

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday, 24th September, 2008 at 7.30 pm
in the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given

Present: Cllrs PJ Charles; R Bell; S Coxon; A Elkington; RSV Jarman; R Mills

In attendance: Mrs S Buxton (Clerk)

Members of the public attending: 12

Apologies: Cllrs Mrs LF Fox; Mrs C Veitch; B Waring; Borough Cllr A Fox
RESOLVED; to accept the apologies of Cllrs Mrs Fox, Mrs Veitch and Waring

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The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the public session

Minute 186: Public Session

A resident from Bagot Street:-

- Queried why the parish council had not acknowledged her emails. The clerk apologised for not having acknowledged the one sent this week and informed the meeting that no other email had been received
- Queried the lux levels which seem to be excessive and provide no differentiation between night and day
- Uttoxeter Road seems much brighter than High Street
- The boxes situated at each property with a light seem excessively large
- ABB letter to residents was slightly threatening

PC response:-

- Lighting levels based on specified highway levels which have been reduced somewhat, through parish council lobbying, in acknowledgement of the conservation area

Residents from High Street:-

- Feels parish council and village has been conned by the contractor/SCC
- When will then monstrous scheme be removed?
- The light shone under the eaves before, now it is even brighter
- Does the parish council feel the lights are really suitable?

A resident from Lichfield Road:-

- Do some of the lights go out at night as happens on Lichfield Road?

PC response:-

- Work has not been undertaken on Lichfield Road as part of the current lighting scheme

General comments:-

- Are all these light fittings necessary?
- Can the lighting levels be measured independently?

PC response:-

- SCC/Eon will only have put in the minimum number of fittings

A resident from High Street:-

- Why didn't the parish council fight against the proposals?
- Why weren't residents informed about the columns?
- Will the parish council support the campaign against the lights?

PC response:-

- The parish council did include reference to the lighting scheme and lighting columns in the area of Crown Bank in the June 2008 bulletin
- The lighting scheme did not have to be approved by the parish council
- The lights took a lot of people by surprise
- The lux levels are set as a national standard
- The parish council will be discussing the lighting in the parish council meeting which follows the public session and will then decide what action to take. It is important to note that the parish council has to represent all parishioners, both those who are happy with the lighting scheme and those who are not

A resident from Radmore Lane:-

- Weren't conservation area policies followed as these are usually very stringent
- The light standard used is a very commonplace one

A resident from Lichfield Road:-

- Not all the light standards used are the same

Normal business was resumed at 8.00 pm

Minute 187: Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July, 2008 be signed as a true and correct record after noting the clerk's report that the minutes of 25th June, 2008 showed a cheque for St Giles Hospice which was not written at that time and the reference for the cheque to G C McCulloch should be 22/914 and the cost of the two grasscuts £296 not £298, which meant the reference numbers for the payments for July had been revised prior to signing

Minute 188: Declarations of Interest

Speedwatch – Cllrs Charles, Elkington and Jarman

Minute 189: Order of Business

RESOLVED: that the discussion on streetlighting should take place as the next item of business and that the public session should then be re-opened. This was proposed by Cllr Jarman and seconded by Cllr Elkington

Minute 190: Streetlighting

The council discussed the lighting and covered the following points:-

- could get an independent engineers report on the lighting
- what legislation has to be met?
- The lighting will only have been installed as per the minimum specification
- The main concern will be have been highway requirements

SC – lights do seem very bright and modern technology does not always fit comfortably with a medieval village

RJ – must remember the council supports the whole village and as well as the negative feedback there has been much positive feedback. In fact at the Saturday morning surgery last week end, only four members of the public attended and two of these were specifically to record their support for the new lighting scheme. This diverse range of opinions make it very difficult for the parish council. If smaller lampstandards are installed it will mean far more of them on both sides of the street. The first electric lights were in London in the 1880's which would have been Victorian.

AE – there are two major issues – the intensity of the lights and the view in the village centre. To argue the parish council must be up to date with the current legislation and see who made the decision on this lighting scheme. Conservation bodies are involved and CPRE were instrumental in removing the lamp standards and telegraph poles in the award winning 1967 scheme. It is noted that there are now telegraph poles visible throughout the village.

RB – important to establish the facts and stick to them

RESOLVED: that the parish council needs to meet with SCC and Eon to challenge the design and if the design stands then the lighting needs to be shown as meeting this design.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Atkins be invited to the meeting

RESOLVED: that the following requests be made to SCC and Eon prior to the meeting so that answers are available at the meeting:-

- can the original lighting designs be provided for the council to look at?
- what are the legal standards that the lighting scheme has to be meet?
- how do they justify the final lighting scheme?
- what other lighting schemes were considered, if any?
- details of the installed light levels throughout the village now that the scheme is complete

RESOLVED: the clerk would acknowledge any correspondence received this week and then would write to all those who had written or emailed with details of the forthcoming meeting and a summary of the council's response to date to the situation.

A discussion took place on whether a representative of those opposing the lights could be co-opted onto the council to take part in the next meeting. The clerk stated that she would like to take advice from the SPCA on how to involve the public in the discussions whilst carrying out the council business in an appropriate manner

Minute 191: Public Session

The chairman re-opened the public session at 8.23 pm

A resident from Lichfield Road:-

- The type of lights do not seem appropriate
- Why can't the lights be like low energy lighting which gives a more diffused light

General:-

- Several boxes have been moved due to inconsistent and poor siting initially
- Could CPRE be invited to the next meeting?
- Is AB the first village to have lighting changed with a conservation area?
- The lights in Lyme Regis in Dorset are very similar to those in AB, and Lyme Regis is neither a medieval village nor does it have an ancient monument

Normal business was resumed at 8.35 pm

Minute 192: Matters Arising and Clerk's Report

192.1 Saturday surgery – Cllr Jarman reported the room had not been opened until 9.45 am which was later than usual. Is it possible for it to be opened by 9.30 am or the councillor running the surgery arrange to collect the key. There were four people who attended.

RESOLVED: the clerk will discuss the opening arrangements for Church House with Mrs Grundy

The issues raised were:-

- support for the new lighting scheme
- could the lights be dimmed in the early hours?

- there was a lot of congestion on Horn Dance Day, could there be passing places marked out by bollards?
- what is the current situation with regards to the Ivy House development?
- 3 drains above road level on Ashbrook Lane, Cllr Jarman has looked at this but can't identify the problem
- complaint re: the aggressive approach from those opposing the lights approaching people to sign the petition and criticism if you like the lights. Both visitors to the village and young people under the age of 18 were being asked to sign the petition – does this nullify the petition?

192.2 Calendar of Meetings for 2009 – January surgery – the clerk reported that she had booked the surgery for January on 17th January, rather than 24th January due to a prior booking in Church House

192.3 Review of Membership of Groups

RESOLVED that the membership of groups should be as follows:-

Recreation	Cllrs Coxon and Mrs Veitch plus one vacancy
Village Property	Cllrs Bell, Coxon and Mills
Traffic, Parking and Highways	Cllrs Elkington, Mrs Fox and Waring
Competitions	Cllr Mills
Newsletter	Cllr Jarman (Editor); Cllr Elkington (Distribution)
Richard Clarke First School	Cllr Coxon
RISES	Cllr Mrs Fox
Village Hall	Cllr Waring
Finance	Cllrs Elkington, Mrs Fox and Mrs Veitch
Almhouses	Cllr Charles
Finance Officer	Cllr Mrs Veitch
MG	To be considered at a later date
United Charities	Cllrs Charles and Elkington
Crime and Social Issues	Cllr Charles and one other to be appointed
Planning	Cllr Charles (Chair); Cllrs Coxon, Elkington; Mrs Fox and Jarman (Vice Chairman)

192.4 Seats at Reservoir – it was clarified that the seats were on the layby at the AB end of the causeway and had been provided by South Staffordshire Water, and that this is whom contact should be made with regards to requesting their replacement.

192.5 Clerk's Log – nothing further to report than items already listed on the agenda

192.6 PACT meeting – the meeting last night took place at Kingstone. Following the last meeting where dog fouling had been identified as the key issue, the ESBC enforcement team had visited but had not found any problem. A letter is being sent to everyone in the village pointing out the legal requirements. HCV traffic in villages has been identified as the project to be looked at for the next meeting and some investigation on weight restrictions is to be done. A new non emergency telephone number for the police is to be introduced. No date has been set for the next meeting as there is an ongoing review of PACT.

Minute 193: Planning

193.1 Applications Received

572 – HO/23377/002/CEH: 13 St Nicholas Way, Abbots Bromley: Erection of a single storey rear extension and a pitched roof over the existing flat roofed garage.

Received 4/8/08, replied 10/9/08, Response: the parish council has no objection to this application

573 – HO/06184/011/CEH: Woodlands Cottage, Bromley Wood Lane, Abbots

Bromley: Erection of part two storey, part single storey side extension

Received 11/8/08, replied 10/9/08, Response: the parish council has no objection to this application

575 – TN/18945/020/CEH: Bromley House, Uttoxeter Road, Abbots Bromley: Pruning
2 yew trees and felling of 1 cypress tree

Received 11/8/08, due 29/8/08

576 – HO/04068/024/CEH: Oaklands Farm, Pinfold Lane, Abbots Bromley: Erection of
a first floor extension including balcony

Received 15/9/08,

577 – LB/05395/013/CEH: Maxstoke House, Bagot Street, Abbots Bromley: Installation
of six roof lights and internal alterations to include the erection of partition walls and the
formation of a staircase

Received: 22/9/08, replied 25/9/08. Response: the parish council has no objection to this application

578 – LB/18945/021/CEH: The Coach House, Bromley House, Abbots Bromley:

Installation of a replacement window to the rear elevation

Received: 24/9/08, replied 25/9/08. Response: the parish council has no objection to this application.

RESOLVED: that the clerk notify the above responses to East Staffordshire Borough Council

193.2 Decisions

The following applications have been approved:-

560 - LB/27669/011/CEH: 5 High Street, Abbots Bromley: Installation of two replacement windows and one door to front elevation, installation of a wooden door surround and canopy, and pointing of the building

568 - CU/13229/045: The Crofts (ground Floor), Market Place, Abbots Bromley: Change of use of ground floor from office (Class A2) to gym (Class D2)

570 - HO/11947/005/CEH: 34 Paget Rise, Abbots Bromley: Erection of a first floor side and rear extension

571 - HO/20841/011/CEH: Chase View, Lichfield Road, Abbots Bromley: Erection of part two storey, part single storey side extension (amended scheme HO/20841/010/CEH)

The following application has been refused:-

569 - OU/17052/008/CEH: Meadow View House, Lichfield Road, Abbots Bromley: Outline application for the erection of a detached dwelling

The following application has been withdrawn:-

574 – HO/20488/016/CEH: Portfields, Port Lane, Abbots Bromley: Erection of two two storey side extensions, a one and a half storey rear extension, a single storey side extension to form a swimming pool, steam and sauna rooms, triple garage, gymnasium and lounge area and the formation of a basement area consisting of snooker room, changing facilities and store rooms.

Received 13/8/08 replied 16/9/08. This application was withdrawn on 18th August, 2008

193.3 Other Planning Matters

Nothing to report

Minute 194: Financial Matters

194.1 Bank Mandate

RESOLVED that this be carried forward to the next meeting

194.2 Clerk's Completion of the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) – the council considered a report prepared by the clerk regarding the provision in her contract for an increase in salary upon completion of CiLCA

RESOLVED: that the clerk's salary be increased by two points to spinal column point 25 from point 23 with effect from 1st September, 2008. This was proposed by Cllr Bell and seconded by Cllr Mills. The clerk was congratulated on her completion of the qualification.

194.3 Payment of Clerk's Salary – the council considered a report regarding the timing of the clerk's salary payment. Until August the clerk's salary had been paid almost two months in arrears, i.e. June's hours were paid for at the end of July. With the council's admission to the Local Government Pension Scheme, the clerk's contributions have to be paid over in the month following, so for June, they are due by 19th July. Under the current arrangements for payment this would not be feasible. After discussion with the chairman and vice chairman the clerk was paid for two months in August, to bring the payments into line to allow timely payment of pension contributions.

RESOLVED: to confirm that the clerk's salary be paid at the end of the month in which the hours are worked.

194.4 Finance Report to 31st August, 2008 – the council considered a cashbook summary report pending the updating of Quickbooks for the September report

RESOLVED: that the chairman should sign the finance report to 31st August, 2008

194.5 Payments made since the last meeting

RESOLVED that the following payments listed below be approved for payment in retrospect

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details	Powers
27/923	S Buxton	592.16	Salary and Office exps – Jul/Aug 08	LGA 1972 s.111
27/924	SCC	412.75	Pension costs Apr – Aug 08	LGA 1972 s.111
27/925	S Buxton	114.13	Expenses	LG(FP)A 1963 s.5
28/926	AB Scouts	520.78	Donation from RISES money	LGA 1972 s.137
29/927	Hand Morgan Owen	40.00	Land registry fee	LGA 1894 s.8(1)l
30/928	G C McCulloch	326.00	Grasscutting	OSA 1906 s.10
	TOTAL	2005.82		

194.6 Payments to be made

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:-

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details	Powers
31/929	S Buxton	369.43	Salary and office exps – Sep	LGA 1972 s.111
31/930	S Buxton	34.30	General expenses	LG (FP) A 1963 s.5
31/931	SCC	87.96	Pension contributions	LGA 1972 s.111
32/932	Hand Morgan & Owen	30.00	Requisition fee	LGA 1894 s.8(1)g

	Payee	Amount	Details	Powers
<i>Vch/Chq</i>				
33/933	Post Office Ltd	411.72	PAYE & National Insurance	LGA 1972 s. 112(2)
34/934	C Cook	4.29	Postage to send speedgun off for repair	LG(FP)A 1963 s.5
		35.00	Clips for speedwatch signs	
	TOTAL	972.70		

194.7 Receipts

None

194.8 Budget for 2009/2010 – the clerk reminded members of the need to be giving some thought to any projects which the council may include in its budget for next year. There is still some grant money left in this years budget.

RESOLVED: *that an article be put in the next newsletter asking any village organisations who have projects which need additional financial support to apply to the parish council if they would like to be considered*

Minute 195: Group Reports

195.1 Recreation

Meeting with Gill Wright from Staffs Youth Service – this had been attended by Karen Johns, Steve Coxon and Caroline Veitch. SCC are purchasing a youth bus next year to go round villages/towns on a rota basis. It is possible to apply for it to come to AB as a short term measure. SCC may be able to provide a paid youth leader if the funding is matched from the village

Site for Youth Shelter – this had been discussed by the Village Hall Committee again and the matter is now being reconsidered

Hypnotist Evening – this has had to be cancelled due to little support. The Hypnotist has agreed to make a donation of £200 himself to the youth club funds.

Youth Club Funds – on Horn Dance Day £70 was raised. Karen Johns is aware that £2,000 currently sitting in the parish council accounts for the youth shelter must be spent by the end of March 2009

Playbuilder application – the grant application was unsuccessful, but playbuilder grants would be available again next year and roadshows are to be held to explain process

MG Play equipment – there has been damage to the play equipment on the MG and Richard Blower has quoted £150 to carry out repairs. There has now been further damage which makes the area potentially dangerous

RESOLVED: *the clerk will arrange for Harris fencing to be erected around the play equipment tomorrow, pending the repairs*

RESOLVED: *that Richard Blower be asked to carry out the repairs as a matter of urgency*

195.2 Village Property

Street Lighting – dealt with earlier in the meeting

Allotment at the Royal Oak – the clerk queries who she should approach to clear the allotment if once the letter is sent and the three week period for clearance of the rubbish passes and the rubbish remains

RESOLVED: *that if necessary the clerk will ask Mr McCulloch to clear the rubbish off the allotment at the Royal Oak*

East Staffs Borough Council Bulb Grant – the clerk enquired if the council wished to used this money for bulb planting this year

RESOLVED: *that no bulbs be purchased for planting in the autumn/winter of 2008*

195.3 Traffic, Parking and Highways

Speedgun – the speedgun sent for repair is irreparable. At present a speedgun is on loan to allow the project to continue.

RESOLVED: *that the parish council purchase a speedgun from Onsite Tools at a cost of £129 plus VAT as researched by the Community Speedwatch co-ordinator*

Community Gangs – there is to be a meeting on 30th September, 2008 in the Blantyre Room at Burton Town Hall to explain how the system will work

RESOLVED: *Cllr Elkington will try to attend the Community Gangs meeting on behalf of the parish council*

Dog fouling and bin notices – Cllr Jarman has a supply of notices re: dog fouling

Community Footpaths Initiative – the clerk has received an enquiry from SCC as to who will be undertaking the work on the new walks leaflet. It is expected to be the Footpath Society and Eric Roy together

195.4 Competitions

It was reported to the meeting that AB had not been placed in the Best Kept Village Competition

195.5 Newsletter

A discussion took place on items to be included in the Bulletin which was scheduled for production at the end of September. The clerk agreed to put together a number of articles and Cllr Coxon agreed to compile the Bulletin

A report compiled by the clerk on the purchase of a laptop for use by the newsletter editor was discussed. It was felt that this was a very complex issue and the council should seek further advice from Eric Roy

RESOLVED: *Cllr Jarman would discuss ways to produce the newsletter with Eric Roy*

195.6 Richard Clarke First School

No report

195.6 RISES

Cllr Fox reported that the last RISES money had been given to the Scouts

195.7 Village Hall

An email had been received from Cllr Waring regarding the future role of the parish council in the management of the Village Hall if members do not come forward for the management committee and whether the running of the village hall would by default then fall to the parish council.

195.8 Millennium Green – the clerk tabled draft documents relating to the transfer of the MG from the trustees to the parish council

RESOLVED: *that as these are very detailed documents they should be considered by members and the issue discussed more fully at the next parish council meeting*

Minute 196: Correspondence, bulletins and reports

196.1 Village Hall Key – the clerk had received a request from the village hall caretaker to return her front door key and to collect the master key still held by Eric Roy. Cllr Jarman had spoken to Eric Roy regarding the key and he had indicated that he was still formally listed as a key holder and at times was the only person in the village with a key to permit access for delivery or users

RESOLVED: *the clerk write to the chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee and ask him to resolve the issue of which key should be held by the parish council*

- 196.2 History Books and Horn Dance Books** – the clerk reported that supplies of both these books were running quite low
- 196.3 Abbots Bromley Leaflets** – the clerk had received a comment from a user of the leaflets from Codsall who commented on the mixed use of metric and imperial measures of distance
RESOLVED: that the parish council will review the usage of measures of distance when reprinting the leaflet
- 196.4 1891 Census** – the clerk had received an enquiry about where information on AB in the 1891 census was available from as he had not been able to access it on line.
RESOLVED: the clerk would suggest he contacts the Records Office at Stafford for assistance
- 196.5 Phil Drabble Photograph** – the clerk had received an enquiry from Walsall Borough Council about access to a photograph of Phil Drabble
RESOLVED: suggest that they contact Richard Clarke First School as they do have some photographs
- 196.6 SPCA AGM** – resolutions for debate
RESOLVED: the council did not wish to put forward any motion for debate at the AGM
- 196.7 SPCA Nominations for Executive Committee**
RESOLVED: the council did not wish to make any nomination to the Executive Committee
- 196.8 Bagots Park Premises Licence application** – the clerk had received notification of a licence application for Freedom Brewery at Bagots Park
- 196.9 Remembrance Day wreath** – no further action is required with regards to the wreath
- 196.10 Training** – a list of SPCA training events had been made available to all councillors

Minute 197: Horn Dance

The monies collected from the various sources – booklets, icecream and stalls were handed to the clerk for banking. The pre-school had prepaid but did not attend and no charge was made for the Youth Club

Minute 198: Fairraid

RESOLVED: that this be carried forward to the next meeting

Minute 199: Christmas Lighting/Control Box/Unmetered Supply

There was an outstanding issue with the control box for the Christmas lights and the council has received a letter re: unmetered supply

RESOLVED: the clerk should investigate and report back to the next meeting

Minute 200: Items for Next Meeting

Review of Lengthsman Scheme
Report on Changes to Quality Parish Scheme

Minute 201: Date, time and place of next meeting

RESOLVED: that the next meeting should be held at 7.30pm in the Memorial Room at the Village Hall on Wednesday 29th October, 2008.

There being no other business, the chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.10

Signed _____

Date 29th October, 2008