

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday, 15 January, 2003 at 7.30 p.m.
in the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given.

Present: Cllrs: PJ Charles, C Cook, LG Ferguson (Chairman - L Fe below), L Fox, KA McLoughlin, JA Needham

Also present: EA Roy (Clerk)

Apologies for absence: Cllr RT Esling

Members of the public attending: Borough Councillor Alex Fox, Elaine Summers, David Eatough, Peter Brandreth, Susan Brandreth

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Minute 92: Public Session

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

In connection with the restoration of the Ashbrook Lane spring, Mrs Summers provided an update on some exploratory excavations and reported that Mr Dodsworth has offered to prepare drawings. Until the location of the spring output can be agreed with Mr Elkington, the cost of the excavations will not be known. The Clerk reported that he had been advised that it should be possible to have an emergency closure order on the footpath to provide up to three weeks for the work to be carried out. Also that Staffordshire County Council would provide material for surfacing the bridleway after the work.

Mr Brandreth advised that he thought opinions were being formed about the proposed wind farm in the absence of the full facts being known. He is concerned that Powergen are not fully answering the questions.

Borough Councillor Fox reported that the Borough Council has agreed to the installation of the second mast but with a note to the applicant that this did not imply any acceptance of the full proposal - which would have to be fully justified. Two officers have been sent on specific wind farm training and ESBC will also be seeking independent advice on the claims made for the proposal. There will also need to be independent checks that the montage views that have been created are an accurate reflection of the impact on the view. There are related issues to do with noise and the impact on birds. It is also necessary to understand whether there is any contribution to the community that offsets the impact of the turbines and benefits from the high earnings that will result from this proposed use of that piece of land. Also needing to be understood is the impact on the land of the installation and how early removal would affect the immediate environment. There is also a political element involved in the decision that may not work to the advantage of Abbots Bromley and other local parishes.

Councillor Fox suggested that a public meeting might be helpful.

Mr Brandreth reported that the meeting at Marchington had been based around a one-hour presentation followed by two hours of questions. This revealed a high level of concern, particularly from Marchington Woodlands.

Borough Councillor Fox suggested that it would not be wise to rush into a public meeting but better for the Chairman to contact other Parish and Town Councils in the area so that issues are dealt with cooperatively. He suggested that Abbots Bromley might wish to take a lead given that the installation is proposed for this Parish. A meeting in about 4 weeks would probably be better timed.

Mrs Brandreth expressed her concern that villagers were unaware of what would be involved through lack of information. For example, these turbines would be some of the largest in the country both in the height of the towers and the blade diameter.

Cllr Ferguson thanked those present for their contributions and said that he would contact other local Chairmen and see when a public meeting should be called. The Clerk was also asked to write to Mike Waldron outlining the proposed course of action.

Mr Eatough asked whether it would be possible to have another encouragement to use local businesses in a future bulletin? He also wished to express grave concern about the speed of vehicles leaving the village and recounted an incident the previous day with a broken wing mirror.

Mrs Summers reported that two cars went through one of the Ashbrook Lane restrictions together and knocked mirrors off.

The Clerk reported that the Police were willing to carry out speed checks on specific request (but not at random) and would need information on where and when they would be most appropriate. He agreed to write to Inspector Mason and request early action in Uttoxeter Road – preferably between 0830 and 0930.

In closing the public session, the Chairman thanked those present for their contributions.

Normal business was resumed at 8:23 pm.

Minute 93: Planning

93.1 Applications

(i) **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: 160103

Prior to a discussion, the Clerk read an additional letter received from the Kirby's expressing their concern about the impact of any additional traffic and Councillor McLoughlin declared her interest as an employee of the school.

Agreed response: No objections to the relaxation in principle, but would draw attention to the comments made by the residents in the area and to the narrow and potentially dangerous junction of Radmore Lane with Lichfield Road. Any permission given should be constrained so that commercial events independent of the school are excluded. The Council endorses the approach that this relaxation be temporary, so that the impact of new operations can be monitored.

(ii) **236 - HO/25284/008: Spring View Cottage, Ashbrook Lane:** Retention of front boundary fence

Received: 130103 Despatched: 160103 Response: No objection

93.2 Correspondence and other planning matters

93.2.1 The discussion on the wind farm proposal had already taken place as part of the public session and so this agenda item was omitted.

Minute 94: Financial Matters

94.1 Financial Statements for Decembers

The quarter 3 budget review report was introduced by the Clerk together with some proposed adjustments for the final quarter. ***It was proposed (PC), seconded (KM) and agreed that the report and proposed adjustments be approved.***

94.2 Budget for 2003/2004

The Clerk introduced the budget models he had prepared and then revised, following a review with Cllr Fox. A detailed discussion ensued covering the content of both the models and also correspondence received from St Giles Hospice, Vital Villages, PCC and village badminton groups. Cllr Charles declared an interest in the badminton and did not participate in the discussion of this item. ***It was proposed (PC), seconded (KM) and agreed that the precept for 2003/4 be set at £17,300 and the Clerk was asked to formally request this from ESBC.***

(A copy of the agreed budget and precept details is attached).

It was agreed that a contribution of £100 to the cost of the badminton equipment could be provided from the Recreation Fund.

Minute 95: Date, time and place of next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 29 January at 7.30 pm in the Memorial Room at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:50pm.

Chairman Date:

Proposed: Seconded: