

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday, 26 September 2007 at 7.30 pm
in the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given

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

Also present: EA Roy (Clerk)

Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr DT Eatough and also received from Borough Councillor Fox.

Members of the public attending:
None

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Minute 51: Public Session

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

Minute 52: Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting on 25 July 2007 be accepted as an accurate record.

Minute 53: Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minute 54: Matters arising and matters of report

54.1 Circulated documents and Clerk's log: No comments arising.

54.2 Horn Dance day: Trader Licences raised £235 this year, compared to £265 in 2006 and £275 in 2005. Noted that with the lack of day time entertainment, there is a large part of the day when there is little taking place to keep people in the village. At the PC surgery,

there were complaints about lack of cones and police presence at the start of the day. This had a significant impact on the school bus and other early morning traffic.

In the afternoon children were dropped outside the village. Operational issues were claimed to be part of the reason why police had not placed cones to prevent parking. Agreed to discuss at next meeting and the Clerk was asked to contact Terry Bailey to see if there was any feedback from him.

54.3 Parish Councils' forum: The Clerk reported on his attendance at the forum which had been mainly concerned with highway issues affecting the Burton parishes. A new policy on speed limits had been adopted by the County Council on 5th September 2007, and some briefing notes from that had been promised. The next full forum clashes with the November meeting of the Parish Council.

54.4 Parish Council surgery: Cllr Charles drew attention to the issues mentioned above relating to Horn Dance day, and also reported that there had been mention of the issues at the Millennium Green play area and a suggestion that a graffiti board be provided.

Cllrs Veitch or Jarman may be able to host the surgery on Saturday 24th November. Cllr Coxon offered to host one in the New Year.

54.5 Victim support: Cllr Fox had made some enquiries about the work they did and received very positive feedback.

54.5 Replacement street lighting: The Clerk reported that although he had been in contact with ABB several times, he had yet to receive responses to the questions raised. In informal discussions with Glynn Hook, it had been confirmed that the scheme did include Uttoxeter Road and parts of Lichfield Road. It was also noted that Crown Bank was owned by the Parish Council.

54.6 Code of Conduct: The Clerk reported that he had informed both the Local Monitoring Officer and the Standards Board that the Council had adopted the new model Code of Conduct. He thanked members for completing and returning their Register of Interests. Arrangements to jointly advertise the adoption of the new code in a local newspaper were being made in conjunction with Blithfield and Kingstone Parish Councils in order to minimise cost.

Minute 55: Planning

55.1 Applications

515 - LB/27699/008: 5 High Street: Erection of a single storey outbuilding
Received: 31/07/07 Replied: 01/08/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

516 - HO/09870/004: 6 Preedys Close: Erection of a first floor side extension
Received: 06/08/07 Replied: 22/08/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

517 - PA/02131/012: Bagots Park Estate: Formation of an agricultural pond
Received: 09/08/07 Replied: 22/08/07 Response: While some councillors have no objection to this application, others have raised concerns about the underlying rationale and timing of this proposal in the context of the proposed wind farm saying "Unfortunately at

this current time I see no value for this pond. The re-location of newt colonies is not appropriate or conducive with the shift in wildlife this will cause. There is no real attempt to address the ecological impact other than displace it from the proposed wind farm site."

518 - HO/09871/003: 12 Radmore Lane: Erection of a first floor extension
Received: 10/08/07 Replied: 22/08/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application, although one Councillor expressed some concern about the loss of a parking place as a result of the shortened garage.

519 - HO/10513/007: 6 St Nicholas Way: Erection of a front canopy roof
Received: 10/08/07 Replied: 22/08/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

520 - LE/20488/012: Portfields, Port Lane: Certificate of lawfulness for the retention of a summer house
Received: 31/08/07 Replied: 19/09/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

521 - PA/26905/008: Land at Bagots Park: Erection of a 70m high wind monitoring mast for a three year period
Received: 10/09/07 Replied: 27/09/07 Response: The Parish Council objects to this application due to the loss of visual amenity to nearby residents and to users of the Staffordshire Way and other popular walks in the area. Given that previous anemometry data has been collected at this location, and that the applicant indicates they have already decided to make an application for installation of wind turbines, the case for this tower seems unjustified.

522 - HO/24030/013: Breach House Farm, Pinfold Lane: Erection of a rear link conservatory
Received: 19/09/07 Replied: 27/09/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

523 - HO/31512/001: 13 Needwood Grange: Erection of a single storey front extension, two storey side extension and rear conservatory
Received: 19/09/07 Replied: 27/09/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

524 - HO/27699/009: 5 High Street: Erection of single storey outbuilding
Received: 19/09/07 Replied: 27/09/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

525 - LB/27699/010: 5 High Street: Erection of single storey outbuilding
Received: 19/09/07 Replied: 27/09/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

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

55.2 Decisions

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

The following applications have been **REFUSED**

513 - PA/24030/012: Breach House Farm, Pinfold Lane: Erection of a detached farm building for agricultural and machinery storage

514 - HO/27699/007: 5 High Street: Erection of a single storey outbuilding to form additional living accommodation

515 - LB/27699/008: 5 High Street: Erection of a single storey outbuilding

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

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

55.3 Correspondence and other planning matters

The Clerk reported that an email has been received from a Mr Andrew Stobart pointing out that the type of turbine proposed for Bagot's Park, may not be the optimum choice for lowland sites. Mr Mark Newstead has written with comments about the application for an anemometry tower.

There was a discussion of how the Council should deal with any application for a wind farm development, and the following points were agreed:

1. To provide additional local publicity to help make residents aware that an application has been lodged, and of the timetable for any responses.
2. To notify adjoining parishes of the application.
3. To provide a time when the public can view the full application, including the Environmental Impact Statement, and discuss details with Councillors.
4. Organise a public meeting at which residents can express their views about the proposal.
5. Carry out a survey of opinion in the village. Discussed the practicalities of this and agreed the best timing might be when the application is actually received. At this time it would also help to raise public awareness and feedback gained would be relevant to the specific proposal. Cllrs Esling, Coxon and Waring agreed to produce a first draft.

Cllr Charles passed on a reminder from the Chairman about the necessity for care in commenting on the proposal. Any views expressed by members must be clearly presented as their own, and not those of the Council.

Minute 56: Financial Matters

56.1 Financial report

The Clerk introduced the financial statement for September, and gave a brief report on recent transactions including funding of the new play bark from the Recreation Fund.

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

56.2 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>
25/843	Village Hall	153.00	Room hire – Jan to Jul 2007	LGA 1972 s.111
26/844	Graham McCulloch	296.00	Grass cutting	OSA 1906 s.10
27/845	Wicksteed Leisure	123.88	Playground inspections	PHA 1961 s.52
28/846	Eric Roy	466.10	Clerk's salary/expenses	LG(FP)A 1963 s.5 and LGA 1972 s.112(2)

<i>Vch/Chq</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Powers</i>
29/847	Philip Charles	24.79	Materials for MG repairs	PHA 1961 s.52
30/848	Graham McCulloch	296.00	Grass cutting	OSA 1906 s.10
30/848	Graham McCulloch	75.00	Re-painting milestone/shelter	LGA 1972 s.101
31/849	Woodgrow Horticulture	1739.00	Bark for Millennium Green	PHA 1961 s.52
	TOTAL payments	3173.77		

56.3 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>
32/850	Eric Roy	382.97	Clerk's salary/expenses	LG(FP)A 1963 s.5 & LGA 1972 s.112(2)
33/851	HMCR	303.57	Tax/NI for Aug-Sep 2007	LGA 1972 s.112(2)
	TOTAL payments	686.54		

RESOLVED: That these payments be made.

56.4 Section 137 payments

The Clerk reported that two requests had been received and gave details.

- (1) The Uttoxeter Project has asked for help towards the cost of running their mini-bus.
- (2) Staffordshire CPRE has asked for help in funding to deal with the expected increase in house building.

There was a short discussion of the principles on which these requests would be considered, and it was agreed to defer them until the February meeting.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Uttoxeter Project to explain this, and also review the applicability of the existing grant application forms to see if they could be used to help assess the relative merits of the requests being received.

56.5 Other financial matters

- 56.5.1 **Annual Audit:** The Clerk reported that the external audit of the Council had been completed by the Audit Commission without any observations. The period of fourteen days display and availability for public inspection, started Monday 24th September.
- 56.5.2 **Revisions to bank signatories:** The Clerk reported that the signatories on the Council bank accounts have been updated to reflect the current membership of the Council.
- 56.5.3 **Order for litter bins:** It was agreed to accept the offer from RISES to fund the purchase of two new litter bins at a cost of £900, to be replace existing bins at the Royal Oak and Post Office. It was also agreed to fund an additional bin for the Cash Stores from Parish Council funds and release the existing one by the Cash Stores to replace the small pillar mounted bin opposite which was regularly overflowing.

Minute 57: Group Reports

57.1 Recreation

The Clerk reported that Annual Inspection reports were received for both the Millennium Green and Nuttery play areas and introduced notes created after a site meeting of the Recreation Working group.

These notes outlined the actions required in response to the inspection reports, and also the proposed elements of a regeneration of the Millennium Green area. A grant application

to assist in funding these had been made and a response was expected early in October. Some essential safety work had already been carried out to remove hazards caused by rusty nails and to replenish the bark surface.

Other options for the Council to consider were:

- Removal of temporary wire fencing
- Renovation or replacement of pedestrian entrance gate
- Removal of trees adjacent to Alfred Lyons Close

Resolved that the Clerk be authorised to commission this work, including the three optional elements, if the grant is approved.

The Clerk reported that following observations by the Recreation Group of rusty nails in gatepost and bark edging at the Millennium Green, he had contacted Wicksteed Leisure to ask why these had not been picked up in the inspection. Following discussions with the inspector concerned, it is accepted that these were missed and an apology has been received.

The Clerk also reported that he had asked Richard Blower for a quotation for repairs to the bark edging to replace a section of splintered wood.

Cllr Coxon suggested a review of the maintenance regime for the Millennium Green to try and create a more “cared for” appearance. Agreed to ask the Recreation Working Group to make some recommendations.

57.2 Village Property

Further to the discussion at the July meeting, Cllr Coxon had visited the tree and found that the grass under the Deodar Cedar was growing strongly and there was a case, from a safety point of view, for removing some growth. Agreed that we need to ask Bernard Gundy to risk assess this in conjunction with Terry Bailey, and give us a written response.

The Clerk reported that he had been contacted by Central Networks for information on the expected use of Christmas lights and asked if there were plans for a Christmas tree this year. Assumption will be that there the lights will be used.

The recent War Memorial lighting display convinced those who were present that the proposed scheme was suitable. Although there had been some mention of extending this to light the tree, there was insufficient information available to consider this at the meeting.

The Clerk reported that he was still awaiting information on a proposal to transfer the Goose Lane allotments from East Staffordshire Borough Council to the Parish Council.

57.3 Traffic, Parking, Highways

The Clerk reported that he had received a response from Richard Rayson about the recent spate of lorries in Ashbrook Lane, reported by Cllr Waring. While the reply indicated that the contractor concerned has been requested to re-route vehicles along A-roads, the response also pointed out that future plans for re-signing of HCV routes may increase the number of larger vehicles passing through the village.

Cllr Coxon reported receiving comments about agricultural vehicles passing through the village and their high perceived speed. There had been recent incidents of damage to a car, and another of bales falling from a vehicle, that indicated the type of problems that could

arise and potential risk to life and property. Cllr Waring offered to co-ordinate the Traffic and Highways working group in considering ways of addressing this.

The Clerk reported that, on the basis of information supplied by Cllr Charles, he had discussed the broken fence in Narrow Lane with Martin Brown. A repair to the fence following vandalism was expected to be completed shortly.

Cllr Jarman drew attention to the graffiti on the roads and pavements left by the contractors who replaced the electrical cable. The Clerk agreed to contact Highways to see what could be done.

Cllr Charles reported that Orange Lane is now signed with a new street name sign.

Cllr Veitch noted that there was an increase in parking in High Street and by the Goat – both of which obscured the view round bends and created hazards.

57.4 Competitions

Cllr Elkington reported that the results were not so good this year as we came third out of five. Although formal feedback had not yet been received, issues that may have affected our scores probably included graffiti and dog fouling. The winners of the poster competition have been agreed and prizes will be presented.

57.5 Newsletter

Cllr Esling reported that the next issue of the newsletter was soon to be created and that he needed input within the next few days. Cllr Fox asked if this edition could include a reminder about overgrown hedges obscuring signs and footpaths?

57.6 School Governor's Report

Cllr Coxon reported that the new classrooms were in use. Recruitment of the new head teacher is in progress.

57.7 RISES

Cllr Fox reported that there was over £900 in the funds which would be used for new litter bins. On making enquiries, it appears there are currently no plans for plastic bag re-cycling.

57.8 Village Hall

Cllr Fox reported that £1500 grant has been received towards the fencing.

57.9 Community First Responders

Cllr Esling gave an update on the Community First Responders including numbers of calls, arrival of the replacement vehicle and addition of new volunteers.

Minute 58: Correspondence, bulletins and reports

58.1 British Heart Foundation: A letter from BHF outlines a proposal for Christmas fund raising, and asks for the Council to offer support in the form of a local volunteer.

58.2 Review of Polling Districts and Places: ESBC is required to review polling districts and places by the end of 2007 and invites comments by 15th October. The parish of Abbots Bromley is considered a “polling district” and the village hall is the associated polling place.

- 58.3 Housing Land Availability Assessment:** ESBC has invited the Council to nominate any sites that it believes should be assessed as potential development sites.
- 58.4 SPCA AGM:** The SPCA 2007 AGM is scheduled for Saturday 3rd November. The Council is invited to nominate candidates for election to the SPCA executive committee and propose any resolutions it wishes to be debated at the meeting.
- 58.5 ESBC Licensing Policy Review:** The Council is invited to provide feedback on the operation of the policy since the introduction of the Licensing Act 2003.
- 58.6 SMP:** The Council is invited to send representatives to a seminar on play and leisure provision being held at Hothorpe Hall, Leicestershire at 5:30pm on 9th October. The seminar is free, but pre-registration is required.
- 58.7 SPCA Post Office closures:** An emailed copy of a draft letter indicates that the proposed reductions in the Post Office network will be preceded by local consultations, with Staffordshire scheduled to commence in March 2008.
- 58.8 ESBC Economic Regeneration Strategy:** The Council is invited to comment on the ESBC Economic Regeneration Strategy 2007-2012 available on the website at www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/consultations. A questionnaire is supplied for use by 30th September.
- 58.9 SPCA Newsletter:** A copy of the newsletter from SPCA is the first since Vivien Evans became Chief Executive, and includes a schedule of proposed training for the next few months.
- 58.10 Community Council:** The Community Council is offering to run parish-based training on a number of topics designed to aid the involvement of local people in their communities.

Minute 59: Transfer of Millennium Green

- 59.1 The Clerk gave a brief review of recent developments regarding the proposed transfer and introduced notes containing feedback from NALC and other questions and answers.
- 59.2 There were reservations about the process and it was agreed to defer the matter for a fuller discussion at the next meeting.

Minute 60: Items for agenda of next meeting

- Transfer of Goose Lane allotments to Parish Council
- Recruitment of new Clerk

Minute 61: Date, time and place of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 31 October 2007 in the Memorial Room at the Village Hall.

The Meeting concluded at 22:25pm.

Chairman

Date: