

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday, 31 October 2007 at 7.30 pm
in the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given

Present: Cllrs: PJ Charles, S Coxon, Cllr DT Eatough (Chair), AE Elkington,
L Fox, RSV Jarman, C Veitch, BJ Waring

Also present: EA Roy (Clerk)

Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr RT Esling.

Members of the public attending:
Borough Councillor A Fox
Mrs M Tonking

Contents:

Minute 62: Public Session.....	1
Minute 63: Minutes of previous meeting	2
Minute 64: Declarations of interest	2
Minute 65: Matters arising and matters of report	2
Minute 66: Planning.....	2
Minute 67: Financial Matters.....	3
Minute 68: Group Reports.....	4
Minute 69: Correspondence, bulletins and reports	6
Minute 70: Transfer of Millennium Green	6
Minute 71: Recruitment of new Clerk	7
Minute 72: Items for agenda of next meeting.....	7
Minute 73: Date, time and place of next meeting.....	7

Minute 62: Public Session

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public present and invited them to address the meeting.

Borough Cllr Alex Fox gave a brief history of the Millennium Green and the background to the current situation. Mithra Tonking then explained the rationale behind the current transfer proposal and how this had been negotiated with Natural England (successor to the Countryside Agency). The next stage in the process is the execution of the Deed of Adherence, confirming that the Council will abide by the original terms of the grant.

Cllr Fox also reported that a planning application had been lodged that day for eight wind turbines to be installed at Bagots Park.

He also gave an update on the measures being taken by ESBC to deal with hotspots in particular wards. Some issues could be directly controlled, and others influenced. He invited feedback on what the current issues were in the parish.

Normal business was resumed at 2010.

Minute 63: Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting on 26 September 2007 be accepted as an accurate record.

Minute 64: Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minute 65: Matters arising and matters of report

65.1 Circulated documents and Clerk's log: No comments arising.

65.2 Transfer of allotments: ESBC have advised that they are not currently in a position to propose a handover of the Goose Lane allotments to the Parish Council, and this matter is therefore deferred indefinitely.

65.3 Code of Conduct: The adoption of the revised model Code of Conduct has been advertised in the Uttoxeter Advertiser (jointly with Blithfield and Kingstone Parish Councils to minimise costs).

65.4 Parish Council surgery: The next surgery was due to take place on Saturday 24th November and would be conducted by Cllr Veitch.

65.5 Meetings in 2008: The Clerk provided a proposed schedule of surgery and meeting dates for 2008. It was agreed that there should be no surgery on Easter Saturday (22nd March). Councillors in attendance at the surgeries would be:

- 26th January – Cllr Coxon
- 24th May – Cllr Fox
- 26th July – Cllr Jarman
- 20th September – Cllr Waring
- 22nd November – Cllr Elkington

Minute 66: Planning

66.1 Applications

526 - PA/25184/005: 10 Ashbrook Lane: Erection of a two storey attached dwelling
Received: 28/09/07 Replied: 16/10/07 Response: The Parish Council objects to this application on the basis of inadequate provision for off-road parking. Several members of the Council also consider the development would be out of character with the area and create an inappropriate precedent.

527 - LB/02885/025: Land rear of Ivy House: Demolition of outbuildings
Received: 01/10/07 Replied: 01/11/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

528 - PA/02885/024: Land rear of Ivy House: Erection of nine detached dwellings, conversion of the first floor of the existing dress shop including a rear extension to form a single dwelling, garages and alteration to existing vehicular access
Received: 01/10/07 Replied: 01/11/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application other than expressing a concern that the traffic survey does not

recognise the real-world issues of parking for the Post Office and nearby School. These parked vehicles, including some school buses, will obscure oncoming traffic from those attempting exit from the site.

529 - PA/07499/005: Parish Churchyard, St Nicholas Church: Construction of hard surface to existing footpath

Received: 22/10/07 Replied: 01/11/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

530 - TN/09385/013: Millennium Green, Bagot Street: Removal of one Sycamore tree and one Silver Birch tree

Received: 31/10/07 Replied: 01/11/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk communicate these responses to the local planning authority.

66.2 Decisions

The following applications have been **AGREED** - None

516 - HO/09870/004: 6 Preedys Close: Erection of a first floor side extension

517 - PA/02131/012: Bagots Park Estate: Formation of an agricultural pond

518 - HO/09871/003: 12 Radmore Lane: Erection of a first floor extension

519 - HO/10513/007: 6 St Nicholas Way: Erection of a front canopy roof

520 - LE/20488/012: Portfields, Port Lane: Certificate of lawfulness for the retention of a summer house

522 - HO/24030/013: Breach House Farm, Pinfold Lane: Erection of a rear link conservatory

523 - HO/31512/001: 13 Needwood Grange: Erection of a single storey front extension, two storey side extension and rear conservatory

524 - HO/27699/009: 5 High Street: Erection of single storey outbuilding

525 - LB/27699/010: 5 High Street: Erection of single storey outbuilding

The following applications have been **REFUSED** - None

The following applications have been **REVISED** – None

The following applications have been **WITHDRAWN** – None

66.3 Correspondence and other planning matters

The papers seeking feedback on the Core Strategy and the Burton Town Centre plans were not available for discussion at the meeting. The Clerk offered to try and obtain replacement papers and provide them to the Chairman who would make any response on behalf of the Council.

Minute 67: Financial Matters

67.1 Budget report

The Clerk introduced a budget report for the six months to the end of September, and recommended that no budget transfers were necessary at the present time.

RESOLVED: The budget report be accepted.

67.2 Financial report

The Clerk introduced the financial statement for October, and gave a brief report on recent transactions including receipt of the second half of the precept.

RESOLVED: The statement be approved and the Chairman sign the report.

67.3 Report on payments made since the last meeting

The Clerk reported that the following payments had been made since the last meeting:

<i>Vch/Chq</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Powers</i>
34/852	Graham McCulloch	75.00	Bark spreading	PHA 1961 s.10
35/853	PWLB	1661.27	Village Hall loan repayment	LGA 1972 Sch 13
	TOTAL payments	1736.27		

67.4 Bills to pay

The Clerk introduced the following for payment:

<i>Vch/Chq</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Powers</i>
36/854	ESBC	71.13	Election costs	LGA 1972 s.150(2)
37/855	Audit Commission	334.88	External audit	ACA 1988 s.7
38/856	Staffordshire Newspapers	77.45	Code of conduct advertisement	LGA 1972 s.111
39/857	Eric Roy	386.09	Clerk's salary/expenses	LG(FP)A 1963 s.5 & LGA 1972 s.112(2)
40/858	Graham McCulloch	296.00	Grass cutting	OSA 1906 s.10
40/858	Graham McCulloch	75.00	Clearing Narrow Lane	LGA 1972 s.101
41/859	Abbots Bromley PCC	130.00	Grant for clock maintenance	PCA 1957 s.2
41/859	Abbots Bromley PCC	320.00	Grant for churchyard maint.	LGA 1972 s.214
	TOTAL payments	1690.55		

RESOLVED: That these payments be made.

67.5 Section 137 payments

The Clerk reported that a request for financial support had been received from St Giles in the letter accompanying the annual report. It was agreed to note the request for consideration at the February meeting.

67.6 Other financial matters

67.6.1 **Annual Audit:** The Clerk reported that the period of fourteen days display of the Annual Return, and its availability for public inspection, had been completed without any requests for viewing.

Minute 68: Group Reports**68.1 Recreation**

The Clerk gave a brief report on the progress to date towards the regeneration of the Millennium Green area. This included:

- A new pedestrian gate on order – with delivery expected by the end of November
- Specialist paint for wooden play equipment on order and due for delivery
- An Invitation to Tender document for re-making of the path has been prepared. This will be advertised and sent to possible contractors
- An application for removal of two large trees has been made

- An application for removal of minor trees and lopping has been rejected by ESBC planning. Following a site meeting with a Planning Officer, the application will be amended and re-submitted.
- The Clerk has been attempting to establish efficacy of the “graffiti shield” product before ordering. Agreed to proceed with this on the basis of the information available.

It was agreed to make use of the ESBC bulb/bedding grant to purchase two large viburnum to replace trees at the Millennium Green adjacent to the Village Hall drive. It was also agreed to acquire one or more thorny bushes to prevent access to planted area on the right of the slide.

The Clerk reported that the cost for Mr McCulloch to dispose of the temporary fencing would be in the region of £40-50. Councillor Charles agreed to recycle the materials to save this cost.

Cllr Coxon reported on the Lappset site visit to review the state of the wet-pour surface. They have accepted that this is faulty and have offered to carry out the necessary repairs. This will involve the insertion of new coloured sections to make good. It was agreed that the Council would accept this offer and noted that this would involve a temporary closure of the area.

68.2 Village Property

The Clerk reported that there had been further damage to the Butter Cross which appeared to have been caused by vehicle impact. This had removed some of the oak facing added as a repair, and may also have dislodged one of the pillars. Photographs and details have been supplied to the Property and Estates department of Staffordshire County Council but it has not yet been possible to get any acknowledgement of receipt.

The Clerk provided an update on the progress with resolving ownership of the land at Goose Lane and explanation of the options and possible next steps.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact Hand, Morgan and Owen to act for the Council in progressing this matter.

The Clerk drew attention to the recent letter from Mr Grundy confirming that the lower branches of the Deodar Cedar in the church yard do present a hazard to the grass cutting contractor. Cllr Coxon explained that there was evidence of significant growth of grass under the canopy and advised that there were legal obligations on safety that meant this issue had to be addressed.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk ask Mr McCulloch to propose the least intrusive lopping that would provide safe access for grass cutting and to nearby graves.

A request has been made for a litter bin at the lay-by near the Newton turn. If a grid reference can be provided, the Clerk will ask ESBC if they could provide one.

Cllr Fox reported that Japanese Knotweed had been identified in the garden of Cedar Cottage. The Clerk was asked to find someone to deal with this.

68.3 Traffic, Parking, Highways

Cllr Waring provided feedback on the recent meeting of the working group and the request for help that had been placed in the current issue of the Bulletin. Cllr Eatough suggested

that a CCTV may be able to help with the information gathering. There was some discussion of the various ways that this might be advanced. The data analysis would then be presented to influential people to demonstrate the nature of the problem. The long term aim would be to limit the size of the vehicles coming through the village and it may be possible to gain support from Newborough in this venture.

Agricultural vehicles were also an issue because of their size and perceived speed – which people found very intimidating. Here the aim would be to try and encourage the drivers to understand the issue and adapt their driving style accordingly. This would probably need road side signs and posters/handbills.

68.4 Competitions

Feedback from the BKV judges has been received. Noted that the amount of dog fouling did not seem to have affected judging, despite the serious nature of the issue at present. Agreed that further action on fouling was required. The judges comments would be noted for next year.

68.5 Newsletter

Now ready for distribution.

68.6 School Governor's Report

Cllr Coxon reported that the new head teacher has been appointed with effect from Easter, and the deputy head will be acting head for the first term of the New Year.

68.7 RISES

Nothing to report.

68.8 Village Hall

Cllr Waring reported that due to other grants received, the Village Hall no longer needed assistance from the Parish Council but were grateful for the support offered.

Minute 69: Correspondence, bulletins and reports

69.1 East Staffordshire Borough Council: An application has been received to close School Hill, Hoar Cross from 10am to 4 pm on Saturday 29th December for a charity soap box downhill in aid of St Giles. The Clerk was asked to confirm the Council has no objection to the closure.

69.2 SPCA: Has provided a copy of the agenda for the AGM on Saturday 3rd November and details of forthcoming training courses.

Minute 70: Transfer of Millennium Green

70.1 On the basis of the information provided in the public session the Deed of Adherence was available for signature to signify the agreement of the Council to continue operation of the Millennium Green in line with the original objects of the Trust and conditions of grant.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman and Vice Chairman sign the Deed to confirm agreement by the Council.

Minute 71: Recruitment of new Clerk

71.1 The Clerk introduced a number of documents created following his discussions with the Chairman and Vice Chairman. It was agreed that there was no requirement to handwrite the application form.

The interview panel would be Clerk with Cllrs Eatough and Veitch but an evening for this would be agreed once diaries had been checked.

71.2 The Clerk explained the need for some overlap during the transition period and it was agreed that, if necessary, the new Clerk would be paid for some hours prior to their formal start date.

Minute 72: Items for agenda of next meeting

- Budget for 2008/9
- Recruitment of new Clerk

Minute 73: Date, time and place of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 28 November 2007 in the Memorial Room at the Village Hall.

The Meeting concluded at 22:31pm.

Chairman

Date: