

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday, 28 February 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, RSV Jarman, KA McLoughlin, J Needham

Also present: EA Roy (Clerk)

Apologies: Apologies for late arrival were received from Cllr Esling.

Members of the public attending:

County Councillor Philip Atkins, Borough Councillor Alex Fox
Howard Why, Cllr S Grimes (Hixon), John Blount, Annmarie Gould

Contents:

Minute 94: Public Session	1	
Minute 95: Minutes of previous meeting	2	
Minute 96: Declarations of interest	2	
Minute 97: Matters arising and matters of report	2	
Minute 98: Planning.....	2	
Minute 99: Financial Matters	3	
Minute 100: Group Reports	4	
Minute 101: Correspondence, bulletins and reports	5	
Minute 102: Jubilee Cup and Parish Assembly	6	
Minute 103: Standing Orders, Financial Regulations & Risk Management	6	6
Minute 104: Items for agenda of next meeting	6	
Minute 105: Date, time and place of next meeting	6	

Minute 94: Public Session

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public present and invited their contributions:

Borough Cllr Fox reported on the increase in Council Tax, and gave an update on the Local Delivery Framework. He also reported on monies still remaining in the ESBC Community Fund.

County Councillor Atkins explained the financial background to current County planning, against which the response to the Highways issues needs to be viewed. He suggested that continuing to raise the issues is worthwhile, as is pressing for the 20mph limit.

Mr Why pointed out that if heavy traffic were not using Pinfold Lane, then much of the damage to verges would be prevented.

The Clerk was asked to write to Clive Thomson pointing out that Elwell lorries were using Pinfold Lane, and obtain a copy of the VAS criteria from the County web site.

While it was noted that a number of projects currently in progress, such as kerbing and streetlight replacement, would be considered by many as unnecessary – yet seemed to have no funding issues –

this was in part due to other factors such as the PFI with ABB on lighting, and the separate funding streams within the overall budget.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs Atkins and Fox for their contributions.

Minute 95: Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting on 31 January 2007 be accepted as an accurate record, subject to the two items listed at 87.4 being amended to refer to LGA 1972 s.142.

Minute 96: Declarations of interest

Cllr K McLoughlin declared an interest in the printing for Community First Responders.

Minute 97: Matters arising and matters of report

- 97.1 Circulated documents:** There were no issues arising from circulated documents, but it was noted that following the move of Cllr Jarman, the order for receiving documents would now be different.
- 97.2 Ambulance Service merger:** The ground rules for the merger seem to have been changed. The Clerk reported that Michael Fabricant had questioned the Prime Minister over the issue. The Clerk was asked to write to our MP and thank him for his support. The Clerk was also asked to write to the Health Commission and invite their attendance at the next Parish Council meeting. Cllrs Esling, Eatough and McLoughlin will create a response to go to the Health Commission.
- 97.3 East Staffordshire PCA meeting:** The Chairman reported on his attendance at the annual liaison meeting with the County Council and that the main topics were Highways and speed limits. For ESPCA to continue, it seems likely that an extra £10 levy on the SPCA subscription will be required to fund this.

Minute 98: Planning

98.1 Applications

493 - LB/20212/012: Leacross, Bagot Street: Retention of satellite dish
Received: 09/02/07 Due: 28/02/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

494 - HO/31051/002: 1 Bagot Court, Bagot Street: Erection of a two-storey rear extension and single storey side extension to existing garages to form bin store
Received: 12/02/07 Due: 01/03/07 Response: The Parish Council has concerns about the change in window style on the front elevation, especially with regard to the impact on the overall street scene in the context of nearby listed buildings and the conservation area. A small-pane pattern more consistent with the setting would be preferred.

495 - LB/11242/017: Bagot Arms, Bagot Street: Internal alterations to include replacement of window, door and flooring, formation of steps and decking area, replacement shutters, new external door and window and repainting exterior of building
Received: 19/02/07 Due: 07/03/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application and considers these changes will be an improvement.

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

98.2 Decisions

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

The following applications have been **REFUSED**

489 - OU/25184/003: 10 Ashbrook Lane: Outline application to develop 0.03ha for the erection of a detached dwelling and alterations to the access

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

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

98.3 Correspondence and other planning matters

The Clerk reported that the appeal against refusal for development of a rear extension at Bromley House, Uttoxeter Road has been dismissed.

Minute 99: Financial Matters

99.1 Financial report

The Clerk introduced the financial statement for February and reported that with the payment of the Royal Oak allotment rent, the only sum owed to the Council at the present time was from the developer bond for the work at the Nuttery.

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

99.2 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
59/808	XMA Limited	377.15	Printer accessories and toner	LGA 1972 s.142
	TOTAL payments	377.15		

99.3 Bills to pay

The Clerk introduced the following for payment:

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details	Powers
60/809	Eric Roy	376.75	Clerk's salary/expenses	LGA(FP)A 1963 s.5 & LGA 1972 s.112(2)
61/810	Graham McCulloch	210.58	Work on Millennium Green	OSA 1906 s.10
	TOTAL payments	587.33		

RESOLVED: That these payments be made.

99.4 Section 137 payments

The Clerk reported that he had now received confirmation from AB Scouts and Guides that the planned repairs to the hut were complete and requesting the promised grant payment.

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details
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<i>Vch/Chq</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>
62/811	Scouts and Guides	1000.00	Grant towards hut repairs
	TOTAL payments	1000.00	

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.

99.5 Other financial matters

- 99.5.1 **Internal audit:** The Clerk reported that the initial visit by the internal auditor had taken place the previous day to review records and procedures. A further visit would take place after the year end.
- 99.5.2 **External audit:** The Clerk reported that Michael Newbury, an officer of the Audit Commission, had been appointed as auditor to the Council for the financial year 2006/7.
- 99.5.3 **CFR printing:** The Clerk reported that he had received a request from Abbots Bromley CFR to print 750 leaflets that they would like to distribute in the village. Agreed that if the CFRs provided the paper, the printing would be donated by the Council as a grant.

(Cllr Esling joined the meeting)

Minute 100: Group Reports

100.1 Recreation

The Clerk reported that the new shrubs had been planted at the Millennium Green but that the fence still required attention. Agreed to get a costed proposal for next meeting.

100.2 Village Property

The Clerk reported that the proposed demonstration of replacement lighting for the War Memorial and Butter Cross was planned for 6pm on Wednesday 7th March. Although the County would bear the capital cost of the new lights, ongoing costs of energy and maintenance would need to be taken on by the Parish Council.

The Post Box has been removed from the corner of Schoolhouse Lane but leaving the post. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries.

Cllr McLoughlin reported that the prior arrangement under which Trent and Dove cut rear garden grass for some tenants is ceasing.

100.3 Traffic, Parking, Highways

The Clerk reported that Richard Rayson was arranging for the milestone at Bromley Wood to be examined by one of his inspectors prior to consultation with the Milestone Society.

Highways were also planning to look at Seedcroft Lane to see if the addition of passing place signs would reduce damage.

The Clerk reported that he had asked Mr McCulloch to clear debris from the main street.

Cllr Elkington reported that inconsiderate turning by those using the Top Shop continues to create a nuisance.

Cllr Fox reported damage to the verge caused by the hedge cutting contractor. This needs to be reported to Clarence.

Cllr Needham reported that the school sign on the way up Schoolhouse Lane was becoming increasingly obscured. This needs to be reported to Clarence.

100.4 Competitions

Cllr Elkington reported that the BKV entry forms have been submitted and the map has yet to be created. There will need to be changes in the siting of posters this year, and this needs to be resolved first.

The Clerk reported that the Community Council had sent details of the Calor Village of the Year competition. Unlike BKV, this concentrated on community aspects of the village and would be judged in four categories – People, Business, Environment and Information Communication Technology. The competition involves significant amounts of work in preparing submissions and presentations but is said to deliver major benefits resulting from an enhanced view of the community.

100.5 Newsletter

Cllr Esling introduced a draft of the next newsletter in the new format and explained some of the assumptions made in putting it together. Agreed that distribution should take place before 21 March, and that Councillors would be willing to include the CFR leaflet in their deliveries.

100.6 School Governor's Report

Cllr Eatough reported that a copy of the Ofsted report and head teachers report would be circulated so that members can see the details for themselves. The Year 4 teacher will not be staying on after the end of the year and recruitment of a replacement is in progress with a high level of interest being shown in the vacancy.

100.7 Village Plan

Nothing to report.

100.8 RISES

Cllr Fox reported that the litter bin project was probably going to be the most appropriate use of the funds currently held.

100.9 Village Hall

Cllr Cook reported that following enquiries about the proposed football facility, the insurers were indicating there would be no major issues in adding the new equipment to the Village Hall policy.

Minute 101: Correspondence, bulletins and reports

101.1 Jane Why: Copied the Parish Council on her email to Clarence outlining issues with Pinfold Lane and has subsequently advised that the response received was negative.

101.2 Philip Atkins: Has provided details of funds available to projects for young people in the next financial year together with possible sources of help in bidding for those funds.

- 101.3 Sustainable Staffordshire: The Council is invited to attend the AGM to be held at the Wedgwood Visitor Centre, Barlaston at 9:30am on Thursday 22nd March.
- 101.4 Defra/NALC/SLCC: An update on the review of Quality Town and Parish Council Scheme in the light of the Local Government White Paper. The Clerk briefly drew attention to some significant and interesting proposals.
- 101.5 Staffordshire County Council: The annual review of bus services in East Staffordshire is in progress and views from the Council are sought. The Clerk was asked to respond.
- 101.6 Staffordshire County Council: The reasons behind the recent decision to close residential homes throughout the County are explained.
- 101.7 Central Networks: Have supplied a "power-cut" kit containing simple items that may be helpful in the case of a power cut.

Minute 102: Jubilee Cup and Parish Assembly

- 102.1 The nominations were discussed briefly and a vote taken. Cllr Esling was asked to approach the nominated individuals and establish their willingness to accept the cup.
- 102.2 The Clerk introduced a summary of discussions between himself and Cllrs Charles and Esling on a possible format for the Parish Assembly and advised that Shirley Mann was willing to provide some input on sustainability issues including showing a DVD recently produced to promote these issues in the County. Agreed that this format should be used as the basis for planning with supporting displays to use any additional space we can book.

Minute 103: Standing Orders, Financial Regulations & Risk Management

- 103.1 The Clerk introduced a brief proposal reviewing the current requirement for changes to the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. This recommended that no changes were necessary at the present time. Agreed that a review be scheduled for September by the new Council.
- 103.2 The Clerk presented an updated Risk Management plan changed in the light of recent closures of bank accounts and implementation of PAYE.

Minute 104: Items for agenda of next meeting

- Final preparations for Parish Assembly
- Distribution of final grant payments for current financial year
- Litter bins

Minute 105: Date, time and place of next meeting

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

The Meeting concluded at 21:57pm.

Chairman

Date: