

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2002 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, RSV Jarman, KA McLoughlin, MM Moore, C Talbot (Chairman), M Tonking and S Wilson.

Apologies: Borough Councillor AJH Fox, PJ Youngs (Clerk). Cllr. MM Moore kindly agreed to take the Minutes of the Meeting

Members of the public attending: none.

**Minute 123 : Public Session**

Since there were no members of the public present a public session was not held.

**Minute 124: Approve and sign the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> February**

**It was proposed (SMT), seconded (PC) and agreed that the Minutes be signed as a true record of proceedings subject to the following:**

- (i) Page 1. Present: Cllr. RSV Jarman not to be recorded as present.
- (ii) Page 2. Minute 113.1 (iii) to read “*parking*”, not “*parting*”.
- (iii) Page 2. Minute 113.1. (vi) to read “*Maxstoke*” not “*Maxtoke*”.
- (iv) Page 3. Minute 113.3 to read “*continued*” not “*continue*”.
- (v) Page 5. Minute 114.10 to read 8<sup>th</sup> May not 7<sup>th</sup> May.

**Minute 125: Matters arising and Matters of Report**

- (i) Page 5 Minute. 114.11: Items of Parish Council furniture. With reference to items of Parish Council furniture in Church House, it was reported that the Church Wardens are happy to retain them *in situ*.
- (ii) Page 7 Minute 115.3.2. Goose Lane. Cllr. Tonking reported that the surface to Goose Lane does not appear to be breaking up any further than was reported at the last meeting.
- (iii) Page 8 Minute 118 Jubilee Cup: The Chairman said he would be approaching Borough Councillor Fox to offer him the Jubilee Cup for the year 2002/03
- (iv) Mounted Ordnance Map It was reported that Mr David Core had expressed a willingness to accept the mounted Ordnance Survey map of the area saying that it would be displayed in his farm office in Bagot’s Park. Accordingly the map had been handed over to him.
- (v) Golden Jubilee It was reported that Mrs Enid Ferguson has informed the Council that Staffordshire Women’s Institute are proposing to publish a book recording events in the County celebrating the Queen’s Golden Jubilee. Any possible contributions to be sent to Mrs Ferguson.

## Minute 126: Planning

### 126.1. Applications

- (i) **PA/20982/005: Goose Cottage, Goose Lane:** proposal to build a cottage adjacent to Goose Cottage.

*Parish Council response:* The Parish Council raises no objections overall to this application since it is a renewal of a previous application. However, it is noted that the visibility splay at the front is new and it is hoped that this improved splay will now permit adjacent social housing development on the fire station site.

- (ii) **HO/06587/011: Wilversall House, Yeatsall Lane:** installation of observatory in roof

*Parish Council response:* No objections

- (iii) **PA/02885/012: Ivy House, Abbots Bromley:** retention of temporary office and toilet facilities

*Parish Council response:* No objections

- (iv) **CN/159000/010: College Farm, Lichfield Road:** demolition of 1.35 boundary wall and gates to be replaced by **HO/15900/011:** erection of 2m boundary wall and pillars

*Parish Council response:* The Council accepts the proposals so long as the wall at the front of the property remains at the present height according to the drawing supplied.

- (v) **HO/13080/005: 15 Lintake Drive:** erection of single storey rear extension to kitchen and dining room.

*Parish Council response:* No objections.

### 126.2 Decisions

The following applications have been **APPROVED** subject to stated conditions:

- (i) **HO/12246/009: Woodland View, Uttoxeter Road:** erection of a rear conservatory.

### 126.3 Other Planning matters

- (i) *extract from a letter received from the Planning Department dated 4<sup>th</sup> March:* “With regard to your enquiry about Grange Farm, it would appear from a recent site visit that Mr Ferneyhough is complying with the enforcement notice to remove the vehicles from the site. However, the Council will continue to monitor the situation.” The Council noted the contents of this letter.

## Minute 127: Finance

127.1 Finance statement for March Copies of the Statement were circulated and noted. **It was proposed (RJ), seconded (PC) and agreed that the statement be accepted.**

127.2 Report on payments made since the last Meeting The Chairman authorised the payment of £79.90 to the Clerk in respect of the payment he was required to make at the time of submitting the advertisement to “The Lichfield Mercury” for the appointment of a new clerk.

### 127.3 Bills to pay

The following were introduced for payment:

<b>voucher no /cheque no</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Sum due</b>	<b>Details</b>
73/405	Burton Daily Mail	19.44	Advertisement for Clerk's post in Uttoxeter Advertiser.
74/407	Eric Roy	23.50	for management of ABPC website March 2002 - 2003
75/408	AB Village Hall	84.00	advance letting payment, April - Sept 2002
76/409	SLCC Publications	11.95	Booklet on new audit arrangements and councillors' responsibilities

#### *For New Village Hall*

048	Woodward Electrical	715.58	replacement street lighting to village hall
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**It was proposed (SMT), seconded (LF) and agreed that, with the exception of the advance letting fee to the village hall, the above payments be made**

### 127.4 Section 137 requests.

None

### 127.5 Millennium Green

It was reported that Mr GC McCulloch accepts the terms offered regarding regular maintenance of the Green

### 127.6 Allotment Tenancy

It was reported that only one application had been received for the tenancy of the allotment off Lichfield Road, that from Ms H Morris of "Threeways". Accordingly, **it was proposed (LFe), seconded (LF) and agreed that the Council enters into the standard tenancy agreement with Ms H Morris with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2002; the tenancy fee in the financial year 2002/03 to be £25.00 p.a. Conditions of the agreement to be stated as follows:**

- (i) the land to be used solely as an allotment;**
- (ii) no attempt should be made to incorporate the allotment into the garden of "Threeways"**
- (iii) no structures should be erected on the allotment, and**
- (iv) the tenancy to run for a period of one year in the first instance.**

On the basis of the above the Clerk was requested to communicate with Ms Morris and to issue the standard tenancy agreement for signature.

#### 127.7. Appointment of Clerk

It was reported that two applications had been received for the post of Clerk. In connection with arrangements for making the appointment it was decided that the interviewing panel should consist of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman and Councillor Fox. It was also agreed that the present Clerk should be present in an advisory capacity.

#### 127.8 Arrangements for Annual Parish Assembly.

It was reported that invitations had been sent to secretaries of some twenty-five village organisations. The meeting is due to be held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May in the Memorial Room of the village hall. It was further reported that refreshments should again be supplied at the conclusion of the Meeting but that no charge would fall upon the Council this year.

#### 127.8 Other Financial Matters

##### (i) Schoolhouse Lane play area

(a) It was reported that the solicitors for Sherlock Homes had indicated that the pathway between Schoolhouse Lane and the play area would be levelled and graded at no expense to the Council. It was also agreed that the Clerk should make the necessary connections between Sherlock Homes solicitors and Miss Kelly of ESBC.

(b) In response to a letter from Miss Kelly of ESBC concerning the securing of the vehicular entrance to the play area it was agreed that the Parish Council should accept ownership of one of the keys to the area.

(ii) Horn Dance Day entertainment. Cllr Tonking reported upon her negotiations to obtain once again performers on Horn Dance Day. The overall cost would be £540.50 but, of this sum, £226.00 would be the share to be paid by the Council. **It was proposed (L Fe), seconded (SW) and agreed that the Council should contribute this sum to the occasion."**

### **Minute 128. Group Reports**

#### 128.1. Recreation.

(i) It was reported that TrentForce had agreed to remove unwanted items from Schoolhouse Lane play area at a cost of £35.00

(ii) Play equipment for Schoolhouse Lane play area. Following initial enquiries made by the Clerk it was agreed that the Council now needs to have access to catalogues for deciding upon suitable purchases for the play area. It was further agreed that the matter should be passed to the Recreation Group for detailed consideration.

## 128.2. Village Property

Buttercross. There were expressions of disappointment that no progress had been made regarding the damage to the Buttercross described as “dangerous” and “an eyesore”. It has become clear that the Clerk’s efforts to secure pedestrian access between the structure and the road have been to no avail. Accordingly, it was agreed that Borough Councillor Atkins should be contacted with a view to providing more weight to attempts to have this matter resolved.

## 128.3. Highways & Pathways

- (i) Goose Lane. It was reported that Mr Dennis Baker of Goose Lane had commented upon the damage to stile on the pathway next to his property. The Chairman thanked Councillor Charles who stated that he had he had repaired the damage to the stile.
- (ii) Seedcroft. Cllr. Wilson expressed the view that the brook is silting up. Cllr. Charles said that it was for the owner to sort out the difficulties. The Council accordingly noted the situation.
- (iii) Finger Post to Village Hall. It was suggested that an approach be made to ESBC to provide a finger post in Bagot Street indicating the village hall.

## 128.4. Competitions

- (i) Best Kept Village Competition. It was reported that posters advertising the village’s participation in the event are now to be posted.
- (ii) Top Team Quiz: letter from Tutbury Parish Council. It was proposed that the Clerk should write to ESBC offering this Council’s support to the sentiments contained in the Tutbury PC letter. This arises from a general feeling that the Borough is failing to support valued community activities.

## 128.5 Rural Housing

It was reported that the building of “affordable houses” on the fire station site is to go ahead; the work is likely to commence in May.

## 128.6. Newsletter

Nothing to report.

## 128.7 School Governor’s Report

Cllr. Ferguson stated that all councillors are invited to the school's May Fair due to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> May. It is planned as a community event.

### **Minute 129: Village Plan**

Cllr. Tonking announced that the plan to produce a Village Plan is proceeding well. The three councils of Bagot's Ward are involved and Miss Lynne Kelly of ESBC is in process of developing an application for a grant. It is encouraging that many individuals are expressing interest in the project and are offering assistance.

### **Minute 130: New Ethical Framework for Local Government: consideration of lodging a formal objection.**

Several councillors expressed dissatisfaction over the obligation placed upon them to sign the declaration, so much so that a decision was taken to refuse to do so at this juncture. (see Minute 131 below). **It was proposed (SMT), seconded (RJ) and unanimously agreed that a formal objection to the entire process be registered and that this should be circulated to the Minister, Rt. Hon. Nick Rainsford MP, via the local Member of Parliament, with copies also circulated to leading politicians of other parties.** The Clerk was asked to prepare a letter along the lines of the following.

"It is the unanimous view of the *Parish Council of Abbots Bromley* that the Local Government Act of 2000, which lays upon parish councillors an obligation to complete and retain for public scrutiny a *declaration of interests* is both an unwarranted and unnecessary imposition by national government in matters which affect basic human rights and rights to privacy. Specifically, councillors consider that:

- (i) the legislation has been imposed without due consultation or attempts to justify its necessity;
- (ii) given the existing checks and controls in place where the handling of public monies is concerned, the legislation is likely to do nothing to deter any unlawful practices or malign intents, but at the same time foster, as it appears to do, an atmosphere of mistrust amongst and towards persons who volunteer, unpaid and, in many cases, give numerous hours of public service within their local communities;
- (iii) the whole bureaucratic edifice, involving standards committees, codes, monitoring officers etc. appears to be disproportionate, draconian and unnecessary.

Furthermore, councillors are of the view that the implementation of the Regulations, one year before parish council elections are due, is likely to have a destabilising effect upon this tier of local government, given the anticipated refusal of many councillors, and prospective councillors, to commit themselves to a declaration of interests, further indicating that the Government is either

singularly out of touch with, or indifferent towards, local mood and sensitivities.

In summary, therefore, the councillors of this parish wish to record their deep disappointment over the Government's imposition of the Local Government Act 2000 and their belief that, in its effects, it will result in considerably more harm than good being achieved."

**Minute 131: New Ethical Framework for Local Government. Completion of formalities as required**

In the light of the decision of the Council to register opposition to the Local Government Act 2000 it was decided that the formalities would not be completed at this meeting. However, it was decided that the issues should be considered further at the next Meeting - 24<sup>th</sup> April.

**Minute 132: Correspondence:**

None

**Minute 133: Items for the Agenda of next Meeting:**

- (i) New auditing arrangements
- (ii) New ethical framework
- (iii) Introduction of new Clerk.

**Minute 134: Date of next Meeting:**

The next Meeting will be held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 p.m. in the Memorial Room of the Village Hall.

The Meeting concluded at 9.10 p.m.

Chairman ..... Date.....

Proposed: ..... Seconded: .....