



Annual Report



May 2010
Version 1

This report has been compiled by Abbots Bromley Parish Council using input from a number of different sources. Any views expressed are those of the original authors and do not necessarily coincide with those of the Parish Council

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To be added after the meeting
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To be added after the meeting
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Introduction

The annual report

The purpose of this annual report is to make freely available information about the work of the parish council and other community organisations. The council hopes that you will find the information useful and understandable.

This report aims to bring together in one place key details about the activities of the parish council in a manner recommended as good practice by the government for Quality Councils.

Summary to all homes

A summary of this annual report from the parish council is to be included in the July 2010 ***Bromley Bulletin*** distributed to all households in the parish.

Also available on-line

An electronic copy of this report is available on the village website where you can view it or print your own copy – www.abbotsbromley.com.

Council Members and Officer – 2008/09

Council Members

Roger Jarman 840678 Chairman
New Cottage, Goose Lane, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3DE

Ray Bell 841090 Vice Chairman
20 St Nicholas Way, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3EB

Debbie Burrows 840058
61 Seedcroft Lane, Abbots Bromley WS15 3DS

Philip Charles 840251
Birchwood Rise, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3EA

Alan Elkington 841011
Fairview, Ashbrook Lane, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3DW

Linda Fox 840315
Coleshill Lodge, Lichfield Road, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3DN

Karen Johns 840381
59 Seedcroft Lane, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3DS

Roger Mills 840703
The Crofts, Market Place, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3BP

Caroline Veitch 840361
14 Alfred Lyons Close, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3EY

Officer:-

Mrs Sarah Meads 01283 840891
Clerk to the Parish Council
Marsh Farm, Uttoxeter Road, Abbots Bromley, Staffs, WS15 3EJ
Email: parish.council@abbotsbromley.com

WORKING GROUPS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Working Groups

The chairman and vice chairman are entitled to serve ex officio, on all groups

Working Group	Member(s)
Competitions	Cllr Mills
Finance	Cllrs Elkington, Mrs Fox and Mrs Burrows
Newsletter	Cllr Jarman (Editor) Cllr Mrs Johns (Editor) Cllr Elkington (Distribution)
Planning	All Councillors
Recreation	Cllrs Charles, Elkington, Mrs Veitch
Traffic & Parking	Cllrs Elkington, Mrs Fox , Mills
Village Property	Cllrs Bell, Mills
2009/2010 Youth Project	Cllrs Jarman, Veitch, Johns, Clerk and Mr Ryan

Representatives

Almhouses	Chairman – ex officio
Crime & Social Issues	Cllrs Charles and Mrs Johns
Fairtrade	Cllr Charles
Finance Officer	Cllr Mrs Burrows
Richard Clarke First School	Cllr Mrs Burrows
RISES	Cllr Mrs Fox
School Governor	None
United Charities	Cllrs Charles and Elkington
Village Hall	Cllr Mrs Johns

**Reports to the Annual Parish Assembly
Wednesday, 19th May 2010 6.30 pm
In the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley**

Introduction: Again this year for the Parish Assembly the various verbal reports are replaced with written statements. This document contains the reports submitted in advance of the assembly, and question on the contents may be asked during the open forum. Additional reports will be added after the meeting.

Contents:

Parish Council Report	Roger Jarman
Parish Council Finance	Sarah Meads
Village Hall Report	Simon Wilson
Community First Responders	Colin Palmer
Community Transport	David Thompson
Richard Clarke First School	John Hough
Youth Initiative	Caroline Veitch
Staffordshire County Councillor's Report	Philip Atkins
East Staffordshire Borough Councillor's Report	Verbal by Alex Fox
Parish Council Financial Statement	To be added
Minutes of the Parish Assembly 2009	

Omissions: None

Issue Details: Version 1 – 14th May, 2010

Changes: None

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Planning – This year we have consulted on 70 planning applications compared to 32 last year.

The major planning concern this year has been the redevelopment of **Portfields**. The ESBC Planning Department assured us that it was only going to be a single occupancy dwelling. The reality of ten en suite bedrooms, four of which are in the basement with separate living accommodation, and a two roomed summer house with an en suite shower room, made us concerned that this may not ultimately be the case. Unfortunately the ESBC Planning Department would not allow us an on site meeting with them and the developer to clarify the situation. In addition, none of the original building now remains after the developer demolished the part of the house that was supposed to be retained.

Ivy House, High Street. Plans have now been submitted to refurbish into 3 dwellings, rather than the developers original desire to demolish and rebuild.

The refurbishment of **Cedar Cottage** on the Village Green is well underway and looks as if it will remove a major eyesore.

We have also received initial notification of the replacement of our **Fire Station** although this may be in some years to come.

In general the ESBC Planning Department have not responded well to our concerns, in particular **Portfields** and also regarding a new garage at **Waterside, Mires Brook Lane**. Plans can now be viewed on line, but the notification is always posted before the plans are available, thus reducing the time we have to comment.

Wind Farm – No further developments to report.

Bromley Bulletin – This has now reverted to an A3 format, and has this year been issued in July and April.

Christmas Tree – We must again thank the Brandrick family for donating an excellent tree. Our own tree growing on the Green is still too small, and maybe for several years to come.

Parish Council Surgeries. These bi-monthly surgeries have continued, although on occasions the Councillor attending has had a very lonely morning.

Membership of the Council. At the end of the last Parish year, we still had one vacancy. In June we were pleased to co-opt Mrs Debbie Burrows onto the Council.

Parish Clerk – Following the resignation of Mrs Sue Buxton we appointed Mrs Sarah Meads as our new clerk from 1st January.

Best Kept Village Competition. We did better this year. In our region we came third in the Large Village group, being beaten by the winners Yoxall, and Barton-under-Needwood.

Traffic and Parking. - Large HGV's still continue to plague our village. SCC has reviewed categories of roads and has, regretfully, concluded that the B5014 and B5234 through Abbots Bromley are correctly classified, therefore there will be no restriction on HGV's

We were also hopeful that SCC's imitative to introduce 20 mph zones outside schools would be applied outside Abbots Bromley School for Girls. Unfortunately as this is a private school it will not be considered.

The introduction of white parking restriction lines outside of The Goats Head has certainly improved the visibility and subsequent safety in that part of the village. Similar lines will be introduced at the top of Goose Lane in the near future.

Youth Project. – This has perhaps been the most important development of the year. Thanks must go to everyone that has been involved in raising both the funds and enthusiasm for this project to be successful. Special mention must be made of Mr Phil

Ryan, Cllrs Caroline Veitch, and Karen Johns, and the youth of the village. Their efforts have raised £26,709 from the Staffordshire Environmental Fund, £25,000 from the Criminal Justice System, £12,500 from the East Staffordshire Borough Council, and last (but certainly not least) £6,903 from the Parish Council. This has allowed the total revamp of the Millennium Green, the establishment of a five-a-side football pitch behind the Village Hall and also the re-establishment of a Youth Club. All of which have been a major success. Thanks again to the drivers of the Youth Project, the support of the Staffordshire County Council, the Village Hall Management Committee, all the volunteers, and the members themselves.

Neighbourhood Working. This is an initiative by ESBC to establish Borough wide forums to raise subjects that are of concern to individual Parishes – in our area, traffic, waste collection, health service, drug taking, underage drinking, and bus services. Input is obtained from SCC, ESBC, the PCT, and the Police. It is early days, but progress should be reported at next year's Parish Assembly.

Part of this initiative is the involvement of local PCSO's in Parish affairs. Unfortunately we have lost ours – Jayne Booth – through lack of funding!

Mr Hareford. A bench, funded by Rises and Richard Clarke School, has been placed on the Green in memory of our much respected and missed School Crossing Patrolman.

Millennium Green. The "ownership" of this has now been passed from the Millennium Green Trustees to the Parish Council.

**Cllr Roger Jarman
Parish Council Chairman**

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

The parish council has its own Financial Regulations, which set down the rules by which the finances of the council are managed. The council employs an independent internal auditor who reviews the financial records. At the end of the year an audit return is completed and submitted to the Audit Commission for the purposes of external audit.

The council's financial regulations can be viewed on the website or via arrangements with the clerk.

The unapproved financial statements for the council for the year to 31st March, 2010 will be tabled at the Parish Assembly and the final accounts for the year added after the parish council meeting on 24th May, 2010.

**Sarah Meads
Parish Clerk**

ABBOTS BROMLEY VILLAGE HALL

At the AGM in April the current committee and Trustees were re-elected for a further year. Whilst the committee were happy to stand again, new people are needed to come forward to make up a full committee to ensure the hall offers what hirers require from the facility. We would like to thank Mike King, Peter Smith, Eric Roy and Peter Linney who have now all stood down, having put in many hours work at the village hall to keep it in the good condition it is in.

