

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 24 May 2006 at 7.30 pm

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), Borough Councillor A Fox

Apologies: Apologies from Cllr RSV Jarman were received and accepted.

Members of the public attending:
None.

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Minute 12: Public Session

The Chairman invited Borough Councillor Fox to address the meeting.

Borough Councillor Fox gave an update on the proposed development at Tatenhill Airfield, and reported that the decision had been deferred by the Planning Committee when it met earlier in the week. He also gave updates on other issues that might impact the parish.

Normal business was resumed at 19:39.

Minute 13: Annual Meeting

13.1 Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Powers to Act

Cllr Charles was elected Chairman by consent, and took the Chair.

Cllr Eatough was elected Vice Chairman by consent.

Cllr Fox stated that the recent application for Tatenhill was the type of issue that she believed should have been brought to the attention of other Councillors, and not merely discussed by Clerk and Chairman. In explaining the reasons for not having done so, the Clerk reminded the Parish Council that it was not a formal consultee for such plans and

that no encouragement to comment had been received from ESBC Planning Officers, Borough Councillor or other Parish Councils.

RESOLVED: That executive powers to act between meetings be delegated to the clerk of the council, in accordance with Standing Order paragraph 72.

13.2 Appointment of Members to Groups

Chairman and Vice Chairman are entitled to serve, ex officio, on all groups.

Group	Members
Competitions	Alan Elkington, Jean Needham
Finance	Alan Elkington, Linda Fox
Newsletter	Bob Esling (Editor), Clerk (Publisher), Alan Elkington (Distribution)
Recreation	Clive Cook, Kate McLoughlin, Jean Needham
Rural Housing	Roger Jarman
Traffic & Parking	Clive Cook, Linda Fox, Roger Jarman
Village Property	Roger Jarman

Office	Member
Almshouses	Chairman – ex officio
Finance Officer	Linda Fox
First Responders	Kate McLoughlin
Millennium Green	Clive Cook
RISES	Linda Fox
SPCA	(none)
School Governor	David Eatough
United Charities	Philip Charles, Clive Cook
Village Hall	Clive Cook
Vital Villages	Alan Elkington

Minute 14: Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting on 26 April 2006 be accepted with minor corrections to 6.5.1 and 7.8.

Minute 15: Declarations of interest

There were none.

Minute 16: Matters arising and matters of report

- 16.1 Circulated documents:** It was noted that the white paper on bye laws had not completed circulation, but that there might still be time to submit any significant comments.
- 16.2 Road sign:** The Clerk has asked ESBC if they could provide a sign at the Lichfield Road end of Seedcroft Lane containing "Seedcroft Lane leading to Water Road". The request has been added to their list and, subject to funds, will be provided when a new batch of signs is ordered.
- 16.3 Cedar Cottage:** The ESBC enforcement team are investigating unauthorised work carried on the cedar tree and rear wall. A prosecution is possible.

- 16.4 Allotment rents:** The Clerk was previously asked to obtain some comparative figures on allotment rents and noted that the recent issue of Clerk and Councils Direct contained some information on this subject. It appeared that rates in the range £20-30 per annum were normal.
- 16.5 Cricket Club loan:** The Clerk wrote to the Club advising that the Council was willing to consider alternative repayment arrangements, and has received a schedule of proposed payments from the Club Treasurer.
- 16.6 Parish Council surgery:** The Vice Chairman introduced a summary of the issues raised at the last Parish Council surgery. Issues raised were dog fouling, speed of vehicles, parking around the area of the Goat, lack of activities for 14-17 year olds, blocked drains in Seedcroft and low frequency of grass cutting in the same area. The Clerk was asked to take highways matters up with Richard Rayson – including blocked drains opposite the top shop, next drain towards village centre and at Seedcroft. Also to request redefinition of the passing places on Seedcroft and report difficulties experienced in contacting Clarence. Agreed that a pre-printed sheet with information on who can deal with specific issues would be a useful addition to the surgery. The Clerk agreed to provide a draft for the next meeting, and also a form to be used in recording the incidents.

Cllr Fox reported that moves were afoot to try and form a committee to move ahead with some development of the multi-sports facility.

Minute 17: Planning

17.1 Applications

463 - HO/25619/003: 10 High Street: Erection of a single storey rear extension to include a garden room and porch

Received: 29/04/06 Replied: 12/05/06 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

464 - PA/30665/001: Gilleons Hall Farm, Orange Lane: Erection of an agricultural workers dwelling

Received: 08/05/06 Replied: 16/05/06 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application, subject to any approval being conditional on occupation by agricultural workers.

465 - CU/01055/009: Rookery Farm, Orange Lane: Conversion and alteration to existing redundant agricultural building to form dwelling to be occupied by agricultural worker

Received: 18/05/06 Replied: 25/05/06 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application, subject to any approval being conditional on occupation by agricultural workers.

466 - HO/30687/001: Hillcrest, Harley Lane: Erection of a two-storey side extension

Received: 22/05/06 Replied: 25/05/06 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

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

17.2 Decisions

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

452 - PA/20982/009: Land adjacent Goose Cottage, Goose Lane: Erection of a detached three storey dwelling, detached double garage and construction of vehicular access

The following applications have been **REFUSED** for stated reasons

457 - CU/11168/004: Bagots Bromley Farm: Conversion of agricultural buildings to form six dwellings with associated garaging

The following applications have been **REVISED** - NONE

The following applications have been **WITHDRAWN**

455 - HO/16070/004: Miresbrook House, Mires Brook Lane: Erection of first floor extension, front porch and bay window and erection of fence on south west boundary

17.3 Correspondence and other planning matters

The Clerk reported that an email from a pressure group had been received drawing attention to proposed developments at Tatenhill Airfield. This initial information had now been now updated by new information supplied by Borough Cllr Fox (see public session).

Minute 18: Financial Matters

18.1 Financial report

The Clerk introduced the financial statement for May and reported that in addition to the first half of the precept (£9,400) received from ESBC, recent receipts included a VAT repayment of £2,374 and a Staffordshire Environmental Fund grant payment for Project Playground of £6,038.

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

18.2 Report on payments made since the last meeting

The Clerk reported that no payments had been made since the last meeting.

18.3 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>
9/758	G McCulloch	254.60	Grass cutting	OSA 1906 s.10
10/759	Abbots Bromley PCC	33.80	Printing Feb/May newsletters	LGA 1972 s.142
11/760	Richard Blower	110.00	Restoration of notice boards	LGA 1972 s.142
12/761	Eric Roy	385.00	Clerk's salary/expenses	LG(FP)A 1963 s.5 LGA 1972 s.112(2)
13/762	SPCA	38.50	Clerk's annual training day	LGA 1972 s.111
	TOTAL payments	821.90		

RESOLVED: That these payments be made.

18.4 Section 137 payments

The Clerk introduced a letter from Childline requesting financial support.

18.5 Other financial matters

- 18.5.1 **Christmas lights:** A brochure showing low voltage LED lights was recently circulated. The Clerk was asked to request a formal proposal for a combination of colours. The need for some physical protection for the new tree on the green was discussed. The Clerk was asked to ask the ESBC Landscape Architect for advice.
- 18.5.2 **Clerks' Training Day:** The annual SPCA training day for Clerks is planned for 27th June and will address the theme of "Communication" including Parish Council newsletters. The cost for the event is £38.50.
RESOLVED: The Clerk should attend.

Minute 19: Group Reports

19.1 Recreation

The Clerk gave a brief update on the Nuttery. Work was in progress to create a contract and specification for Project Playground and a provisional start date of 19th June has been proposed. Cllrs Esling and Elkington offered to review/feedback on the draft contract. An annual inspection had been commissioned from Wicksteed Leisure for the Millennium Green play area.

19.2 Village Property

Nothing to report.

19.3 Traffic, Parking, Highways

At the Parish Assembly a suggestion had been made to provide a white line to denote the footway by the corner of the Goats Head. A number of options for responding to this suggestion were discussed, including addition of a line on the car park or a pedestrian symbol on the footway. The Clerk was asked to discuss the alternatives with Highways.

19.4 Competitions

Cllr Elkington reported that two posters needed to be sent off to a new county competition by 23rd June. The posters in question were currently on display in the Taswell and Meadows windows. Councillors were asked to view the posters and provide their feedback to Cllr Elkington.

Cllr Elkington also reported on an invitation to participate in the Calor Gas Village of the Year competition. The Clerk and Cllr McLoughlin agreed to review the application and make a recommendation.

19.5 Newsletter

Cllr McLoughlin questioned the nature of the content we were aiming for – was it just Parish Council or were we including other village organisations? Getting content was difficult, as not everyone seemed willing to contribute items.

The Clerk offered to assist in creating the published document and Cllr Elkington to organise distribution. Cllr Esling offered to provide editorial control.

In the ensuing discussion various options such as advertising, crosswords, local interest articles and future events were mentioned. The underlying issue was whether making changes would add value to the newsletter.

Agreed to continue with next issue for June, while considering changes for later issues. Cllr Eatough agreed to provide some proposals in time for the next meeting.

19.6 School Governor's Report

Cllr Eatough reported that governors were now receiving an update from the head-teacher before each meeting, and this was proving to be useful. Early planning of the budget for the next year was looking sustainable. Staff changes are also expected.

19.7 Village Plan

The Clerk gave an update reporting that interviews of candidates for the vacant Village Agent post were planned for 15th/16th June.

19.8 RISES

Cllr Fox reported on problems with emptying of the paper bin and said that she would raise the issue again with ESBC. A cheque for £412.78 had been received for the period ending March 30th. If there was to be no immediate spend on goal posts, then these funds could be contributed to safety improvements at the Newton turn.

19.9 Village Hall

Cllr Cook gave a brief update on the Village Hall.

Minute 20: Correspondence, bulletins and reports

- 20.1 Staffordshire Community Council has issued an invitation to enter the "Village of the Year" competition.
- 20.2 In the most recent meeting notes from the Uttoxeter Crime Prevention Panel, it is stated that they intend to invite local Parish Councils to send a representative.
- 20.3 SPCA Chief Executive's Circular 30 includes items on training, quality councils, VAT and car allowances. It is accompanied by NALC notes on changes to the Accounts and Audit Regulations, Licensing Act and Gratuities and the new taxation regime.
- 20.4 SPCA has also supplied details of two new part-time temporary posts to support training and projects.
- 20.5 The Mayor has written with details of a charity event at the Town Hall on 23rd June – "All that JASS".
- 20.6 The "Charter 88" group has sent details of their campaign for a modern and fair democracy asking the Council to request their MP supports an early day motion.

Minute 21: Annual Parish Assembly

- 21.1 The Clerk introduced feedback from the Assembly and this was discussed briefly. There were opportunities to improve the open forum if the same format were followed in future years by using some method to prime the questions on specific areas from the report. An earlier and better publicised report would also help. Full discussion of this item was deferred to the next meeting.

Minute 22: Items for agenda of next meeting

- Parish Assembly and group award

Minute 23: Date, time and place of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 28 June 2006 in the Memorial Room at the Village Hall.

The Meeting concluded at 22:20 pm.

Chairman

Date: