

ABBOTS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL
 Minutes of the Parish Council AGM Meeting
 Held on Wednesday 30th May 2018 at 7.00 pm
 At the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given

Present: Cllrs P Charles (Chair); Mrs A Appleby; D Denny, J Houlihan; R Jarman, Mrs M Moore; Mrs R Robb; B Walters

In attendance: Mrs S Meads (Clerk), Borough Cllr Hall

Members of the Public Attending: 22

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60. Apologies for absence
 Cllr P Ryan

61. Public Session

The Chair invited comments from Members of Public:-

Mr Wheeldon provided the following statement relating to the Neighbourhood Plan:-

“As the Parish Council is the elected body with the formal power and responsibility for the production of the Abbots Bromley Parish Neighbourhood Plan I wish to direct my comments to the Parish Council Chairman”

Mr Chairman,

At the recent Annual Parish Assembly (dated 23rd May 2018) the Parish Council undertook to discuss the way ahead in relation to the ‘stalled’ production of the Abbots Bromley Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

Many residents represented their own point of view at the Assembly, and I represented the view of 386 residents following a straw poll conducted during the three week period prior to the meeting. A copy of my report was handed to you on the evening, and also forwarded to the Parish Clerk for inclusion in the Assembly minutes.

On behalf of the residents that I am representing I would like to offer some points for your consideration before the PC enters in to its discussions to 'restart' production of the Abbots Bromley Parish Neighbourhood Plan :-

- A smaller 'impartial' NDP sub-committee containing local people should be formed to draw upon best practice from other local parishes with adopted Neighbourhood Plans (eg Denstone; Marchington; Yoxall).
- All three of the above had a successful pre-draft plan site selection/scale of development consultation with their communities, identifying the preferred sites and scale of development moving forward to draft plan stage.
- Likewise, other local residents with appropriate skill-sets could be co-opted from within the community, to determine the finer unique detail required for production of a successful Abbots Bromley Parish Neighbourhood Plan.
- The impartiality of the current committee is considered questionable as a result of having our own Borough Councillor as one of its members. However, his undoubted skill-set in the area of planning would be invaluable for a committee wishing to consider co-opting.
- Should the PC committee wish to come back to any point during their discussions, or seek clarification tonight in order to enable a successful outcome, then please ask.

Mr Chairman,

I will make this statement available to the Parish Clerk in order that it is placed in the minutes of this meeting.

Comments from Members of the public relating to the Neighbourhood Planning Process:-

- Member of the public questioned the site selection process and how the community was involved from the outset. Need to understand why some sites that fell inside the settlement boundary and now we have sites included from outside the boundary.
- Would it not be a good idea to look at sites that could be accessed off the main road?
- Lack of transparency, in particular details within the minutes. Some minutes mention that plans to be referred to Highways but surely this should be higher up the process.
- The PC minutes, why wasn't more detail passed back to the Parish Council following a meeting between NPG and Highways.
- Cllr Hall said that the Neighbourhood Plan is still important. He is willing to continue to support the group or not as the case may be. He suggested that all of the work that has been done so far is published as soon as possible. Some work has gone on in the background and maybe more detail needs to be made available. Lots of developers waiting in the background if the plan doesn't move forward so please don't miss this opportunity
- Member of the public stated that his main concern is getting down the main street as it is already extremely busy and being able to live and work in the village. He said that the village needs affordable homes.
- Thank-less task, especially for those on the working group. The village has shown a lot of apathy, shame that Cllr Walters has stepped down. It is clear that there has been a communication breakdown and this has got to change. Might need to knock some doors as that is why it has gone wrong.
- Two-way process. The Group is not listening. There is no body saying that there shouldn't be a plan. Not sure what the motivation is behind the plan.
- Request that the plans and site assessment information could be displayed somewhere in the village.

- Everyone should be involved in the process and have an option. There should be a Neighbourhood Plan. We all vote on it and that is the democratic process.
- Question raised over Abbots Bromley School's involvement in the process.
- Lots of parents of children at the school not aware of what is going on and that needs to be shared with them. A member of the public said that plans had been communicated with parents at a meeting.
- As Cllr Walters had stated that he had been having meetings with the school this had led to lots of suspicion.

Other comments from Members of the public:-

- Concerns of the organisation of the Ironman competition. Requested directions to get to Lichfield and was given the wrong route.
- The size and amount of lorries coming through the village is getting worse. Is it time to ask for a weight limit? Cllr Charles said this had been requested before. Suggested that everyone contacts Cllr Atkins. Cllr Hall also suggested that contact is made with the local MP Michael Fabricant.
- Concern raised over HS2. Cllr Jarman stated that HS2 has been kept on the Parish Council minutes so that it can be discussed and updates provided at any time. We know that lorry drivers will use shorter routes when they can so even when they are told not to go through villages they will do. There will also be access issues to the South and there is now going to be a depot at Little Haywood. Cllr Mrs Moore said that there are other views which we are happy to take on board.

62. AGM Matters

a. Election of Chairman

RESOLVED: that Cllr P Charles becomes the new Chairman. Proposed by Cllr B Walters, seconded by Cllr Mrs M Moore. All members agreed.

b. Election of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED: that Cllr Mrs Appleby becomes Vice Chairman. Proposed by Cllr R Jarman, seconded by Cllr D Denny. All members agreed.

c. Authority to Act Between Meetings.

RESOLVED: that the council may delegate executive powers to act between meetings to the Clerk, following consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair. Proposed Cllr Mrs Moore, seconded Cllr J Houlihan.

63. Neighbourhood Plan

The Chair moved the Neighbourhood Planning section earlier in the agenda so that members of the public could hear the discussions without having to stay for the whole meeting

Cllr Mrs Moore said that we need to ensure that the process is transparent. We now have to move forward but may need to take a step back and relook at site selection. An independent consultant may be required.

Cllr Jarman stated that the recent survey conducted in the village did not go out to all homes and was selective. When the Neighbourhood Planning Group sent out surveys they went to every single home via the Bulletin. He encouraged people to read and respond to communication.

Cllr Mrs Moore said that there has been a tremendous amount of apathy in the village but hopefully we have now turned a corner.

Cllr Mrs Appleby thanked everyone for now engaging in the process. She stated that we need to accept where we are and move forward, hand in hand. She thanked all those that have done the

work on the Neighbourhood Plan so far. She said that we need to take stock and move forward as soon as possible, working together.

Cllr Houlihan said that we could contact other areas in the borough for hints and tips on how to get responses from members of the public.

Cllr Walters provided a response to members of the public following the Parish Assembly. **See Appendix.**

Cllr Jarman thanked Cllr Walters and the group for all of their hard work.

Cllr Moore asked Cllr Mrs Robb if she could speak to the other group members and ascertain who is happy to continue.

Cllr Mrs Robb said that she had already spoken to the Vice Chair and she had said that she no longer has the time or the heart to continue.

Cllr Mrs Appleby said that she would be happy to have a meeting with the existing members of the NP Group to thank them and see who wants to continue.

Cllr Mrs Moore gave out the Parish Council email address for anyone that wants to volunteer to join the group.

64. Working Groups

The following working groups were agreed

The chairman and vice chairman are entitled to serve ex officio, on all groups

Working Group	Member(s)
Competitions	The Clerk, Cllr A Appleby (admin) All Councillors
Finance/Grants	Cllrs P Ryan, A Wakefield, M Moore
Newsletter	Cllr R Jarman The Clerk(Editor) Cllr P Charles (Distribution)
Planning	All Councillors
Recreation	Cllrs P Ryan, R Robb, J Houlihan, M Moore
Traffic & Parking	Cllrs R Jarman, Mrs Robb, A Appleby, M Moore
Village Property	R Robb, J Houlihan, D Denny, B Walters
Neighbourhood Planning Group	P Ryan, R Robb

Representatives

Almhouses	Cllr Jarman
Finance Officer	Cllr J Houlihan
Schools	Cllr B Walters
United Charities	Cllrs Charles and P Ryan
Village Hall	Cllr P Ryan
ABSA	Cllr P Ryan

65. Declarations of Interests

None

66. Minutes of Previous Meetings

- **RESOLVED:** *that the minutes of meetings held on 25th April be approved with 2 amendments.*
- **Publication of Minutes**

Following comments made by members of the public at the Parish Assembly regarding the publication of meeting Minutes, the Clerk confirmed that draft minutes are always available prior to the next meeting and on the website along with all documents relating to the forthcoming meeting. .

67. Matters of Report**i. Parish Assembly**

Good to have such a high attendance at the Parish Assembly. Councillors commented that it was good to hear from those that had received Section 137 grants and how the money would be spent. Feedback regarding Neighbourhood Planning Group was covered in the Open Forum.

ii. Parish Surgery

Four people attended. Members of the public raise the following issues:-

- An ambulance recently visiting Old Dolphin Lane was unable to access the lane due to parked cars opposite the entrance. Proposed that contact should be made with Highways and a request put in for yellow lines opposite the junction.
- Lack of public toilets
- 2 members of the public raised specific concerns over the Neighbourhood plan; speeding on Radmore Lane, what types of houses would be included and concerns over the school's involvement.

iii. War Memorial

The Clerk reported that the application for a grant from the War Memorial Trust had been refused as it was for the replacement of ground works that had been funded by the Trust previously. The grant was also refused on the basis that the proposed works would not be in keeping with the War Memorial.

68. Planning**Applications****1132 - P/2018/00466: Meadow Cottage, Ashbrook Lane, Bromley Wood, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3AL**

Erection of a detached garage and car port with first floor office/games room
Received: 27/04/18 Reply due: 18/05/18 Parish Council raised concerns over the scale of the building as it is larger than the existing dwelling.

1133 - P/2018/00468: Meadow Cottage, Ashbrook Lane, Bromley Wood, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3AL

Erection of an agricultural building
Received: 27/04/18 Reply due: 018/05/18 Parish Council raised concerns over this as there is not strong enough justification for agricultural use.

1134 - P/2018/00275: Barn Cottage, Uttoxeter Road, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3EG

Erection of a single storey rear extension to form a sunroom
Received: 03/05/18 Reply due: 24/05/18 No Objection

1135 - p/2018/00574: Nursery Lodge, Lichfield Road, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire, WS15 3DN

Erection of a two storey rear extension
Received: 17/05/18 Reply due: 07/06/18 No Objection

1136 - P/2018/00620: 2 Ivy Close, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3FB

Felling of one ash tree

Received: 17/05/18 Reply due: 31/05/18 The Parish Council objects to this application as the tree has a protection order on it and there is no justification for the removal of the tree.

1137 - P/2018/00362: Thyme House Town End Farm House, Lichfield Road, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3DL

Erection of 5 detached dwellings and associated garaging, including widening of existing access and provision of footpath and installation of a pumping station(Revised scheme)

Received: 29/05/18 Reply due: 19/06/18 No further comments provided on this.

Agreed**1117 - P/2017/01631: Fisher's Pit Farm, Ashbrook Lane, Bromley Wood, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire, WS15 3AL** Demolition of existing agricultural building and erection of a detached dwelling, detached garage and garden store, installation of septic tank and ground source heat pump.**1127 - P/2018/00299: 4 The Poplars, Lichfield Road, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3AA** Demolition of garage and sun room to facilitate the erection of a single storey side and rear extension**1129 - P/2017/01508: 9 Hillside, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3DP**

Erection of pitched roof over existing flat roof, alterations to front elevation by way of installation of lap boards and render in lieu of hanging tiles, relocation of door and replacement windows.

69. Financial Matters**A Record of payments made after discussion with Chairman or Vice Chairman****B Record of payments for which authorisation will be sought at meeting**

<i>Vch/Chq</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>
11/1765	Mrs Sarah Meads	403.06	Salary and taxable expenses
12/1766	Mrs Sarah Meads	11.80	Non Taxable expenses
13/1767	SCC Pensions	137.91	May Employee and Employer contribution
14/1768	Abbots Bromley Sports Association	25.00	Donation from Mrs Cadman for certificate for Jubilee Cup
15/1769	Mr G McCulloch	500.00	Grounds maintenance for April
16/1770	HMRC	384.16	PAYE

 1461.93
C Record of payments received

<i>Date</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>
27/04/18	ESBC	11,371.12 Precept and Grant

RESOLVED: *that the above payments be made.*

ii. Finance Report to 30th April 2018

The Clerk presented the Finance report up to 30th April 2018

Cllrs made the following comments:-

Churchyard mowing may no longer be required in the budget due to ABPCC not carrying out a tendering process in line with the PCs requirements.

Cllr Walters said that the SLG tendering process for funding for the Neighbourhood Plan is a very front- loaded process in order to obtain money to help with the plan.

70. Group Reports

i. Recreation

- MG looking good, carved seat at the top in a sea of long grass which needs cutting
- Top gate of MG needs to be readjusted, locking nut need
- Nuttery repairs redone
- Surface of The Nuttery power washed by the Clerk and husband on Bank Holiday Monday. Thanks to neighbour of the playground for the supply of water and electricity to do the job.
- Ask the grounds man to spray weeds on path to The Nuttery
- The Clerk reported that the football shelter had now been damaged beyond repair and should be removed. **RESOLVED:** that Cllr Charles would try to take the shelter down and the Clerk and her husband would remove it to the tip.

ii. Village Property

RESOLVED: to liaise with Royal Mail and start the process of having the post box repainted.

iii Traffic, Parking & Highways

Noted contents of letter from resident regarding speed on Lichfield Road

Pot holes still not repaired by Grange Farm and Froggy's Farm and surface rough by Ashbrook Lane junction. Drains still solid on Ashbrook Lane

Cllr Denny commented regarding Ironman and suggested that the Parish Council writes to The organisation and complain about the poor information sent to the public.

RESOLVED: Clerk to report issues to Highways. Further attempts for recruitment for Speed Watch to help with speeding. Representative from Speed Watch to attend the June meeting.

iv Competitions

Cllr Appleby suggested that a thank you corner is included in the next Bulletin so that everyone that has helped with keeping areas tidy can be thanked.

v. Newsletter

Next issue scheduled for June/July. Articles to include Chair's report, Speed Watch, Thank You corner, BKV, Neighbourhood Plan

vi. Village Hall

Nothing to report

vii. ABSA

Nothing to report

71. Correspondence, bulletins and reports

- Email from resident regarding speeding on Lichfield Road
- SPCA Bulletin

72. HS2

Cllr Jarman reported that there is still not a lot of information coming forward. It will affect the village through construction and also when the trains are running. The Parish Council had a meeting with HS2 and they talked about building in to the contract of suppliers which routes they could take. Those that came to the meeting have now left HS2. We will have great difficulty in getting South of the village. More information will be provided in the Bulletin and at meetings as and when we receive it.

RESOLVED: *to keep on the agenda*

74. Agenda Items for the next meeting

RESOLVED: *that the following items be added to the next agenda:-
Neighbourhood Plan, HS2, Ironman, Speed Watch, Horn Dance*

75. Date, time and place of future meetings

June Parish Council Meeting, 27th June 2018, – Village Hall

There being no other business the chair declared the meeting closed at 9.03pm

Signed _____ Date 27th June 2018

Appendix

Statement on the NDP – Former NDP Chair Cllr Walters

I felt that the Assembly meeting last Wednesday and the events that led up to it were very regrettable.

Firstly, the questionnaire on NDP engagement, which was a key reason for the high attendance was in my opinion ill thought through and damaging. Whilst I understand and in some ways admire the passion to want to involve the community in research I feel that approaching issues outside of NDP group or Parish Council involvement; or even knowledge was unnecessary and has potentially done untold damage to the Neighbourhood Plan Process.

Let's be clear, the Parish Council is the legally designated body to deliver a Neighbourhood Plan and it set up the legal NDP group entity in order to work through that process. All NDP activity should be funnelled through either or both of those channels. That is the proper way in which to do things.

Turning to the Assembly meeting itself – I felt personally as if I was very poorly treated at that meeting. With the exception of one or two I found the atmosphere toxic, aggressive and downright discourteous. Added to which many in the room sought the sanctuary of “lack of engagement” as a route to their anger. It can be shown and I did try to outline, admit constant interruption that the NDP group have done numerous stages of engagement and delivered NDP information to every property in this Parish – i.e. the claim that people don't know about the NDP two years into its existence just doesn't stand up to scrutiny, rather the case is that people haven't been bothered to educate themselves about the process, or at the very least ask questions.

