

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday, 27 June, 2001 at 7.30 pm
in Church House, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given.**

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

Apologies: Cllr. RSV Jarman.

Also present: PJ Youngs (Clerk), Borough Councillor AJH Fox.

Members of the public attending: Mrs J Crooks.

Minute 27: Public Session

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Crooks and asked her to raise any matters of concern to her.

Mrs Crooks, speaking as the Chairman of the Parent/Teacher Association of Richard Clarke First School, referred to the communication from the Royal Mint which had been sent to the Parish Council and which, subsequently, had been passed to the Headteacher of the school. The letter referred to medals which were to be struck in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee in 2002 and which would be available for purchase, together with the additional option of portraying on the reverse side a feature of local interest.

Mrs Crooks stated that she hoped that a medal could be given to every child in the village up to the age of sixteen. This would entail an order of between 350 and 400 medals, costing in the region of £1,400.00. She acknowledged that it would be necessary to consult more widely on whether or not there would be sufficient local interest to justify proceeding and then to identify the main sources of finance, though she expected parents to be the main contributors through a children's party and a young people's disco. In the meantime, and because the Royal Mint required early notice of orders, Mrs Crooks expressed the wish that the Parish Council would agree to pay the sum of £200.00 for taking up the option of the reverse side stamping of the medals; this, she stated, might be the Abbots Bromley Horns insignia.

Finally, Mrs Crooks stated that she was seeking general support for the undertaking, commencing with the Parent/Teacher Association of the school.

On a totally unrelated matter Mrs Crooks expressed the hope that when the contractors came to replace the granite setts on the southern side of Bagot Street full account would be taken of the narrowness of the pavement at certain points in respect of wheel chair users.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Crooks for making her contribution to the meeting and stated that the Council would give due consideration to matters raised by her at the appropriate stages later in the meeting.

The normal business of the meeting resumed at 7.55 pm.

Minute 28: Approve and sign the Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 23 May.

It was proposed (L Fe), seconded (SMT) and agreed that the Minutes be signed subject to typographical errors in Minutes 21.2.1. and 21.2.2. These were duly corrected.

Minute 29: Matters Arising

The Clerk raised the following points for note:

Ref Minute	
14	Statements of acceptance of office by the Chairman and Vice Chairman have been received and filed.
20.6.3.	A letter stating the willingness of the Council to purchase items to assist with litter picking has been sent to Mr R Tough though no response has been received.
21.3.2.	A letter to the police reporting sundry items of concern has been sent to the police and a card of acknowledgement received.
23	Notification has been received that a committee has been set up to explore further the initiative referred to as “A New Focus for Uttoxeter and Beyond” and the Clerk will be kept informed of, and will report upon, any developments.
25	Cllr. Peter Davies, Mayor of the Borough of East Staffordshire, has accepted an invitation to attend Horn Dance Day on 10 th September.

Minute 30: Planning

30.1 Applications

- (i) **HO/05551/005: Sunnybank, Lichfield Road:** erection of single storey rear extension and conservatory.
PC response: No objections
- (ii) **PA/20532/003: Radmore Wood Cottage, Abbots Bromley:** erection of detached building with agricultural store and garage on ground floor and office and store on first floor.
PC response: “Councillors’ views remain the same as when previously asked to comment upon this proposal, viz. “the Parish Council does not object in principle ... but it is concerned at the possible increase of traffic on Radmore Lane which is already narrow and largely single track.” Also, it is noted that the property will be served by delivery vans and questions should be resolved concerning the probable size of these vehicles given the other aspects mentioned in relation to access.”
- (iii) **HO/04740/014: “Gannimede”, Ashbrook Lane:** erection of a first floor front extension and pitched roof over existing garage and hall/study.
PC response: No objections
- (iv) **LB/06965/012: Eastmans Croft, Bagot Street:** retention of rear porch and installation of 3 rooflights.
PC response: No objections
- (v) **HO/26768/001: Greenway, Ashbrook Lane:** conversion of garage to lounge, cladding of front elevation and canopy roof:
PC response: No objections.

30.2 Decisions

30.2.1. The following applications have been **PERMITTED**:

- (i) **HO/01789/010: Sycamore House, Radmore Lane:** erection of a 2.3 metre high side boundary wall.
- (ii) **HO/090449/009: Birchwood View Cottage:** erection of detached car port and store.
- (iii) **HO/05551/005: Sunnybank, Lichfield Road:** erection of a single storey rear extension and conservatory.
- (iv) **HO/07351/004: 6 Bromley Wood:** erection of detached garage.
- (v) **HO/03853/006: 2 Paget Rise:** erection of a first floor side extension.
- (vi) **HO/13229/036: The Crofts, Market Place:** erection of single storey extension to an existing garage block.
- (vii) **PA/20532/003: Radmore Wood Cottage:** erection of detached building with agricultural store and garage on ground floor and office and store on first floor.

30.2.2. The following applications have been **REFUSED**:

- (i) **PA/05471/006: The Bungalow, Lichfield Road:** demolition and construction of two dwellings.
- (ii) **CU/05685/004: Harts Farm, Bromley Hurst:** alterations to form ... two holiday properties.

30.2.3. The following applications have been **DEFERRED**

- (i) **PA/11009/005: Ashbrook Lane:** erection of ten dwellings. Borough Councillor Fox stated that, as a result of previous refusals by ESBC Planning Department, the company has submitted a new application for seven properties only on the site.
- (ii) **FP/11009/006: Ashbrook Lane:** diversion of footpath.

30.3. Other Planning Matters.

- (i) **Diamond Cottage, Marcia Rice Court.** The Planning Department confirms that it “does not wish to place a Tree Preservation Order on the property” and the work of lopping the tree can proceed.
- (ii) **The Bungalow, Lichfield Road:** Preservation Order 179 on three pine trees in the grounds of the property.

Minute 31: Finance.

31.1. Finance Statement for June. The Chairman drew attention to the statement which had been issued prior to the Meeting. **It was proposed (PC), seconded (LF) and agreed that the Statement be accepted.**

31.2. Payments made since the last Meeting. The Clerk announced that, with the approval of the Chairman, payments had been made to Mr McCulloch as follows:

Sum paid	Details
170.00	<u>Invoice No 2.</u> Contract grass cutting on 19 & 31 May
120.00	2 days work - clearing Narrow Lane & weed killing along main streets, bus shelter & drain by Almshouses.

31.3 Bills to Pay The Clerk introduced bills for payments as follows:

Payee	Sum due	Details
npower	84.59	Quarterly public lighting account.

It was proposed (SMT), seconded (L Fe) and agreed that payment of this invoice be made.

31.4 Highways Agreement The Clerk introduced for signature two copies of a Highways Agreement with Staffordshire County Council, which is required under the terms of new governing regulations now in force. The Chairman and the Clerk signed the documents with the Vice Chairman acting as witness.

31.5 Section 137 requests. The request of Mrs G Crooks for financial support for Golden Jubilee medals was discussed. Despite a suggestion that a decision be taken “in principle” to support the request councillors agreed to defer any decision until next meeting, by which time it was hoped that the Clerk, after further contact with Mrs Crooks, could report that there were promising signs of support for the venture from local organisations, notably the Governors and the Parent/Teacher Association of Richard Clarke First School. It was agreed that the matter should be tabled as an Agenda Item for next meeting.

31.6 Horn Dance 10th September - entertainment. Following the success of the entertainment last year there was agreement with Cllr. Tonking’s suggestion that she should explore the possibility of a similar entertainment for this year’s event. It was further agreed that she might make provisional arrangements to engage the “entertainers” should they be available. Cllr. Tonking agreed to report to the next meeting.

31.7 War Memorial renovation. Cllr. Tonking was unable to report upon any further decisions having been taken by FoWM. Notwithstanding, it was accepted that no further decision-making is required of the Council once the final award of the grant has been announced.

