

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on Wednesday, 27 September 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, L Fox, RSV Jarman, KA McLoughlin

**Also present:** EA Roy (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Apologies from Cllrs AE Elkington, RT Esling and J Needham were received and accepted. Apologies were also received from Borough Councillor A Fox

**Members of the public attending:**  
None.

**Contents:**

Minute 46: Public Session.....	1
Minute 47: Minutes of previous meeting .....	1
Minute 48: Declarations of interest .....	1
Minute 49: Matters arising and matters of report .....	1
Minute 50: Planning.....	2
Minute 51: Financial Matters.....	4
Minute 52: Group Reports.....	5
Minute 53: Correspondence, bulletins and reports .....	7
Minute 54: Horn Dance .....	7
Minute 55: Items for agenda of next meeting.....	8
Minute 56: Date, time and place of next meeting.....	8

**Minute 46: Public Session**

There being no members of the public present, no public session was held.

**Minute 47: Minutes of previous meeting**

***RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting on 25 July 2006 be accepted as an accurate record subject to the addition of Cllr Fox to the penultimate sentence of 42.1.***

**Minute 48: Declarations of interest**

There were none.

**Minute 49: Matters arising and matters of report**

**49.1 Circulated documents:** The Clerk reminded members of the grants on offer to Quality Councils and suggested that this might be considered when we get to group reports.

**49.2 Street lighting:** Councillors Fox, Jarman, the Clerk and Mithra Tonking met with representatives of County Highways Lighting and ABB to discuss their plans for replacement lighting in the village. These were at an early stage and would be formulated in sympathy with the conservation area. An outline proposal would be produced that could

form the basis for local consultation. There were potential issues with the level of light which may have to be raised to meet modern standards, although some recognition will be taken of the conservation area. Co-operation of property owners for continuation of wall-mounted lights would help prevent the wide scale erection of lamp-stands in the footways.

- 49.3 Neighbourhood Wardens:** The Clerk introduced a report of a meeting with ESBC Neighbourhood Wardens who had been operating in the area during September. It was noted that they had now completed a leaflet drop about dog fouling.
- 49.4 SPCA Chief Executive:** The Clerk introduced an email from Mary Booth outlining the arrangements following her departure from the SPCA at the end of the month.
- 49.5 Newton turn:** The Chairman reported on his attendance at a site meeting to review the placement of the new fencing which was being disputed. A surveyor will peg out the line according to the plan to see the extent of the deviation.
- 49.6 Parish Council surgery:** Cllr Eatough introduced a summary report of issues raised at the surgery held the previous Saturday morning. Traffic speed along Lichfield Road was again raised. Other issues included: parking on the corner by the Goat, blocking of the path by their A-board and dog fouling by the tennis courts.
- 49.7 Parish Councils' forum:** The Clerk introduced a summary report of the meeting with Staffordshire County Council Highways that he had attended. He also drew attention to a copy of draft material for the Local Area Agreement now being created.

## Minute 50: Planning

### 50.1 Applications

**477 - PC/00897/018: Grange House:** Application under section 73 of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act to continue using the dwelling without complying with condition 6 of planning permission PA/00897/006, relating to the agricultural occupancy of the dwelling.

Received: 10/08/06 Replied: 18/08/06 Response: While the Parish Council would not object to regularisation of the current occupancy, it is aware that there are several other properties in the parish for which a general relaxation of this condition could be regarded as setting a precedent. In view of this, were it possible, the Council would be willing to support a limited relaxation of the condition for the current occupants, with a re-instatement of the condition when they move out.

**478 - PC/16942/010: 1 Market Place:** Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to vary condition 13 of PA/16942/007 relating to hours of opening

Received: 18/08/06 Replied: 04/09/06 Response: The Parish Council does not object to an extension of opening hours for food served and consumed on the premises. The Council notes that the covering letter seems to indicate an intention to operate "a bistro" and "takeaway" in contrast to the "tearoom" for which planning consent was given.

