

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday, 24 September 2003 at 7.30 p.m.
in the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given.

Present: Cllrs: PJ Charles (Chairman), C Cook, DT Eatough, AE Elkington, RT Esling,
L Fox, KA McLoughlin and JA Needham.

Also present: EA Roy (Clerk)

Apologies for absence: Cllr RSV Jarman, Borough Councillor A Fox

Members of the public attending: Mr S Coxon

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Minute 49: Public Session

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

Mr Steve Coxon explained that he was representing the project to set up a play area for under 5s. Specifically to ask permission from the Parish Council for the project to make use of the Nuttery. He briefly outlined the existing offers they had for help and fundraising and stated that they planned to institute a formal committee in the near future. The production of a business plan was dependent upon agreement to be able to use the Nuttery, since use of the Millennium Green has initially been ruled out on the basis of the space available.

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for their contributions. Normal business resumed at 7.37pm.

Minute 50: Approve and sign the Minutes of the previous Meeting

It was proposed (CC), seconded (RE) and agreed that the Minutes of the previous meeting be signed as a true record of proceedings subject to agreed amendments to page 1.

Minute 51: Matters arising and matters of report

51.1 War memorial valuation (44.6.1): It has not been possible to make any further progress with Linford-Bridgeman.

51.2 Bench repairs (44.6.2): The bench repairs at Pinfold and Schoolhouse Lane have been carried out by Richard Blower at slightly less than the estimated cost.

- 51.3 Tree Inspections (44.6.3):** The Clerk and Chairman have drawn up a schedule of the trees to be inspected and a visit from Rodney Halliwell is arranged for Friday 26 September.
- 51.4 Lloyds TSB mandate (44.6.4):** The changes to the mandate have now been applied and Cllrs Eatough and Elkington are able to sign cheques.
- 51.5 Horn Dance:** Cllr Fox reported that the Mayor and Mayoress seemed to enjoy their visit and it was proposed that we send a letter of thanks together with a picture of their encounter with a Horn Dancer. £75 worth of History Books were sold and income from Traders Licenses amounted to £230.

Minute 52: Postal Address for Abbots Bromley

- 52.1 The Clerk reported on the work carried out by Mrs Enid Ferguson to have "Abbots Bromley" included in the mail addresses of properties in the village.
- 52.2 ***It was proposed (LF), seconded (RE) and agreed that "The Council supports the inclusion of Abbots Bromley as a required element of postal addresses within the Parish as a necessary clarification for those, other than the Royal Mail, needing to visit properties or make deliveries."*** The Clerk was asked to write to Mrs Ferguson confirming this position.

Minute 53: Review of Standing Orders

- 53.1 The Chairman drew attention to the revised draft Standing Orders circulated prior to the meeting and invited comment.
- 53.2 ***It was proposed (RE) and seconded (AE) that the revised Standing Orders be adopted*** but in compliance with Standing Order 71, the resolution was adjourned until the next meeting.

Minute 54: Speed Reduction in the Village

- 54.1 It was agreed to have the discussion on this subject as part of the relevant group report. (See 58.3).

Minute 55: Grass Cutting Contract 2004 Onwards

- 55.1 The Clerk reported that the present grass cutting contract with Mr McCulloch covers the period April 2001 to October 2003. He had prepared a draft tender document for a new contract to run for three years from April 2004. In discussion of the draft it was agreed that the frequency of cuts on the Millennium Green should be the same as for other sites.
- 55.2 Section 11 of the Parish Council Financial Regulations apply. Since the estimated value of the contract for the three years falls below the £5,000 threshold, this requires the Council to obtain three written quotations.
- 55.3 It was agreed that we should advertise the intention to issue a tender in the Newsletter with responses due back by the end of November. The Clerk was asked to revise the tender document as agreed and send copies to Messrs McCulloch, Bailey, Crooks and Sweeting.

Minute 56: Planning

56.1 Applications

279 - CU/22696/006: Ashlands Farm, Bromley Hurst: Change of use and alteration of agricultural buildings to create agricultural workers dwelling and temporary worker/student accommodation, and installation of septic tank

Received: 28/07/03 Replied: 31/07/03 Response: The Parish Council raises no objections to this application.

280 - HO/02478/003: 65 Seedcroft Lane: Erection of a single storey side and rear extension

Received: 01/08/03 Replied: 11/08/03 Response: The Parish Council raises no objections to this application.

281 - HO/27699/002: The Cottage, 5 High Street: Erection of single storey rear extension (AMENDED PLANS)

Received: 05/08/03 Replied: 07/08/03 Response: The Parish Council has no objections to the amended plans.

282 - HO/12563/007: Mount Pleasant, Uttoxeter Road: Erection of two storey extension including installation of dormer window and use of roof space as 3rd floor and single storey side extension

Received: 12/08/03 Replied: 02/08/03 Response: The Parish Council raises no objections to this application.

283 - PA/22696/007: Ashlands Farm, Pinfold Lane: Retention of existing portacabin for a period of 60 months

Received: 22/08/03 Replied: 08/09/03 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

284 - OU/05471/013: The Bungalow, Lichfield Road: Outline application for the erection of two detached dwellings with attached garages, including details of siting, design, external appearance and landscaping (AMENDED PLANS)

Received: 22/08/03 Replied: 01/09/03 Response: Notwithstanding that the scheme now proposed is an improvement on earlier proposals, the Parish Council objects to the principle of two properties of the size proposed on this plot. This is for two reasons: (a) It is not in keeping with the character of this part of the village (b) It will create an undesirable precedent that is also in conflict with the original outline permission for a single dwelling at the time the site was acquired.

285 - HO/05237/008: Fenfield Pit Farm, Hobb Lane: Erection of a single storey side extension

Received: 26/08/03 Replied: 08/09/03 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

286 - PA/27479/003: Willow Brook Farm, Bromley Hurst: Erection of two agricultural buildings for use as livestock housing and hay storage, and retention of existing livestock building

Received: 08/09/03 Replied: 23/09/03 Response: The Parish Council raises no objections to this application.

287 - PA/02429/018: Rose Bank Nursery, Goose Lane: Erection of a detached building to provide accommodation for pre-school and before/after school club, hard paved area and alterations to existing vehicular access

Received: 14/09/03 Replied: 25/09/03: Response: The Parish Council has concerns that an additional building on this site will adversely affect the skyline and whether this would overdevelop the site? It is not clear from the explanations supplied why extension of an existing building would not offer a more effective and less intrusive solution.

288 - CU/19842/007: Bromley Park Farm: Conversion of agricultural building to form 2 holiday lets, associated parking, driveway and installation of septic tank

Received: 14/09/03 Replied: 25/09/03: Response: The Parish Council raises no objections to this application.

56.2 Decisions

The following applications have been AGREED:

280 - HO/02478/003: 65 Seedcroft Lane: Erection of a single storey side and rear extension

282 - HO/12563/007: Mount Pleasant, Uttoxeter Road: Erection of two storey extension including installation of dormer window and use of roof space as 3rd floor and single storey side extension

284 - OU/05471/013: The Bungalow, Lichfield Road: Outline application for the erection of two detached dwellings with attached garages, including details of siting, design, external appearance and landscaping (AMENDED PLANS)

The following applications have been REFUSED.

283 - PA/22696/007: Ashlands Farm, Pinfold Lane: Retention of existing portacabin for a period of 60 months

The following applications have been DEFERRED or WITHDRAWN.

264 - HO/23104/003: Kerrera, Ashbrook Lane: Erection of two storey side and rear extensions and attached double garage to front with accommodation above

56.3 Correspondence and other planning matters

56.3.1 The Clerk reminded members that a draft policy statement on wind turbine development had been received and circulated. Anyone wishing to contribute to the policy should get their comments to Philip Somerfield by the end of September.

56.3.2 The Clerk reported that ESBC Planning had agreed to laminate all site planning notices following the request made earlier this year.

Minute 57: Financial Matters

57.1 Financial reports for August and September

Financial reports for August and September were introduced by the Clerk. ***It was proposed (CC), seconded (LF) and agreed that these statements be approved.***

57.2 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
37/526	G McCulloch	40.00	Devolved maintenance	LGA 1972 s.101
38/527	G McCulloch	226.00	Grass cutting	OSA 1906 s.10 PHA 1961 s.52

<i>Vch/Chq</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Powers</i>
39/528	G McCulloch	80.00	Devolved maintenance	LGA 1972 s.101
40/529	R Blower	75.00	Bench repairs	LG(MP)A 1953 s.4(3)
41/530	P Sweetman	205.96	Village agent salary/expenses	[Vital Villages]
42/531	Npower	84.59	Electricity for lighting	PCA 1957 s.3
43/532	SLCC	110.00	Training course for Clerk	LGA 1972 s.111
44/533	Simon Down	329.00	Removal of allotment ash tree	SHAA 1908 s.26
TOTAL payments made		<u>1150.55</u>		

57.3 Bills to pay

The Clerk introduced the following for payment:

<i>Vch/Chq</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Powers</i>
45/534	G McCulloch	226.00	Grass cutting	OSA 1906 s.10 PHA 1961 s.52
46/535	P Sweetman	135.96	Village Agent salary/expenses	[Vital Villages]
TOTAL payments		<u>361.96</u>		

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

57.4 Section 137 requests

Cllr Cook introduced a summary of his visit to the Donna Louise Trust in Trentham and explained that it does indeed cover our area and is nearer than the Acorns Hospice. He had been very impressed by both the planning and execution of the facilities and had learnt that the Trust also seeks to help families in their own homes. Cllr Elkington declared a personal interest in the Trust. A grant of £200 was proposed.

<i>Vch/Chq</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>
47/536	Donna Louise Trust	200.00	Letter issued with June agenda
TOTAL payments		<u>200.00</u>	

It was proposed (LF), seconded (CC) and agreed that the Council, in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should make the above payment which is, 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.

57.5 Other financial matters

57.5.1 ***It was proposed (RE), seconded (LF) and agreed that the Council purchase a RoSPA publication entitled "Playgrounds for Children with Special Needs" at a cost of £10.50.***

<i>Vch/Chq</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Powers</i>
48/538	Playground Management Ltd	10.50	RoSPA book	LGA 1972 s.111
TOTAL payments		<u>10.50</u>		

57.5.2 Cllr Fox reported that the current insurer of the Millennium Green Trustees is no longer willing to provide cover. There appears to be no opportunity to combine this cover with the existing Parish Council policy that covers the equipment on the Millennium Green. It was agreed that the Millennium Green Trustees need to decide how to proceed.

Minute 58: Group Reports

58.1 Recreation

- 58.1.1 Given that it was probably not possible to combine the needs of the under 5s with the existing Millennium Green equipment and layout, the availability of the Nuttery was key to the under 5s project. It was agreed that the Council wished to support the project by making the site available to them for development. The Clerk was asked to convey this to Mr Coxon in writing.

58.2 Village Property

Nothing to report.

58.3 Traffic, Parking, Highways

- 58.3.1 The Chairman introduced notes of a meeting of the working group on 13 August and invited comments. Support was voiced for visual speed warnings and gated entries to the village. Concerns about the proposed change in priorities at the Rugeley turn were expressed.
- 58.3.2 A discussion of options for reducing speed took place noting the particular problems with excess speed on the entries from Uttoxeter Road and Lichfield Road and through the traffic calming in Ashbrook Lane.
- 58.3.3 Agreed that we seek a separate meeting with Highways to explore the feasibility and cost of the proposals of the first seven proposals. Clerk to contact Highways to set up a meeting – evening if possible but daytime if not.
- 58.3.4 The Clerk was asked to contact the Police to determine whether they would support the use of civilian operated speed cameras.

58.4 Competitions

- 58.4.1 The village had been awarded second prize in the BKV competition. The score sheet showing areas where we could improve was not yet available.
- 58.4.2 The Chairman introduced notes of a meeting of the working group on 19 August and invited comments. Discussion of the proposals took place. Cllr Elkington indicated that he was proposing to prepare a calendar of what needed to be done at each stage.

58.5 Rural Housing

Nothing to report.

58.6 Newsletter

- 58.6.1 Items for inclusion in the newsletter should be with Cllr McLoughlin as soon as possible.

58.7 School Governor's Report

- 58.7.1 Work on the changes at the school is nearly complete and results in a much improved appearance.

58.8 Village Plan

- 58.8.1 Cllr Esling reported that the return rate for Abbots Bromley was 58% - considered to be a statistically significant sample. A local meeting to report back is planned for 7.30pm on 4 November. Cllr McLoughlin offered to attend the next Steering Group meeting in the absence of Cllr Esling.

58.9 RISES

Nothing to report.

Minute 59: Correspondence, bulletins and reports

- 59.1 CPRE are holding a seminar on "Understanding the Planning System" in Stafford on Saturday 11th October. As a member of CPRE, we are entitled to one free place, which has been booked. Cllr Esling will attend.
- 59.2 We have been invited to attend "Uttoxeter Older Peoples' Forum" on Tuesday 30th September and a place has been booked. The Clerk would attend and report back.
- 59.3 A letter from the Audit Commission requests feedback on the performance of ESBC (in the form of a questionnaire) by 27 October. This will contribute to the overall assessment of their performance to be carried out in December. The Chairman and Vice Chairman offered to complete and return the questionnaire.
- 59.4 A letter from ESBC offers the opportunity to be involved in promoting the Fairtrade Initiative within East Staffordshire.

Minute 60: Items for agenda of next meeting

Standing Orders
Budget for 2004/2005
Traffic Issues

Minute 61: Date, time and place of next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 29 October 2003 in the Memorial Room at the Village Hall.

The Meeting concluded at 10.10 pm.

Chairman Date:

Proposed: Seconded: