

ABBOTS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL
 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
 Held on Wednesday 24th April 2019 at 7.00 pm
 At the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given

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

In attendance: Mrs S Meads (Clerk),

Members of the Public Attending: 4

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48. Apologies for absence
 Cllrs P Ryan

49. Public Session

Mr N Taylor-Brown asked if he could present a statement from Mr T Wheeldon who was unable to attend the meeting. (Full statement in the appendix)

Mrs J Wheeldon referred to the independent consultant report. She said that the report stated that whilst much work had been done that the results needed to have been shared with the community and that the consultant had said that the plan would have failed if taken to referendum. In her view the plan was fundamentally flawed. Mrs Wheeldon also asked for clarification on the amount of funding left within the grant from ESBC to be utilised for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Walters said that the plan had not reached draft stage when reviewed and was the consultant's opinion of work done at that time.

Councillors said that the consultant had also identified lots of good work that had already been done.

Mr K Baker stated that we could have ended up with 70 houses on the Anglesey. Cllr Walters said that there were no numbers of houses confirmed. Mr Baker said that people were looking at detailed plans. Councillors confirmed that the Council had not seen any plans.

Mrs J Wheeldon said that as a designated body, the PC should have seen these. To push on at that time would not have been a good use of resources.

Cllr Walters said that he was prepared to listen to what people said at last year's Assembly and that is why is stood down as Chair of the NDPG. The Council did what was asked and conducted a review. He feels it strange that people still find the need to criticise the original NDP group even though a new NDP group have been in full control of the process for the best part of 12 months.

Mr Taylor Brown said he was trying to get the timeline right, so why were plans prepared?

Cllr Mrs Robb said that the plans were produced by the school, they produced plan after plan and none were satisfactory. The NDPG were getting frustrated with the process. Mr Taylor-Brown said that the school had representatives at the public meetings and both the school and the group said yes to the site. Cllr Walters pointed out that agreeing to the use of the site in principal and agreeing to how it is developed, laid out and utilised are completely different. Whilst in principal the school site was deemed suitable by the original NDPG, following a site assessment process at no point had there been any agreement as to how much development and all of the finer details been settled upon. Discussions and draft iterations do not equal agreement. The two separate issues around the in principal use and any final layout scheme are getting wrongly conflated.

Cllr Walters pointed to the fact that the survey carried out before 2018 Parish Assembly was significant and that the Parish Council had clearly taken heed of what was presented. He expressed regret that the Neighbourhood Plan Group was not asked or consulted about regarding the survey before it was commissioned. Mrs J Wheeldon said that it was because the group was not listening to which Cllr Walters disagreed strongly and asked why if this were the case the Parish Council were not then approached? To carry out a significant survey work on a project run by the Parish Council without its consultation or knowledge showed a deep lack of respect to Councillors and the institution of the Parish Council itself. The first either the Parish Council or the original NDPG knew of the survey was when the results were presented by Mr T Wheeldon at the 2018 Assembly. To behave in such a way by choosing not to communicate beforehand felt like a cruel ambush. It was pointed out at the recent 2019 Parish Assembly that this is a key reason Councillors have felt disregarded and have decided not to stand again for election.

Cllr Jarman asked why are we going around in circles and reviewing this again? He pointed to the fact that the Parish Council had listened and tasked a new Neighbourhood Plan Group to review the work in light of the independent consultant report.

Cllr Mrs Moore requested a right to reply. She felt saddened that people did not come to speak to her or the Parish Council prior to last year's Parish Assembly. The Parish Council did not think that the previous NDPG got everything right and the PC did challenge them and request more information and this was received. Cllr Moore highlighted the added value that all the councillors gave.

Cllr Appleby said that she had loved being a Parish Councillor, however, she does not like the way people have behaved and people shouldn't be posting negative and antagonising comments anonymously on Spotted.

Mr P Cooper asked about the transportation of the large transformers through the village that were mentioned at the previous PC meeting. Cllr Walters said that the obvious solution is to not come through the village. Cllr Walters also suggested that an early task of the new Parish Council should be to determine why the obvious route to Colton across Blithfield Reservoir causeway is not being considered. Have South Staffordshire Water objected? If so why? The Clerk updated the meeting on the transformers and said that they are for the new proposed power plant at Bellamour. The route suggested is an alternative route for the

transformers should permission not be given to take them over the causeway on the B5013. The Clerk said that objections have been submitted by the Parish Council and alternative routes suggested.

The Clerk referred back to Mrs Wheeldon's previous comment regarding funding available through ESBC and clarified that funds had been drawn down over two year so the amount of grant left is approximately £1,200.

50. **Declarations of Interests**

None

51. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

- **RESOLVED:** *that the minutes of meeting held on 27th March 2019 be approved with one amendment. Proposed Cllr Mrs M Moore, seconded Cllr Mrs Appleby*

Cllr Walters commented that when publishing minutes these need to be clear that any comments by parishioners and their views are not those of the Parish Council. Cllr Walters said that it should be the exception rather than the rule that correspondence is included verbatim.

52. **Neighbourhood Development Plan Update**

Cllr Appleby updated the meeting on the Neighbourhood Development Planning Group. She reported that the sub group had held a meeting and discussed the grant application and also the appointment of a consultant. She said that Mrs Wheeldon had offered to help complete the grant application on line if the Clerk did not have time to do this, however, the portal is not yet open so it is not possible to submit the application at the moment.

53. **Matters of Report**

i. **HS2**

Cllr Jarman updated the meeting on work carried out by the Steering Group and that anyone can view the hearings on-line. The NFU and the Bird Club had also petitioned as well as some local residents and farmers.

Cllr Walters added that the Steering Group believed that there are existing power supplies available on the route but neither National Grid or HS2 believed there is enough power to access the three circuits required to both power the railway and factor in sufficient resilience in terms of other users in the area. The Steering group petitioned for the cables to be buried and National Grid have said that there are no technical reasons why this can't happen. The issue is purely one of cost as there is a projected £60 million difference in the price to underground as opposed to over ground pylons. Cllr Walters thanked the whole group for their work on this, in particular Cllr Waite from Newborough Parish Council and Mr Richard Knight for his work on the petition.

ii. **War Memorial**

The Clerk provided an update and said that she had been in touch with Highways regarding the disconnecting of the lights.

iii. **Outdoor Gym**

Cllr Appleby updated on outdoor gym. A visit had taken place with suppliers, Fresh Air Fitness and two sites reviewed, the area behind the Village Hall and also Millennium Green. Due to safeguarding and also additional ground works needed Millennium Green was not favoured. The area behind the Village Hall was the preferred site, either by the tennis courts or further up by the football pitch. Discussions need to take place with the Village Hall committee to request permission

and agree preferred location. Wish list of preferred equipment sent off for quotation to be provided, it is believed that the grant should cover 6-7 pieces of equipment and installation.

RESOLVED: to move the project forward, proposed Cllr Mrs Appleby, seconded Cllr J Houlihan.

iv. **Footpath off School House Lane**

The Clerk advised councillors that the contract had been awarded and the contractor had confirmed acceptance and work will be carried out in the next few weeks. The contractor will be in touch so that notices can be displayed regarding the closure of the footpath for a few days. Councillors asked if it would be possible to have the other gate in Gallimore's field opened so that pedestrians still had access to School House Lane.

v. **Village Gateways**

Cllr Appleby and the Clerk provided an update on the Village Gateways. An order had been placed for the gates, one on Ashbrook Lane and two on Uttoxeter Road. Both would have new signs. Mr G McCulloch to install the gates.

vi. **Parish Assembly**

It was reported that there was a reasonable attendance at the Assembly. Some councillors felt that they were treated like naughty school children because they had stood down but everyone had their own views and councillor roles are voluntary. Cllr Mrs Moore and R Jarman said that they didn't feel pressurised in to giving their reasons for not standing again. Positive comments from attendees were very welcome.

vii. **Election**

The Clerk reported that three councillors would be automatically elected on 2nd May, so far there had been one additional interest in co-option. Other vacancies would be advertised after the election date. Councillors discussed this and stressed that it is important to approach people that have skills that they can bring to the council.