**479 - LB/17753/003: The Bakery, Bagot Street:** Replacement of bay window to front elevation

Received: 14/09/06 Replied: 28/09/06 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

**480 - HO/20212/009: Darwen House, Bagot Street:** Erection of a rear conservatory

Received: 18/09/06 Replied: 28/09/06 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

**481 - LB/20212/010: Darwen House, Bagot Street:** Erection of a rear conservatory

Received: 18/09/06 Replied: 28/09/06 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

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

## 50.2 Decisions

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

**470 - PA/16942/007: 1 Market Place:** Conversion of existing building to form tea rooms and residential accommodation, including the erection of a single storey rear extension to form separate dwelling and provision of parking

**471 - LB/16942/008: 1 Market Place:** Internal and external alterations to Listed Building, including the installation of roof lights and single storey rear extension

**472 - HO/30104/003: 67 Seedcroft Lane:** Erection of a two storey side extension and single storey front and rear extensions (revised scheme) with associated parking provision

**473 - PA/18950/016: Spring Bank Farm:** Erection of a detached garage and workshop (Revised location)

**474 - HO/16070/005: Miresbrook House, Miresbrook Lane:** Erection of a first floor front extension, front porch and bay window (revised scheme) and retention of a fence on south west boundary

**475 - HO/30795/001: 5 Alfred Lyons Close:** Erection of a two storey side extension

**476 - HR/30803/001: Harts Farm, Radmore Lane:** Removal of 183m of hedgerow

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

**469 - HO/30100/002: 5 Cecil Payton Close:** Erection of a first floor side extension

The following applications have been **REVISED** – None

The following applications have been **WITHDRAWN** – None

## 50.3 Correspondence and other planning matters

The Clerk reported that the Abbots Bromley Village Design Statement was formally adopted as planning guidance by the ESBC Cabinet on 7th August 2006. Moves to get the document printed and distributed were on-hold pending confirmation from Philip Somerfield that the grant previously offered towards printing costs was still available.

The Clerk reported that Mr and Mrs Slater have appealed against the refusal of permission to the conversion of former doctor's surgery to form dwelling and erection of a two storey extension at Bromley House, Uttoxeter Road.

The Clerk reported that the East Staffordshire Local Plan July 2006 had been adopted and was issued on 31 August 2006.

A letter from Gary Sage has asked whether Parish Councillors would like to contribute to the formulation of planning guidance on the re-use of redundant farm buildings. The Clerk was asked to confirm that we would.

## Minute 51: Financial Matters

### 51.1 Financial report

The Clerk introduced the financial statements for August and September.

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

### 51.2 Report on payments made since the last meeting

The Clerk reported that the following payment had been made since the last meeting:

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details	Powers
27/776	Graham McCulloch	254.60	Grass cutting	OSA 1906 s.10
28/777	Eric Roy	382.61	Clerk's salary/expenses	LG(FP)A 1963 s.5 & LGA 1972 s.112(2)
29/778	Westcot Contractors	2147.90	Paths at Nuttery	LG(MP) 1976 s.19
	<b>TOTAL payments</b>	<b>2785.11</b>		

### 51.3 Bills to pay

The Clerk introduced the following for payment:

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details	Powers
30/779	Allianz Cornhill	191.39	Insurance of Nuttery equipment	LGA 1972 s.111
31/780	Richard Blower	180.00	Work on Millennium Green	OSA 1906 s.10
32/781	E.ON Energy Services	210.51	Lighting maintenance	PCA 1957 s.3
33/782	Cornish Bulb Growers	66.78	Daffodils for roadside planting	HA 1980 s.96
34/783	Eric Roy	376.58	Clerk's salary and expenses	LG(FP)A 1963 s.5 & LGA 1972 s.112(2)
35/784	HM Customs and Revenue	314.28	Tax/NI for July-September	LG(FP)A 1963 s.5 & LGA 1972 s.112(2)
36a/785	Graham McCulloch	254.60	Grass cutting	OSA 1906 s.10
36b/785	Graham McCulloch	120.00	Devolved maintenance	LGA 1972 s.101
36c/785	Graham McCulloch	12.50	Supplement for Nuttery	OSA 1906 s.10
37/786	Lappset	23778.49	Play equipment installation	LG(MP) 1976 s.19
	<b>TOTAL payments</b>	<b>25505.13</b>		

**RESOLVED: That these payments be made but the Clerk to hold the cheque for Lappset until funds are received to make the payment and the Under 5s project team formally confirm acceptance of the installation.**

### 51.4 Section 137 payments

The Clerk reported that no requests had been received.

### 51.5 Other financial matters

51.5.1 **External audit:** The Clerk reported that the period for public inspection of the accounts was completed and the annual return submitted to the Audit Commission by the due date.

- 51.1.3 **Grass cutting contract:** The Clerk introduced a proposal for a tender document and process to lead to the appointment of a contractor for the 2007-2009 seasons. During a discussion of the proposed ITT it was agreed that we would add a requirement for holding a licence for the storage and use of chemicals and state that the contract will be awarded on a "best value" basis rather than just cost. It was also agreed that we should add a minimum requirement of half a day per month for non-grass cutting activities. The intention to issue the ITT will be publicised in the village.
- 51.1.4 **Safety and Health Awareness Day:** A free event organised by HSE is available to all parish lengthsman. The Clerk proposed that we offer to pay four hours of Mr McCulloch's time to attend and he was asked to put this offer in writing to Mr McCulloch.
- 51.1.5 **BKV prize tree:** The Clerk reported that a replacement tree for the village green could be obtained and planted in the coming month. As previously reported, Mr McCulloch had offered his labour free of charge to carry out the necessary work, but the tree itself would cost approximately £170.  
**RESOLVED: That the Clerk authorise Mr McCulloch to order and plant the tree and ask for a guard to be installed.**

## Minute 52: Group Reports

### 52.1 Recreation

The Clerk reminded members that the Under 5s Play Area was to be formally opened at 2.30pm on Thursday, and reported the outcome of a meeting with Steve Coxon which had reviewed the post-installation report and follow up actions as a prelude to the Council accepting responsibility for ongoing management. In addition to the insurance cover already arranged, accepting responsibility would entail:

- Implementing a weekly inspection regime
- Annual inspection
- Continuing with grounds maintenance which would now be more extensive due to the more complex layout and need to gather leaves during the autumn months

The Clerk reported that the project team were expecting to provide hedging to cover bare fences and would also like to continue to play a part in the ongoing operation of the area. Mr Coxon had reported that on one or two occasions teenagers had been moved on from the area in late evening and suggested that the access gate be locked from 8pm to 8am to avoid this becoming an established pattern.

**RESOLVED: That the Council formally accept responsibility for management of the play area from the Under 5s Project Team and that Mr Coxon be advised that locking the area at night is acceptable to the Council.**

The Clerk reminded members that the Council had previously been advised of the possibility of taking on Trusteeship of the Millennium Green. He had received an email from Mrs Tonking confirming that the Countryside Agency would not oppose such a move. Mrs Tonking would like to attend a future meeting to explore this possibility.

The Chairman reported that the football project is progressing slowly but steadily, although no major sources of new funding have yet been identified.

## **52.2 Village Property**

The Clerk reported that he had taken delivery of 100Kg of daffodil bulbs purchased with the grant from ESBC, and noted that these should be planted in the next four weeks. The Chairman proposed that the plantings in Uttoxeter Road should be refreshed following the water mains replacement and to fill gaps left at the last planting.

## **52.3 Traffic, Parking, Highways**

The Clerk reported on the two holes in the High Street and advised that the one outside the Post Office has been caused by the failure of a high voltage cable. The explosion had damaged an adjacent gas main and possibly also the cable-TV. Although the joint needed to be left exposed for 10 days for checking, this was now long past and so the hole should have been closed.

The hole by Taswells had resulted from the water main work and damaged cables that controlled the timing of streetlights, such that these were now on all day. Remedial work to restore the core that controls street-lighting timing is not considered appropriate due to the cost, the extended loss of supply to a large area and the fact it would soon be obsolete when new individually controlled lights are installed. It is therefore proposed to advance part of the lighting scheme by removing the existing wall boxes and installing floor mounted pillars in their place. ABB have stressed that this is NOT the full replacement scheme which they will consult on in due course, but will help to prepare for the eventual replacement of lights.

## **52.4 Competitions**

The Clerk introduced the feedback from the BKV judges. Noted that more signs for dog fouling and recycling were required.

Appreciation was expressed for the hard work put in by Cllr Elkington to support our entry.

The Clerk reported on feedback from Cllr Elkington concerning the poster competitions.

## **52.5 Newsletter**

Suggested items for the next newsletter to be with Cllr Esling by the next meeting.

Agreed that Cllrs Charles, Elkington and Esling would meet with the Clerk to discuss possible changes in format and how any grant funding could be used.

## **52.6 School Governor's Report**

Cllr Eatough reported that the next governor's meeting will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

## **52.7 Village Plan**

Nothing to report.

## **52.8 RISES**

Cllr Fox outlined the need to distribute the RISES funds and the difficulty in identifying a suitable project.

The Clerk reported on an offer received from Sarah Ward to run a composting workshop and it was suggested that we could advertise for those interested in the next news.

## 52.9 Village Hall

Cllr Cook reported that Mrs Rose Maidstone had been recruited as steward of the hall and took up her post from the start of September.

## Minute 53: Correspondence, bulletins and reports

- 53.1 Blithfield Parish Council: A letter of thanks for the grant towards the cost of improvements at the Newton turn has been received.
- 53.2 Staffordshire County Council: A letter advises of the changes to local bus services in our area following the recent consultation. This adds an extra end of the day link onto Uttoxeter for service 428. The Clerk noted that the Post Bus had ceased to operate from 1<sup>st</sup> September, and there appeared to have been no local consultation on the cessation.
- 53.3 Horsefair Practice: A letter outlining proposals for a new patient transport service invites comments from the Parish Council on their plans. Noted that few, if any, Abbots Bromley residents visit a doctor in Rugeley.
- 53.4 Opening of Under 5s Playground: The Council has been invited to attend the formal opening of the new play area on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 14.30. The team have also asked that the Council consider requesting a 20mph speed limit on Schoolhouse Lane.
- 53.5 Sustainable Lifestyles event: Organised by Sustainable Staffordshire, this free half-day event on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October will be held at Chasewater Country Park.
- 53.6 Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Prevention Panel: The Council has received an invitation to attend the meetings of this group held on the first Wednesday evening each month. No one wished to attend but it was suggested that we invite Neighbourhood Watch to visit and provide an update at a future meeting.
- 53.7 Community Council: The Council received an invitation to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Community Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> September.
- 53.8 Staffordshire Playing Fields Association: An invitation to attend the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October has been received together with a copy of the annual report.
- 53.9 SPCA has supplied details of a training event on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October on the subject of "Community Engagement and Local Leadership".
- 53.10 The Community Council has written advising that there are grants available for community groups in rural areas of up to £1000 of up to 50% of project costs under their "Community Chest" scheme. Details could be passed onto the Bowls club.

## Minute 54: Horn Dance

- 54.1 The Clerk reported that licences from traders this year had amounted to £265 compared to £275 in 2005 and £224 in 2004.
- 54.2 Attendance this year seemed much higher than previous years. The closure of stalls at the end of the day is not defined, meaning that the clear up can be late. The Chairman reported that he would probably not be in a position to transport the stalls in future years.

54.3 It was also suggested that making use of Lea Field for car parking would help to eliminate the difficulties caused by parking on the main street. Signage would be required to make this work.

**Minute 55: Items for agenda of next meeting**

- Possible transfer of Trusteeship of Millennium Green to the Council
- Issues arising from the SPCA Advisory Notes issue 105

**Minute 56: Date, time and place of next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 25 October 2006 in the Memorial Room at the Village Hall.

The Meeting concluded at 22:12 pm.

Chairman .....

Date: .....