The hall has had a new boiler fitted to improve the heating, this was made possible through grants received from ESBC and the Community Council of Staffordshire. At the moment we are waiting an improvement in the weather to allow for the painting of the exterior wood work.

We would like to thank the youth group for their fund raising to allow for the huge improvements to the grass area to the rear of the hall.

Finally I would like to thank all the committee for their work in keeping the hall running to its high standard.

Simon Wilson
Chairman of the Management Committee

Bromley Community First Responders – 2009/2010

The Abbots Bromley Community First Responder group reached its 5 year anniversary in February 2010. Current call numbers since inception approach 1850.

We continue to achieve almost 100% availability of our voluntary service.

A recent recruitment campaign may eventually increase our number of active responders.

The group would like to thank those persons and groups who have made contributions to our charity's funds over the year.

Colin Palmer
Co-ordinator

Abbots Bromley Community Transport

In the last year the community transport clocked up a mileage of 3,032 miles. We still have 6 drivers.

Last year we received a grant of £484.00 from Staffordshire County Council and this year the grant has gone up a bit to £489.00. Out of this I have to pay the insurance which has now increased to £197.18 and pay the drivers what they have earned.

The Queens Hospital, Lichfield Station, Rugeley, the Doctor's Surgery and Morrison's Shopping are still the most used places.

The scheme is still working very well.

We don't have a big demand, but what we do have keeps us going,

David P Thompson
Co-ordinator, Abbots Bromley Community Transport

Richard Clarke First School Report

Here is a brief summary of some key elements of the past 12 months.

Financial: The budget for 2010/2011 has just been agreed by the governors; it is in line with previous budgets. The total budget allocation for 2010/2011 is £396,500, compared with £351,100 for the previous financial year.

The Local Authority has offered the following background information.

2010-11 is the final year of a three year schools funding settlement covering the period 2008-2011 so we have no indicative budget for subsequent years

The increase in the amount of dedicated schools grant per pupil is 4.2% for 2010-11. However, much of this increase has to be used for children with special educational needs (SEN).

As in previous years, the fall in pupil numbers across Staffordshire could bring additional pressures to individual school budgets.

School costs are expected to rise by 3.1% in the coming year. Our funding only allows for a 2.1% increase, thus giving us an efficiency improvement target of 1.0%.

Some Early Years funding for all 3 and 4 year olds is included in our budget. About 1/6 is withheld and allocation will be based on actual delivery during the year.

No areas of RCFS spending are very different from other similarly funded schools in the Local Authority. Teaching Staff remains our highest; Support Staff are next. Will still consider the use of TAs for cover to be best value for the school and will pursue this policy as far as possible in 2010/2011. Costs for energy saving are being monitored and we have had 'smart meters' fitted for both gas and electricity.

Yet again, the fundraising of our excellent PTFA, for which we are very grateful, has had a major impact on the purchase of luxury learning resources, enhancing both the curriculum and the learning environment.

Number of Pupils: The number of pupils on our roll varies widely from year to year, and this directly determines our funding. In 1998 our number on roll was 145; by 2001/2002 it had fallen to 107. We expect to finish this year with 109 pupils on the roll; we have 26 leaving at the end of this academic year and, currently 20 signed up to join us next year. Such fluctuations in numbers in a small school like RCFS can cause some financial distress.

Only in extreme circumstances would we consider combining year groups and, thankfully, we are some way away from that. We can cope with some intake variation in our financial planning and one small cohort in the school is not a problem. However, we would not be able to manage if we had a sequence of lean years. Worryingly, we are currently forecasting an intake of only 86 for 2011/12. This is too far into the future to affect this year's budget planning, but it is an unwanted, small black cloud on the horizon.

We still take nearly 25% of our children from outside our catchment area and this enables us to support our ideal of one year group per class. However, this is a significant reduction on the 40% of a few years ago. We try to publicise the excellence of RCFS via our web-site and by open days and targeted notices around our area. However, we would also hope that the local community would seize every opportunity to inform their friends and family, in other villages of course, what a great First School there is in Abbots Bromley.

Staffing: At this moment the school staffing is not a major issue. We have excellent teachers in all classes, each supported by a Teaching Assistant. Our newest recruit, Jodie Legrove, joined in September 2009, to replace Rebecca Brooks who left on maternity leave, in Reception Class and has made a flying start. Rebecca is now rejoining us to take over the teaching of Year 1 from the ever-reliable Sharon Briggs, who is Supply cover. We also have Jasmine Harley in Reception, who is doing a Teaching Assistant apprenticeship paid for by the Local Authority.

Premises: There have been major investments in premises over the last year, in particular the new central heating boilers (funded by the local authority) and a complete refurbishment of the Early Years classroom. This latter investment, from RCFS funds, is considered to be particularly important because it is the main focus interest for parents who are looking for the best first step on the educational ladder for their youngsters. This development also included a minor redesign for the library and the conversion of the work-room into the "Brain Box". It has clearly impressed the children and, hopefully, their parents.

The most significant change to RCFS premises for many years is still in the late planning stage and I hope to broadcast its successful implementation in next year's report. Tom Thumb Nursery is relocating to the RCFS site. It will have a purpose-built building in the far corner of our site behind our existing buildings. The Nursery is entirely independent from the school but, of course, most of the nursery children will graduate into RCFS Reception class. It is therefore critically important that we make the arrangement work to the satisfaction of both organisations, parents, children and, of course, OFSTED.

School Performance: We have not had an OFSTED inspection in the past 12 months, but we have been assessed by our school inspector (SIP), based on the published, on-line statistics. At Key Stage 1, "standards are significantly above the national average in all subjects" The inspector's provisional judgements which can be used in the Self-evaluation (SEF) supplied to OFSTED are that quality of teaching; assessment procedures; meeting pupils' needs; effectiveness of care, guidance and support; and effectiveness of leadership and management are all **good**. This matches our previous OFSTED result, but these new criteria, I am informed, are more searching. We were also highly rated for the way we have sustained improvement, despite a number of unexpected changes to staffing.

School Self-Review: Parents' Questionnaire: We conducted our annual survey of parents' views and received an excellent response.

Do you agree with the following statements?	% Agree
My child enjoys school	100.0%
The school keeps my child safe	100.0%
	97.2%
My child is making enough progress at this school	97.2%
The teaching is good at this school	100.0%
The school helps me to support my child's learning	100.0%
The school helps my child to have healthy lifestyle	100.0%
The school makes sure that my child is well-prepared for the future	100.0%
The school meets my child's particular needs	100.0%
The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour	94.1%
The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns and has an open door policy	100.0%
The school led and managed effectively	100.0%
Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at this school	97.2%

Note: We had 36 responses, so each individual response represents 2.8%

It would have been good to see 100% agreement across the board but this is quite unrealistic in such a small school. Nonetheless, every observation made by parents is followed up and there is a clear action taken to address it, added to the School Improvement Plan (SIP).

Parents were also asked to tell us what they considered to be the greatest strength of RCFS and what single thing they would like to see improved.

The dominant 'positive' comments all focused on one or more of the following

- Happy, kind, safe environment; friendly atmosphere
- Excellent approachable staff; caring, happy teachers
- Well-led school
- Good response to parental concerns & communications
- Excellent learning environment

The main 'room for improvement' comment, suggested that it would be good if we could find room in the curriculum for more physical activity (e.g. PE). This suggestion has been taken on board and we will be adding even more to our after-school clubs and activities.

We also conducted a survey amongst the children, who, with only a few exceptions, think that school is great and the teachers are kind and helpful.

This year, for the first time, the staff did not escape interrogation. It was particularly pleasing to note that all staff, teaching and support, believe that they are a vital part of part of a well-led, effective team and that their contribution to RCFS was shown the respect that it deserved.

Other matters: The school has been successful in its bid for funding from the Royal Society to develop outdoor learning. This is a notable achievement because there is stiff competition for such funding. We intend to use the money to support environmental projects for all year groups, centred on the Goat Lodge Nature Reserve. This is an amazing resource which we have not exploited as fully as we should following the sad death of Phil Drabble. A complementary bid has also been made to the Local Authority for support for outdoor learning. This is in keeping with RCFS's strategy to develop 'environmental studies' as one of its great strengths.

Yet again, for the fifth year running, pupils from Richard Clarke First School have won a number of SAFTAs, awarded by Staffordshire County Council, for digital movie-making. The awards, presented in an Oscar-style ceremony at the Gatehouse Theatre in Stafford, reward and inspire the excellent and creative use of ICT that is now taken for granted in school every day.

We have established contact with a large, multicultural school in Birmingham and Year 2 pupils have already visited. A number of joint projects will introduce the two sets of pupils to the very different environments in which each live and work. This is part of our community cohesion strategy and is vital to breaking down misconceptions which can easily become prejudices.

Summary: RCFS continues to prosper despite the economic turmoil of the times. However, despite assurances that education will be protected from political interference (i.e. 'efficiency savings') whoever has won the General Election, we have to remain focused on good financial management. The teaching and management teams at RCFS are continuing to achieve the many teaching and learning objectives that have been set. To the traditional demands of teaching and learning, has been added the high-priority need for the safeguarding of our children. This is deemed, by OFSTED to be so important that schools are automatically failed if procedures are not in place or not followed, even if their academic performance is outstanding.

We are confident that we are, by any yardstick, an excellent school, but we must remain financially sound. We must market ourselves to increase the pupil intake over the next few years; we must examine all opportunities to find additional revenue streams for the school; and we must make sure that we find efficiency savings to optimise our budget. In all of these objectives we welcome any help, advice and support that the community of Abbots Bromley can offer.

John Hough
Chair of Governors, Richard Clarke First School

Youth Initiative

The Parish Council, working together with the Youth Committee, has now finalised the youth project which encompassed re-establishing a youth club, revamping the Millennium Green play area and building a 5-a-side football pitch at the back of the Village Hall. The Youth Committee raised nearly £60,000 for these projects, with the youth of the village securing additional funding of £2,000. In addition, the Committee worked closely with other village organisations such as the Scout Association and the Cricket Club to provide enhanced facilities which will be made use of by the youth of our village.

The Youth Club began in December 2009 and is fully supported by Staffordshire County Council who provide one paid youth worker with the Parish Council also funding a youth worker. The club then relies on a group of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers who turn up each Tuesday night at the village hall ready for anything! The response so far has been fantastic with around 20 to 30 children attending each week and feedback has been great.

The Millennium Green has been open for some months now and is proving to be extremely popular. There is still some reseeded of the banks which will hopefully take over the next few months but barring that everything went according to plan. This is a great area for our children to meet and play together and we hope that they will be encouraged to look after it to ensure that it continues to be enjoyed for many years to come.

The 5-a-side football pitch was completed at the end of April and has only just been opened to ensure that the turf had time to establish itself. The pitch looks great and comes complete with a dugout for spectators and storage for equipment. The only thing we didn't stretch to was lighting but we have put the foundation work in for this so if we have sufficient funds at some point this will be considered.

The Parish Council and the Youth Committee are extremely proud of the facilities provided and we hope these are looked after and enjoyed by the village for many years to come.

Cllr Caroline Veitch

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR UTTOXETER RURAL DIVISION - REPORT

This is my first Report since the County Council Election last year.

I am now Leader of the County Council and on a number of other bodies. Among these are Staffordshire Strategic Partnership, West Midlands Leaders Board, the Joint Strategic & Investment Board and many more. The Leader appoints all political positions except the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council and Audit Committee. I am also Chairman of Staffordshire Local Government Pensions Panel and a Police Authority Member.

The past year has continued to be a difficult one with the economic climate.

It also highlights the fact that the new administration arrived at the height of the worst recession for 30 years. Action to counter its affects has focused on helping small business and families. These include:

- £150,000 for the Citizens Advice Bureau to help people struggling with the affects of the recession
- £1 million package of support to local business through the Staffordshire Business Support Fund
- Freezing the rents of over 200 business who are tenants of the county council's enterprise centres
- Campaigning to scrap proposed increases on taxes on empty business buildings that threatens the recovery
- Shop Local campaign in Uttoxeter and Newcastle, with more to come in Cannock and Tamworth
- Expanding SCC's apprenticeship scheme to help more young people into work and support other organisations who wish to take on apprentices.

The county council is investing heavily in the county's infrastructure. While making Staffordshire a better place to live and invest, it also provides direct employment opportunities.

Initiatives include an extra £30 million for the county's highways at no extra cost to the council taxpayer.

We inherited the Tipping Street project in Stafford which we have turned around from a project costing £1.5m a year over 30 years into one that saves £250k a year over 30 years. This will provide the most cost-effective premises in the region while significantly boosting the economy of Stafford's town centre by releasing 17 other sites.

The Council is also investing in schools. An expanded £100 million Building Schools for the Future programme which will transform education opportunities in Tamworth has been expanded to include Rugeley with £30m. We are also consulting on the creation of academies where they suit local needs, such as at Blake Valley in Cannock.

My Group's Manifesto put particular emphasis on the local member's role, extending influence on local budgets to aid decision making on strategic direction and local priorities. The Strategic Plan, "Staffordshire Unites" sets out the way this will be done with 5 core values. We have a motto, "The Knot Unites" and it is One Staffordshire County Council, here to serve the people of Staffordshire.

That is why we have launched Staffordshire Cares. This will provide an innovative and new way of delivering adult care services. It will be simpler for people to use and co-ordinate services previously provided organisations such as social services, housing providers and the NHS. It will also help cut out duplication and waste. We have already formed a groundbreaking partnership with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to develop key services for older people. We are also developing Extra Care facilities in partnership with our Housing Associations which will enable people to live independently with proper support.

We are also tackling issues that matter at real local grass-roots level. Introducing 20mph speed limits outside schools for parents and young children; encouraging voluntary working so people can help themselves to make their communities better places to live.

We have successfully campaigned to cut Staffordshire's regional quota of 65% for sand and gravel quarrying to 55%. Coupled with reduced demand because of better recycling this really will save our countryside from devastation.

The Waste to Energy Plant at Four Ashes is progressing with final selection of contractor soon. The funding for this is in place and planning permission has been granted.

Above all the county council is committed to delivering value for money. It has delivered the lowest ever increase in Council Tax since 1993 when it started at 1.9%. County councillors have voted to freeze their own allowances in a show of unity with staff members, who are also facing a pay freeze.

We are also committed to finding £80 million of savings through innovations over the next four years by driving out waste while keeping value in our front-line services.

From these figures you can see that much is continuing to change at the County Council in its strategic role and the amount of work and funding that is needed. It is not impossible; it just needs management of the highest calibre that no amount of Public Relations will conceal if it is not up to scratch. We need to prioritise the priorities and stop doing some things.

Locally last years **Staffordshire Local Community Fund** went to:

Kingstone Local News	600.00
Kingstone Parish Council	400.00
Denstone Village Hall Committee	1000.00
Blithfield & Admaston Village Hall	600.00
St Marys Roman Catholic Church	220.48
St Michaels Church Rocester	2,000.00
Leigh Cricket Club	1000.00
Uttoxeter Lions Club	350.00
Stafford Furniture Exchange	500.00
Duke of Edinburgh's Award committee	1000.00
Dove Valley Community First Responder	1,000.00
Mayfield Panthers Junior	1329.52

Funding helped seats for Kingstone village play area, news sheets, tarmacing Denstone VH car park, First Responder Blue Light Training, replacement cooker at Admaston, better community space at St Mary's in Uttoxeter and St Michael's in Rocester, Leigh Cricket Club's adult volunteers ECB coaching certificates, wicket improvements, funding to provide footpaths at an old folk's home, Stafford furniture exchange, Mountain Leaders training costs and level 1 & 2 training to attain coach & coaching badges in Mayfield Panthers.

All good community projects where a little money has gone a long way.

If anyone wants to apply for funding from this year's £10,000 for local schemes, the forms are available from the County Website. £1,000 is already allocated to the Staffordshire Hoard Fund.

Locally after meeting Highway officials Loxley crossroads was prioritised, funding to a national Sat Nav project and traffic calming. Rocester will benefit from funds coming from the JCB Academy. Last year saw the completion of the footway from Stramshall to

Uttoxeter and ESBC Parking Committee has agreed funding for Mayfield and altering Rocester waiting times.

I have also been involved with the Stubwood Tanker dispute.

I was pleased to attend the unveiling of a bench in memory of Ron Hareford on the village green in Abbots Bromley commemorating 14 years of service as a school crossing patrol. It is work such as Ron's which keeps our communities alive and vibrant.

This is only a snap shot of the many things that I come across in a year and if anyone wishes to know more on any subject do not hesitate to contact me.

Finally I want to place on record my pleasure in working with Alex Fox as Bagot Ward Borough Councillor and Leader of ESBC.

I look forward to working in similar vein with his successor.

Philip Atkins

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Tel:01889 590922

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Mobile: 07973 820345

Cllr Philip Atkins

<p style="text-align:center">EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCILLOR BAGOTS WARD - REPORT</p>
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Alex Fox, former Leader of the Borough Council and Councillor for Bagots Ward will give a verbal report.

<p style="text-align:center">Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Wednesday, 20th May, 2009 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given</p>

Present: Cllr P Charles (Chairman)
Jean Biggs; Richard Blower; Harry Burrows; Susan Burrows; Helen Davis;
Simon Davis; Enid Ferguson; Len Ferguson; Alex Fox; Linda Fox; Gill
Grundy; John Hough; Barry Joynes; Lesley Purden; Roger Rooke; Marilyn
Shaw; Caroline Veitch; Ken Webb; Valerie Webb;

In attendance: PC Richard Boulter; Mrs Sue Buxton – Parish Clerk

Apologies: Sue Knipe; Mary Mills; Roger Mills; Colin Palmer; Elizabeth Palmer;
Eric Roy; Phillipa Roy

1. **Chairman's Welcome and Report**

Cllr Philip Charles welcomed everyone to the meeting and his report was taken as being read having already been circulated.

2. **Presentation of the Jubilee Cup**

The Chairman informed everyone that the normal practice is to present a certificate to last year's winner of the Jubilee Cup, but unfortunately, Mr Hareford had passed away during the year.

The Chairman presented the Jubilee Cup for 2009 to Harry and Sue Burrows who have provided wonderful service to the village through the Post Office. Mr Burrows said they were both delighted and honoured to receive the cup and to be able to work in the Village Post Office.

3. **Abbots Bromley United Charities**

The accounts of the United Charities were presented and they were signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

4. **Minutes of the Parish Assembly 2008**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 20th May, 2008 be signed as a true and correct record

5. **Parish Council Accounts**

A draft summary of the un-audited accounts for the parish council to 31st March, 2009 were tabled

6. **Open Forum**

The Chairman invited questions from the meeting on any topics relevant to residents within Abbots Bromley:-

- **Fairtrade – Helen Davis** - Lichfield City Council obtained Fairtrade status last autumn and there were a number of people in Abbots Bromley who felt it was a worthwhile aspiration for the village. In November last year, the parish council adopted a Fairtrade Policy. The next step is for local businesses and shops to stock some Fairtrade goods. All residents who receive the Lichfield Mercury will also have received a leaflet about Fairtrade. The next step is to approach businesses and shops
- **PACT Meetings – Alex Fox** – there had been a PACT meeting the day before the Parish Assembly which had been very successful. Cllr Fox urged residents to attend the meetings and to engage in community dialogue, as if the PACT meetings are not supported they will be lost.
- **ESBC Hot Spots Scheme – Alex Fox** – Cllr Fox reported on the ESBC's Hot Spots scheme which presents an opportunity to report items of an urgent nature to hopefully get some action taken
- **Thank you – Alex Fox** – Cllr Fox thanked the parish council for all their work on various village issues and the Post Office for still being there, open and providing such good service
- **Junior Football Club** – currently there are three teams and hopefully a 4th from September. The under 8s play in the top division, under 9s in Division 2 and the under 12s in the third division. Home matches are currently being played on Kingstone playing fields. Thanks were expressed to the parish council and Cllr Jarman for the work they have undertaken in trying to resolve the issue of there being no pitch available in Abbots Bromley. Thanks were

also given for the donation from RISES which had been used for new goal posts

- **Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) from ESBC** – the parish council is against the large scale development that the SHLAA proposes and these views have been sent to ESBC. The SHLAA is part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) which is a new way of delivering planning throughout the country. The government has set housing targets – for ESBC the target is 12,900 houses to be built by 2026 by the private sector. A year ago there was a consultation and sites could be put forward. The full list of sites would have given 36,000 homes. A consultation is now taking place on the list of sites. The next stage in the LDF is the formulation of the Core Strategy
- **Traffic Issues and Speedwatch** – information gathered by the Speedwatch teams has been forwarded to the Police. Warning letters are sent out to offenders and if a pattern appears to be developing then the police may come in and carry out monitoring at appropriate times. No data is collected on HCV traffic in the Village. Any other data besides speed monitoring data can be collected by SCC. Thanks were expressed to the Speedwatch team for all their work. A discussion took place on whether further data gathering could be undertaken by SCC, e.g. perhaps on weight restrictions. SCC are also responsible for appointing a lollipop man, and they are currently looking.
- **Lighting** - during the year the lights have been changed on the Market Square and a light shielding experiment was carried out. This was not successful and the lighting project is now completed.

There being no other business the chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Signed _____ Date _____