54. Planning

Applications

1194 - P/2019/00326: Goat's Head, Market Place, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire, WS15 3BP

Display of 1 internally illuminated fascia sign, 1 externally illuminated hanging sign, 2 externally illuminated amenity board signs, 1 non-illuminated amenity board sign and 1 non-illuminated gate sign. Received: 27/03/19 Reply due: 17/04/19 Concerns raised over internally illuminated signs and including the use of inappropriate materials, thereby detracting from the character of the Conservation Area and listed building.

1195 - P/2019/00335: Goat's Head, Market Place, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire, WS15 2BP

Listed building consent for the display of 1 internally illuminated fascia sign, 1 externally illuminated hanging sign, 2 externally illuminated amenity board signs, 1 non-illuminated amenity board sign, 1 non-illuminated gate sign and the installation of 2 lanterns and 2 floodlights. Received: 27/03/19 Reply due: 17/04/19 Concerns raised over internally illuminated signs including the use of inappropriate materials thereby materially harming the character of the listed building.

1196 - P/2019/00314: The Gables, Harley Lane, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire, WS15 3EU

Erection of a part two storey, part first floor side extension
Received: 28/03/19 Reply due: 18/04/19 No objections

1197 - P/2019/00348: Harley Farmhouse, Uttoxeter Road, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3EQ

Felling of one evergreen pine tree and one sour cherry tree

Received: 29/03/19 Replied: 16/04/19

The Parish Council has concerns over the tree works proposed. There seems little evidence provided within the application to show that the trees are in poor health or causing damage to property. The removal of the trees will have significant impact on the conservation area and therefore the council objects to this application.

1198 - P/2019/00322: Goats Head, Market Place, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3BP

Listed Building Consent for the refurbishment works to the premises including fixed seating in bar areas, new cubicles in toilets, external servery in existing outbuilding, block up window to ladies toilet, restoration of timber floors, and new gates

Received: 05/04/19 Reply due: 26/04/19 No Objections

1199 - P/2019/00421: Goats Head, Market Place, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3BP

Installation of replacement gates and minor alterations

Received: 05/04/19 Reply due: 26/04/19 No Objections

1200 - P/2019/00296: Proposed Barn Conversion, Ashbrook Farm, Orange Lane, Bromley Hurst, Abbots Bromley, Staffs. Prior approval for the conversion of barn to form single dwelling (amended plans and description)

Received: 16/04/19 Reply due: 30/04/19 No Objections

1201 - P/2019/00427: The Gables, Harley Lane, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire, WS15 3EU

Erection of a single storey side extension

Received: 12/04/19 Reply due: 03/05/19 No Objections

1202 - P/2019/00429: Froggys Farm, Ashbrook Lane, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3FA
Formation of a slurry store

Received: 24/04/19 Reply due: 15/05/19 No Objections

Decisions**Agreed**

1162 - P/2018/01264: Clematis Cottage, Lichfield Road, Bromley Hurst, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3BA Remodelling of existing dwelling to include raising of ridge height, erection of part two storey and single storey side and rear extensions with roof terrace, front porch, front dormer extension and relocation of site entrance

1167 - P/2018/01390: Sycamore House, Radmore Lane, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3AT

Felling of 3 leylandii trees

1175 - P/2018/01541: Market Place Garage, Market Place, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire, WS15 3BP Demolition of redundant garage to facilitate the erection of a detached dwelling

1179 - P/2019/00064: High Trees Farm, Hobb Lane, Marchington Woodlands, Staffordshire, ST14 8RQ Erection of a detached garage with office above and a single storey extension to form sun room on west elevation

1183 - P/2019/00146: The Nuttery Playground, School House Lane, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire Pruning of one sycamore to give 4m clearance over footpath and play equipment

1185 - P/2019/00078: Church View Farm, Goose Lane, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3DF

Listed Building Consent for the installation of cellar window on east elevation

1186 - P/2019/00071: Church View Farm, Goose Lane, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3DF

Retention of existing garden store, gazebo and landscaping.

