

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held on Wednesday, 25 July 2007 at 7.30 pm**

in the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given

**Present:** Cllrs: PJ Charles, S Coxon, DT Eatough (Chair), AE Elkington, RT Esling, L Fox, RSV Jarman, C Veitch, BJ Waring

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

**Apologies:** Apologies were received from Borough Councillor Fox.

**Members of the public attending:**  
None

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**Minute 39: Public Session**

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

**Minute 40: Minutes of previous meeting**

***RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting on 27 June 2007 be accepted as an accurate record.***

**Minute 41: Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Minute 42: Matters arising and matters of report**

**42.1 Circulated documents:** No comments arising.

**42.2 Surgery:** Issue of flooding in Narrow Lane was raised. Chairman would also like to give other members an opportunity to participate in future surgeries.

- 42.3 Replacement street lighting:** Notes and drawings from the meeting with County Lighting Engineer and ABB Project Manager have been circulated. Noted that the documentation we have does not seem to include Uttoxeter Road and it is not clear if this is part of the scheme. Clerk to make enquiries and ask if we could have drawings of the columns to be used in Crown Bank? Is there any alternative to having these?
- 42.4 New Councillor training:** Cllrs Veitch and Coxon reported that the session had been very useful in covering some key basics.
- 42.5 Clerk's training day:** The Clerk gave a brief summary of the annual training day he attended at the start of the month.

### Minute 43: Planning

#### 43.1 Applications

**513 - PA/24030/012: Breach House Farm, Pinfold Lane:** Erection of a detached farm building for agricultural and machinery storage  
Received: 13/07/07 Replied: 26/07/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

**514 - HO/27699/007: 5 High Street:** Erection of a single storey outbuilding to form additional living accommodation  
Received: 20/07/07 Replied: 26/07/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

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

#### 43.2 Decisions

The following applications have been **AGREED**

**505 - HO/13984/008: 6 Radmore Lane:** Erection of rear conservatory  
**506 - CU/11168/006: Bagots Bromley Farm:** Conversion of existing agricultural buildings to form five dwellings with associated garaging

**507 - OU/24590/007: Woodland Barn Nurseries:** Outline application for the erection of a detached agricultural workers dwelling

**508 - HO/06621/010: 2 Forge Cottages, Lichfield Road:** Erection of a single storey front extension

**511 - ES.07/12: Richard Clarke First School:** Replacement cedar clad two classroom modular building

**512 - HO/19273/008: Heath Field, Lichfield Road:** Erection of a detached double garage with play room above

The following applications have been **REFUSED**

**504 - LB/00613/016: Norbury House, Bagot Street:** Erection of a brick boundary wall

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

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

**43.3 Correspondence and other planning matters**

There was nothing to report.

**Minute 44: Financial Matters****44.1 Budget report for Quarter 1**

The Clerk introduced a budget review for the end of Quarter 1. There were no issues that required action at the present time.

Cllr Coxon asked if there would be any value in considering grant requests on a quarterly basis so that funds can be allocated more effectively? The Chairman outlined the way the annual budget process worked, but it was agreed that some additional publicity of the availability of grants could be made in a future edition of the Bulletin.

**44.2 Financial report**

The Clerk introduced the financial statement for July, and gave a brief report on recent transactions.

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

**44.3 Report on payments made since the last meeting**

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

<i>Vch/Chq</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Powers</i>
21/839	Graham McCulloch	296.00	Grass cutting	OSA 1906 s.10
21/839	Graham McCulloch	75.00	Re-painting play equipment	PHA 1961 s.52
21/839	Graham McCulloch	75.00	Devolved maintenance	LGA 1972 s.101
	<b>TOTAL payments</b>	<b>446.00</b>		

**44.4 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>
22/840	SPCA	40.00	New councillor training	LGA 1972 s.111
23/841	Eric Roy	404.03	Clerk's salary/expenses	LG(FP)A 1963 s.5 & LGA 1972 s.112(2)
	<b>TOTAL payments</b>	<b>444.03</b>		

**RESOLVED: That these payments be made.**

**44.5 Section 137 payments**

The Clerk reported that two requests had been received and gave details. A request from Abbots Bromley PCC was for a grant towards the cost of the new access path into the extended graveyard.

**RESOLVED: That the Council offer a grant of £500 towards the cost - payable when the invoice was received.**

The Clerk also drew attention to a letter from Victim Support Staffordshire requesting support with their work in the county. After discussion, it was agreed to keep this in mind until year end, and for the Clerk to write advising them of this.

The Clerk reminded members that this was the time of year to ask Abbots Bromley Royal British Legion to provide a wreath for the Council to lay on Remembrance Sunday.

<i>Vch/Chq</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>
24/842	AB Royal British Legion	30.00	Cost of wreath for Remembrance Day
	TOTAL payments	<u>30.00</u>	

**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.**

#### **44.6 Other financial matters**

44.6.1 **Quality Council grant:** The Clerk drew attention to the invitation to bid for a grant of up to £1800 under the Quality Council scheme, and to the information about the process that had been circulated. There was a discussion of several potential projects before concluding that, in the limited time available for assembling an application, regeneration of the Millennium Green would be the highest priority.

44.6.2 **Revisions to bank signatories:** The Clerk drew attention to the opportunity to update the bank signing instructions to reflect the changed membership of the Council.  
**RESOLVED: That the Council request Lloyds TSB to amend signing instructions for all the Council accounts to bring it in line with the revised Council membership.**

44.6.3 **Book keeping software:** The Clerk reported that in June 2003 the Council purchased a copy of Quickbooks to replace Scribe (which had a recurring annual licence cost). The version of Quickbooks originally acquired is no longer supported by the vendor. The Clerk recommends an upgrade to the current version of Quickbooks 2006 at a cost of £80.  
**RESOLVED: That the Council purchase a copy of the current version of the Quickbooks software.**

### **Minute 45: Group Reports**

#### **45.1 Recreation**

Cllr Coxon drew attention to the current state of the Millennium Green and pointed out that it looked uncared for. The vegetation needs clearing out to prevent it being so dark and creating cover for those involved in mischief. It was noted that the present outbreak of graffiti in the village is unlike anything seen before, and amounts to criminal damage. A number of possibilities for addressing this were considered. Cllr Charles reported that a quotation from Malcolm Brown was expected for the gate.

**Resolved that the Clerk be authorised to spend up to £1500 after consultation with Recreation Committee.**

#### **45.2 Village Property**

The Clerk reported that several bin movements had take place since his initial contact with Darrell Scott. Although noting these changes, it was agreed that they did not achieve the desired aim of improving the appearance of the bins themselves. The Clerk was asked to investigate the possibility of contributions to the cost of replacements from ESBC, so that RISES funds would have the maximum impact.

The Council has been asked by AB PCC if it would be willing for one or more of the lower branches of the Deodar Cedar to be lopped, to improve access for grass cutting. It was agreed that this would spoil the shape of the tree and that other measures should be investigated before this action was considered.

#### **45.3 Traffic, Parking, Highways**

Cllr Waring reported that there had been no new volunteers for Community Speedwatch as a result of the recent publicity. He also pointed out that heavy vehicles were again using the village route regularly, and was asked to provide details so that the Clerk could raise this with Highways.

The Clerk reported that he had been informed by Clive Cook that both PC Boulter and Inspector Mason were now on secondment out of the area.

#### **45.4 Competitions**

Cllr Elkington reported that the competition judging had now ended, and the results would be announced the following Monday.

#### **45.5 Newsletter**

Cllr Esling thanked the Clerk for his work on the last issue and enquired if there were any themes that the Council would like to feature in future issues?

Cllr Veitch reported that we were now down to four active First Responders.

#### **45.6 School Governor's Report**

Cllr Coxon reported that Sharon Kelly was leaving the school at the end of December and will be sadly missed. Work on the mobile classrooms is on schedule.

#### **45.7 RISES**

Cllr Fox pointed out that the money was available to be used for new waste bins. She would enquire if it would be possible to add plastic bag recycling.

#### **45.8 Village Hall**

Cllr Waring reported on the reaction to the Council offer of financial help with the fencing.

#### **45.9 Sustainability**

Cllr Waring noted that the new lighting scheme would save a substantial amount of energy.

### **Minute 46: Correspondence, bulletins and reports**

- 46.1 **Save the Woodlands:** A letter from the wind farm action group (Mark Newstead) expresses opposition to the proposed anemometry towers in Bagot Park.
- 46.2 **E.ON Central Networks:** Has written to advise that there is no agreement in place for the supply of un-metered electricity for the Christmas lights and invites the Council to enter into such an agreement.  
**RESOLVED: That the Clerk sign and return the agreement.**
- 46.3 **Staffordshire County Council:** Has written advising of a public consultation on a new "Municipal Waste Strategy" for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent. A summary of the strategy and a questionnaire are enclosed.

46.4 **Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health:** Has written inviting participation in Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) forums of anyone interested in influencing the future direction of healthcare in their area.

46.5 **Community Council of Staffordshire:** Has written providing information on the “Councillor Commission” which is tasked with investigating the background to why and how members of the public are motivated to serve as Councillors.

**Minute 47: Transfer of Millennium Green**

47.1 The Clerk gave a brief summary of the background and introduced the draft “Deed of Adherence” that the Council was now being asked to agree. This would ensure the continuing operation of the Millennium Green in line with the original aims.

47.2 The Clerk was asked to send a copy of the Deed of Adherence to SPCA to seek an opinion from NALC on whether there were any legal issues that the Council should be aware of.

**Minute 48: Horn Dance**

48.1 Cllr Charles provided an explanation of the tasks involved in the setting up and removal of the stalls. He summarised the specific challenges. There was a discussion of the options for towing and for erection/dismantling of stalls.

**Minute 49: Items for agenda of next meeting**

- Review of Horn Dance day
- Transfer of Millennium Green
- Transfer of Goose Lane allotments to Parish Council
- New working group for Crime and Disorder
- Assignment of Councillors to surgeries after September

**Minute 50: Date, time and place of next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 26 September 2007 in the Memorial Room at the Village Hall.

The Meeting concluded at 22:06pm.

Chairman .....

Date: .....