This was rebuffed with the cry that we should as a group of 10 volunteers be able to personally speak to every household (around 750) in the Parish to explain the process - a request that is as gobsmacking as it is unachievable.

I will make a comparison; currently in my day job I am representing communities in North Derbyshire who fear that fracking for shale gas is coming close to their homes. At public meetings I have attended the attendees have been calm, collected and above all well briefed. They have taken the time to respond to requests for engagement, read information sent to them or posted within their parishes – this meant that public meetings have been conducted on the basis of facts rather than hearsay or straw polls. Not one of them complained that nobody had been to speak to them personally, they'd all made it their business to take responsibly themselves and not blame others – and it makes it all the more incredible that these are people potentially blighted by significant industry, heavy vehicle and plant movements or even ground water pollution – on the face of it they have much more to grumble about.

The principal issue that was raised was that the choice made of the two sites to go forward as part of the draft plan was not choice enough. There was concern that sites were selected by the NDP group in consultation with the Parish Council and that the community was “cut out” of that decision making process.

The charge was made that all sites should be available to be viewed and decided on by the community at large – then following that process any favoured options would then go forward as part of the draft plan consultation.

I covered the consultation stages gone through on site selection and feedback at the Assembly meeting, so I don't intend to go through all of that again – instead I'd rather focus on looking at this key request:

I don't support the idea that you could successfully carry out a site selection process in a public forum, but simply it would be impossible to gain any sort of consensus or reach any conclusion on location, number, layout etc. The scale of such a task would be immense. The process that we went through as an NDP group on site selection was difficult in any case, and we were only a group of 10 – and even following our choice it became difficult for certain members to toe the committee line on collective decision making.

No other NDP (to my knowledge) has carried out site assessment in the way proposed and so if it could be achieved it would be nationally ground-breaking.

Having looked at process I now want to turn to the future. It was abundantly clear that those at the Assembly meeting do not support the NDP in current form and do not believe in the engagement process as it stands, particularly around site selection which we've covered. I hear this which is a key reason I stepped down from the role as NDP chair. My position is untenable as I do not believe a different approach to site selection as we've just discussed can be successful - I cannot therefore involve myself in something that I just don't think can work. The role takes commitment and belief and frankly I no longer have any. It also takes responsibility and the ability to make decisions in the interests of all, not just a vocal few – the process the community now wishes to see will in my opinion make the role unbearable.

On that basis I'm minded to look back at the question asked (several times) at the Assembly meeting; which was; the community supports an NDP but wishes to go in a different direction particularly on site selection – who therefore wishes to get involved? This was pretty much the only point in the entire evening when the room sat in deafening silence. I counted one hand that went up out of the entire room.

It is therefore my opinion that despite all the aggression and bluster that no one is going to step forward, or at least not enough people to take the NDP process on – as this is the likely outcome I want to take a bit of time to look at the potential consequences as this is something often papered over by those that wish to do the NDP process down or do it mortal harm:

Currently we rely on the East Staffordshire Local Plan for our planning policy. We are in a good position as since its adoption in 2015 the plan has delivered its housing targets for the borough – but we rest on our laurels at our peril. Those around us in other Parishes have already buttressed themselves against potential delivery problems on housing in the local plan by adopting their own NDP's with their own housing allocations. This means, should the Local Plan fail their NDP effectively becomes a local plan – able to decide on development. We are horribly exposed, unlike those in Newborough, Marchington, Yoxall and elsewhere should the local plan housing delivery hit the buffers.

There are warning signs on the horizon – a key strategic site in the local plan, Hazelwalls on the edge of Uttoxeter is now potentially in doubt. That is a strategic site in the local plan, set to deliver around 430 homes, crucial to the plan's 5 year land supply. Planning law is clear, where a five year land supply fails an adopted local plan effectively falls silent and developers must follow an adopted up to date NDP or if there isn't one revert to the presumption in favour of sustainable development set out in the National Planning Policy Framework – in effect a sites free for all, which has little regard for established settlement boundaries.

The risk therefore is not of lack of engagement, but of planning isolation. I resigned because I feel that I've done what is right for both myself, my family and hopefully the future integrity of the NDP process. In doing so the time has come for others to consider their own response to the situation in which we now find ourselves or acknowledge that they are complicit in any uncontrolled new housing splurge across this Parish.