

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday, 25th March, 2009 at 7.30 pm
in the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given

Present: Cllrs PJ Charles; R Bell; A Elkington; Mrs L Fox; R Jarman; Mrs K M Johns;
R Mills; Mrs C Veitch

In attendance: Mrs S Buxton (Clerk)

Members of the public attending: Two

Apologies: Cllr B Waring – work commitment; Cllr A Fox
RESOLVED: to accept the apologies of Cllr Waring

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Minute 272: Public Session

Mrs Tonking discussed with the council the current position with regards to the transfer of the Millennium Green into the trusteeship of the parish council.

The meeting resumed at 7.44 pm

Minute 273: Minutes of the last meeting

RESOVLED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th February, 2009 be signed as a true and correct record after the insertion of “/” in the sentence of minute 263.2 re: Footpath from Salter Grange through to the Village Hall

Minute 274: Declaration of Interest

None

Minute 275: Matters Arising and Matters of Report

275.1 School Buses - Cllr Elkington reported on the meeting held with SCC and PC Richard Boulter regarding the stopping place for the school bus close to the top shop which is in a very congested area and other options of moving it closer to the zebra crossing were considered. He confirmed he had spoken to parents who had no objection to the move. The clerk reported that SCC are currently looking at the various options and were now checking the home address of the students affected to ensure that no-one had to walk more than a mile, which is the legal maximum

- 275.2 Quality Parish Status** - the clerk reported that NALC had now confirmed that the calculation of the electoral mandate for the purposes of quality parish status has to be done at the point of application and that as Abbots Bromley Parish Council only has four elected members out of the nine, this is below the six required for quality parish status and therefore the council's quality parish status will lapse from June 2009. NALC had also contacted the council about an option to reclaim their original portfolio at a cost of £7 to £15 dependent on size
RESOLVED: that the clerk should make arrangements to reclaim the original portfolio for future reference

Minute 276: Planning

276.1 Applications

- 592 - LB/32359/002: Mount Pleasant Farmhouse, Bromley Hurst, Abbots Bromley:** Erection of a conservatory to the rear elevation and a porch to the side elevation and erection of replacement 1.1 metre high front boundary wall and 1.4 metre high brick pillars
Received: 16/03/09 Replied: 18/03/09 Response: The parish council has no objection to this application
- 593 - HO/32359/001: Mount Pleasant Farmhouse, Bromley Hurst, Abbots Bromley:** Erection of a conservatory to the rear elevation and a porch to the side elevation and erection of replacement 1.1 metre high front boundary wall and 1.4 metre high brick pillars
Received: 16/03/09 Due: 02/04/09 Response: The parish council has no objection to this application
- 594 - LB/23886/003/EW: Church View Farm, Goose Lane, Abbots Bromley:** Installation of two internal partition walls and external door to south elevation. Received: 25/3/09 Due 13/04/09 Response: The parish council has no objection to this application
RESOLVED: the clerk will notify the above responses to East Staffordshire Borough Council

276.2 Decisions

Agreed

- 557 - TN/28257/002/CEH: Northwood House, Bagot Street, AB:** Lopping one willow tree
- 587 - PA/20488/017/CEH: Port Fields, Port Lane, Abbots Bromley:** Erection of a replacement dwelling
- 589 - HO/20982/014/EW: Fox Cottage, Goose Lane, Abbots Bromley:** Installation of a satellite dish

Withdrawn

- 588 - LE/20488/018/CEH: Port Fields, Port Lane, Abbots Bromley:** Application for a Certificate of Lawful Determination for the erection of a two storey side extension, a rear conservatory, a single storey side extension to form swimming pool, steam and sauna rooms, triple garage, gymnasium and lounge area and formation of snooker room, changing facilities and store rooms, previously approved under HO/20488/015/CEH dated 1st July, 2008, including the partial reconstruction of the original dwelling

Minute 277: Financial Matters

277.1 Finance Report to 28th February, 2009

RESOLVED: that the report prepared by the clerk be signed by the chairman

277.2 Clerk's final pay award from 1st April, 2008

- the clerk reported that previous pay award approved by the council on the recommendation of NALC and the SLCC was an interim one and this pay award is the final recommended settlement from 1st April, 2008

RESOLVED: that the council pay the clerk the final pay award backdated to 1st April, 2008

277.3 Review of rates for council allotments

RESOLVED: the council will check when the last review was undertaken and the normal frequency of these (which was thought to be three yearly)

277.4 Report on payments made since the last meeting

None

277.5 Payments to be made

RESOLVED: that the following payments be made:

66/977	Mrs S Buxton	845.58	Salary and taxable expenses – including 64 additional hours approved in February, an extra 1 hour week from 1/3/09 and the final pay award from 1/4/08	LGA 1972 s.112(2)
66/978	SCC	122.33	Pension contributions	LGA 1972 s.112(2)
66/979	Mrs S Buxton	104.23	Other expenses	LG(FP)A 1963 s.5
67/980	AB for Youth Group	82.46	Insurance costs	
68/981	Post Office Ltd	573.30	PAYE and NI for quarter to 31/3/09	LGA 1972 s.112(2)
TOTAL		1727.90		

277.6 Receipts

The clerk reported that both Ms Morris and the Royal Oak had paid their £50 rental income for the year to 31st March, 2009

277.7 Grasscutting – the chairman reported that he had spoken to Mr McCulloch who had been expecting an increase last year which had not been implemented

RESOLVED: the clerk will investigate this matter further and report to the next meeting

277.8 Lengthsman Scheme - the clerk reported that she had invoiced SCC for a total of £278.83 for the year to March 2009 but that the council could have claimed up to £1,360.00 if other works had been carried out**277.9 Bank Mandate**

RESOLVED: that the bank mandate be amended to add Cllr Mrs Johns and remove Cllr Coxon

277.10 Quickbooks – the clerk reported that as of 5th April, 2009 the version of Quickbooks – Quickbooks Regular 2006 will be discontinued and technical support will no longer be available. The clerk has maintained Quickbooks up to date so far, but is also running a manual system along side

RESOLVED: that the council will not upgrade the council system to Quickbooks Pro 2008 at a cost of £13.65 per month or £178 for outright purchase, but will review the accounting software when preparing next year's budget

Minute 278: Group Reports**278.1 Recreation**

- **Youth Shelter Site** – this is still being investigated
- **Funding for Youth Shelter** – the council had received confirmation that the funding for the youth shelter could be carried forward into the new year and the clerk had copied this to Cllr Mrs Veitch
- **Consultation on Youth Shelter** – the project is not yet at a stage when consultation is appropriate
- **Community Footpaths Applications 2009/10** – the Footpath Society had submitted a suggestion for the purchase of 20 support uprights to install the 10 stile treads they have in their possession on various paths around the parish

RESOLVED: that the clerk will submit the application for the 20 stile support uprights

- **Football Club and Football Pitches** – Cllr Jarman reported that the football club and the girls school were now discussing the matter further. An email had been received from the football club thanking the parish council for their help and commenting that they hoped Cllr Alex Fox is aware that the two areas, the equestrian centre and the playing field, are not close to each other, and that whilst one would require planning permission, it does not appear to make sense that a field already used for playing hockey should need further planning permission in order to play football, as it is continued used of a playing field.

278.2 Village Property

- **Streetlighting** – the clerk reported that SCC and Eon had completed their shielding experiment and concluded that no changes could be made to the wall mounted lights at the first floor level of properties without affecting the light levels on the highway and as a result they proposed no further action. The twin headed lights on Crown Bank have still to be reduced to single headed lamps.
The streetlight across from the Crown Bank which is now glowing very bright orange, is a lamp which previously wasn't working and the bulb has been replaced with a sodium one which is very bright and is not in keeping with lighting nearby
RESOLVED: *that the clerk ask CLARENCE if the bulb could be changed to one which gives off a white light and is more in keeping with the surroundings and other lighting nearby*
- **Property labels/signs**
Cllr Mills reported back on his investigations into the name plaques for the parish assets
RESOLVED: *that Cllr Mills will continue his investigations and report back to the next meeting*
- **Land at Goose Lane** – the clerk reported that she had not received any information from the solicitors
- **Bench by the bus stop at the Pinfold** - the chairman reported that one of the slats is in need of attention
RESOLVED: *that the clerk will ask Richard Blower to attend to the matter*
- **Allotment at the Royal Oak** – the clerk reported that she had today received a signed copy of the licence to use the site to 31st March, 2009 from the tenant along with the cheque for the year, but that despite two letters no action had been taken with regards to the tidying of the site
RESOLVED: *that this would be discussed further at the next meeting*
- **Telephone lines** – the clerk had nothing to report
- **Church Flood Lights** – the clerk reported that she had discussed the repair of the flood lights with two electricians and obtained quotes and Cllr Mills had met one company on site. During the site visit this electrician had advised on what parts were required to repair the light with the broken glass and Cllr Mills was in the process of arranging this work.
RESOLVED: *that Cllr Mills will continue to work on the repair of the two floodlights and report back to the next meeting*

278.3 Traffic, Parking and Highways

- **Traffic complaint from Mrs Why** – Mrs Why raised two particular traffic issues in AB. Firstly the dangerous parking around the corner by the Goats Head and secondly the problems in Bromley Wood - there is a 60 mph speed limit, a single track road, no footpaths and speeding is a particular problem. She remarked that the parish council seems very concerned about traffic issues in the main village centre, but did not seem to be so concerned about equally serious matters on the periphery of the village, which all fall under the jurisdiction of the parish council.

RESOLVED: that the clerk will reply to Mrs Why and explain that on numerous occasions the council has discussed the unacceptable parking practices in the village with both SCC and the police and that this matter will be taken up again. With regards to the problems in Bromley Park the council did hold a meeting with Staffordshire Highways a few years ago regarding the issues and got very negative feedback as SCC did not offer any possible solutions. These are difficult issues to raise as neither widening the road nor enforcing a lower speed limit are likely to be feasible. The council will discuss the matter again with SCC to see if there are any possible options to the difficulties being encountered. The council always tries to represent the views of all its residents and will investigate any complaint or issue raised. It may appear at times that the majority of business is focussed on the village centre and this is usually as a result of more residents bringing matters to the attention of the parish council.

RESOLVED: the clerk will contact SCC regarding parking around the Goats Head and the problems being experienced in Bromley Park.

- **Traffic** – Cllr Waring had requested that this be included on the agenda following receipt of an email from Mrs Meads, particularly referring to the bin schedules and agricultural traffic, but he is not able to attend this meeting.
RESOLVED: to carry this forward to the next meeting
- **Weight restriction** – the feasibility of this was discussed
RESOLVED: that the clerk speak to SCC regarding the feasibility of having a weight restriction on the road through the village
- **Footpath Salter Grange to Village Hall** – the clerk had nothing to report
- **Seedcroft Lane passing places** – the passing places need to be reinstated not the signs as stated at the previous meeting
RESOLVED: the clerk will discuss the reinstatement of the passing places with SCC
- **Goose Lane ditch** – no work has been done on this
RESOLVED: the clerk speak to SCC to see what progress is being made on this project to pipe the ditch where the water floods the road
- **Community Gangs** - the council had no items to add to this list

278.4 Competitions

BKV Competition – Cllr Mills offered to take the key to the parish noticeboard and arrange for the restraining of the boards under the Buttercross prior to the competition

278.5 Newsletter

The clerk had received correspondence from Mr Horan of Hobb Lane commenting that the Bulletin is very village centred despite the fact that 17% of the population live outside the main part of the village. The council discussed the content of the Bulletin and offered to take articles for consideration by the editor from anyone within the parish

RESOLVED: that the clerk should reply to Mr Horan stating that the council endeavours to represent the views of all its residents but often the issues which are discussed most concern the main village centre. The parish council is always willing to include items of interest related to the more outlying areas and any suggestions would be most welcome as would any article that a resident would like to submit for consideration for inclusion by the editor.

278.6 Richard Clarke First School

No report available

278.7 RISES

Cllr Mrs Fox reported that a cheque is expected out by the end of March

278.8 Village Hall

The clerk had received a letter from Mr King informing the council of those people who had volunteered to stand for election to office at the forthcoming AGM

278.9 Millennium Green

The council had discussed the current situation with Mrs Tonking during the public session earlier in this meeting

RESOLVED: *the clerk will send a letter to Mrs Tonking stating that the parish council is happy to go ahead with the transfer of the trusteeship of the MG to itself*

Minute 279: Correspondence, bulletins and reports

- 279.1 Wildplay Officer** - Beth Foulkes has been appointed Wildplay Officer at ESBC with effect from 1st January, 2009. The post is funded for 2 years and she will be leading sessions in Wildplay throughout East Staffs aimed at 8 – 14 year olds. The aim is to reconnect children to the natural environment through imaginative and creative play. The parish council can suggest an area for a wildplay session if they feel they have an open space/forest/play park which may be suitable and it can be considered when the schedule of sessions is compiled for the school holidays.
- 279.2 SPCA Newsletter** – this had been circulated to all members
- 279.3 Abbots Bromley Scouts** – a letter of thanks had been received following the donation of £750 towards the cost of improvements to the Scout Hut, and a notice acknowledging the parish council donation will be placed inside the hut for everyone to see. The Hut Committee and leaders of the various groups are aware of the efforts being made to establish a youth group in the village and discussions have been taking place on possible use of the Hut, but there are some issues which would need to be resolved including suitability, space, insurance and scout/guide information/property.
- 279.4 Qstar Ltd** – they are a company offering CCTV for crime prevention work
RESOLVED: *the clerk would find out further information and if appropriate invite them to the Parish Assembly to put out a display*
- 279.5 Complaint re dog faeces:** Luke Aitkenhead has contacted the parish council re: the problem of dog faeces on the football pitch behind the village hall and expression of a desire to have better footballing facilities rather than a youth shelter
RESOLVED: *that this is really a matter for the Village Hall and advising Mr Aitkenhead that the parish council has no jurisdiction over the Village Hall and its surrounds and informing him that the parish council will be consulting with the young people prior to taking the youth shelter project forward*
- 279.6 ESBC Draft Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment** – councillors had been notified of the deadline for comments – 17th April, 2009 and had been informed of the link to the document on the ESBC website

Minute 280: Clerk's Training

- 280.1 Practitioner's Conference** - the clerk had prepared and circulated to all councillors a detailed report on the SLCC Practitioners' Conference which she had attended on 27th and 28th February, 2009. Her report highlighted those areas where the council may need to review its current procedures to ensure that it is following best practice
- 280.2 Publication Scheme** – the clerk advised the council that its current charging system under the Freedom of Information Act was not legal as it included a time element which is not allowed and a charge of 50P per sheet could be deemed to be excessive
RESOLVED: *that the scheme be revised so that the charges read 10 p per copy plus postage*

280.3 SLCC Course on Governance and Accountability – following a very well received session at the Practitioners' Conference, clerk's in Staffordshire had requested that this course be run locally at a cost of £95 during the next few months
RESOLVED: *that the council will meet 50% of the cost of the clerk attending this course on Governance and Accountability*

Minute 281: Parish Assembly

A discussion took place on the Jubilee cup awardee

The clerk will issue the necessary invitations to supply reports as soon as possible

Minute 282: Agenda Items for the next meeting

Public Toilets

Minute 283: Date and time of the next meeting

RESOLVED: *that the next meeting of the parish council be held on Wednesday, 29th April, 2009 at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall*

There being no other business the chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.50 pm

Signed _____

Date 29th April, 2009