

Parish Council sets budget

The Parish Council set a budget for 2007/8 that will result in a rise of just under 5% for the parish component of Council Tax.

When the Council met to consider the budget for 2007/2008, they had to allow for the possible cost of an election in May 2007. Since the costs will only be incurred if there is a poll, and the Returning Officer is currently unable to predict the exact cost, a provision for around half of the likely cost has been included in the precept (Council Tax) and the balance will be taken from reserves. This approach enabled the Council to keep the increase to under 5%.

The precept for 2007/2008 will be £19,500 compared to £18,800 in the current year. Changes in the number of taxable properties in the parish also affect the cost to individual tax payers.

As the Parish Council element of Council Tax (which also includes Borough and County Councils, Fire Service and Police) is typically around 2% of the total, this change is very minor in overall effect.

For a Band D Council Tax payer, the Parish Council rate for next year will equate to 7p a day.

Grant received for newsletter

The Parish Council has received a grant enabling improvements to the Bromley Bulletin newsletter—including the addition of photographs and a change to an A4 folded presentation.

Towards the end of 2006, the Parish Council applied for a grant, and has subsequently received a payment of over £1100 pounds to enable the purchase of an A3 laser printer and consumables for the first year of use.

The grant was awarded from funds only available to the still relatively small number of Councils that have met the "Quality Council" benchmark criteria.



Abbots Bromley Parish Council is one of the handful of Councils in Staffordshire that has achieved that distinction.

Bromley Bulletin

Welcome to our new format Bulletin, which the Parish Council hopes will make the Bromley Bulletin more readable. If you have any comments on either the format or the content, then please address them to Bob Esling the Bulletin Editor, Eric Roy the Parish Clerk, or any of the Parish Councillors.

How "green" is our parish? Editorial

We read a lot these days about a wide range of 'green' issues including climate change; CO₂ emissions; conservation; and recycling. Most of us accept and believe that we are indeed harming our planet and that we could and should do what we can to reduce the threat.



But, do we know what to do? Do we know where we can get advice and guidance on specific subjects? As a start, the Parish Council have invited a speaker to the Parish Assembly on 18th April in order to begin to address some of these issues.

The Parish Assembly will be an opportunity to see if there is a group of people who would like to take the lead by collecting and issuing information and establishing contact points for advice and guidance. The Parish Council will actively support such a group.

Annual parish assembly

7.30pm Wednesday

18th April In the Village Hall—look out for the pre-Assembly report available from Monday 2nd April

Meetings

7.30pm Wednesdays

In the Village Hall:

- 28th March
- 25th April
- 16th May

Surgeries

10-11am Saturdays in Church House:

- 24th March
- 26th May

Best Kept Village

Judging starts 1st May—help us to be well kept!

Parish Council information

Councillor	Tel no.
Philip Charles	840251
Clive Cook	840928
David Eatough	840902
Bob Esling	840778
Alan Elkington	841011
Linda Fox	840315
Roger Jarman	840678
Kate McLoughlin	840409
Jean Needham	840481



Parish Clerk	Eric Roy
Telephone	840153
E-mail	parish.council@abbotsbromley.com
Website	www.abbotsbromley.com/pc

Other useful numbers

Clarence: To report any problems with Highways, Lighting, Signs:	0800 23 23 23
ESBC waste management: To report full re-cycling bins at Schoolhouse Lane:	0800 26 90 98
ESBC Enforcement Team (Dog fouling):	01283 508 576
ESBC Planning Enquiries:	01283 508 570
Police: All non emergency calls:	08453 30 20 10

Abbots Bromley

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Think community!

Continuing the theme we initiated in the last edition, the Parish Council encourages people to 'Think Community'.

There are a number of ways we can all do that, and here are just three opportunities for people to get involved and support village organisations:

Parish Councillors

Council elections are set for this coming May.

Therefore, now is the time for anyone who is even vaguely interested to seek further information from the Parish Clerk about being a Parish Councillor and the election process.

Your Community needs representing and your input will be valuable and can make a difference.

Don't just leave it to someone else, make your own contribution.

Village Hall

This important and valuable village/parish amenity is open to all comers. It needs volunteers to act as Trustees and help manage the affairs.



There are currently three spaces on the committee for people who can give a few hours each month to assist with the Hall's administration and fund raising.

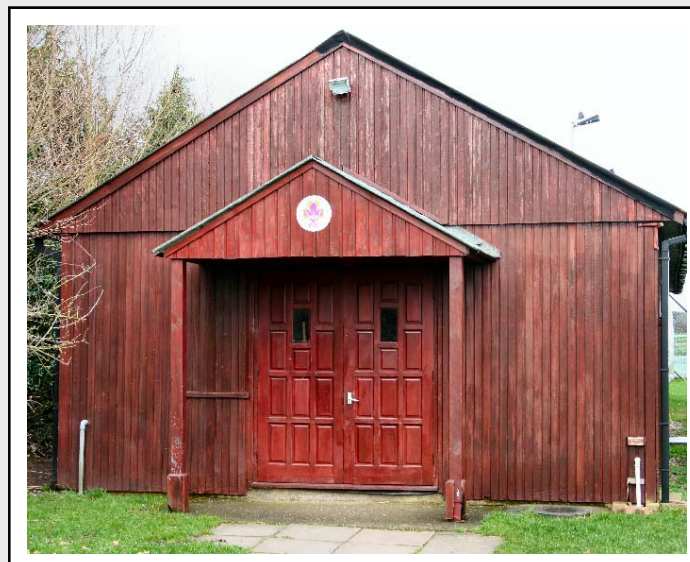
The Hall desperately needs your help!

If you would like to volunteer, or initially just to know more about what is involved, then please 'phone Mike King (Chairman) on 01889 500660. Don't delay, do it now!

Grant to Abbots Bromley Scouts and Guides

These organisations play a very worthwhile part in developing our young people. A number of adults give many hours of their time either leading active groups of youngsters, or supporting the Scouts and Guides organisation - and we should thank them for that. Recently the 'Hut' has needed some essential repairs in order to allow the groups to continue their good work in a suitable environment. The Parish Council is very pleased to have been able to make a contribution of £1000 towards the cost of these essential repairs.

This year marks the Centenary of the formation of the Scout movement and a number of local activities are planned to mark the occasion.



ABCFRs

The First Responders are now entering their third year of operation. So far they have attended some 790 incidents and brought trained assistance and support to a large number of people in and around the Parish. Inevitably the number of active members in the group has dwindled and the need for replacements is becoming more urgent.

This is very positive, active service to your Community.

Making the decision to commit to the training and the ongoing, regular commitment to the rota is not quick or easy. The first step is to talk to Colin Palmer (Coordinator), Helen Wilson (Secretary) or one of the active responders. They will tell you just how rewarding it is. Start that conversation soon.



Golfers light up the village

Although the Christmas tree on Abbots Bromley village green has been lit up in the past, this year saw a significant improvement following a grant from local golfers. The rather limited string of large bulbs used in recent years made way for more contemporary strings of LEDs in different colours.



The Parish Council were delighted to accept a kind offer from "Abbots Bromley Challenge", to help fund replacement lights. They are a group of golfers from the village and surrounding area who organise a golf day each year to raise funds for local causes.

The large tree was kindly donated by Mr Brandrick, and the replacement Western Red Cedar arrived in time to pose as part of a "little and large" display.

New planning contacts

Following some changes in responsibility at ESBC Planning, the relevant people to contact for Abbots Bromley are now Emily Waring (508570) for all general planning enquiries and Charlotte Greenway (508729) Area Planning Officer.

ABCFR drug portfolio

The Abbots Bromley Community First Responders are very pleased to inform you that following a lot of protest, and with support from a number of people including our MP Michael Fabricant, three key drugs have been re-instated for use by the responders.

Cinema bus service

On Wednesdays starting from 19th March, the Uttoxeter bus service 428 leaving Abbots Bromley at 1.45pm will divert to the cinema/Tesco arriving at 2.09pm. The return bus leaves the same site at 5.12pm arriving back in the village at 5.40pm. For further information contact Lillian Williams 840088

Neighbourhood Watch

To find out more about where in the village schemes already exist, or how to set one up, contact the Neighbourhood Watch Office on 01785 235 938 and speak to Emma Newlove or Simon Bullen who will be pleased to help.

Plastics symbols

Not sure which plastics you can recycle in the kerbside bins?



Look on the bottom of the container, and most times you should find a triangular symbol with a number.

It could also have some letters, but these do vary between manufacturers.

If the number is 1 (typically found on salad trays, water and fizzy drink bottles) or 2 (often used for milk, bleach, cleaner and shampoo containers) then you have an item that can be recycled in your kerbside bin.

