a single storey front extension and detached garage
- (ix) **235 - CU/11528/022: Yeatsall Farm, Yeatsall Lane:** Conversion of agricultural buildings to 2 holiday units in substitution of dwelling Unit E previously approved under CU/11528/015 dated 28/6/01

No applications have been REFUSED.

No applications have been DEFERRED.

100.3 Correspondence and other planning matters

100.3.1 A prospective developer of the site behind Ivy House has met with Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk to outline their ideas and invite comment prior to a formal application.

100.3.2 Following a suggestion from Borough Councillor Fox, Cllr Ferguson has contacted Chairmen of local Parish Councils and a joint meeting about the proposed wind farm is being arranged for early March. This will provide an opportunity for ESBC Planning Officers to brief members on the general planning issues involved in wind farms.

Minute 101: Financial Matters

101.1 Financial Statement for January

The financial statement for January was introduced by the Clerk. ***It was proposed (CC), seconded (PC) and agreed that the statement be approved.***

101.2 Report on payments made since the last Meeting:

The following payments had been made with the approval of the Chairman and Vice Chairman:

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details	Powers
53/459	Butterworths Tolley	38.50	Charles Arnold Baker book	LG(FP)A 1963, s.5
54/460	G C McCulloch	170.00	Millennium Green pruning etc	OSA 1906, s.10
55/461	Paul Sweetman	626.76	Village Agent salary & expenses	[Vital Village fund]
56/462	East Staffs Borough Council	55.00	Plan application for 5-a-side pitch	LG(MP)A 1976, s.13
	TOTAL payments made	890.26		

101.3 Bills to pay

The Clerk introduced the following for payment:

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details	Powers
57/463	Local Council Review	34.77	Three copies for next year	LGA 1972, s.143
58/464	Npower	84.59	Public lighting electricity	PCA 1957, s.3
59/464	Npower	35.52	Christmas lighting electricity	LGA 1972, s.145
60/465	Parochial Church Council	621.00	Grass cutting in graveyard 2002	LGA 1972, s.214
61/466	Graymann Elect Services	55.08	Bulbs for Christmas lights	LGA 1972, s.145
62/467	Paul Sweetman	628.90	Village Agent salary/expenses	[Vital Village fund]
63/468	Eric Roy	844.36	Clerk salary/expenses Oct/Dec	LGA 1972, s.112(2) & LG(FP)A 1963, s.5
64/469	LG Woodward	109.97	Christmas tree lights	LGA 1972, s.145
65/470	Society of Local Council Cl.	48.00	Clerk's membership fee 2003	LG(FP)A 1963, s.5
	TOTAL payments	2462.19		

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

101.4 Section 137 payments

101.4.1 A letter has been received from Rainbow Guides outlining their sponsored "big bounce" and asking for support.

101.4.2 Following a short discussion it was resolved that the Council, in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should contribute £40 which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure. ***Proposed (LF), seconded (KM) and agreed.***

101.5 Other financial matters

101.5.1 **Appointment of IIA:** The Clerk reported that Brian Sullivan, Clerk to Longdon Parish Council has indicated his willingness to act as IIA for 2002/3 at a cost of £80. Clerk was authorised to write a letter of appointment and arrange audit visits.

101.5.2 **Badminton:** At the budget meeting, it was agreed that the sum of £100 could be assigned from the Recreation Fund as a contribution towards the cost of new badminton equipment. However, no formal resolution to this effect was made at the time. ***It was proposed (CC), seconded (KM) and agreed that the Clerk write to the clubs advising them that the Parish Council would pay up to £100 from the recreation fund towards the cost of the required equipment - on presentation of an invoice.***

101.5.3 **New Village Hall:** With completion of all the major works on the new Village Hall, we could now close the account and pass the residual funds onto the Village Hall Committee for use in future maintenance. ***It was proposed (PC), seconded (KM) and agreed***

that the Clerk take the steps necessary to close the account and transfer the balance to the Village Hall maintenance fund.

101.5.4 **External Audit:** The Clerk reported on the outcome of the new-style external audit. Initially the auditor had commented on the lack of an Independent Internal Auditor and also claimed that the precept had been incorrectly reported. Eventually the latter claim was dropped, when it was shown that the figure reported was confirmed by ESBC. District Audit claim ESBC gave them the wrong figure. This is disputed by Gareth Moss, Chief Financial Officer at ESBC. The annual statement including the Auditor's report will now be displayed as required by the Accounting and Audit Regulations 1996.

101.5.5 **Financial Regulations:** The Clerk introduced a draft set of financial regulations based on the NALC model. ***It was proposed (LF), seconded (CC) and agreed that these regulations be adopted forthwith subject to the removal of the "RFO" from item 11.1a(v).***

Minute 102: Group Reports

102.1 Recreation

102.1.1 The external inspection of the Millennium Green should have taken place by now. The Clerk will check with ESBC on progress.

102.2 Village Property

Nothing to report.

102.3 Traffic, Parking, Highways

101.3.1 Cllr Cook reported that PC Boulter will continue to monitor parking. Cllr Cook also questioned the disappearance of the grit/salt bins that used to be situated around the village. Cllr Wilson reported that SCC withdrew them all, and said they would re-issue them at more suitable places. Theft of the materials was cited as a cause for this action.

101.3.2 Cllr Wilson suggested we need some clearing up in the street from the zebra crossing and along to the church and asked if Mr McCulloch could be asked to do this. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask him.

101.3.3 It was agreed that the Highways Working Group should meet in order to discuss the various proposals that were extant on traffic matters.

102.4 Competitions

102.4.1 Cllr Ferguson took the Best Kept Village entry form to complete.

102.5 Rural Housing

102.5.1 Good progress is being maintained on the building in Goose Lane with internal work on the first houses now taking place.

102.6 Newsletter

102.6.1 The lack of an election timetable was discussed and the Clerk was requested to seek informal information on dates ahead of the formal notices being issued. A piece for the newsletter describing the process would be helpful.

102.6.2 Other articles could include Parish Assembly date, 5-a-side pitch, Village Plan update, Best Kept Village, Village Fair and possibly wind farm? May also be useful to mention the housing survey in the newsletter.

102.7 School Governor's Report

Nothing to report.

102.8 Village Plan

102.8.1 The Clerk provided a brief report from Paul Sweetman – the questionnaire was nearing completion but needed the number of questions reducing to keep within target. It was now expected that the questionnaire would be issued in March.

Minute 103: Jubilee Cup

103.1 After a short discussion, it was proposed that Jill Crooks be awarded the cup in 2003, and Cllr Fegruson was asked to contact her and ask whether she was willing to receive it.

Minute 104: Correspondence, bulletins and reports

104.1 David Kidney MP has written following the “Future of the Post Office Network” conference to summarise the follow up actions. There is also a short booklet issued by SPCA after the event, and a page of notes written by Cllr Cook.

104.2 SPCA Advisory Notes issue 98 had been distributed. Arising from this, the possibility of getting Abbots Bromley into the formal Post Office address structures for the village was discussed. Agreed that an item would be included in the newsletter to gauge interest.

104.3 Notice had been received of a proposed diversion of footpath number 51 around Park Farm.

104.4 The Community Council of Staffordshire are soliciting entries for the 2003 diary of village festivals and events. Clerk asked to include the Horn Dance, Village Show and Players events (if details available).

104.5 SPCA is seeking nominations from East Staffordshire for three Executive Committee members.

104.6 The Community Council of Staffordshire have provided details of Vital Village funding meetings. One is in Abbots Bromley between 2-4pm on Friday 7 February.

104.7 The Commission for Health Improvement invited us to attend meetings on 6/7/8 January to provide feedback on the ambulance trust.

104.8 Further correspondence regarding the proposed wind farm was available.

104.9 Local Transport Plan: There is an East Staffs area strategy workshop on 5 March – the Clerk has been invited to attend.

104.10 In response to our question, Michael Fabricant MP has written denying that he is against the proposed wind farm but outlining some concerns he has about wind farms in general.

Minute 105: Items for agenda of next meeting

Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000
Publication Scheme for Freedom of Information Act
Re-cycling
Crossing Patrols

Minute 106: Date, time and place of next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meetings should be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 26 February 2003 in the Memorial Room of the Village Hall.

The Meeting concluded at 9.05 pm.

Chairman Date:

Proposed: Seconded: