

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday, 4 December, 2002 at 7.30 p.m.
in the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given.

Present: Cllrs: PJ Charles, C Cook, RT Esling, LG Ferguson (Chairman - L Fe below), L Fox, KA McLoughlin, JA Needham and S Wilson.

Also present: EA Roy (Clerk)

Apologies for absence: PC Boulter, Cllr RSV Jarman, Borough Councillor AJH Fox

Members of the public attending: Norman Hunt, Cyril Woollett, Mary Woollett, Mike Lewis, Dianne Fryer, Elaine Summers

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Minute 81: Visit by PC Boulter

- 81.1 PC Boulter having been temporarily assigned to special duties in Burton upon Trent, was unable to attend the meeting and passed on apologies from both himself and Inspector Mason for having had to withdraw at such short notice. The Clerk provided the following information on behalf of PC Boulter.
- 81.2 **Harley Lane:** Following a visit to Dianne Fryer, a colleague of PC Boulter contacted one of those responsible for driving wide vehicles down the lane and this did seem to result in an improvement - but one that was only temporary. PC Boulter suggests the introduction of a width restriction that would then be enforceable. This could also include the installation of a physical pinch-point to supplement the restriction.
- 81.3 **Parking on pavement:** PC Boulter was not aware of the issues about parking on the pavement near the top shop and will monitor this over coming weeks.
- 81.4 **Parking in Market Place:** In general parking in and around the Market Place does not contravene the law despite the fact that some residents raise objections to where others choose to park. He would welcome the considered introduction of double yellow lines to enable enforcement where abuses are occurring.

Minute 82: Public Session

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public present and invited them to raise their topics of interest.

Mrs Summers reported, in connection with the Ashbrook Lane spring, that she had been in touch with Mr Hammersley who has confirmed in writing that he is happy for work to take place in the

field. There are a number of volunteers willing to dig out the pipe and a quote of £150 for the pipe has been obtained. There is also the possibility of a water trough being donated. An outstanding issue is how the drainage will be arranged.

Dianne Fryer reported on the problems caused by wide farm vehicles undermining her hedge on Harley Lane and said that she has lost 2 feet of soil from the verge. So far, she has been unable to obtain support from highways or anyone else.

Mike Lewis reported that he had spoken to the planning department about the application from the school equestrian centre and found that some residents in Radmore Lane had a notice. ESBC Planning said they will send a copy to him and other residents. Previously, logging of vehicle movements has been used as a means of influencing the planning department. Radmore Lane has suffered a similar fate to Harley Lane with the increase of farm traffic. He also believes that there are floodlights in the dressage area that have not been subjected to planning permission. Mr Hunt reported that inter-school competitions appear to be taking place and he is also getting frequent callers asking for directions.

In closing the public session, the Chairman thanked those present for their contributions and reported that an exhibition of the proposed wind farm at Bagot's Park would be taking place the following Wednesday and Thursday in the Village Hall.

Normal business was resumed at 7:55 pm.

Minute 83: Approve and sign the Minutes of the previous Meeting

It was proposed (CC), seconded (LF) and agreed that the Minutes be signed as a true record of proceedings.

Minute 84: Matters arising and matters of report

- 84.1 Ashbrook Lane spring (Minute 70):** The Clerk has met separately with both Mr Elkington and Mrs Summers and researched past minutes. It is possible that residents will be willing to organise the replacement of the pipe so that the spring can be restored. If positioned in the footpath, then Mr Elkington would be supportive.
- 84.2 Flooding opposite top shop (Minutes 72.8, 62.3):** The promised new gully has finally been installed.
- 84.3 Ashbrook Lane development (Minute 73.3.2):** Nancy Talbot Close has been proposed to Walton Homes who have written back confirming they have submitted this name to the Highway Authority.
- 84.6 Christmas lights (Minute 74.5.3):** Will be ready tomorrow afternoon but currently unable to find coloured 110 volt bulbs so may have to use white. Electricity supply is also organised.
- 84.7 Millennium Green inspection (Minute 75.1.3):** Mithra Tonking may be willing to continue the monthly inspections on behalf of the Parish Council – but only until April 2003. Clerk to let Mithra know that Cllr Cook would be willing to train.
- 84.8 Lights in Market Place (Minute 75.3.1):** The continuous operation of the lights was due to a faulty contactor which has now been replaced.
- 84.9 Illegal parking (Minute 75.3.3):** There has been no response so far from Inspector Mason to an enquiry about progress and so we may need to seek an update from PC Boulter when he attends the meeting.

84.10 Harley Lane hedge erosion (Minute 75.3.4): No guidelines were forthcoming from the NFU who said that they have never heard of such an issue before!

84.11 Race Relations Act (Minute 76.2): A meeting to work on this has yet to be arranged.

84.12 Local Transport Plan (Minute 78.2): The Clerk attended a training session in Burton intended to equip people ready to be involved in producing elements of the county transport plan.

84.13 Meeting dates for 2003 (Minute 77): The Memorial Room has been booked for the agreed dates with the exception of 26 November. The AB Players have already booked for this date and 3 December is proposed as an alternative. Agreed that this would be acceptable.

Minute 85: Planning

85.1 Applications

- (i) **226 - HO/27678/001: 1 Ashbrook Lane:** Erection of an attached car port
Received: 011102 Despatched: 121102 Response: No objections
- (ii) **227 - HO/27683/001: Heatley Green Cottage, Heatley Green:** Erection of a two-storey rear extension and single storey side extension
Received: 051102 Despatched: 181102 Response: No objections
- (iii) **228 - PA/26905/002: Bagots Park:** Upgrading existing anemometry mast from 40m to 50m and installation of second mast 40m high
Received: 121102 Despatched: 251102 Response: No objections
- (iv) **229 - PC/01967/049: School of St Mary and St Anne, Radmore Lane:**
Application for the formation of an equestrian centre and associated facilities without complying with previous condition to limit to school use. Temporary application for use for 12 months for commercial purposes
Received: 221102 Despatched: ?????? Response: Due 121202
Cllr McLoughlin declared an interest as an employee of the school. The Clerk reported on the conversation he had with Mr Mansell outlining the proposed usage. Agreed that we should attempt to facilitate a meeting to achieve a common understanding of what is proposed. Mike Lewis agreed to act on behalf of the residents to communicate any date. Clerk to write to ESBC Planning requesting deferral until meeting has been held.
- (v) **230 - PA/18339/010: Land adjacent to Orchard House, Harley Lane:**
Erection of a detached bungalow
Received: 271102 Despatched: 051202 Response: No objections
- (vi) **231 - TN/27210/002: Eastmans Croft, Bagot Street:** Lopping branches from one ash tree
Received: 281102 Despatched: 051202 Response: No objections
Cllr Wilson declared an interest.
- (vii) **232 - CU/17522/005: Land to the east of Sunrise:** Change of use of agricultural land to domestic garden and retention of existing vehicular access
Received: 041202 Despatched: 051202 Response: No objections

85.2 Decisions

The following applications have been *AGREED*:

- (i) **214 - HO/27551/001: Horngarth, Lichfield Road:** Erection of front porch/canopy, a two storey rear extension and construction of pitched roof over existing flat roof
- (ii) **217 - PT/23811/002: Land at High Ash Farm:** Installation of 15m high telecommunications mast with 0.6m communications dish and three 3m high antenna and the erection of an equipment cabin

- (iii) **218 - PC/21560/009: Ashtree House, Lichfield Road:** Erection of garden room and entrance, part single and two storey extension for use as office with studio above and alterations to the existing access without complying with Condition 4 of planning permission CU/21560/006 relating to archaeological work
- (iv) **219 - HO/12427/005: 28 Paget Rise:** Erection of a single storey side extension to form garage, single storey rear extension to form dining room, inglenook fireplace and chimney
- (v) **220 - HO/27548/002: 6 Swan Lane:** Erection of front porch
- (vi) **221 - HO/21728/003: Coleshill Lodge, Lichfield Road:** Erection of attached garden room and front porch
- (vii) **223 - HO/22290/009: The Cross, Market Place:** Erection of a sun lounge on the rear elevation
- (viii) **224 - LB/22290/010: The Cross, Market Place:** Internal and external alterations and the erection of a sun lounge on the rear elevation

The following application has been *REFUSED*.

- (i) **213 - PA/05741/010: The Bungalow, Lichfield Road:** Demolition of existing bungalow, erection of two detached dwellings with associated detached double garages and construction of a new/alteration of existing, access

No applications have been *DEFERRED*.

85.3 Correspondence and other planning matters

85.3.1 ESBC planning are aware of the new drive constructed off Harley Lane and have not identified any related issues.

85.3.2 Public Notices: For Abbots Bromley, these are presently published in the Burton Mail. Clerk to request that they use the Lichfield Mercury and Uttoxeter Advertiser.

Minute 86: Financial Matters

86.1 Financial Statement for November

The financial statement for November was introduced by the Clerk. ***It was proposed (PC), seconded (RE) and agreed that the statement be approved.***

86.2 Report on payments made since the last Meeting:

The following payments had been made with the approval of the Chairman and Vice Chairman:

<i>Voucher no/ Cheque no</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Sum due</i>	<i>Details</i>
42/448	Abbots Bromley PCC	17.00	Newsletter printing
43/449	Studiocraft	9.28	Newsletter paper
44/450	G C McCulloch	130.00	Devolved maintenance
45/451	Paul Sweetman	653.44	Village Agent salary + expenses
	TOTAL payments made	<u>809.72</u>	

86.3 Bills to pay

The Clerk introduced the following for payment:

<i>Voucher no/ Cheque no</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Sum due</i>	<i>Details</i>
46/452	OfficeWorld	113.37	Copier cartridge, paper, envelopes
47/453	Staffordshire County Council	115.67	Village Hall sign
48/454	Live and Local	226.00	Horn Dance day "What a Palaver"
49/455	Abbots Bromley Village Hall	42.00	Parish Assembly, 30/10 & 4/12
50/456	Staffordshire Parish Councils Ass	34.00	Parish Plans seminar
	TOTAL payments	531.04	

It was proposed (PC), seconded (CC) and agreed that the above payments be made.

86.4 Section 137 payments

86.4.1 At the last meeting, the Council agreed to make a donation of £20 to the CPRE and request details of membership. Membership costs £25pa and the Clerk asked if the Council would prefer to subscribe rather donate? (The Parish Council had been a member before and it is not clear how/why membership was ceased?) Agreed to subscribe.

86.4.2 A request for support for the Wolseley centre has been received from Staffordshire Wildlife Trust (see enclosed letter). ***Proposed (CC), seconded (LF) and agreed that £40 be contributed on behalf of the Village.***

86.5 Other financial matters

86.5.1 The budget for this financial year included a sum of £1666.67 towards the cost of the Village Plan. We have been asked by the steering group if we can transfer this money into the project fund. ***Proposed (LF), seconded (KM) and agreed that this transfer be made.***

86.5.2 Agreed the table and chair presently situated in Church House to the Parish Council should be included in the inventory discussed at the last meeting. Clerk to update the inventory list accordingly.

86.5.3 Cllr Needham declared an interest. An ash tree in the hedge of the Lichfield Road allotment shed branches in the October storm causing some damage to the adjacent property owned by Mr & Mrs Needham. We have been advised that the tree should be removed. The tree is not in the conservation area and the ESBC Tree Officer agrees that it should be taken down. A quote for £280 has been received from Simon Down who has the necessary public liability insurance. ***Proposed (LF), seconded (LFe) and agreed that the removal be arranged.***

86.5.4 Cllr McLoughlin, Cllr Fox and the Clerk declared an interest. A letter has been received from the Chairman of the Village Hall committee advising that the cost of lighting the drive amounts to £60-80 a quarter. This is currently being borne by the Village Hall, although many others benefit from the illumination. The letter asks the Parish Council to consider contributing to the cost. ***Proposed (PC), seconded (CC), that no contribution be made. Carried by majority vote.***

86.5.5 We are invited to bid for funding under the Community Paths Initiative of Staffordshire County Council. The Abbots Bromley Footpath Society have prepared a detailed and costed proposal for £400 of work. ***Proposed (CC), seconded (SW) and agreed that we submit the bid.***

- 86.5.5 A group of village organisations is working together to develop a multi-purpose facility on the Village Hall site beyond the existing tennis courts. Although they expect to fund the bulk of the project from grants, a contribution from the Parish Council of £110 to cover the planning application has been requested. **Proposed (SW), seconded (JN) that we submit the proposal on their behalf and meet the cost.** Clerk to inform Mike King.
- 86.5.6 Cllr Esling reported that he had attended a Staffordshire County Council consultation on their draft Corporate Strategy and Medium Term Financial Strategy and provided a brief report on the event. The County Council, in working on their budget proposals, have introduced a strategy that now creates a framework for financial planning. The supplied document describes this in more detail. It does mean that living in Staffordshire will be more expensive next year. He was the only Parish Councillor present at the Burton event.
- 86.5.7 The Clerk reported that when he contacted Mr Ray Smythe, Parish Clerk of Heath Hayes and Wimblebury, he was no longer willing to be appointed as our Independent Internal Auditor. An alternate arrangement was being sought with the Clerk to Longdon Parish Council.

Minute 87: Group Reports

87.1 Recreation

- 87.1.1 The Millennium Green has a laburnum overhanging the play area shedding (poisonous) seeds onto the area. Mithra will bring this up at the Trustees meeting. Clerk asked to write to the MG Trustees to draw their attention to this hazard.

87.2 Village Property

The Health and Safety file on the Butter Cross has been received.

87.3 Traffic, Parking, Highways

- 87.3.1 Cllr Cook reported that parking on pavements continues to be a major hazard to pedestrians along Bagot Street and onto Uttoxeter Road. Clerk to write again to Inspector Mason reminding him of promise.
- 87.3.2 Cllr McLoughlin read a letter from Mrs Templier reporting damage to cars and requesting temporary speed checks. Clerk to include such a request in his letter.
- 87.3.3 Clerk to ask G McCulloch to clear soil from Narrow Lane to expose wider area of tarmac.
- 87.3.4 Highways have suggested that the Parish Council considers again whether they would be willing to approve the use of yellow lines? After a short discussion it was agreed that we do not want yellow lines in the village.
- 87.3.5 Harley Lane: Proposed that we ask Highways for a width restriction supported by a pinch point. Clerk to contact Highways and ask how to progress this.

87.4 Competitions

- 87.4.1 County Councillor Peter Haynes has commented on the outstanding display created along the main street this year and has suggested that we consider entering the "Britain in Bloom" competition next year. Clerk to find out more and see if other local Parishes have good/bad experiences we could learn from.

87.5 Rural Housing

Nothing to report.

87.6 Newsletter

Next edition will need to cover the election and so must be timed accordingly – say early February.

87.7 School Governor's Report

87.7.1 A letter is available from Mrs Potter having received the OFSTED report and summarises the excellent feedback received. Also available is the Governor's Report.

87.8 Village Plan

87.8.1 Cllr Esling and Paul Sweetman attended the Village Plan seminar organised by SPCA and found it to be a useful day. The experiences of Brewood were included and provided positive encouragement that a well-presented village design statement could influence planning decisions when used as supplementary planning guidance.

87.8.2 A meeting took place last week for those who have expressed an interest in being involved. It looked at the questionnaire now being produced. The aim is to issue during the latter part of January. Continued support from the Council to help get a good level of returns would be appreciated.

Minute 88: Freedom of Information Act

88.1 The Clerk introduced the requirements of the new act by referring to the notes issued before the meeting and then invited comment from members.

88.2 ***Proposed (LF), seconded (RE) and agreed that Abbots Bromley Parish Council acknowledges the duty placed upon it by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to adopt and maintain a publication scheme. The Council resolves to adopt the Model Scheme for Local Councils (Core Classes Only).***

88.3 The Clerk was asked to make the required return to the Information Commissioner and prepare a publication scheme based on the following charges:

Hardcopy output per page	50p
Non-standard enquiry	£5 (any enquiry taking more than 15 minutes)

Minute 89: Village Heritage

89.1 Cllr Esling suggested that a question be included in the Vital Village questionnaire that would give every one in the village an opportunity to identify those elements of the village that they consider part of the Village Heritage. Clerk to write to Paul Sweetman to formally request inclusion of such a question.

Minute 90: Correspondence, bulletins and reports

90.1 Uttoxeter Plus Project Manager: We have received notification dated 8 November that Peter Ross has tendered his resignation for personal reasons.

89.2 Future of the Post Office Network: SPCA has advised us of a half-day conference on "the future of the post office network" taking place on Friday 6 December at 2pm. Cllr Cook offered to attend.

- 89.3 Social Inclusion:** Staffordshire County Council have written asking for views on Social Inclusion. Those who wish to may respond.
- 89.4 Help for Rural Shops:** The Community Council of Staffordshire have written about support for rural shops enclosing a letter from a newly appointed worker for the Village Retailers Support Association. (ViRSA). Clerk to contact her (Pat Hudson) and see if relevant to villages with more than one shop. If so, to provide details to the village shops.
- 89.5 Ambulance Service:** We have received an invitation to visit the Staffordshire Ambulance Service one evening to see how they provide such an excellent service. Clerk to find out more details.
- 89.6 Declaration of Interests:** Ken Birch has provided some explanatory notes covering the declaration of interests by members. The Clerk distributed copies to members.
- 89.7 Proposed Wind Farm:** Powergen Renewables have supplied some information about their proposals for a wind farm in Bagot's Park. An exhibition will be taking place in the Village Hall next week to which members are invited. The Clerk reported that Marchington Parish Council are also taking an interest in this proposal.

Minute 90: Items for agenda of next meeting

15 January:

- Budget for 2003/4
- Review of bank accounts

29 January:

- Police – traffic and parking issues
- Powergen Renewables - maybe?
- Multi-use pitch team – presentation of plans
- Jubilee Cup

Minute 91: Date, time and place of next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meetings should be held on Wednesday 15 January to set the budget for 2003/4 and again on 29 January for the normal agenda.

It was proposed (SW), seconded (KM) and agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman be given powers to act until the next meeting. The Meeting concluded at 10.00 pm.

Chairman Date:

Proposed: Seconded: