

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday, 28 September 2005 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, J Needham

Also present: EA Roy (Clerk)

Apologies for absence: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr RSV Jarman, and also received from Borough Councillor Fox.

Members of the public attending: E Summers, P Hands, M Stazicker, C Mellor, P Massey, N Haywood

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Minute 48: Public Session

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public and invited them to address the Council.

Mrs Massey gave a brief update on the plans for the Newton Turn and wished to hear the Council discussion on this topic.

Mrs Summers and others present expressed their concerns about the proposed development in Ashbrook Lane relating to changes in height, limited parking provision, proximity to the traffic calming and impact on road safety of a new junction. There were also concerns about the possibility of using the site to gain access for further development in the field behind.

Normal business was resumed at 19:39.

Minute 49: Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted subject to replacement of Ashbrook Lane with Swan Lane in 43.2.

Minute 50: Declarations of interest

The Clerk and Cllr Fox declared an interest in the item relating to the village hall drive, and Cllr Elkington declared a prejudicial interest in planning application OU/15976/009.

Minute 51: Matters arising and matters of report

51.1 Circulated documents: No issues.

- 51.2 Phone box consultation:** The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from BT acknowledging our comments to their consultation and providing clarification of the limited payment facilities proposed.
- 51.3 Horn Dance day:** Cllr McLoughlin noted that the police presence seemed effective but Cllr Cook reported that this had only resulted from his making contact the day before. It was noted that before next year, there is a need to consider the provision of toilets.
- 51.4 Parish Councils' forum:** The Chairman reported on his visit to the forum with County Highways although there were no items that specifically affected us. Discussion of 20mph limits again elicited the County view that these were unenforceable. There was a good presentation on the speeding issues at Admaston bank. Cllr Elkington reported that through the Vital Villages Steering Group he was considering joint work with Blithfield representatives to work on speeding and HGV issues.
- 51.5 Footpaths notice board:** The Clerk reported that the new notice board on the village green was now fully populated with the addition of a footpaths display map for the central area of the parish.

Minute 52: Planning

52.1 Applications

420 - PA/15976/008: Cala Bona, Ashbrook Lane: Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of detached dwelling and garage

Received: 01/08/05 Replied: 22/08/05 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

421 - LB/10967/027: Churchfields House, Bagot Street: Installation of satellite dish

Received: 05/08/05 Replied: 22/08/05 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

422 - HO/30104/001: 67 Seedcroft Lane: Erection of two storey side extension and single storey front and rear extensions

Received: 08/08/05 Replied: 22/08/05 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

423 - PA/08499/018: Adjacent Village Hall, Bagot Street: Erection of replacement clubhouse, store and mower shed

Received: 25/08/05 Replied: 30/08/05 Response: The Parish Council has no objections in principle to this application, which will provide much needed improvements in facilities. However, a number of Councillors have questioned the reasons for three separate buildings instead of one. The redevelopment offers an opportunity to improve the visual amenity but the choice of three buildings with different roof heights and orientations does not take advantage of this.

424 - TN/24638/006: Sonoma, Mires Brook Lane: Pruning of one willow tree

Received: 08/09/05 Replied: 13/09/05 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

425 - TP/14807/022: The Croft, Uttoxeter Road: Removal of No. 5 black Poplar trees (T17 - T21 of TPO 69)

Received: 09/09/05 Replied: 13/09/05 Response: The Parish Council would like to see this group of trees retained as, in the opinion of Councillors, it is part of a significant view on the entrance to the village.

426 - LB/26439/019: Blithe Farm: Conversion and alterations to existing cart shed to facilitate change of use to residential

Received: 12/09/05 Replied: 23/09/05 Response: The Parish Council raises no objections to this application.

427 - OU/15976/009: Cala-Bona/Fairview, Ashbrook Lane: Outline planning application for the erection of eight dwellings with details of means of access

Received: 20/09/05 Replied: 29/09/05 Response: The Parish Council objects to this application on the basis that it increases the density of housing and thus vehicle movements onto an already busy and difficult road. Proximity to traffic calming adds additional hazards to this particular location. The proposed site layout offers inadequate access to service vehicles. The replacement of a single storey dwelling with two storey construction across this whole site would also have a detrimental effect on the visual amenity of the local area.

428 - PA/17519/004: Radmore Fields Farm, Radmore Lane: Erection of an agricultural building for the storage of livestock and machinery

Received: 23/09/05 Replied: 29/09/05 Response: The Parish Council raises no objections to this application.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk communicate these responses to the local planning authority.

52.2 Decisions

The following applications have been **AGREED** subject to stated conditions

363 - PA/17519/003: Radmore Fields Farm, Radmore Lane: Erection of hay barn

369 - CU/11528/031: Office Unit, Yeatsall Farm: Conversion of vacant office unit into dwelling

407 - LB/18945/012: Bromley House, Uttoxeter Road: Conversion and alterations to form 3 apartments to include new staircase, sash window and roof lights

416 - PA/19842/008: Bromley Park Farm Buildings: Retention of a temporary (36 months) mobile home for an agricultural worker

420 - PA/15976/008: Cala Bona, Ashbrook Lane: Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of detached dwelling and garage

422 - HO/30104/001: 67 Seedcroft Lane: Erection of two storey side extension and single storey front and rear extensions

The following applications have been **REFUSED**

380 - PA/28877/002: Land adjacent 1-3 Holly Bank: Erection of a detached dwelling and garage

408 - CU/18945/013: Bromley House, Uttoxeter Road: Conversion and alterations to form 3 apartments to include new staircase, sash window and roof lights

418 - AD/13574/024: Goats Head, Market Place: Display of a non-illuminated letter sign and three amenity boards

419 - LB/13574/025: Goats Head, Market Place: Display of a non-illuminated letter sign and three amenity boards

No applications have been **REVISED**.

The following applications have been **WITHDRAWN**

402 - PA/29729/001: Gilleons Hall Farm, Bromley Hurst: Erection of an agricultural workers dwelling, installation of septic tank and alterations to existing vehicular access

409 - PA/03983/003: Bentilee Farm, Glass Lane: Erection of an agricultural building for use as cattle, storage shed and silage store

414 - LB/03983/004: Bentilee Park Farm, Glass Lane: Conversion and alteration of agricultural building to form 4 live work units

415 - PA/03983/005: Bentilee Park Farm, Glass Lane: Conversion and alteration of agricultural buildings to form 4 live work units and open fronted garage

417 - PC/00897/017: Grange House, Bromley Wood: Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to continue to use the dwelling without complying with Condition 6 of planning permission PA/00897/006 dated 18/9/86 relating to the occupancy of the dwelling

52.3 Correspondence and other planning matters

52.3.1 The Clerk introduced a letter from ESBC Planning requesting help in framing a scoping opinion for an Environmental Statement in connection with the proposed wind farm at Bagot's Park. After a discussion of the issues that such a request raised, it was agreed to refer the planners back to our response to the previous application and the Clerk was asked to write a reply to this effect.

Minute 53: Financial Matters

53.1 Financial report

The Clerk introduced the financial report for September 2005.

RESOLVED: That the statement be approved and the Chairman sign the report.

53.2 Report on payments made since the last meeting

The Clerk reported that the following payments had been made since the last meeting after discussion with the Chairman/Vice Chairman:

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details	Powers
34/699	Abbots Bromley Village Hall	15.00	Room hire for Action Group	[Vital Villages]
35/700	Penny Ward	139.46	Village agent salary/expenses	[Vital Villages]
36/701	Eric Roy	316.05	Clerk's salary/expenses: Jul	LGA 1972 s.112 & LG(FP)A 1963 s.5
37/702	Linda Fox	7.19	Refreshments QC presentation	LGA 1972 s.137
	TOTAL payments	477.70		

53.3 Bills to pay

The Clerk introduced the following for payment:

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details	Powers
38/703	M Barnes Cartographer	284.82	Footpaths display map	LGA 1972 s.144
39/704	Graham McCulloch	247.20	Grass cutting	OSA 1906 s.10
40/705	Universal Play Limited	70.50	Site visit to cap finger-trap holes	PHA 1961 s.52
41/706	E A Roy	367.31	Clerk's salary/expenses: Aug	LGA 1972 s.112 & LG(FP)A 1963 s.5
PIB/707	Inland Revenue	769.26	Tax/NI: Q2	LGA 1972 s.112

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details	Powers
43/709	Abbots Bromley Village Hall	207.50	Hire for meetings during 2005	LGA 1972 s.150
	TOTAL payments	1946.59		

RESOLVED: That these payments be made.

53.4 Section 137 payments

The Clerk introduced the following proposed payments under section 137:

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details
42/708	Abbots Bromley PCC	60.00	Cost of hire and refreshments for BKV on 23 rd Sept
	TOTAL payments made	2660.00	

RESOLVED: 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.

The Clerk introduced a letter from the Chairman of the Village Hall committee requesting a grant towards the cost of refurbishing the Village Hall drive.

RESOLVED: That the Council, will provide up to £2,600 funded by transfers from the funding set aside for BKVillage improvements, welcome leaflet and Vital Villages. Any balance from contingency.

53.5 Other financial matters

53.5.1 Annual return: The Clerk reported that the external auditor review of the accounts for the period ended 31 March 2005 had been completed. No adverse opinion on the accounts was given but, in "other matters", the subject of the fidelity cover was raised. The auditor comment was "The fidelity is not adequate and needs extending to include councillors cover equivalent to the year end balance plus 50% of the precept is a guideline". Allianz Cornhill can extend cover to include Councillors at an additional annual cost of £28.35. Increases to the amount of cover require a proposal form to be completed and will result in a pro-rata increase in premium. Advice has been requested from SPCA but not yet received.

RESOLVED: That, if this need is endorsed by SPCA, the Clerk request the insurers to add the additional optional cover for Councillors. There will be no increase in the amount covered in the light of expected major disbursements from funds.

53.5.2 Play area remedial work: The Clerk reported that a long standing issue with a "head trap" on the Millennium Green multi-play could be resolved by the installation of additional rails. The original equipment supplier has offered to supply these rails at a cost of £105, to visit site to fit them at an additional cost of £75 and to supply 750ml of matching yellow paint at £20 (all prices plus VAT).

RESOLVED: That the suppliers be commissioned to complete the modifications and supply the paint as quoted.

53.3.3 Play area surface: A quotation to provide an alternate "wet-pour" surface for the Millennium Green play area has been received and indicates a cost in excess of £20,000. The surface needs urgent attention and, by comparison, a major delivery of bark (10 cubic metres) would be less than £1,000.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to obtain quotations for the supply of sufficient bark to replenish the fill to a safe level.

53.3.4 Under 5s Project Playground: The Clerk reminded the Council that it had agreed to provide a grant of up to £8,000 towards the cost of establishing the new play area. The required funds would need to be transferred from longer term deposits.

RESOLVED: That the Council release the funding invested with ESBC.

Minute 54: Group Reports

54.1 Recreation

The Clerk reported that an invitation from ESBC to join the bulk inspections had been received. He also suggested that the Council consider an alternate arrangement with Wicksteed Leisure at a cost of £40 + VAT that would provide a more rapid turn round on the report and direct contact with the inspection agency. With a new insurance-imposed target of resolving issues within 60 days, this would be of significant benefit.

RESOLVED: That the Council commission Wicksteed Leisure to conduct the annual inspection and provide a report.

The Clerk introduced a letter from the Under 5s Project containing a detailed proposal on why and how the Parish Council should purchase the equipment for the new play area.

RESOLVED: That in principle this was an acceptable basis on which to proceed, and the Clerk should liaise with Mr Coxon to provide a detailed summary of expected cash flow.

The Clerk reported on lack of progress with the transfer of the access strip and was asked to take whatever action necessary to escalate the matter.

54.2 Village Property

The Clerk reported that ESBC had agreed to remove the broken seat on the corner of Swan Lane and Schoolhouse Lane. Trent and Dove Housing had denied any responsibility for the bench. There are no current plans for a replacement bench.

The Clerk reported that problems with the timer on the church floodlighting were resulting in erratic switching and Central Networks had been contacted in mid-August. A promise to provide a quotation for replacement of the controller had not yet been fulfilled.

The car park in front of the Goat's Head belongs to the Parish Council and should be available for public use. At present it has two picnic benches in place. The Clerk was asked to write to the landlord and explain the situation.

