

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held on Wednesday, 26 March, 2003 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, RSV Jarman, KA McLoughlin, JA Needham and S Wilson.

Also present: EA Roy (Clerk)

Apologies for absence: None

Members of the public attending: Borough Councillor AJH Fox, PC Boulter, Mr M King, Mr M Brown, Mr D Core.

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### **Minute 122: Public Session**

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public present and invited them to raise any points.

Mr King was present representing the Cricket Club and explained the situation with regard to the Cricket Club lease. This required the Club to take on responsibility for grass cutting and hence their request for support to buy their own equipment for this task. Mr Core added that insuring five of their members for temporary use of the School equipment would cost around £250 making this interim measure even less desirable. They propose buying second-hand equipment and this could cost around £4,000 (about £6,000 new). Grants towards the cost are only available on new equipment. They would also need to provide secure storage.

An alternative would be to extend the existing Council grass-cutting contract to include the Anglesey Field. It was suggested that a quote be obtained for Mr McCulloch to include this in his work, but, it was then pointed out that the need for two cuts per week during the peak growing season made this unworkable as it often needed immediate use of good weather conditions.

Mr King also thanked the Council for their support for the multi-pitch, which had received conditional planning approval earlier this week.

Mr Brown was present to ask about the new signs at the end of Harley Lane and express his concerns about future plans. The Lane was a significant thoroughfare for their business. PC Boulter explained the background involving the damage to Ms Fryer's property. Highways have now installed some white posts and an advisory sign. The white plastic posts are only temporary and kerbs should be installed at a later stage. Mr Brown said that he would oppose any attempt to impose a mandatory width restriction. Borough Councillor Fox noted Mr Brown's views but stated

that both he and County Councillor Atkins would not hesitate to press for mandatory restrictions should the behaviour that causes the damage continue.

Mr King speaking on behalf of the Village Hall, expressed concerns on the amount of foil found in the grounds, indicating that there was an embryonic drugs problem. PC Boulter said he would bear it in mind.

PC Boulter reported that he had spent 2 hours on speeding checks from 0800-1000 and but would try 0700-0800 next time. Those stopped were not villagers. In response to a reported attempt to enter a car in Salter Grange in the early hours, he explained that other villages were experiencing severe problems with damage to and theft from motor vehicles. The importance of ensuring that no valuables were left on view could not be over-emphasised.

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for their contributions. Normal business resumed at 8.13pm.

### **Minute 123: Approve and sign the Minutes of the previous Meeting**

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

### **Minute 124: Matters arising and matters of report**

- 124.1 **Harley Lane hedge erosion (Minutes 75.3.4, 81.2, 87.3.5, 111.1):** White marker posts and advisory sign are now in place. (See also comments above during public session)
- 124.2 **Race Relations Act (Minute 76.2):** Deferred to a later meeting as notes from the meeting between Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk are yet to be written up.
- 124.3 **Ambulance Service visit (Minute 89.5, 99.11, 111.4):** The second visit was made by the Clerk, Cllrs Ferguson, Jarman, Esling, Charles on Tuesday 18 March and again found to be very interesting and informative. Clerk to write a letter of thanks to the Ambulance service. Agreed that we wished to investigate further the First Responders scheme and it was suggested that we invite someone from the Weaver Ward to describe their experiences.
- 124.4 **Jubilee Cup (Minute 103, 111.5):** The Chairman confirmed that Kath Cadman will produce a certificate for Alex Fox.
- 124.5 **May Parish Council meeting (Minute 111.6):** The Clerk confirmed that Church House was available for a re-scheduled Parish Council meeting on 14 May.
- 124.6 **Walton site in Ashbrook Lane (Minute 112.3.4):** The Clerk reported that ESBC Planning had written to Walton Homes to request that they change the colour of the bright pink hoarding around their site.
- 124.7 **Recycling (Minute 117):** The plastics bin has still not arrived. ESBC are producing a poster. The RISES Group plan to meet soon.

### **Minute 125: Planning**

#### **125.1 Applications**

**245 - PF/11528/023: Yeatsall Farm:** Construction of a silage clamp  
Received: 28/02/03 Replied: 07/03/03 Response: Abbots Bromley Parish Council raises no objections to this application.

**246 - PA/18339/010: Land adjacent to Orchard House, Harley Lane:** Erection of a detached bungalow (Amended plan)  
Received: 01/03/03 Replied: 07/03/03 Response: Abbots Bromley Parish Council raises no objections to this application.

**247 - CN/02885/014: Land at Ivy House, High Street:** Demolition of dress shop and outbuildings  
Received: 07/03/03 Replied: 24/03/03 Response: The Parish Council raises no objections to this application.

**248 - PA/02885/013: Land at Ivy House, High Street:** Erection of 31 residential units, detached double garage, 2 detached single garages, alteration and extension of Ivy House, replacement of dress shop with a detached two-storey dwelling and alterations to existing vehicular access.

Received: 07/03/03 Replied: 24/03/03 Response: The Parish Council welcomes the development of smaller homes in the village and applauds the aims of the developer to create an environment in keeping with the surroundings. However, there are two major concerns about the scheme as proposed:

- (a) Inadequate parking provision: Although PPG3 quotes 1.5 off-road parking spaces per dwelling, it is clear that this is primarily aimed at urban areas. It is the view of the Council that the type of housing proposed will attract a significant number of couples – with both working and both owning cars. There are two special features of this setting that make imposition of this limit unreasonable. Firstly, there is no public transport to the village for journeys to work and larger shopping areas. Secondly, any overspill that did occur would be into the High Street which already suffers major disruption to traffic flow caused by on-street parking.
- (b) Density: Although PPG3 encourages effective land use, it also recognises the need to preserve the existing character of villages. The view of the Council is that the efforts made by the architect to produce a scheme sympathetic to the village are undermined by an excessive number of dwellings in this space and that a reduction should be made. Some Councillors have also expressed concern about the impact on the High Street of this number of vehicles entering and leaving the scheme.

The Council understands that the developer would expect to make some contribution to local amenities and would like to see this agreed prior to approval of the scheme. Additionally, traffic and parking during construction could cause major disruption to the High Street and the Council would like to see conditions in the approval that ensure all parking/unloading during construction is achieved on-site.

**249 - PA/05471/011: The Bungalow, Lichfield Road:** Erection of a detached dwelling, detached double garage and alterations to the existing vehicular access (AMENDED PLANS)

Received: 11/03/03 Replied: 27/04/03 Response: The amendments do not affect the view of the Council – the comments previously made still stand.

**250 - HO/13984/004: 6 Radmore Lane:** Erection of garage and storm porch to front of property and rear conservatory/playroom

Received: 15/03/03 Replied: 27/04/03 Response: No objections.

## 125.2 Decisions

The following applications have been AGREED:

**242 - TN/13229/040:** The Crofts, Market Place: Removal of lime tree

**245 - PF/11528/023:** Yeatsall Farm: Construction of a silage clamp

The following application has been REFUSED.

**237 - PC/19865/008: Walnut Grange, Schoolhouse Lane:** Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the development of 2 detached dwellings without complying with condition 8 of the planning permission requiring vertically boarded side-hung garage doors

No applications have been DEFERRED.

### 125.3 Correspondence and other planning matters

125.3.1 Borough Councillor Fox provided feedback from the Planning Committee meeting explaining:

- (a) Approval of the multi-pitch was conditional on lights not used after 8.30pm.
- (b) A site visit for Lichfield Road was proposed.
- (c) Relaxation of the condition on the school equestrian centre was approved, but conditions have been proposed based on a letter from Mike Lewis that include a limit of 30 large vehicles per month.

125.3.2 A copy of a letter expressing concerns about the Ivy House development has been received by the Chairman. The Clerk is aware that others were also intending to write to ESBC expressing concerns.

125.3.3 The Clerk drew the attention of members to recent correspondence for and against the proposed wind farm.

## Minute 126: Financial Matters

### 126.1 Financial Statement for March

The financial statement for March was introduced by the Clerk. He reported that £9.15 of interest had been credited to the Cater Allen account, but not included in the statement, due to late notification. ***It was proposed (LF), seconded (RE) and agreed that the statement be approved.***

### 126.2 Report on payments made since the last Meeting:

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

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details	Powers
75/480	Npower	84.59	Electricity for lighting	PCA 1957 s.3
76/481	Paul Sweetman	751.55	Salary/expenses – January	[Vital Village]
77/482	ESBC	49.35	Playground Inspection	PHA 1961 s.52
78/483	AB Scouts	400.00	Grant agreed at Feb meeting	LGA 1972 s.137
	<b>TOTAL payments made</b>	<b><u>1285.49</u></b>		

### 126.3 Bills to pay

The Clerk introduced the following for payment:

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details	Powers
79/484	Abbots Bromley Village Hall	14.00	Wind farm meeting on 3/3/3	LGA 1972 s.150
80/485	Paul Sweetman	612.59	Salary/expenses – February	[Vital Village]
81/486	GC McCulloch	85.00	Removal of tree from Mill. Green	PHA 1961 s.52
82/487	E A Roy	23.50	Hosting costs of web pages	LGA 1972 s.144
	<b>TOTAL payments</b>	<b><u>735.09</u></b>		

***It was proposed (KM), seconded (RE) and agreed that the above payments be made.***

#### **126.4 Section 137 payments**

126.4.1 Following a short discussion it was resolved that the Council, in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should contribute £100 towards the cost of setting up the new Explorer Scouts and £700 to the Cricket Club to help meet the transition costs for their new lease arrangements. Both grants were, in the opinion of the Council, in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure. **Proposed (RJ), seconded (LF) and agreed.**

#### **126.5 Other financial matters**

126.5.1 **Internal Audit report:** The Clerk reported that he had written to SPCA outlining the concerns raised by Bryan Sullivan when conducting the audit about the sale of books by the Council. On the basis of the advice received, it was agreed that the Council would cease this practice immediately. **It was proposed (PC), seconded (RJ) and agreed that books be transferred into the custody of the independent Horn Dance restoration fund and that in future, proceeds from sales be credited to the associated Horn Dance account.**

126.5.2 **New Village Hall:** The Clerk reported that the account was now closed, and he was liaising with Ken Webb to ensure the funds had been correctly transferred into the Village Hall account.

126.5.3 **Cricket Club:** Following the last meeting, confirmation had been received from both the Cricket Club and the school of the exact state of the lease. There were new grass cutting requirements and these had been further clarified by input during the public session. **It was proposed (RE), seconded (PC) and agreed that an interest-free loan of up £5,000 over a maximum period of five years be offered from the Recreation Fund.** Clerk to write to Cricket Club making this offer and explaining that it would have to be conditional on title to the purchased equipment remaining with the Parish Council until the loan was repaid.

126.5.4 **Review of banking arrangements:** The Clerk introduced a summary of the existing arrangements and invited comment. **It was proposed (LF), seconded (CC) and agreed that we change the general fund deposit account to a "30-day account".** Clerk to prepare instructions for the bank accordingly.

### **Minute 127: Group Reports**

#### **127.1 Recreation**

127.1.1 The report on the Annual Inspection of the Millennium Green by the National Playing Fields Association was distributed to the Trustees of the Millennium Green and to the Recreation Working Group. The Recreation Group have reviewed the report and have the following observations:

- (a) There has never been a higher bar, Clerk to take photograph and send with copy of report to the manufacturer seeking their view.
- (b) Slide will be monitored to see if it gets too hot due to south facing aspect.
- (c) There are non-permitted parts in the area at the side of the Wendy house – to be monitored.
- (d) Rungs of the ladder are too thick for small children to grip – to be included in questions to the manufacturer.

127.1.2 We have received a questionnaire from PMP (acting on behalf of ESBC) about recreational facilities in the village. Cllr McLoughlin offered to fill in and return,

#### **127.2 Village Property**

Nothing to report.

### **127.3 Traffic, Parking, Highways**

127.3.1 The Hoar Cross site meeting took place and a number of the recommendations made are included in the proposal from the Traffic Working Group.

127.3.2 The Working Group met on 4 March and their proposed input to the SCC local transport plan accompanied the agenda. Agreed that item 3 was less important – move to position 10. New order 1, 5, 9 & 10 (combined), 4, 2, 6, 8, 3, 11. Item 5 to read “through warning or enforcement cameras” and remove “by schools”. Adapt 4 to include schoolchildren safety and also add crossing at Bagot Arms. Concealed entrances (such as Harley Lane, Goose Lane, Church Lane) supporting reason for 20mph limit and item 7 can then be dropped.

