

ABBOTS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
 Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting  
 Held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7.00 pm  
 Held at Abbots Bromley Village Hall pursuant to notice having been given

**Present:** Cllrs R Love (Chair), Mrs C Brown, Mr K Baker, Mr P Freeman, Dr H Lockey, Mr E Rodway-Bowden

**In attendance:** Mrs S Meads (Clerk),

**Members of the Public Attending: 1**

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**66. Apologies for absence**  
 Apologies received from Cllr R Beaumont  
**RESOLVED:** *to accept apologies*

**67. Election of Chairman**  
 The Clerk asked if there were any nominations for Chair. Cllr R Love and Cllr E Rodway-Bowden said they were will to be considered for the role as Chair. Councillors took a vote and Cllr Love was elected as Chair. Cllr Love took the Chair.

**68. Election of Vice Chairman**  
 Cllr Rodway-Bowden said that he would be willing to stand as Vice Chair. All members agreed and Cllr Rodway-Bowden was elected as Vice Chair.

**69. Authority to Act Between Meetings**  
*Standing Order 72 allows that the Council may delegate executive powers to act between meetings to the Clerk – following consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair or to the Chair and Vice Chair. The Council may wish to consider the following resolution. “That executive powers to act between meetings are delegated to (either) the clerk to the council or to the Chair and Vice Chair in accordance with Standing Order paragraph 72.”*  
 Councillors discussed whether there is a limit to how much is spent. The Clerk explained that this is covered in Financial Regulations.  
**Resolved** *to approve*

**70. Public Session**

Mr P Charles informed the Council that Mr Ryan is still a representative for United Charities

Cllr Mrs Brown presented the following:-

Firstly, I want to express my thanks for the voluntary work that all the Councillors do for the PC and especially to Cllr Baker for his dedication to footpaths and walks. A huge amount of their time for the benefit of the village should be acknowledged.

It is with great sadness that I have to bring the following issues to the PC tonight. There is one big question – does ABPC act for and behalf of the village or village and Parish- that is the residents and businesses outside the village boundary? I fear not and this is why! The ABPC should be looking after the health and well being of the whole Parish. I joined the ABPC to work for and behalf the whole Parish.

Last Wednesday 18th May 2022, the PC released the 2021/2022 Parish Report. In it was a Traffic and Parking Report including 2 paragraphs on Quiet Lanes but there has not been a committee for over 2 years. Some parts of the report have never been mentioned so why now. The report said ‘the response from our community to a survey a while ago was overwhelmingly supportive’ of Quiet Lane designation. It named 3 lanes (Harley Lane, Radmore Lane and Seedcroft Lane) in the Parish Report 2021/2. It stated: ‘the Parish Council continue to press for Quiet Lane designation’. At the meeting Cllr Baker said there were 4- Yeatshall Lane also. The ABPC report said QLs ‘promote healthier lifestyles for safe walking and riding’. The same report relays that our SCC Councillor was against the designation but did not state why.

But please consider the following:

1. The Councillor that wrote this traffic and parking report, gave Councillors one paragraph only before the final publication which had 2 paragraphs in about Quiet Lanes. Why?
2. This same Councillor told a Parish resident at the January 2022 PC Surgery that there was no intention of the ABPC pursuing Quiet Lanes. Which is now proven to be false.
3. The Quiet Lanes are mentioned in the NP in 2 lines only- one could say hidden. With a successful referendum this would give the PC the mandate to implement QL status when the Parish Residents have not been informed or consulted.
4. The mentioned ‘overwhelming support’ stated in the Parish Report for QLs is false. The survey in 2019 was a small survey targeted at a limited targeted village population which was witnessed. This fact in 2019 was expressed to ESBC. The Parish residents are not fully aware what the impact of QL will be.
5. The promotion of good mental and physical wellbeing for walking or riding villagers using the lanes is at the huge expense of the mental health of parishioners who live and work outside the village and use the lanes.
6. This QL policy will continue to dig the divide between the village and the parishioners, which could be described as a form of rural gentrification.
7. The implementation of Quiet Lanes may not seem important but as legislation changes then there is the expectation that car users could be banned. Also, hostility could surface against the motorist for using the lane. On Harley Lane this has already been voiced by a village resident who told a motorist that they shouldn’t be using Harley Lane as the lane is for dog walkers. Although there are lots of considerate walkers and riders there are some residents who let their dogs run freely, children run freely and even very small children on motorized toy vehicles on a public highway. Then there are the joggers with headphones who expect the car to follow them half the length of Harley Lane.

