

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday, 31 January 2001 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), L Fox, RSV Jarman, KA McLoughlin, MM Moore, C Talbot, M Tonking (Chairman) and S Wilson.

Also present: PJ Youngs (Clerk)

Apologies: Borough Councillor A Fox.

Members of the public attending: Mesdames J Crooks, H Meadows, S Templar
Messrs. M Brown, R Fearnett, G Turner, T Wheeldon.

Minute 92 : Public Session

The Chairman welcomed members of the public explaining the procedure whereby any matters of local interest could be raised and would be considered formally by councillors in due course. Cllr. Tonking explained that after the public session members of the public would be welcome to remain but they could not participate in the Council debates.

1. Mr Fearnett, supported by Mr Wheeldon, appealed for Parish Council support in seeking rear access to be facilitated should the proposed housing development on the Fire Station site proceed. Both argued that it would have local benefit in so far as it would enable their vehicles to be taken off the public highway, viz. Bagot Street. The Council advised that Parish Council involvement would not be appropriate until documentation had been received from the Planning Department of the Borough; in the meantime Cllr Tonking suggested that an approach could be made to Mr Williams of the Beth Johnson Housing Association which was sponsoring the proposed development.
2. Mrs Crooks, supported by other members of the public, vigorously criticised the style of kerbing currently being laid in Bagot Street, replacing the granite setts. The Chairman explained the
 - (i) the Parish Council had received no advanced notice that the work was due to begin, and was surprised that a stretch of the highway in High Street was included in the current programme, but that
 - (ii) the Council accepted, “with reluctance” the need for the setts to be replaced since
 - (a) they did not allow such a sufficient “rise” as to deter drivers from mounting the pavement at will and
 - (b) they were in need of constant maintenance.
3. Traffic calming on the Uttoxeter Road. Members of the public pointed out what were perceived to be the shortcomings of the traffic calming arrangements which, it was adjudged, allowed insufficient distance between the two buildouts as to permit vehicles to pass with ease. There were also suggestions that the buildouts were not sufficiently visible in the dark. The Chairman stated that the arrangements were still under review and Staffordshire County Council had already demonstrated a willingness to make alterations should criticisms be considered valid.

The public session concluded at 8.00 p.m. when the scheduled business of the Council resumed.

Minute 93: Approve and sign the Minutes of Meetings as follows:

- (i) **29 November, 2000**
- (ii) **11 December, (Extraordinary Meeting)**
- (iii) **10 January, 2001 (Budget-setting Meeting)**

It was proposed (L Fe), seconded (CT) and agreed that the three sets of Minutes be approved subject to the following:

- (i) 29 November
page 5 (83.1.1) “approval with signing” to read “approval to sign”, and
page 7(83.7) “Mr and Mrs Sayer” to read “Mr and Mrs Sayers”.

Minute 94: Matters Arising

- (i) **29 November:**
 - (ii) Minute 83.2.1. The letter from the Highways Department granting permission to plant trees along the highway has been received
 - (iii) 83.2.2. Whilst the damage to the Buttercross has been reported a report from English Heritage suggest that the structure is in satisfactory order.
 - (iv) 833.2.3. The Borough has agreed to a bulky waste collection for Saturday 10 March. Details will be posted in the village.
 - (v) 83.2.4. A detailed schedule of street cleaning has been received from the Borough. Cllr. Wilson agreed to peruse this in so far as it relates to Abbots Bromley.
 - (vi) 90 (iii) The Clerk apologised from failing to omit the Jubilee Cup from the Agenda of the current Meeting. The Chairman invited consideration before the next Meeting when the item would be tabled for discussion.
- (ii) **11 December:**
None
- (iii) **10 January:**
None

Minute 95: Planning

95.1 Applications

(i) FP/11009/006 Diversion of footpath No 12 - re proposed Walton Homes development

PC response: unable to give a response since conditional upon a development which, in its present form, the PC is unable to support

(ii) PA/05230/005 Erection of two semi-detached, three bedroomed houses and four two-bedroomed terrace houses, Fire Station site, off Goose Lane

PC response: No objection: welcome for smaller, affordable houses in the village

(iii) HO/24030/006 Breach Farm House, Retention of oak framed car port

PC response: Councillors invite you to examine carefully the purpose of this structure described in Mr Hollyoake's letter to Mrs McManus as a "hay barn garden feature", but elsewhere in the Borough's own documents as an "oak framed car port." Closer examination of the situation of the structure suggests to councillors that the building is too far from the house to serve as a car port. It is also noted that such a sturdy structure - oak timbers and a cedar shingle roof - could be covered in at some future stage and used for other purposes than described here, e.g. for residential use.

The Council therefore wishes you to re-examine more closely the purpose of this structure both for the present and for the future.

(iv) PA/20532/002 Radmore Wood Cottage: erection of two storey and single storey rear and side extensions, erection of detached double garage with attached replacement agricultural building, installation of a septic tank and alterations to vehicular access.

PC response: Whilst there is not a fundamental objection in principle to this development a number of councillors

- (i) share misgivings regarding such extensive extension of a small Victorian cottage in a rural setting.
- (ii) query an apparent contradiction in the submitted papers regarding the intended use of a replacement agricultural building; your attention is drawn to
 - (a) paragraph 2a of the certificate A (which states that "*none of the land ...relates to ...an agricultural holding*") but
 - (b) paragraph 4 (section i) states that "*present use of the buildings ...(is) .../part agricultural*"

(v) PA/11009/005 Erection of ten dwellings off Ashbrook Lane Amended Plans

PC response: The Parish Council's views regarding this development remain as stated in my letter to you dated 30 November 2000, ref. 108/00. In reviewing the amended plans councillors wish particular note to be taken of the following **objections**:

- (i) the proposals fail to accord with the principle of linear development which, as previously stated, is a marked feature of the village and one which the Council wishes to maintain with regard to all future development.
- (ii) with an estimated twenty additional cars this can only exacerbate existing traffic problems where the access point would be on a bend in the road and where there is not an adequate footpath.
- (iii) an additional strain would be placed upon the sewage disposal system.

These objections are offered in conjunction with the objections set out in the previous letter on this matter.

(vi) PA/.008978/001 Grange Farm: retention of office and storage of motor vehicles.

PC response: The Parish Council remains overwhelmingly opposed to this proposed development. The removal of the hedge to improve the sight line does not significantly affect the situation: the access point is just beyond a bend where, it is considered, traffic dangers exist.

In summary, the Council's objections, set out in its letter to you dated 26 August, 2000, ref. 033/00, remain.

(vii) **HO/19899/004 10 Paget Rise: alteration to front elevation**

PC response: No objection

(viii) **CU/26439/002 Blithe Farm: Conversion of cart shed to residential use and installation of a septic tank**

PC response: No objection to the proposal but the Council considers that there is a blind bend in the approach road, Orange Lane; before there is any increase in traffic this potentially dangerous situation should be addressed.

(ix) **CU26439/003 Blithe Farm: Conversion of existing cowshed into residential use and installation of septic tank**

PC response: see above for (viii)

(x) **HO/26440/002: Anta Cottage, Bagot Street: erection of a two storey side extension**

PC response: no objection.

(xi) **HO/06956: The Cottages, Ashbrook Lane: erection of a rear conservatory**

PC response: no objection.

95.2 Decisions

The following applications have been **PERMITTED**, subject to stated conditions

(i) **HO/13080/003 15 Lintake Drive: erection of a front porch.**

(ii) **CU/11528/011 & 012 Subdivision of unit 4 to two dwellings and conversion of vacant agricultural building to two storey office block, Yeatsall Farm.**

(iii) **HO/26338/001 Rose Cottage, Market Place: erection of a detached garage.**

CU/11528/012: Yeatsall Farm: conversion of vacant agricultural building to form single storey office block.

95.3 Planning correspondence

(i) It was reported that a copy of letter, sent by Mr TB Wheeldon on 21 December to ESBC Planning Department, had been received regarding the proposal to erect houses on Fire Station site in Abbots Bromley. Mr Wheeldon is requesting that vehicular access to the rear of properties in Bagot Street is facilitated by this development - if only to alleviate traffic congestion caused by parked cars in Bagot Street.

(ii) A copy of a letter from Mr and Mrs B Waring to ESBC Planning Department objecting to the proposed building of ten houses off Ashbrook Lane has been received. Copy of the Council's letter of objection sent to Mr and Mrs Waring after consultation with the Chairman.

95.4 Other Planning Matters

95.4.1. The Chairman raised for consideration a number of planning documents produced by HMSO, speculating that it could be helpful for councillors to be more aware of the principles behind planning decisions. It was agreed to raise this matter again under "Finance".

95.4.2. Cllr. Jarman queried whether what appeared to be a board advertising the work and services of a local builder should be permanently displayed outside a property in Lichfield Road. The Clerk was asked to make informal enquiries of the Borough Planning Department.

95.4.3. Cllr Charles reported that a large tree had been heavily lopped in Hall Green Lane. The Clerk was asked to discuss the matter with the Borough's Officer responsible for Tree Preservation Orders.

95.4.4. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr D Williams, Senior Development Officer of the Beth Johnson Housing Association Limited stating that the council is aware that some residents are seeking to obtain rear access to their properties should the Fire Station development proceed. It should be stated that the Council will give its response to this request when contacted, in due course, by the ESBC Planning Department.

Minute 96: Finance

96.1 Finance Statements for December 2000 and January 2001. The Chairman drew attention to the fact that these had been circulated with the calling papers as enclosures a (1) and a (2). **It was proposed (PC), seconded (L Fe) and agreed that both statements be accepted, subject to the amendment that on the January statement "Museums and Galleries" be changed to read UKIC.**

96.2 Report on Payments made since the last meeting. These were given as follows:

Date	Payee	Sum due	Explanation
011200	npower	84.59	quarterly floodlighting bill
221200	AB Poppy Appeal	15.00	wreath for Remembrance Service
221200	Cllr S Wilson	4.77	purchase of additional Christmas tree lights
221200	GC McCulloch	60.00	cleaning out drains, etc. Highways Maintenance - to be reimbursed

96.3 Bills to pay. The Clerk stated that the following payments were due.

Payee	Sum due	Details
SPCA	15.00	Course fee: 230101
R Tough	85.00	Payment for inspection of Millennium Green - 13 weeks
PJ Youngs	795.93	Salary and expenses - 13 weeks.
Studiocraft	8.70	Copy paper for Newsletter
Community Council of Staffordshire	sum to be agreed in light of the publicity material required.	Best Kept Village Competition and posters.

It was proposed (CT), seconded (L Fe) and agreed that the above payments be made.

96.4 Section 137 Requests

None

96.5 War Memorial Renovation

The Chairman reported that discussions are currently taking place with Woolley and Wainwright and Michael Eastham respectively concerning their final submissions for the contract (see Minute 96). At the same time she stated that a case for a grant from the Friends of War Memorials would be considered at their April meeting.

The Council expressed satisfaction with the c.v. presented by Mr Eastham.

In contacting both contractors the Clerk was asked to point out that work could not commence before the Council has been notified of the outcome of its request for a grant.

96.6 Public Toilets

Mithra: I wonder whether what I have written on this this needs stating?? I was not asked to contact the Balchins about the toilets, though I have not acknowledge this letter. I could make mention in writing on the parking issue - if only to say that I am aware that you have been in touch with them.

The Chairman stated that she had contacted the licensees of “The Goat’s Head” who had expressed some dismay on learning from reading the Newsletter that the Council had decided not to proceed with an arrangement whereby the toilets could be re-opened to the public. The Council had stated that there had been no intention to give offence and good relations have been restored.

96.7 Best Kept Village Competition, 2001

It was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk should collaborate on the preparation of the document which must be completed in support of this year’s application. **It was proposed (CT), seconded (L Fe) and agreed that thirty copies of the advertising poster be obtained at a cost, including the entry fee, of £15.00.**

96.8 Other Financial Matters

96.8.1. The Chairman announced that the Council is due to receive an invoice from ESBC for approximately £200.00 as a contribution towards the cost of the entertainment on Horn Dance Day, 2000.

96.8.2. **It was proposed (L.Fe), seconded (CT) and agreed that a copy of the HMSO Planning document PPG General Policy and Principles be purchased at a cost of £8.50.**

96.8.3. Grass Cutting. The Clerk stated that the Area Surveyor, Mr E Smith was willing to hold a site meeting in the village to discuss respective County Council and Parish Council responsibilities in respect of grass cutting. The Clerk was asked to arrange the meeting.

Minute 97: Group Reports

97.1 **Recreation**

97.1.1 The lease on land off Schoolhouse Lane. The Chairman reported that the completion arrangements were well in hand. There was now agreement on boundaries. It was proposed that the developer be contacted regarding the boundary fence which would be constructed between the land where the houses would be built and the Council's land to the rear. It should be suggested that if the contractor would fence the whole area the Council would pay for the section surrounding its land. (*Mithra: the developer was not mentioned. Did I get this point clearly? If so, do you know who I should contact?*) The Clerk was asked to contact Mr J Barker stating that there was no objection to him grazing sheep on the Council's land until it was in a position to take it over.

97.1.2 County Council Mobile Library Service. The Council still awaits further details concerning the pilot scheme announced for Abbots Bromley.

97.2 Village Property

97.2.1. Cable for floodlights to War Memorial It was suggested that the Clerk contact npower informing the company of the pending renovation of the War Memorial and to suggest that the opportunity be used to inspect, and to replace if necessary, the cabling to the floodlights.

97.2.2. Christmas Tree. The Council thanked Cllr. Wilson for arranging for the placing of the Christmas tree on the Green in December. Cllr Wilson asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Alan Shenton of the South Staffordshire Water Company for providing the tree.

97.2.3. Tree Planting. The Chairman reported that, in association with the Vice Chairman, she had arranged for a number of trees to be planted in the village. Five crab apple and five wild cherry trees would be planted on the Uttoxeter Road and on the Millennium Green.

97.2.4. Buttercross. The Clerk was asked to contact again the relevant department at the County Council regarding to the recent damage which had been done (see Minute 83.2.2).

97.2.5. Narrow Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk should negotiate for Mr G McCulloch to spend a day tidying vegetation and removing leaves and mud from drains and that payment should be from devolved Highways monies which are still available.

97.3 Traffic and Parking

97.3.1. Proposed traffic calming at Bromley Hurst. The Chairman read a letter from Mr Simon Edwards of SCC who had examined the case for the proposed measures. Mr Edwards reported that, for a number of reasons, not least that it is a road in a rural area which does not have the essential requirement of street lighting, the proposals could not be supported by the County Council. The Council accepted this advice; the Clerk was asked to contact Mrs Sanderson who had introduced the proposal, enclosing a copy of Mr Edwards' letter.

97.3.2. Ashbrook Lane, site meeting. The Chairman reported on the site meeting which had been held on 26 January to consider, in particular, the buildout adjacent to "Sumach", the property of Mrs N Rogers. In consequence, the officer representing SCC has agreed to produce proposals to amend the current structure, narrowing the existing buildout but introducing a buildout on the opposite side of the road, so that traffic will be compelled to pass in the centre of the road, rather than to the south side.

97.3.3. Lichfield Road: bollards. It was reported that a number of bollards are missing; the Clerk was asked to report this deficiency to the Highways Department at Lichfield.

97.3.1. Traffic calming: Uttoxeter Road. It was reported that the traffic calming arrangements are being monitored by SCC. It is currently being suggested that better lighting should be introduced and perhaps more reflective material since visibility is not good at night. A further suggestion is that planting boxes might be installed in order to prevent drivers from being able to “see through” the structures and making premature decisions to proceed.

97.3.2. Clerk’s letter to Mr A. Mason (SCC) dated 24 January. It was agreed that this letter summarised highways matters reported in 2000 but still outstanding. The Clerk stated that he would continue to seek to ensure the satisfactory completion of the various items of maintenance.

97.3.3. Letter received from the licensees of the “Goat’s Head”. The Chairman read a letter from Mr and Mrs D Balchin setting out the parking difficulties which they and their patrons are experiencing outside their premises. It was agreed that it was a matter in which the Parish Council should not become involved but that the Balchins should make a direct approach to the company whose vehicles, they assert, are being parked on their forecourt.

97.3.4. Footpath maintenance work. Councillors debated the work currently being undertaken. It was acknowledged that the Council had agreed “with reluctance” some two years ago to having the setts replaced but there was surprise that such little notice had been given of the work commencing. Furthermore, when the matter had been under discussion with the officer representing SCC, attention was focused exclusively on the stretch of Bagot Street - north side only - from Paget Rise to the Market Place. In the light of the fact that a section of the High Street has also be identified for the same work the Clerk was asked to notify the officer responsible that this should not take place until there has been proper consultation with the Parish Council.

97.4 Competitions:

Top Team Quiz. It was announced that the village team would be competing at Admaston Village Hall on 6 February at 7.45 p.m.

97.5 Rural Housing.

The Chairman announced that a difficulty had been encountered by the Beth Johnson Housing Association which proposed to build a number of affordable dwellings on the Fire Station Site. There is a problem of visibility at the access point on Goose Lane and negotiations with a local resident over the acquisition of a small piece of frontage land which would solve the problem have stalled.

97.6 Newsletter.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Ferguson and members of the Newsletter Group who had produced the recent edition of the Newsletter - Number 14

97.7. School Governor’s Report

Cllr. Ferguson stated that he had nothing to add to the report which had appeared in the recently-published Newsletter.

Minute 98: Grass cutting contract 2001

The Clerk reported that he had taken advice of SCC officers who had stated that it was common practice with contracts issued by them to extend for a period of four years - with an option to renew for a further two years. **In the light of this it was proposed (CT), seconded (LF) and agreed that the new tender document should announce that it would be expected to operate for three years with an annual review of salary built into it.**

The Clerk stated that he would be publishing the document in the normal way; that there would be a period of at least three weeks before the closing date for tenders and that these would be brought to the next meeting - 28 February - for consideration.

Minute 99: Village Information Leaflet.

The Chairman circulated a draft of the Leaflet. It was agreed that the Newsletter Group should be assembled to consider the draft in details.

Minute 100: Issues arising from SPCA Advisory Notes, No 93

The Chairman drew attention to the document which had been included with the calling papers. Particular attention focused upon item 00/144 with concerns expressed that contractors vehicles might use roadways in this parish as a matter of course. The Clerk was asked to make the necessary enquiries of the contractor's Community Relations Manager and to report to the next meeting.

Minute 101: Report by Clerk on SPCA/SCC Highways Department seminar attended on 25 January

The Clerk gave a brief report on this meeting. He stated that it was evident that considerable importance is attached to the DETR White Paper for Rural England: "Our Countryside: the future". This document has important clues as to the role which parish council's will be expected to fulfil in the future. We possess a copy of this document, together with a summary.

It is also clear that the Highways Department values an effective partnership with local communities - and considers parish councils to be their "eyes and ears" in the countryside.

Minute 102: Correspondence.

The Chairman introduced correspondence as follows:

- (i) copy of letter from Mr AM Deeks to n/power regarding frequent interruption to the power supply to a number of properties in the Market Place and High Street. The Clerk was asked to write a suitable letter in support;
- (ii) invitation by the Mayor and Mayoress of Burton upon Trent to a Charity event on 16 March. No councillor expressed a strong wish to attend and the Clerk was asked to communicate with the Mayor's office accordingly.

Minute 103: Items for Agenda of next Meeting

The following items were suggested:

- (i) Jubilee Cup (The Clerk was asked to make contact with Mrs C Cadman with a request to produce a certificate, in line with normal practice, to commemorate the award of the trophy to Christine and Mike Lewis in 2000)
- (ii) Award of grass cutting contract
- (iii) Review of Parish Council storage of material and documents in Church House.

Minute 104: Date of the next Meeting

The next Meeting will be held in Church House on Wednesday 28 February at 7.30 p.m.

The Meeting concluded at 10.10 p.m.

Chairman Date

Proposed: Seconded.....