127.3.3 Mr Jeffery has reported parking problems obstructing the church car park entrance and asked for white lines on the opposite side of Church Lane. Clerk to give him details so he can write to Highways personally.

127.3.5 The Clerk reported that the white lines had now been restored outside Richard Clarke First School.

127.3.6 Light E49 on junction of Lichfield Road and Radmore Lane has never had replacement lamp fitted although the post has been there some time. E2 on war memorial is also not functioning. Clerk to raise with Highways Lighting.

127.3.7 The Clerk reported his enquiries about the road from R&D Motors to the church gate indicated that this was a county highway.

127.3.8 It had been observed that material dropped from farm vehicles using the main street was apparently not being cleared. The Clerk reported that the existing ESBC schedule only required a minimum of four visits per year of the street sweeper. ESBC are currently revising the schedule, but at present the old one is still in operation and that should have brought a sweeper through mid-March.

### **127.4 Competitions**

127.4.1 The posters for the Best Kept Village competition had been received, and the notices about the poster competition had been distributed and displayed.

127.4.2 The Clerk was asked to organise weed-killing around the traffic calming before 1<sup>st</sup> May.

127.4.3 Litter picking at the Village Hall is done weekly. An area behind the Scout hut has been omitted from this as it was thought to be classed as a conservation area. Cllr Wilson offered to investigate.

127.4.4 An issue has been raised over the state of the front garden at Horngarth. It has been suggested that we could write a letter requesting help prior to the BKV competition or invite ESBC to get involved. Clerk to write letter to the occupant.

### **127.5 Rural Housing**

Nothing to report.

### **127.6 Newsletter**

127.6.1 Has been issued.

### **127.7 School Governor's Report**

- 127.7.1 The Council is invited by Staffordshire County Council to nominate a governor for Richard Clarke First School from 27 June 2003 when Mr Hough's term of office expires. Chairman to check that Mr Hough is willing to stand again.

### **127.8 Village Plan**

- 127.8.1 Cllr Esling reported distribution of the questionnaire is being planned, and a meeting to discuss this and the subsequent collection is being set up. Collection would probably take place after Easter. Cllr McLoughlin took details of those willing to assist.

### **Minute 128: Annual Review of Risks and Insurance**

- 128.1 The Clerk introduced a summary paper on risk assessment and management for consideration by members. ***Proposed (SW), seconded (PC) and agreed that this be adopted and the recommendations followed up.***
- 128.2 Agreed that the next review should take place in October or November with increased involvement by Councillors.

### **Minute 129: Annual Parish Assembly**

- 129.1 The Clerk reported that invitations had gone out to the usual list of village organisations with the addition, this year, of the Swimming Club. Posters had been produced and were now displayed around the village. A draft agenda was available.

### **Minute 130: Election**

- 130.1 The Clerk reported that he had not yet given out all the nomination forms and it seemed likely that there would be less than 9 candidates.

### **Minute 131: Correspondence, bulletins and reports**

- 131.1 We are invited by Staffordshire County Council to nominate a governor for Richard Clarke First School. (Dealt with under Group Reports)
- 131.2 We have received an invitation from the management committee of the Village Hall to the AGM on Wednesday 2 April at 7.30pm in Memorial Room.
- 131.3 ESBC have published the Council Tax rates by band for all East Staffordshire parishes in 2003/4.
- 131.4 The Community Council of Staffordshire invite us to one-to-one advice sessions on Vital Village funding to be held on 7 and 25 April in their Friars Terrace offices.
- 131.5 We have been notified that from 1 April 2003 new arrangements for Highways Maintenance come into operation. Richard Rayson will be the Divisional Engineer responsibility for East Staffordshire and Moorlands - based at the Midland Grain Warehouse in Burton.
- 131.6 A letter from DEFRA summarises the initial tests for a "Quality" council. Copies were given to members.

### **Minute 132: Items for agenda of next meeting**

- Judging of Best Kept Village competition posters  
Visit from Weaver Ward to present "First Responders" scheme

**Minute 133: Date, time and place of next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 30 April 2003 in the Memorial Room of the Village Hall.

The Meeting concluded at 10.43 pm.

Chairman ..... Date: .....

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