

ABBOTS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL
 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
 Held on Wednesday 26th June 2019 at 7.00 pm
 At the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given

Present: Cllrs Dr C Whorwood (Chair); Mr K Baker, Mrs K Haywood; Mr M Hobbs

In attendance: Mrs S Meads (Clerk),

Members of the Public Attending: 4

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76. Apologies for absence

Cllr N Taylor-Brown

77. Public Session

Cllr Whorwood explained that there may be an opportunity for the public to add important comments during the meeting as well as part of the public session if appropriate.

Mr T Wheeldon raised subject of War Memorial. The Clerk updated that contact had been made with Highways regarding the lighting and a meeting date was being arranged. Clerk agreed to confirm with contractor and move forward.

Mr D Eatough provided an update on Abbots Bromley School. He asked if the Parish Council could write two letters of support to the Chair of Governors and also to Woodard. Drafts of the letters were provided and amendments discussed. It was agreed that these letters should be sent by the end of the week.

Mr Eatough updated that the school closure notices were sent out by the end of March and a possibly buyer identified with negotiations on-going for quite some time. Plan A parent group was formed to assist in the sale negotiation. Plan B parent group proactive in providing financial information and working on how the school could stay open and convince Woodard to keep the school open until a buyer could be found. Four prospective buyers have come to light, two have not met the criteria and two have with one providing proof of funds. Woodard has now put the school up for sale as an asset. Plan B group to meet with Woodard this evening. There is a template deal available. Trying to use parent power to keep the school open. Numerous complaints made to the Charities Commission. Baroness Stocks has taken an interest in this.

Cllr Whorwood said that he was impressed with how much support had been given by parents and teachers and he had come away from the Plan B meeting feeling quite positive.

Mr Cooper said that a Plan C is needed if there isn't a buyer to deal with housing and school requirements.

Cllr Baker said it is important that we get the tone right in the letters. He asked if there is a willingness by Woodard to keep it as a school.

Mr Eatough said that the Chair of Woodard would like to see the school continue. Woodard has relaxed some of the stipulations in the agreement.

78. Declarations of Interests

Cllr Whorwood, planning application number 1210

79. Minutes of Previous Meetings

RESOLVED: *that the minutes of meeting held on 15th May 2019 be approved.*

80. Neighbourhood Development Plan Update

Mrs J Wheeldon thanked the councillors for stepping in to the council and also to the Clerk for staying in her role.

Mrs Wheeldon provided an update on NDP.

Initially some concern that the funding application would take some time as the portal wasn't open. Previous PC approved funding for the initial piece of work by Mr D Chetwyn. As a result of this report our last public session was based on some of the suggestions in the report. The grant application has now been completed and the grant awarded.

Discussions have now taken place with the consultant regarding the next steps and a face-to-face meeting arranged for August. Hopefully there will be some form of draft plan available for early September. Key is the housing needs assessment (if, what type, scale).

Cllr Hobbs said that the marketing part is the next thing to work on, a lot of work to do to get it right.

Cllr Whorwood mentioned targeted engagement, what ways are we going to reach those people that do not engage, maybe personal invites?

Cllr Hobbs said that nothing is out of scope. Consultant to take the public meeting with NDP there to support. Message will come from the Consultant.

Mr Wheeldon said that support has been a slow burner but lots of people have volunteered to be Neighbourhood Champions.

Cllr Baker said that he would like to record a vote of thanks to Mr Wheeldon for highlighting the issues with the previous NDP and communications. Cllr Whorwood reiterated vote of thanks. All members agreed.

Cllr Baker said that the last draft plan mentioned housing needs. Now a company called Acon will provide an independent assessment of housing needs. Mr Wheeldon said that Acon will use some of the data from the previous and current NDP.

Cllr Baker said that should there be a housing need then there will be technical support provided for site assessment which will also be independent. All other policies in the document will be the result of the public meetings held by the group.

Cllr Whorwood asked if the group anticipates the formal draft being out before the next Parish Assembly. Mrs Wheeldon said that it would hopefully be out in October or November 2019.

81. Matters of Report

i. **General Powers of Competence under the Localism Act 2011**

Cllr Whorwood and the Clerk updated the councillors and clarified that as only three councillors were elected then the Council no longer has General Powers of Competence. Six elected councillors are required. This does not impact on Neighbourhood Planning.

ii. **HS2**

The Clerk provided an update and said that the petition for undergrounding of cables had not been successful. Documents had been circulated prior to the meeting.

iii. **Outdoor Fitness Equipment**

The Clerk reported that the grant had now been received and the supplier had visited site. Currently awaiting feedback from The Village Hall Committee regarding preferred location for the equipment.

iv. **Footpath off School House Lane**

The Clerk reported that the contractor would be undertaking the work in July. Notices would be put on the footpath to redirect walkers during the time work being undertaken.

v. **Co-option of New Members**

The Clerk reported that no other interest shown, however, an article would run in the next newsletter.

vi. **Abbots Bromley School**

The Clerk reported that she had received several messages regarding the closure of the sports facilities and requests to register some areas of the school as Community Assets. This was discussed by members.

RESOLVED: *that the application be submitted to cover The Thompson Hall, Sports Hall, Swimming Pool, Anglesey and The Lowers.*

Mr Eatough mentioned The Nuttery playground and asked if it would be worth asking Woodard to gift the land to the village.

vii. **War Memorial**

RESOLVED: *Clerk to progress with meeting with Highways and contractor.*

81. Planning

Applications

1208 - P/2019/00634: Clematis Cottage, Lichfield Road, Bromley Hurst, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire, WS15 3BA Erection of a detached garage with attic study and new entrance gates.

Received: 07/06/19 Reply due: 28/06/19 Concerns raised over lack of justification for removal of trees and contrary to the emerging neighbourhood plan.

1209 - P/2019/00022: Poplar Farm, Poplar Farm Road, Bromley Hurst, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3AY Change of use of land from agricultural to form part of domestic curtilage and erection of a detached garage

Received: 07/06/19 Reply due: 28/06/19 No Objections

1210 - P/2019/00684: The Counting House, Radmore Lane, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire, WS15 3AT Erection of a two storey front and side extension, erection of a single storey side extension and dormer extension on the west elevation.

Received: 20/06/19 Reply due: 11/07/19 No Objections

1211 - P/2019/00631: Leacross, Bagot Street, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire, WS15 3DA

Erection of a single storey rear extension, installation of four conservation area rooflights on rear and replacement window on front elevation

Received: 20/06/19 Reply due: 11/07/19 No Objections

1212 - P/2019/00635: Leacross, Bagot Street, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3DA Listed Building application for the demolition of existing rear single storey extension and erection of a replacement single storey rear extension, installation of four conservation area rooflights on the rear elevation, replacement window and re-pointing of brickwork on the front elevation, and internal works to include removal of stud walls and installation of bathroom

Received: 20/06/19 Reply due: 11/07/19 No Objections, however repointing should be done in a lime based mortar.

Decisions

Agreed

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

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

1199 - P/2019/00421: Goats Head, Market Place, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3BP Installation of replacement gates and minor alterations

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

83. Finance 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>
19/1850	Sarah Meads	576.99	Salary for June,
20/1851	SCC Pension	179.41	Pension contribution for June
21/1852	Sarah Meads	62.60	Expenses
23/1853	G McCulloch	1125.00	Grounds & General Maintenance
24/1854	AB Village Hall	69.00	HS2 & NDPG meetings
25/1855	SPCA	35.00	Training Course
26/1856	ABSA	25.00	Donation for Jubilee Cup Certificate
27/1857	Information Commissioner	40.00	Data protection fee

B Record of payments for which authorisation will be sought at meeting

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details
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		2113.00	
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RESOLVED: Councillors approved these payments

ii. Monthly Finance Report

The Clerk presented the monthly finance report.

84. Group Reports

i. Recreation

The Clerk reported that the external safety inspection will take place on 1st July

ii. Village Property

Nothing to report

iii Traffic, Parking & Highways

Issues raised over maintenance of hedgerows at The Paddocks. Reported that the footways had not been adopted by Highways and therefore would be the responsibility of the developer. The Clerk reported that she had ordered more 30mph bin stickers.

Members discussed at length the state of grass verges and lanes where there has clearly been a deliberate attempt to break down verges and widen lanes by eroding banks. Also speed on lanes is a major concern. The Clerk said that he may be worth requesting 'Slow Down for Horses' signs for the lanes. An article should be considered for the Bulletin highlighting damage to verges. May be necessary to involve the local PCSO.

iv Competitions

To be discussed at the next meeting

v. Newsletter

Next issue ready by end of July. Cllr Haywood to arrange distribution. Mr P Charles had agreed to continue with some of his distribution route.

vi. Village Hall

Nothing to report.

vii. ABSA

Nothing to report

85. Parish Council Objectives

Put on next month's agenda

86. Horn Dance

Put on next month's agenda

87. Correspondence, bulletins and reports

- SPCA Bulletins circulated

88. Agenda Items for the next meeting

PC Objectives, Horn Dance, HS2, AB School,

89. Date, time and place of future meetings

Wednesday, 31st July 2019, 7.00pm, Abbots Bromley Village Hall.

Signed _____ Date 31st July 2019