

ABBOTS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 29th June 2026 at 7.00 pm.
Held at Abbots Bromley Village Hall pursuant to notice having been given.

Present:

Cllr R Love, Cllr E Rodway- Bowden, Cllr R Garth, Cllr K Baker, Cllr H Lockey, Cllr T Froggatt, Cllr N Round, Cllr C Frame

In attendance: _

Miss L Parsons (Clerk)

Members of the Public Attending: 5

No.	Item	Action
1	Apologies for absence Cllr H Lockey, Cllr T Froggatt, Cllr C Frame	
2	Public Session <u>Ashbrook Lane Housing Development application</u>	
2.1	Residents attended to discuss the application and the Parish Councils response to the planning application. <u>Outline Planning Application – Parish Council Position</u>	
2.2	The proposed development is outside the settlement boundary, which is clearly defined in both the East Staffordshire Local Plan and the Abbots Bromley Neighbourhood Development Plan. Development in this location does not align with either document and is not supported by the community-approved planning framework for the village.	
2.3	The applicant's consultants have challenged the village's Housing Needs Assessment but have not provided evidence to support their claims. Their report makes several assumptions about local housing need that do not match the data gathered for our Neighbourhood Plan.	
2.4	The Borough Council's most recent published figure is 5.1 years. A new assessment was expected earlier this year but has not yet been released. Until updated figures are published, the applicant's arguments about housing need remain speculative.	
2.5	The applicant has stated that they consulted the Parish Council and engaged with 75% of residents. This is incorrect. The Parish Council was not consulted, and the leaflet drop carried out by the developer reached less than 10% of households. We have written to the Strategic Land Group requesting clarification and correction of these statements.	
2.6	The Parish Council believes this is a speculative submission, similar to applications being made in other rural areas. As this is an outline application, the decision relates only to the principle of development. If refused, the applicant may attempt to pursue a Rural Exception Site route; the Parish Council does not support this for this location.	
2.7	The Parish Council will publish its full objection once submitted, and we encourage residents to make their own representations to East Staffordshire Borough Council.	
3	Declarations of Interests None given	
4	To Approve minutes of meeting 20th April 2026 Not Covered	

5 To review the outturn position for ABPC 2025/6

Outturn Budget monitoring was shared with Councillors for review.

6 To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

Resolved subject to Chairs review, Chair to sign and confirm once reviewed.

Chairman Richard Love approved and signed the Annual governance statement on 30th June 2026.

7 To approve the Accounting Statement 2025/26

Resolved subject to Chairs review, Chair to sign and confirm once reviewed.

Chairman Richard Love approved and signed the Accounting statement on 30th June 2026.

8 To review the Internal Auditors report

Report of the Internal Auditor was reviewed and accepted by Councillors.

9 To discuss Burial GroundsBurial Ground Provision - Proposed Next Steps

Cllr Baker queried if current sites are not possible do we enquire about the Diocese site up Leatherhill Lane?

Cllr Love suggested the below approach-

1. Obtain a formal response from the owners of Gallimore's Field, including the reasons for any refusal if the site is not available.
2. Engage with the community.
 - o Once local options have been explored, communicate clearly with residents that, based on current projections, there may be no remaining capacity within the churchyard in approximately three years.
 - o Advise that, without further provision, future burials may not be possible within Abbots Bromley.
 - o Explain that the Parish is investigating options for additional burial provision, but that this would involve significant cost, time and resource.
3. Assess community support.
 - o Seek views from residents on whether they support the creation of additional burial space and whether they consider it a priority for the community.
4. Formally approach all potential local landowners regarding the availability of land for burial provision.
 - o Issue written requests with a clear response deadline of 21 days from the date of issue.
5. Exhaust all local options before progressing further
 - o Ensure that all suitable local landowners have been contacted and given the opportunity to respond.
6. Consider wider options if required.
 - o If no suitable local land can be secured and there is demonstrated community interest in further provision, extend enquiries to a wider geographical area.

Deadline: Formal responses from landowners to be received within 21 days of issuance of correspondence.

10 To discuss Neighbourhood plan review

- 10.1 Amendments to the Neighbourhood plan proposed within the community consultation were all ruled out apart from 1 as they were not considered minor amendments.
- 10.2 Amendment to the Neighbourhood plan which would ensure that developers were required to consult with resident's face to face was rejected by ESBC as it does not support the NPPF.

11 To update matters arising

See matters arising in supporting documents.

12 Traffic, Parking & HighwaysHighways repairs & maintenance

- 12.1 Cllr Rodway-Bowden advised that Narrow Lane and Ashbrook Lane repair issues were considered non-urgent. The drain on School House Lane has been repaired, the Miresbrook culvert is working correctly and has been added to the inspection schedule by SCC, and the area of Crown Bank damaged by fire will be re-tarmacked.
- Highways meeting with Staffordshire County Council
- 12.2 Highways representatives from Staffordshire County Council along with representatives from ABPC and Cllr Brown met to discuss highways and discussed potential traffic management measures that the Traffic Plan Group intends to bring to the Parish Council. Although the meeting was productive, promised minutes and formal responses have not yet been received. KB has contacted the County Councillor to follow this up.
- 12.3 Potential improvements discussed included access to Section 106 funding, support for Parish Council funding applications, the potential installation of a pedestrian crossing, double yellow lines, and possible pedestrianisation of certain public areas. Several legislative matters require further clarification.
- 12.4 Engagement with both the Police and the Highway Authority forms part of the Traffic Plan process. A requested meeting with senior police representatives was delegated several times, resulting in no attendance. Following further contact, a PCSO was arranged to engage with the group.

13 Recreation & Village Property

- 13.1 Cllr Rodway-Bowden has carried out his village walk, there are weeds coming through the lower area of Millenium Green, weed killing has been done on the Buttercross. Bark needs to be laid, Cllr Love to arrange. RL
- 13.2 Thanks are given to Sarah Meads for washing and storing the BKV banners and Andrew Cope for assisting in putting up the banners.
- 13.3 Cllr Baker suggested now that there is a lot more traffic going up to the village hall that a walkway is considered, Cllr Love to ask the Groundsman to quote. RL

14 Communication & Engagement

- 14.1 Cllr Love to discuss with Cllr Frame about taking on the social media project. Cllr Love advised that we need a method for sending out messages, need to get people to subscribe but also have it circular so it posts on everything insta etc. RL

15 Planning

- 15.1 Cllr Baker advised that ESBC are under enormous pressure to meet the number of homes introduced by this government, ESBC short of affordable housing, our main objection to the Ashbrook Lane should be that it is outside the settlement boundary but it would be missing a trick if we don't disagree to the affordable housing that may lead to a rural exception.
- 15.2 Cllr Baker to draft response to planning application for ESBC. KB

16 Representative reports

ABSA

No update.

Village Hall

Lots of events, shop is doing well, new booking system for room bookings is now live.

Alms-houses

AGM was held, all is going well, also responsible for the Colton Alms-houses.

14 Financial Matters

Resolved.

See supplementary documents.

15 Agenda items for next meeting

Burial Ground.

16 Date, time and place of future meetings

29th July 2026 7pm

DRAFT