8. The NP Councillors promised to contact all the recent Draft NP respondents before the Parish Assembly last week but this did not happen including the NFU representative and others.
9. I am also not aware that the NP has been altered in any way to reflect the consultation process. Has this process been to solely tick a box?
10. The SCC Councillor named in the report who was against the QL designation back in 2018/19 has not had to an opportunity to give his reasoning. What purpose does it serve to mention him in the 2021/22 Parish Report? I suggest it is to push through Quiet Lane designation to the detriment of the parish and community spirit.
11. The new Highway Code supersedes Quiet Lane designation. ALL driving license holders have an obligation to know, understand and abide by the Highway Code. The new Highway Code 'improves road safety for cyclists and pedestrians by the motorized vehicle giving way'.
12. There has not been a committee meeting for the ABPC Traffic and Parking committee in the last few years so the report should have only included the information discussed at the ABPC meetings. This Abbots Bromley Parish Council Report 2021/22 has been used inappropriately with no justification, spreading an unfair and unjust agenda to serve a dubious unfair purpose.

There also seems to be no changes since the consultation process.

Openness, transparency and honesty with no hidden agenda are paramount to a respected parish council which I am concerned is happening.

Thank you for listening.

Cllr Love responded to Cllr Mrs Brown and said that it is very important that the PC represented the whole Parish and not just the village.

Cllr Baker said that Quiet Lanes have not been included in the Neighbourhood Plan but he did say that the previous Chairman had asked if Quiet Lanes could still be investigated. Cllr Baker said that it is not part of the Neighbourhood Plan and this was confirmed by Cllr Freeman. Cllr Love said that there is a brief reference to Quiet Lanes in the Neighbourhood Plan but that does not mean that a quiet lane would be approved and they are not part of any policies. The legislative power of the Neighbourhood Plan is entirely around development.

Cllr Freeman responded to Cllr Mrs Brown regarding the lack of response to those that have made a response to the Neighbourhood Plan. Most respondents have had a holding response.

Cllr Mrs Brown said that it is very important that the PC is seen to be transparent.

Cllr Freeman said that there is an awful lot to go through and a considerable amount of work to do before policies can be amended or responses can be made.

Cllr Love said that it may be that the Traffic and Parking Group need to look at this and assess this.

Cllr Love said that it took almost two hours to go through one response. Cllr Freeman is doing almost all of it and there is an enormous amount of detail.

Cllr Love said that there is no question of anything underhanded going on behind the scenes but we do need to put a holding statement out to the community as it is a really lengthy job.

Cllr Love said that we are happy to speak to the farming community. The issue has come up a number of times. Cllr Baker said that he would like to meet up with the NFU representative.

## 71. Declarations of Interest

*Declarations relating to this meeting*

*Cllr Freeman – planning application for The Nursery Lodge*

*Cllr Love – planning application for The Nursery Lodge*

*Cllr Brown – Hall Hill Lane Bridleway*

## 72. Minutes of Previous Meetings

**RESOLVED** : that the minutes of the meetings held 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022 be signed as a true and correct record.

## 73. Neighbourhood Development Plan Update

Cllr Love gave major thanks to Cllr Freeman. Cllr Freeman said that they had completed going through all the responses. Half way through carrying out the amendments to the draft plan and hope to complete later this week.

Contact made with Dave Chetwyn and he is going to do a final check on the policies. Mr Chetwyn had stated that responses should not be published. Proper way it should be done is that the consultation document is published on the ESBC website. Awaiting costs for and independent examiner to do another check on the document.

Cllr Love said that he can't see the harm in publishing the responses.

Cllr Baker said that it may be appropriate to publish something before the next consultation. Holding statement to go out beforehand to go on the website.

Discussed whether a meeting should be arranged with Woodard/Savills. PC to approach Savills/Woodard.

## 74. Matters of Report

### - Parish Assembly

Not well attended, those that were there were constructive and great to see Mark & Gill from the Top Shop receive their award

### - Parish Surgery

Nobody attended – not enough publicity. Would be great to repurpose the Parish Surgery so that anyone who wishes to develop in the Parish could come to the Parish Surgery.

### - Footpath leading from Salters Grange to The Village Hall

Village Hall Committee has decided not to go ahead with replacing the barrier with an alternative.

### - Clerk & RFO Recruitment

**RESOLVED**: to form a recruitment group including Cllr Love, Cllr Dr Lockey and The Clerk, Advertisement to be placed with SPCA, noticeboards, website and local press.

## 75. Planning

P/2022/00453

**Peony Cottage, 8 High Street, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3BL**

Retention of garden area, alterations to boundary wall and rear parking area

No Objections

P/2022/00461

**Peony Cottage, 8 High Street, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3BL**

Listed building consent for retention of garden area, alterations to boundary wall and rear parking area

No Objections

P/2022/00439                      **Nursery Lodge, Lichfield Road, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3DN**  
Erection of a detached garden summerhouse and store  
No objections

**PERMITTED**

P/2021/01247                      **Victoria Cottage, Ashbrook Lane, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3DW**  
Application under Section 73 of the Town & Country  
Planning Act 1990 to vary condition 8 of planning permission  
P/2020/00473 relating to the demolition of existing  
outbuilding to facilitate the erection of a two storey  
detached dwelling and alteration to existing dwelling  
including associated car parking to allow the use of UPVC  
windows in lieu of timber, retention of alterations to the  
roof valley of the new dwelling and blocking up of a door

P/2022/00306                      **Bagot Arms, Bagot Street, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3DB**  
Reduce canopy by 1m, reduce abnormal growth back to  
canopy line and remove epicormic growth (T1 of TPO 54)

P/2021/01691                      **Abbots Bromley Sports Association, Lichfield Road, Abbots  
Bromley, WS15 3DN**  
Installation of flood lighting to all weather tennis and netball courts

**76. Financial Matters****i. Payments to be made**

22/2081	Mrs S Meads	576.69	Wages
23/2082	Mrs S Meads	11.80	Expenses
24/2083	Mr Simon Wilson	350.00	Unique Metals Payments
25/2084	Dr Helen Lockey	499.00	Bunting
26/2085	ASL	77.05	Photocopying
27/2086	SCC Pensions	226.81	Pension
28/2087	SCC Pensions	226.81	Pension
29/2088	G McCulloch	546.00	Grounds Maintenance
30/2089	Abbots Bromley WI	500.00	Section 137 Grant
21/2090	Abbots Bromley PCC	1000.00	Section 137 Grant
22/2091	ABSA	500.00	Section 137 Grant

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**RESOLVED:** to approve above payments

**ii. Monthly Finance Report**

Presented

**iii. Internal Audit Report 21/22**

Circulated prior to the meeting, signed by the internal auditor Toplis Associates Ltd

**iv. Annual Governance Statement 21/22**

Circulated prior to the meeting. Signed by Cllr R Love and the Clerk, Mrs S Meads

**v. Accounting Statements 2021/22**

The Clerk presented the Account Statements to the Council. These had been circulated prior to the meeting. Signed by Cllr R Love and the Clerk, Mrs S Meads

#### vi. **Exercise of Public Rights**

The Clerk reported that the date for the exercise of public rights would be 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 to 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022. Notices will be displayed on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

### 77. **Group Reports**

- **Recreation** – Cllr E Rodway-Bowden said that he had carried out an inspection, all three sites ok, Wood Chip on MG in need to a top up. The Clerk reported that there is still some woodchip at her home.
- **Village Property**, - Walk around to be arranged with the Village Property Team and the new Clerk.
- **Traffic, Parking, Highways** – need to check if Dr Whorwood still wants to be involved with CSW. Possibly contact Richard Clarke to see if any parents interested.  
Cllr Mrs Brown proposed that we purchase at least one Speed Indicator Sign, seconded it by Cllr K Baker. All members agreed.  
Traffic and Parking group to meet with the NFU, Clerk to contact the NFU  
Verges have been cut on School House Lane, Woodmill Lane – ask if this can be left again.
- **Competitions** – update on BKV. Put something on Spotted about next BKV visit. Include something in the School Newsletter.
- **Communications & Engagement**  
Much more community engagement. Make the Bulletin more interesting. Possibly include interviews with residents. Potentially more features and personal information. Include other events. Possibly collaborate with the Parish News.  
Potentially introduce a Facebook Account and Instagram for the slightly younger audience. Cllr Dr Lockey suggested we set up a Facebook page, suggested that it is a posting only page.  
**RESOLVED** ; to set up a Facebook page.

#### ***Cllr Freeman left the meeting***

### 78. **Correspondence, bulletins and reports**

All correspondence circulated prior to the meeting and contents noted.

- SPCA Newsletter
- Email from residents regarding fly-tipping at Blithfield Reservoir
- Email from Borough Councillor regarding fly-tipping at Blithfield Reservoir
- Email from resident regarding sewage spillage on Ashbrook Lane/High Street
- Internal Audit correspondence from auditor
- Confirmation of receipt of End of Grant report from Groundworks
- Email from County Councillor regarding funding available
- Emails regarding Bridleways, Hall Hill Lane – discussed at length  
**RESOLVED** : to object to the application for the Bridleway as this will make the path unsafe for walkers and potentially lead to cyclists and motorbikes using the lane as a cut through.

### 79. **Horn Dance**

Cllr Dr Lockey and Cllr Baker explained that the idea is to generate more buzz for the village. Do more on the green. Need to engage with the Horn Dancers. Keep it central. Report back at next meeting.

**80. Agenda items for next meeting**

Horn Dance, Clerk Recruitment,

**65. Date, time and place of future meetings**

Parish Council Meeting                      7.00pm Wed, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022

**Abbots Bromley Parish Council will do all it can to protect Abbots Bromley's heritage and village status and seek to enhance the well-being of the community by moving towards a greener and more sustainable environment.**