In connection with the Best Kept Village Competition, Cllr. Talbot said that he would ensure that some items of masonry would be removed from the base of the Memorial which, apparently, had attracted the critical notice of judges of the competition last year.

31.8 Parish Council Deposit Accounts. Due note was taken of the report circulated by the Clerk regarding his negotiations with the Fleming Bank as the possible repository for the Council’s funds on deposit. It was decided that, in the light of a possible merger between the bank and the Abbey National, this was not a good time to move

funds from where they are on deposit with Lloyds/TSB. A question of telephone banking was raised as an alternative. Cllr. Moore agreed to undertake some research and to confer with other councillors and the Clerk. On the basis of the outcome of this it was hoped that the Clerk could report to the next Meeting on suitable ways forward.

31.9 Other Financial Matters.

31.9.1. Millennium Green, grass cutting. Cllr. McLoughlin reported that the contractors, Baileys, had carried out their last cut of the grass, though, for the time being, they will maintain a responsibility for the trees and shrubs. It was stated that there is an expectation that the grass on the main area of the green will be cut "six or seven" times in the course of a year. The Clerk pointed to a potential difficulty in that Mr McCulloch's responsibilities - which have been established for a three year period - require him to undertake only two cuts in a season; any increase in the number of cuts is likely to result in an additional charge having to be met. The Clerk agreed to furnish the Millennium Green Trustees with a copy of the precise details of Mr McCulloch's responsibilities for grass cutting on the green.

31.9.2. Village Hall and future Parish Council Meetings It was agreed to give consideration to holding meetings of the Council in the Village Hall where, in addition, a base might be found for the storage of Parish Council documents and materials and, if/when a computer was purchased, the Clerk might be provided with a working base. It was acknowledged, however, that unless very favourable rates were achieved for the hire of a room (or rooms) in the hall the cost of the move to the Council would be an increase of some fifty percent. It was agreed to table the matter for discussion at the next meeting, after the Chairman, Cllr. Tonking, Borough Councillor Fox and the Clerk had looked into what might be available in the Village Hall.

Minute 32: Group Reports

32.1 Recreation

32.1.1. Millennium Green - litter clearance. Cllr. Tonking stated that Mr R Tough is in possession of all he needs to remove litter safely. He does not wish to make a charge upon the Parish Council for any items which he has purchased.

32.1.2. Millennium Green - annual inspection. The Clerk stated that he is continuing to press officers at ESBC to say precisely when the annual inspection, originally expected to be held in May, will take place.

32.1.3. Skateboarding. It was reported that suitable facilities for skateboarding are being explored with the Youth Club and that an approach to the Village Hall Committee is expected.

32.2. Village Property

32.2.1. Overgrown hedge along Uttoxeter Road. The Clerk reported upon correspondence with Mr Tomlinson. His reasons for delay were given; whilst accepting these councillors asked the Clerk to urge Mr Tomlinson to act as soon as it was practicable to do so.

32.2.2. Abbots Bromley leaflets. Cllr. Tonking reported that the leaflets have now been widely distributed including to all houses in the village and to the tourist offices in Stafford, Lichfield, Burton upon Trent and Ashby.

32.2.3. Street Cleaning. The Clerk stated that he was still unhappy concerning the quality of sweeping of some pavements. Cllr. Wilson questioned the type of equipment which was in use. It was suggested that the Clerk write to the Environmental Department of ESBC, with a copy to Mr Andrew Percival, General Manager of Trentforce, requesting that the matter could be monitored and any appropriate steps to secure improvements taken.

32.2.4. Letter from Mrs E Ferguson. Mrs Ferguson raised two matters of concern in a letter to the Clerk:

- (i) the surroundings of the carved wooden pillar at the foot of the Village Hall drive are noticeably untidy, and
- (i) horse droppings on roads and pavements in the village which, unlike dog fouling, does not, apparently, contravene any by-laws, but which, nevertheless, constitutes a nuisance.

The Clerk was asked to relay these concerns to the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee and the two equestrian centres respectively.

32.3. **Traffic and Parking.**

32.3.1. The Clerk reported that he is due to have a meeting with SCC officers shortly and will endeavour to bring to notice all outstanding matters. Councillors made the following contributions to the debate:

- Orange Lane: gullies have been cleaned out,
- Back Lane is in need of having grass cut,
- Uttoxeter Road: street lighting needs to be improved by the new traffic calming feature,
- High Street (north side): unpleasant odours still exist in the vicinity of the drains by the zebra crossing,
- Yeatsall Lane: approach to B5013 in need of attention,
- Seedcroft Lane: South Staffs. Water has agreed to provide the posts (and in fact has them in possession) but they await placing
- Cllr. Charles said that he would pass a list of blocked gullies directly to the Clerk.

32.3.2. “The Orchard”, Market Place. Mr Mellanby has again expressed concern regarding parked vehicles outside his property. Reference was made to the placing of a notice on the grass verge opposite, though some doubts exist in

respect of ownership of this. The Clerk was asked to explore this matter and to report.

32.3.3. Parked cars in Seedcroft Lane. Concerns were expressed regarding the “carcasses of cars” outside 51 Seedcroft Lane; the Clerk was asked to take this up through appropriate channels.

32.4. Competitions and Rural Housing

Nothing to report

32.5. Newsletter

Cllr. Ferguson stated that he is now in the process of collecting material for publication in the next edition of the Newsletter.

32.6. School Governors Report.

32.6.1. Cllr. Ferguson handed to the Clerk a report from the Headteacher of Richard Clarke First School outlining the background to a worrying level of decline of pupil numbers, given the fact of class numbers being fixed at 30 and insufficient numbers in the locality to fund, through the existing budgetary arrangements in place, a further teacher.

32.6.2. SCC request for nomination for LEA Governor The Clerk raised this request but councillors were unable to make a nomination.

Minute 33: Millennium Green

Councillors noted with some satisfaction that there had not been a significant increase in vandalism since the last ACT Newsletter had highlighted the problem. Borough Councillor Fox stated that information regarding the cost of CCTV cameras is still awaited.

Minute 34: Village Design Statement.

It was agreed that Cllrs. Tonking and Moore would meet with a view to devising a simple questionnaire in order to commence the process of drawing up a Statement. They would report back to a future meeting.

Minute 35: Meeting to consider WASP involvement in the village during the current financial year.

Councillors agreed that the Clerk should proceed to set up a meeting as proposed by Borough Councillor Fox and Miss Lynn Kelly to consider a number of matters where ESBC involvement through the WASP scheme was at issue. In addition to the list of possible schemes mentioned in the letter it was proposed that refuse collection on Mondays (with the implication for Bank Holidays) be added to the list. The Clerk was asked to report to the next Meeting

Minute 36: Correspondence.

Particular attention was drawn to the following items of correspondence:

- (i) a second-hand copy of an out-of-print edition of “Abbots Bromley” by MA Rice is in the possession of Mrs E Ferguson and is prepared to sell it for £40.00,
- (ii) Barton under Needwood Parish Council is looking for support in its campaign to prevent the threatened closure of the Barton Hospital.

Minute 37: Items for the Agenda of next Meeting

It was agreed that the following items should be tabled for the Agenda for the next Meeting:

- (i) (under Finance)
 - (a) Award of Golden Jubilee Medals to children of the Village, 2002, ie section 137 request.
 - (b) War Memorial Renovation
 - (c) Village Hall as possible venue for future Parish Council Meetings
 - (d) Report by Clerk on audit of accounts, 2000/01.
- (ii) Village Design Statement.

Minute 38: Date and place of next Meeting.

The next Meeting will be held in Church House, Abbots Bromley at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 25 July

The Meeting concluded at 9.45 pm.

Chairman..... date.....

Proposed seconded