1189 - P/2019/00246: 65 Seedcroft Lane, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire, WS15 3DS

Demolish existing detached garage to facilitate the erection of a single storey side and rear extension

1190 - P/2018/01560: 57 Seedcroft Lane, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire, WS15 3DS

Retention of a single storey side extension

1191 - P/2019/00204: 9 Hillside, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire, 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 and erection of a first floor rear extension and associated roof alterations

Revised**1192 - P/2019/00296: Proposed Barn Conversion, Ashbrook Farm Orange Lane, Bromley Hurst, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire**

Prior Approval for the conversion of two barns to form dwellings

55. Finance Matters**i. Payments Made & Received****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>
01/1832	Sarah Meads	406.99	Salary for April
02/1833	SCC Pension	145.34	Pension April
03/1834	Sarah Meads	59.90	Expenses
04/1835	HMRC	378.31	PAYE
05/1836	SLCC	122.00	Membership of SLCC
06/1837	B Walters	15.32	Expenses for BKV
07/1838	PWLB	1661.18	FINAL payment for VH Loan
08/1839	G McCulloch	465.00	Tree works

 3254.04
RESOLVED: that the above payments be made.**C Record of payments received**

<i>Date</i>		<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>
24/04/19	H A Morris	125.00	Allotment rent
24/04/19	M G Holloway	25.00	Rent for Horn Dance Stall

ii. Monthly Finance Report

The Clerk presented the monthly financial report

iii. Section 137 Grants

The following applications for grants were considered by councillors. The Clerk said that maximum fund available is £2,000.

Name of Applicant/Group	Brief Summary of Funding Request	Amount Requested
ABSA	ABSA has requested any help the PC can give to them	No specific amount requested
First Responders	Request has been made for a donation towards the defib machines	No specific amount requested but estimated cost per defib is £2000
ABPCC	Donation towards the mowing costs for the church yard	£500.00
Abbots Bromley Village Hall	Donation towards the memorial bench	No specific amount requested
Abbots Bromley Guides	Donation towards the bird and bug boxes supplied by the Guides.	Cost of boxes approximately £150.00

RESOLVED: that the following grants be awarded:- ABSA £500.00, First Responders £850, ABPCC £500, Abbots Bromley Guides £150.00.

iv. Clerk's Salary

Following recent concerns raised by the internal auditor and councillors regarding the number of hours the Clerk has been working it was agreed to review the Clerk's contracted hours. The Clerk confirmed that she had been working between 20 to 30 hours per week for the past year and is contracted for 10.75 per week. Councillors discussed at length and it was suggested to increase the hours to 20 hours per week. The Clerk said she would prefer to be contracted to less hours as she may not always be able to work 20 hours due to other work commitment, 15 hours per week would be more manageable going forward.

RESOLVED: to increase the Clerk's contracted hours to 15 hours per week from May 2019. Proposed Cllr R Jarman, seconded Cllr Mrs R Robb.

v. Audit Report

The Clerk presented the Annual Audit Report prior to it being submitted to the external auditors, this had been previously emailed to councillors

a. Annual Governance Statement 2018/19

Councillors approved the Annual Governance statement.

RESOLVED : that the Annual Governance Statement be approved and signed by the Chair, Cllr P Charles and the Clerk and RFO, Sarah Meads.

b. Accounting Statements 2018/19

Councillors approved the Accounting Statements

RESOLVED: that the Accounting Statements be approved and signed by the Chair, Cllr P Charles and the Clerk and RFO, Sarah Meads

56. Group Reports**i. Recreation**

RESOLVED: for the Clerk to arrange for additional latches to be put on the gates at The Nuttery. A general tidy to be undertaken of the playgrounds and a painting party organised to give The Nuttery a fresh coat of paint.

ii. Village Property

The Clerk reported that Mr McCulloch would be installing the new gate at the allotment.

iii Traffic, Parking & Highways

The Clerk reported on the recent meeting with Highways and confirmed that agreement had been given by SCC Highways for the following:-

- Extension of zig zag lines at the zebra crossing
- Location and installation of the new village gateways
- Approval of recommended sites for new SID machines and support offered for grant application

SCC Highways were unable to support the request for the extension of yellow lines at Goose Lane at this stage but suggested that the council re-look at the village as a whole and if any other areas need to be considered before submitting an application.

iv Competitions

Cllr Appleby provided an update on Best Kept Village. She said that Mr Udy had agreed to a large display of posters on the school wall. The Clerk said that she would tidy the tubs on The Village Green. Top Shop had said that they will still tidy up the bus stop. Posters to be judged early May.

v. Newsletter

Nothing to report

vi. Village Hall

Nothing to report

vii. ABSA

Nothing to report

57. Correspondence, bulletins and reports

- SPCA Newsletters
- Letter from Mr Elkington regarding building work on Hillside

58. Agenda Items for the next meeting

Election of the the Chair & Vice Chair, Working Groups, Co-option of new members

59. Date, time and place of future meetings

May Parish Council Meeting, 15th May 2019 – Village Hall

At the end of the meeting Cllr Charles thanked the councillors for their time as councillors and said that he had enjoyed the council, he also thanked the Clerk. Cllr Appleby thanked Cllr Charles and Jarman for all of their help over the years and for the experience that they have brought to the council. There being no other business the chair declared the meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed _____ Date 15th May 2019

Note : As none of the previous councillors re-stood for election, these minutes are signed off by councillors that did not attend the previous meeting.

Appendix

Mr Chairman

Over the last year I have listened intently to a number of comments from Parish Council members calling my character and personal motives into question.

Following similar comments made at the Annual Parish Assembly on Wednesday 17th April 2019, I would like to have my 'right of reply' presented to you this evening.

Firstly, I would like to place on record (alongside the comments of others) my appreciation for the work undertaken by the Parish Council, and specifically those Councillors who are standing down following many years of voluntary public service.

Since the Annual Parish Assembly of 2018, commentary keeps returning to -and I quote - ***"The dissent of a few"*** in relation to public opinion of the process that was being followed at the time for production of the Abbots Bromley Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

There are others more able than myself who can elaborate on the process. All I am able to offer is that approximately 100+ personal voices on the evening, combined with the honest opinion submitted to the Assembly on behalf of almost 400 other independent parishioners, doesn't equate in my mind to be a few dissenting voices? On the contrary, it comes over as extremely persuasive.

The detailed submission provided by me at the 2018 Annual Parish Assembly is recorded in those minutes as a respectful, ***"Wish to share information, in order that it may help shape a successful outcome for the Abbots Bromley Parish Neighbourhood Plan"***.

It is small comfort alongside this continual 'dissenting voice' assertion that sufficient notice was at least taken by the Parish Council to instruct an Independent review of all the previous NDP work. The result of this review being confirmation that the process was significantly enough flawed to warrant the public's concern.

From my own perspective, standing down from the initial Neighbourhood Planning Group in December 2017 after two years was a difficult decision to make. What is more disappointing for me is that despite submitting a letter to the Neighbourhood Planning group Chair, and the Parish Council (citing significant reasoning for my decision to stand down) due diligence was never carried out by either body to seek

deeper explanation. To date this has still never been done despite ample opportunity.

It is also regularly asserted that, ***“Certain individuals have tried to undermine the Neighbourhood Plan process causing ill feeling within the community”***.

It is most clear that the undermining of the process started a long time before the 2018 Parish Assembly through the unwarranted ‘committee led’ decision making of outcomes that were never challenged, and which should have been openly and robustly ‘community led’.

For my part, I haven’t walked away from a commitment to ensure the successful production of a parish Neighbourhood Plan. On the contrary, I am pleased to provide secretarial support to the current group who are now working tirelessly under much more stringent controls than ever before.

It’s a shame that others didn’t take the positives from the public engagement on offer at the 2018 Parish Assembly, and move forward with a clearer understanding of what was required of them?

In summary Mr Chairman, I am able to assure those who think otherwise that my character is built on a good upbringing, and my personal motives are a reflection of my commitment to service. Don’t be in any doubt!

A copy of my comments will be forwarded to the Parish Clerk for accurate inclusion in the minutes of this meeting.

Tom Wheeldon