

Abbots Bromley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday, 29 November at 7.30 p.m.
in Church House, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given.

Present: Cllrs: PJ Charles, LG Ferguson (L Fe below), MM Moore, C Talbot, SM Tonking (Chairman) and S Wilson.

Apologies: Cllrs. L Fox, RSV Jarman, KA McLoughlin, and Borough Councillor A Fox.

Also present: PJ Youngs (Clerk)

Members of the public attending Cllr. P Haynes, Mayor of Burton, Rev S Davis and Mrs G Grundy.

Minute 78: Public Session

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Haynes who, in turn, stated that he wished to take the opportunity in his year in office as Mayor to see a number of parish councils in operation. He also stated that he thought the Borough should be more sensitive to the concerns of local communities as expressed through their parish councils.

Rev S Davis expressed the hope that the Council would consider favourably the request of the PCC for assistance with bills for the maintenance of the Churchyard for the summer of 2000. He presented copies of invoices for the period.

(The scheduled business of the Council recommenced at 7.40 pm.)

Minute 79: Approve and sign the Minutes of the last Meeting, 1 November 2000

It was proposed (L Fe), seconded (CT) and agreed that the Minutes be signed as a correct record subject to the following:

- (i) Mr and Mrs Roy's "attendance" should be recorded as visitors to the Meeting, and
- (ii) the insertion of the indefinite article on page 2, line 4 before "number"

Minute 80: Matters arising

- (i) Page one: The Chairman stated that Mr Eric Roy has placed a card in the Post Office announcing the Abbots Bromley Website and inviting comment on this.
- (ii) Page four: Minute 69.8 The Clerk announced that he had been unable to attend the SPCA seminar on Highways on 7 November owing to flooding in Stafford; the course has been rearranged for 23 January 2001.
- (iii) Page five: Minute 70.2.2. The Clerk reported that spring bulbs had been delivered to Richard Clarke First School. Cllr. Ferguson said that the Headteacher had voiced her appreciation.

- (iv) Page five: Minute 70.3.5. The Clerk said that, for technical reasons, it had proved to be no simple task to achieve the cleaning of road signs from delegated funds; the Highways Department has requested a list of signs which are in an unsatisfactory condition and proposes to replace them. Unsatisfactory signs have now been reported.

Minute 81: Planning

81.A Applications

- (i) **HO/26338/001: Rose Cottage, Market Place:** erection of a detached garage (amended plans)
PC response: no objections
- (ii) **PA/11009/005: Ashbrook Lane:** erection of 10 detached dwellings and vehicular access.
PC response: The following is the text of the letter sent to the ESBC Planning Department on 30 November 2000:
- “1. Location. It was noted that such a development would increase traffic along Ashbrook Lane, which has recently been subject to traffic calming measures in order to address recognised traffic problems on this main road entering the village. Furthermore the access point on to the Lane from the development is both where the Lane is at its narrowest and on a bend in the road. Accidents have occurred along this stretch of road in the past.
 2. Nature of development. The Council is generally not averse to developments of a ribbon or linear nature since this is consistent with the nature of much of the housing in the village. However, the proposed development is not of this nature, consisting as it does of a block of housing on a field which is predominantly set back from the existing highway, and, if approved, would set a precedent for similar developments to be built on other green field sites which, as this one, fall within the area designated for residential development in the village.
 3. Type of housing proposed. The Council share the disquiet of many local residents that this village has insufficient low-cost housing which can be afforded by local people, especially younger people. In sharp contrast, this proposed development will do little to address such a deep-felt need and may actually contribute to the locally-perceived problem of forcing younger people from the village by denying them the opportunity to buy property in the village in which they have been brought up and in which their families have lived for generations.

The Parish Council wishes the most serious consideration to be given to these objections”

81.B Decisions

The following applications have been PERMITTED

- (i) **PF/08602/008/AG Field House Farm: construction of a covered feed yard:** Copy of letter to NFU in Lichfield states: “the Local Planning Authority has no objections to the proposed development and therefore the prior approval of the Authority will not be required in this instance. The development should be carried out within the next five years”
- (ii) **OU/12768/010 Land adjacent to 39 Paget Rise:** Renewal of outline permission for erection of one detached dwelling.
- (iii) **HO/01605/007 Crofts Barn, Schoolhouse Lane:** installation of two windows on rear elevation and one rooflight on side elevation.

81.C Other Planning Matters:

Reply to queries submitted in letter 093/00 concerning a number of developments as follows:

- (i) **Breach House Farm - carport.** “This does require planning permission because the owners have exceeded their permitted development rights on the site.” A letter has been sent stating that they are “required to either remove the carport or apply for retrospective planning permission”
- (ii) **Goose Cottage -replacement windows** “This is not a listed building. Although it is in a Conservation area the fact that replacement windows are wooden means that they do not require planning permission”
- (iii) **10 High Street - front door surround** ditto (ii) above.

Minute 82: Financial Matters

82.1 Finance Statement for November.

It was proposed (CT), seconded (L Fe) and agreed that the Statement be accepted.

82.2 Report on Payments made since the last Meeting.

The Clerk reported that, following consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman:

- (i) a cheque for £5.00 had been sent to UKIC (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation) for access to their register for suitable contacts in connection with the renovation of the War Memorial, and
- (ii) a cheque for £60.00 had been paid to Mr GC McCulloch in connection with highways maintenance work which he had undertaken; reimbursement of this payment from SCC is awaited.

82.3. Bills to Pay

One invoice was introduced for payment, the Council being called upon to make this payment from the New Village Hall Building Account. **It was proposed (MM), seconded (PC) and agreed that £93.41 be paid to Woodward Electrical for electrical work at the hall.**

82.4 Section 137 requests

It was proposed (MM), seconded (CT) and agreed that the Council, in accordance with a decision taken and communicated earlier in the year, to contribute immediately a sum of £400.00 to the PCC towards the total cost of £611.00 for churchyard maintenance. It was also agreed that a further contribution be considered towards the end of the financial year when all Section 137 requests would be subject to review.

82.5 War Memorial renovation.

The Chairman reported her contact with the War Memorials Conservation officer concerning the grant application. She was advised that two further quotes would be necessary for the

conservation work before the application could be processed. She reported that of two quotations sought for the work of renovating the Memorial one had been received by telephone with the assurance that it would be posted without delay. Addressing the specification for which Linford-Bridgeman Ltd had quoted £4,956.00, Michael Eastham of Wantage had telephoned a quotation for the work to be undertaken for the sum of £2,771.00. A third quotation sought is awaited. Councillors agreed to leave decisions to the Chairman and Vice Chairman given that the Council is not due to hold a regular meeting for two months.

Councillors did not consider it appropriate to adopt a suggestion expressed by one local resident that metal hooks should be inserted to the base of the War Memorial for the placing of wreaths.

82.6 New Village Hall

The Chairman reported that the final account for the hall is expected shortly. Cllr Haynes complimented all concerned for their efforts in achieving such an impressive hall for the village.

82.7 Public Toilets

82.7.1. The Clerk reported that seven letters had been received in response to the Newsletter's appeal for comments upon the closure of the public toilets in the village. All regretted the closure. The Clerk summarised the arguments put forward in the various letters; the greatest regret voiced was the loss of an amenity for visitors to the village, a point which, it was generally felt, sits ill with the ESBC's understood concern to promote tourism.

82.7.2. The Chairman said that she had not been able to make contact with the licensee of the "Goat's Head" but her contacts with the Borough's officer responsible for conservation suggested that he was reluctant to agree to the posting of signs relating to parking in the vicinity of the public house.

82.8 Wreath for Remembrance Day.

The invoice for the wreath has not yet been received but **it was proposed (CT), seconded (L Fe) and agreed that it should be "rounded up" and paid in accordance with the practice of previous years.**

82.9 Christmas Tree in the Market Place.

Councillor Wilson stated that he was under the impression that the tree would again be supplied and, as before, there would be no charge. He was asked to supply the donor's details to the Clerk so that a letter of thanks and appreciation could be written.

82.10 Other Financial Matters.

Devolved maintenance: The Chairman stated that a letter had been received indicating that, in future, the sum, currently £800.00 p.a., would be increased in line with inflation. **It was proposed (L Fe), seconded (MM) and agreed that the Clerk be asked to contact Mr McCulloch to request that he undertakes a programme of removing vegetation and other obstructions from drains.**

Minute 83: Group Reports

83.1 Recreation.

83.1.1 Lease on land off Schoolhouse Lane. The Chairman stated that she anticipated that the Borough would shortly announce that the School had agreed to proceed with the lease on the basis of a £10 million public liability - at least for a period of ten years. There was general agreement that on this basis the Chairman should be given approval with signing the Lease when requested to do so.

83.1.2 Revised mobile library arrangements The Chairman introduced a letter received from the Cultural and Corporate Services Department of the County Council suggesting revised arrangements for the mobile library service. One suggested departure from present practice is the announcement that the service will operate at times when it could be accessed by school children. Councillors, while welcoming the prospect of an enhanced service, expressed the hope that there would be no diminution of existing arrangements in so far as the library van services different locations in the village (to the benefit of those incapable of travelling any distance beyond their homes) and is available at various times throughout the day. The Clerk was asked to write to express these concerns and to request a visit by a representative of the service when both the new arrangements could be explained in detail and misgivings addressed.

83.2 Village Property

83.2.1. Tree Planting. The Chairman announced that a site meeting had been arranged for the following day with a representative of the County Highways Department to decide on the best location for tree planting. It was hoped that a suitable site alongside the Uttoxeter Road could be identified.

83.2.2. Damage to the Buttercross. Cllr. Wilson drew attention to some minor damage which had been caused to the roof of the structure by a school bus colliding with it. The Clerk was asked to notify the appropriate department of the County Council with responsibility for it.

83.2.3. Skip for bulky waste. The Clerk was asked to contact the Borough in order to obtain dates when the skip is due to be brought to the village.

83.2.4. Street cleaning. The Clerk was asked to discover the current and future programme (for 2001) of street cleaning in the village.

83.2.5. Grass verge at the junction of Lichfield Road/Ashbrook Lane. The Chairman stated that ownership of - and therefore responsibility for maintaining - this strip of grass had not yet been established. It was agreed that it need not be an insuperable problem to drawing up of a grass-cutting tender document since this task could always be added as a "one off" item from time to time.

83.3 Traffic and Parking

83.3.1. The Orchard The Clerk was requested to write to R & D Motors requesting that vehicles are not parked outside this property in a way which inhibits the owner's entry or

egress. It was considered that this was a necessary first stage in attempting to achieve a satisfactory resolution of the problem. If this failed to secure an improvement then the placing of suitable signs opposite the property should be investigated.

83.3.2. Various highways matters. The Clerk was asked to bring the following matters to the attention of either individual residents or the appropriate highways authorities:

| Location | Description of necessary remedial action |
|--|--|
| Spring Cottage, Ashbrook Lane Narrow Lane Mill Green Lane | Overgrown hedge causing difficulties of visibility for drivers joining the highway from Birchwood Rise. blocked gully adjacent to Preedy's Close. willow tree outside Mill Green Cottage is leaning over the road in a dangerous manner. |
| Goose Lane - in the dip between High Ash Farm and the Seedcroft triangle | blocked drain - and road surface "like glass" outside High Ash Farm |
| Port Lane | road surface in a very poor condition and requires attention. |
| Schoolhouse Lane - extension Lichfield Road | farmer to be requested to remove mud from the road deposited from adjacent field. three bollards missing from the first build-out on leaving the village. |
| Crown Car Park Fire Station | remove abandoned car remove damaged cars |

83.4. Competitions

Nothing to report

83.5 Rural Housing

The Chairman informed the meeting that progress was being made regarding the purchase of a piece of land at the Fire Station and an offer by the Housing Association which had been made to the Fire Authority was likely to be accepted.

83.6 Newsletter

Cllr. Ferguson appealed for articles for the next edition which, he hoped, would be published in late January 2001.

83.7 School Governor's Report

Cllr. Ferguson reported that:

- (i) the headteacher had expressed her appreciation of the spring bulbs which the Council had given to the school,
- (ii) the Community Arts Project held in the summer had been a great success, having been well-supported by parents, local residents and village organisations.

Cllr. Ferguson went on to say that a full governors' meeting has not, so far, been held this term.

The Clerk drew attention to a notice received from the County Education Department seeking names of individuals who might be considered suitable to fill a vacancy for an LEA governor at the school. Cllr. Moore was asked to approach either Mr or Mrs Sayer and, if either were willing, to notify the Clerk.

Minute 84: Grass-cutting tender document.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for preparing the document which had been circulated with papers prior to the meeting. The draft was agreed with minor amendments which the Clerk was asked to incorporate into the finalised document.

Minute 85: Village Information Leaflet/Village Design Statement

The Chairman stated that a meeting had been arranged with the Newsletter Group on 11 December when the issues would be addressed; it was expected that a progress report would be brought to the next meeting of the Council.

Minute 86: "Late bus" from Uttoxeter schools to the village.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for the work he had done in researching this matter. Councillors agreed that with the cost of £50.00 a day (totalling £9,500.00 p.a in a full school year) it was not feasible to pursue it further. The Clerk was asked to express thanks to the heads of the various schools who had expressed their views on the proposal.

Minute 87: SPCA Advisory Notes, Autumn 2000

No issues were raised for discussion.

Minute 88: Projected dates for Meetings, 2001

There was general agreement on the proposed dates put forward though the Clerk was asked to check the date of the Autumn half term in order to determine the placing of the October Meeting. The dates agreed therefore are as follows:

| | | | |
|------------|-------------|----------|--------------|
| 31 January | 28 February | 28 March | 25 April |
| 23 May | 27 June | 25 July | 26 September |
| 24 October | 28 November | | |

It was further agreed that the Annual Budget-setting Meeting should be held on 10 January and the Parish Assembly on 11 April.

Minute 89: Correspondence.

The Chairman drew attention to documents received as set out in the Clerk's report.

Minute 90: Items for the Agenda of the next Meeting

Suggestions were as follows:

- (i) Invitation to Mr Jim Muir or a member of the department which he leads to discuss the new mobile library arrangements.

- (ii) Report by Clerk on meetings which he will be attending
- (iii) Jubilee Cup.

Minute 91 Date, time and place of the next Meeting

The next meeting, which will take the form of a budget-setting meeting for the financial year 2001/2, will be held on Wednesday 10 January in Church House, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

The Clerk was asked to write a letter to the Mayor of Burton-on-Trent thanking him for his attendance at the Meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.45 p.m.

Chairman..... dated.....

Proposed:..... seconded.....