The Chairman asked if there were any views on the placement of the BKV trophy and, after discussion, it was agreed that it could stay where it was.

54.3 Traffic, Parking, Highways

The Clerk reported that he had received an email from Peter Gee advising that he was no longer responsible for Abbots Bromley and that his role has been taken over by Andy Oakley.

The Clerk introduced a letter and drawings from JS Wilks showing a proposed change to the line of the hedge at the Newton Lane junction. The Clerk was asked to write confirming Parish Council support for the proposed changes.

Cllr Esling questioned the need to initiate some work to make use of the funding set aside for traffic calming and speed reduction. It was agreed that an item should be included in the next newsletter to solicit any new ideas and volunteers.

Cllr Fox reported that the grass cutting by County Highways had been poor this year. The Clerk offered to report specific issues to the area surveyor if details were provided.

54.4 Competitions

The Council has been asked to propose a project on which the £100 prize money could be spent. Members agreed to bring ideas to the next meeting.

The Clerk introduced the feedback from the Best kept Village judges and reported on his conversation with Mr Baxter about the conservation area adjacent to the Millennium Green. Cllr Elkington provided a résumé of his plans.

54.5 Newsletter

Cllr McLoughlin would like to receive items for the newsletter by 1st November.

54.6 School Governor's Report

Cllr Eatough reported that a governor's meeting earlier in the week had dealt with a number of compliance issues for new policies, and also been advised that an election for another parent governor will be taking place.

54.7 Village Plan

Cllr Elkington reported that Penny Ward is standing down as Village Agent and the vacancy will be advertised locally.

54.8 RISES

Cllr Fox reported that there was still no decision on how the current funds would be distributed. She will also seek clarification of the impact on RISES of the new boxes for kerbside collection of glass, tins and plastic.

54.9 Village Hall

Cllr Cook reported that expenses had exceeded income recently, mainly due to a catch-up on the gas bill.

Minute 55: Correspondence, bulletins and reports

- 55.1 An action group "Local Works" have written outlining their campaign for a "Sustainable Communities" bill.
- 55.2 Lynne Smith of East Staffordshire Borough Council has written about a consultation on the use of Neighbourhood Wardens. It was agreed that we should seek additional information by inviting Donna Meredith-Wood to attend a future meeting.
- 55.3 Sustainable Staffordshire are holding their daytime Annual Forum on Wednesday 2 November in Stafford when the theme will be "Sustainable Food". The Chairman was planning to attend.

- 55.4 SMP Playgrounds is holding a free evening seminar in Stafford on Thursday 27 October when their topics will include the Disabilities Discrimination Act.
- 55.5 Staffordshire County Council are now embarking on the third round of their consultation for the County Play Strategy and are holding a series of eight meetings at different venues. The most local is at Burton Town Hall from 1pm to 2:30 on Thursday 6 October.
- 55.6 Uttoxeter and District Crime Prevention Panel invited the Council to send representatives to attend a presentation on bogus callers in the Town Hall, Uttoxeter on Monday 26 September at 2pm. The Chairman had attended the event and reported that it had been interesting. Although Derbyshire were currently implementing some measures Staffordshire were at an earlier stage. There were possibilities for us to get copies and distribute locally. The Clerk was asked to make further enquiries.
- 55.7 Staffordshire County Council Chairman Councillor Peter Haynes has invited representatives of the Council to attend his informal charity reception on Friday 14 October. No one wished to attend.
- 55.8 SPCA has distributed issue 103 of "Advisory Notes and Newsletter" and also advised us of several training events.
- 55.9 Len Ferguson has written advising the Council that he wishes to retire from his role as co-ordinator of the Community Transport scheme as soon as possible. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Ferguson acknowledging his letter, and advising that it was not in the remit of the Parish Council to make such an appointment. The need for a successor could be publicised in the next news.

Minute 56: Items for agenda of next meeting

Review of feedback on Quality Council application – Chairman and Cllr Eatough to work with Clerk on proposal
Manning of PC Surgery in November
Visit from Donna Meredith-Smith

Minute 57: Date, time and place of next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19 October 2005 in the Memorial Room at the Village Hall.

The Meeting concluded at 22:25 pm.

Chairman

Date: