

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday, 31 January 2007 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)

Apologies: Apologies from Cllr RSV Jarman were received and accepted. Apologies were also received from Bor Cllr A Fox.

Members of the public attending:
Simon Bullen, Neighbourhood Watch

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Minute 82: Public Session

The Chairman welcomed Mr Bullen and invited him to address the meeting.

Mr Bullen introduced both himself and his role – employed by Staffordshire County Council to support Neighbourhood Watch, currently with 1400 co-ordinators in East Staffordshire. He explained the operation of the “Watchout” system and gave an example of a successful case. There are also complementary schemes for farms and taxis. Neighbourhood Watch continues to be a major distributor of crime prevention information and publishes a newsletter four times a year. A discussion of different aspects of crime prevention and Neighbourhood Watch followed.

The Chairman thanked Mr Bullen for his contribution.

Minute 83: Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meetings on 29 November 2006 (subject to minor corrections) and 10 January 2007 be accepted as an accurate record.

Minute 84: Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest in the agenda items.

Minute 85: Matters arising and matters of report

- 85.1 Circulated documents:** There were no issues arising from circulated documents.
- 85.2 Community First Responders:** Cllr Esling reported that a letter had been received by the CFR teams announcing the re-instatement of three key drugs, but accompanied by a strengthened system of governance for their use.
- 85.3 Butter Cross notice board:** The Clerk reported that some damage had been caused to the notice board around the New Year. After discussion with the Chairman, he had asked Richard Blower to carry out the necessary repairs.
- 85.4 Parish Council Surgery:** The Chairman reported on the surgery held the previous Saturday where the issues raised included a request for dog bins in the churchyard and single track road signs and clearance of passing places along Seedcroft Lane. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Rayson and request signing for Seedcroft Lane and Yeatsall Lane and clearance of the passing places in Seedcroft Lane.
- 85.5 Christmas Tree:** The Clerk was asked to write letters of thanks to Mr Brandrick and to Abbots Bromley Challenge for their contributions of the tree and lights respectively.

Minute 86: Planning

86.1 Applications

490 - LB/15646/005: Norman Villa, High Street: Erection of rear extension and installation of 4 replacement windows on the rear elevation
Received: 12/01/07 Replied: 31/01/07 Response: The Parish Council has no objection to this application.

491 - LE/00897/019: Grange House, Ashbrook Lane: Application for a certificate of lawfulness to continue to occupy a dwelling without complying with the restrictive agricultural condition
Received: 22/01/07 Replied: 31/01/07 Response: The Parish Council is concerned that a certificate of lawfulness could set a precedent for other properties in the area.

492 - HO/05359/009: Knoyle House, 9 High Street: Erection of a porch to the rear elevation
Received: 25/01/07 Replied: 31/01/07 Response: The Parish Council has no objection to this application.

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

86.2 Decisions

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

488 - TN/05292/020: Bank House, High Street: Removal of one willow tree, one eucalyptus tree and one sitka spruce tree

The following applications have been **REFUSED**

487 - HO/31051/001: 1 Bagot Court: Erection of a two storey extension, dormer window and balcony to rear elevation and infilling of ground floor void to form additional living accommodation

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

The following applications have been **WITHDRAWN**

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.

86.3 Correspondence and other planning matters

The Clerk reported that following re-assignment of responsibilities, the Area Planning Officer for Abbots Bromley is now Charlotte Greenway and Emily Waring is the Planning Assistant.

Although it had been planned to respond to the consultation on the "Statement of Community Involvement", in the absence of the document, the Clerk was asked to send a link to the on-line version of the document to all Councillors and co-ordinate responses.

Minute 87: Financial Matters

87.1 Budget report

The Clerk introduced a budget report for the end of the third quarter. This included a number of proposed budget changes to reflect the addition grant income and changes in priority.

RESOLVED: That the statement be approved and the proposed budget changes be adopted.

87.2 Financial report

The Clerk introduced the financial statement for January and reported that a cheque had been received from SPCA for the grant towards newsletter improvements. The equipment and supplies had now all been purchased, although one in invoice was still awaited for £321 plus carriage plus VAT.

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

87.3 Report on payments made since the last meeting

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

87.4 Bills to pay

The Clerk introduced the following for payment:

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details	Powers
56/805	Eric Roy	955.07	Printer, paper, flash memory	LGA 1972, s.142
57/806	Richard Blower	25.00	Repairs to notice board	LGA 1972, s.142
	TOTAL payments	980.07		

RESOLVED: That these payments be made.

87.5 Section 137 payments

The Clerk reported that an entry fee for the Best Kept Village competition was due and that the AB Scouts and Guides had written seeking financial support from the Council for repairs to the hut.

<i>Vch/Chq</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>
58/807	Community Council	15.00	BKV entry and posters
	TOTAL payments	15.00	

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 was asked to write to the AB Scouts and Guides confirming the willingness of the Council to provide a grant of up to £1000 that would be paid on production of invoices. Also to enquire in which financial year they will need the support.

87.6 Other financial matters

87.6.1 **Appointment of Internal Auditor:** The Clerk reported that Mr Sullivan was again willing to act in this role.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to Mr Sullivan confirming his appointment as internal auditor for the period ending 31 March 2007 and make the necessary arrangements for the audit to take place.

87.6.2 **Millennium Green:** The Clerk reported that following his recent visit to carry out annual maintenance on the shrubs and trees, Mr McCulloch had suggested some remedial planting to restore and enhance the shrubbery. The cost of the proposed work which included new bark mulch would be £211. The Clerk had written to the Trustees of the Millennium Green and received a positive response to the proposal.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to Mr McCulloch with an order for this work to be carried out.

Minute 88: Group Reports

88.1 Recreation

A recent document from Staffordshire Wildlife Trust had outlined possible youth shelter projects. The key issues would be a suitable site, funding and a group of young people to take the lead. After a short discussion it was agreed that there was no obvious youth focus for initiating this type of project in the short timescale it apparently needed.

The Clerk reported that he had received a further update from the ESBC Solicitor advising that there had been no response from the bondsman to the request for payment. The solicitor acting for Sherlock Homes has confirmed that payment should be sought from the bondsman and has also requested an updated draft of the deed of variation to the planning agreement. A copy of this draft has been received from ESBC.

The Clerk reported that he had written to the Millennium Green Trustees advising that the Council was willing to proceed with a transfer.

88.2 Village Property

The Clerk introduced a letter from the new owners of Church View Farmhouse seeking permission for access to carry out work on their property. Agreed that permission would be given, subject to full re-instatement of the ground. Enquiries to confirm ownership of the ground would continue.

The Clerk noted that recent purchases by the Council included lights for the Christmas tree and the laser printer. He proposed that the latter be added to the insurance policy but the former be carried as a risk by the Council, since the value was not a great deal more than the excess on the policy. The Clerk was asked to proceed with the policy change.

88.3 Traffic, Parking, Highways

Cllr Needham reported that the milestone at Bromley Wood needed some clearance and maintenance to avoid it becoming derelict and disappearing. The Clerk will write to Highways and ask for their assistance in retaining this.

The Clerk introduced notes from a meeting with Highways attended by himself and Cllrs Charles, Cook, Elkington and Fox. Although these had been sent to Clive Thomson on the afternoon of the meeting, no response had yet been received. The Clerk was asked to write and enquire if there was any progress and if he would like to provide an update at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Cllr Elkington noted that Mr Thomson seemed supportive of some speed measurement in Ashbrook Lane and we should perhaps take up this opportunity when present works in the area were complete.

Cllr Eatough gave an update on the reasons for, and progress with, the water main work in Uttoxeter Road.

88.4 Competitions

Cllr Elkington reported that the Best Kept Village application form was now available and would be submitted.

88.5 Newsletter

The Clerk gave brief report on the progress made in acquiring the grant-funded new equipment and introduced an example new format using the contents from the November 2006 newsletter.

Cllr Esling suggested inclusion of a competition "guess where this is" that people could submit their pictures for, and win a prize if no-one guesses correctly.

Agreed that next newsletter would be in early March to publicise the Parish Assembly and ask people to consider becoming a Councillor. A second in mid May could include details of the new Council. A third in September and the fourth edition by the end of November.

Items for the next newsletter need to be with Cllr Esling in the next ten days.

88.6 School Governor's Report

Cllr Eatough reported that there had been a full meeting of governors that indicated targets were being met. Formal notification of the outcome an Ofsted inspection is awaited. There is some concern over numbers, although this may not be an issue in the short term.

88.7 Village Plan

The Clerk reported that following the letter he wrote advising the Council's position on the appointment of a village agent, it seemed that there was no will to proceed. He had therefore suggested that a final meeting of the Steering Group be arranged to agree disbursement of the remaining funds.

88.8 RISES

Cllr Fox reported that there is currently no decision on the allocation of the funds held for distribution.

88.9 Village Hall

Cllr Cook reported that a visit from Michelle Moore to the management committee had discussed the implications of the project and a requirement for the Village Hall to accept long term insurance and maintenance.

Minute 89: Correspondence, bulletins and reports

- 89.1 Andy Knipe: Has written on behalf of the Abbots Bromley Scouts, Guides and other groups to provide details of the centenary celebrations planned for next year. The Clerk was asked to respond suggesting that the footpath was a village hall matter.
- 89.2 Staffordshire Moorlands C & VS: Has written to inform the Council about "Rural Access to Services".
- 89.3 East Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association: Notice had been received of the annual liaison meeting with Staffordshire County Council at Denstone on Tuesday 20th February when the proposed topics are "New Vision Social Care and Health" and "Responding to Climate Change". The Council is invited to suggest other topics. The Chairman will attend.
- 89.4 Community Council of Staffordshire: Has written to invite contributions to the 2007 Diary of Village Festivals and Events.
- 89.5 ESBC Scrutiny: A Scrutiny Review of the implementation of the 2003 Licensing Act is taking place and feedback is invited before the end of February 2007.
- 89.6 SPCA: Has sent Chief Executive's Circular 32 and details of training events.
- 89.7 The Community Council has sent details of an event on the morning of Thursday 1st March about the proposed changes to rural Post Office services.
- 89.8 The Parish Council has been copied on a letter from Mr Rudd to Matt Crossley (ESBC) drawing attention to the fact that Mr Totterdell has been waiting more than six years for an allotment.
- 89.9 Mike Lewis wrote on behalf of Abbots Bromley Challenge enclosing a cheque for the full cost of the new Christmas lights, rather than just the £100 initially promised.

89.10 The Chairman had received an invitation to the Mayor’s Charity Ball.

Minute 90: Jubilee Cup and Parish Assembly

90.1 There were a number of nominations for the cup – these will be included in the next meeting pack for discussion at the meeting.

90.2 There was a proposal that we invite Highways to come and explain some of the policies that affect the village. We also need to address the fact that people did not feel they were given an opportunity to ask questions at the 2006 assembly.

Minute 91: Arrangements for Election

91.1 The Clerk provided a brief summary of the expected arrangements for the election that should take place on Thursday 3rd May 2007. These are subject to confirmation by the Returning Officer – probably early in March.

The final meeting of the present Council will take place on Wednesday 25th April. Prior to the election, nominations will be required to be with the Returning Officer in ESBC by noon on the preceding Friday. Nomination papers will be made available by the end of March and can be obtained from the Returning Officer in Burton or the Clerk. A poll will only be held if there are more than nine nominations otherwise the nominated candidates are elected unopposed. If there are less than nine nominations, the new Council will be able to co-opt additional members to make up the number.

The first meeting of the new Council will take place on Wednesday 16th May at which all members of the Council are required to sign a formal declaration of acceptance of office. Prospective candidates need to bear this in mind when planning absences for holiday or other reasons.

Should there be less than eight elected members on the new Council, then Quality Status would be forfeited when due for renewal.

Minute 92: Items for agenda of next meeting

- Jubilee Cup and Parish Assembly
- Review Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Risk Management
- Litter bins

Minute 93: Date, time and place of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 28 February 2007 in the Memorial Room at the Village Hall.

The Meeting concluded at 22:21pm.

Chairman

Date: