

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday, 28 November 2007 at 7.30 pm
in the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given

Present: Cllrs: PJ Charles, S Coxon, Cllr DT Eatough (Chair), AE Elkington, C Veitch, BJ Waring

Also present: EA Roy (Clerk)

Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. RT Esling, L Fox and RSV Jarman, and also received from Borough Councillor A Fox.

Members of the public attending:
Mrs A Turvey, Mr J Turvey, several younger members of the community

Contents:

| | |
|---|---|
| Minute 74: Public Session..... | 1 |
| Minute 75: Minutes of previous meeting | 1 |
| Minute 76: Declarations of interest | 1 |
| Minute 77: Matters arising and matters of report | 2 |
| Minute 78: Planning..... | 2 |
| Minute 79: Financial Matters..... | 4 |
| Minute 80: Group Reports..... | 5 |
| Minute 81: Correspondence, bulletins and reports | 6 |
| Minute 82: Recruitment of new Clerk | 6 |
| Minute 83: Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations..... | 7 |
| Minute 84: Items for agenda of next meeting..... | 7 |
| Minute 85: Date, time and place of next meetings | 7 |

Minute 74: Public Session

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public present and invited them to address the meeting.

Mrs Turvey reported that several of the young people present in the village know those who are responsible for the recent spate of trouble. They would like to have a youth club in the village and believe that it would help to avoid future trouble. Other ideas were a graffiti board (which might stop the graffiti problem), a skate park, a room to use somewhere, something that teenagers could do.

Normal business was resumed at 1950.

Minute 75: Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting on 31 October 2007 be accepted as an accurate record subject to correction of one typographical error.

Minute 76: Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minute 77: Matters arising and matters of report

- 77.1 Circulated documents and Clerk's log:** Noted that the ESBC Forward Plan included an item about adoption of a Conservation Area Appraisal for Abbots Bromley. Clerk to find out more.
- 77.2 Knotweed at Cedar Cottage:** The Clerk reported that ESBC Enforcement was unable to intervene on private property and SPCA had confirmed that this was the case. If the Council can identify the owner's address, it could then ask for permission to treat the weed.
- 77.3 Sustainable Staffordshire:** Cllr Waring reported on his attendance at a half-day event held at the arboretum in Alrewas. This had included an interesting presentation from a couple who had developed their own eco-home on a very restricted budget. He had also made contact with other local councillors concerned about the prospect of a wind farm.
- 77.4 PC surgery:** Cllr Veitch reported that there had been one visitor concerned about a number of issues around the Seedcroft area including drainage, passing places and a missing streetlight. The changes to the entrance/exit at the Girls School also seemed to have created some congestion opposite the shop.

Minute 78: Planning

78.1 Applications

531 - TN/26338/002: Rose Cottage, Market Place: Removal of Yew tree
Received: 02/11/07 Replied: 12/11/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

532 - HO/20488/013: Portfields, Port Lane: Erection of two 2-storey extensions to the side and rear elevations and a single storey side extension to form a swimming pool, triple garage, gymnasium and lounge area, formation of a basement area consisting of a snooker room, steam/sauna room, changing facilities and store rooms and the erection of a boundary wall and access gates
Received: 05/11/07 Replied: 19/11/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

533 - HO/31694/001: 24 Paget Rise: Erection of single storey front extension and two storey side extension and single storey rear extension
Received: 09/11/07 Replied: 19/11/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

534 - PA/17519/006: Radmore Fields Farm, Radmore Lane: Erection of an agricultural building to form livestock and machinery store
Received: 12/11/07 Replied: 20/11/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

535 - TN/09385/014: Millennium Green, Bagot Street: Crown raising of one Silver Birch, one Alder and one Cherry tree, removal of six Field Maple and eight spindle saplings and reduction of one Hazel tree
Received: 19/11/07 Replied: 30/11/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

536 - HO/17522/006: Sunrise, Bromley Wood: Erection of a single storey rear extension

Received: 19/11/07 Replied: 30/11/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

537 - PA/26905/009: Bagots Park: Erection of 70m high wind monitoring mast for a temporary period of 18 months

Received: 19/11/07 Replied: 30/11/07 Response: The Parish Council has concerns about the location of this tower and the potential impact on herons as well as a further loss of visual amenity for users of the popular Staffordshire Way.

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

78.2 Decisions

The following applications have been **AGREED**

521 - PA26905/008: Land at Bagots Park: Erection of a 70m high wind monitoring mast for a three year period

526 - PA/25184/005: 10 Ashbrook Lane: Erection of a two storey attached dwelling

527 - LB/02885/025: Land rear of Ivy House: Demolition of outbuildings

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

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

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

78.3 Correspondence and other planning matters

The Clerk reported that a Supplementary Planning Document on “Re-Use of Redundant Rural Buildings” was being presented for adoption by East Staffordshire Borough Council at the meeting on 3 December.

The Clerk provided details of the reference documents previously obtained by the Council about wind farms in general, and of the on-line service provided by ESBC for making enquiries about planning applications.

The Chairman gave an update on the discussions that had taken place about the proposed developments at Tatenhill Airfield. These seemed to have resulted in some concessions on both sides. There were, however, other matters that still need to be resolved, such as runway lights.

The Chairman had also been made aware of the installation of a satellite dish on Rose Cottage within the conservation area, and this was now being resolved.

The Chairman provided some feedback on the questionnaire proposed for the wind farm and offered some suggestions. After a short discussion it was agreed to proceed with the initial two questions, and also accept comments, in order to concentrate on the basic issues of whether people have heard about the application and if they support it. Agreed to get this to the point where it could be printed and delivered.

Minute 79: Financial Matters

79.1 Financial report

The Clerk introduced the financial statement for November, and gave a brief report on recent transactions including receipt of the contributions from Blithfield and Kingstone parishes towards the cost of advertising adoption of the revised Code of Conduct.

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

79.2 Report on payments made since the last meeting

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

79.3 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> |
|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------------------|---|
| 42/860 | R Blower | 30.00 | Repairs to MG bark edging | OSA 1906 s.10 |
| 43/861 | CPRE | 26.00 | Annual membership | LGA 1927 s.111 |
| 44/862 | SI Laboratories | 228.89 | Graffiti shield/wash | PHA 1961 .s52 |
| 45a/863 | Eric Roy | 379.12 | Clerk's salary/expenses | LG(FP)A 1963 s.5 & LGA 1972 s.112(2) |
| 45b/863 | Eric Roy | 102.75 | A3 paper for newsletter | LGA 1972 s.142 |
| 45c/863 | Eric Roy | 151.43 | Paint for wooden play equipt | PHA 1961 s.52 |
| 45d/863 | Eric Roy | 83.64 | Copier cartridge | LGA 1972 s.111 |
| 46/864 | AB Village Hall | 48.00 | Room hire | LGA 1972 s.150 |
| 47/865 | Steelway Fensecure | 391.49 | New gate for play area | PHA 1961 s.52 |
| 48/866 | Abbots Bromley PCC | 130.00 | Clock maintenance | PCA 1957 s.2 |
| | TOTAL payments | 1571.32 | | |

RESOLVED: That these payments be made.

79.4 Section 137 payments

The Clerk reported no requests had been received.

79.5 Other financial matters

79.5.1 **Budget for 2008/2009:** The Clerk introduced an outline schedule for the preparation of a budget and the precept request. It was agreed that the budget should include a "priming" fund for youth projects, of up to £5K if this is possible.

79.5.2 **Clock maintenance:** The Clerk reminded the Council that last month it approved a grant towards the cost of the church clock maintenance in line with the budget. However, due to changed phasing of the invoice, Abbots Bromley PCC has had to meet an additional cost in the present financial year of approximately £190.

RESOLVED: That the sum of £130 be transferred from "Lights maintenance" to "Clock maintenance", and a payment of this amount to Abbots Bromley PCC be added to the above schedule of payments.

79.5.3 **Clerk's salary:** The Clerk reported that Agreement on the April 2007 cost of living increase for local government employees had recently been reached. The Council may wish to consider whether it adopts the recommendations which would increase the remuneration of the Clerk from £10.517 to £10.778 per hour, backdated to April.

RESOLVED: That the national agreement increase be adopted.

- 79.5.4 **Millennium Green:** The Clerk reported that a single quotation for re-constructing the path had been received from Mr Dunmore, in response to the Invitation to Tender document. It was agreed to accept this quotation but schedule the work after the gate installation.
- 79.5.5 **Internal Audit:** The Clerk reported that Mr Bryan Sullivan had indicated his willingness to act as Internal Auditor for the current financial year if the Council wished. The Clerk also introduced a proposed plan and terms of reference for the audit – the need for which had been identified in a review of the audit process last year.
RESOLVED: To appoint Mr Sullivan as internal auditor on the basis of the proposed terms of reference.

Minute 80: Group Reports

80.1 Recreation

There was a discussion of the points raised by the young people in the public session. It was agreed to investigate some possible options for what might be achieved in the way of graffiti board and shelter in the first instance.

The Clerk was asked to find out from Philip Atkins the current state of grants and support for youth projects.

The Clerk gave a brief update on progress with the regeneration of the Millennium Green area. This included:

- New pedestrian gate received – now awaiting agreement with Malcolm Brown on how and when this should be installed
- Specialist paint for wooden equipment and anti-graffiti coating both received
- Metal paint for slide and poles still to be purchased
- Permission for work on trees awaited

A grant cheque for £1800 towards the cost of this work had been received from SPCA.

Cllr Coxon reported that Lappset were planning to repair the surface at the Nuttery on Friday 30 November.

The Chairman reported that the Cricket Club may be seeking funding for security measures at their field, and for which he had provide a quotation. He would therefore declare an interest if any request for funding was made.

80.2 Village Property

The Clerk reported that full details of the background to the land at Goose Lane had been supplied to the solicitors and their advice was awaited.

The Clerk reported that the request for a litter bin at the parking spot near the Newton turn had been passed to ESBC Environment Services. They were going to monitor the situation.

Cllr Charles reported that a Christmas tree will be made available, but the Council may need to arrange collection.

80.3 Traffic, Parking, Highways

The Clerk reported on a recent proposal from County Highways for a minor extension to the speed restriction in Goose Lane. Agreed that the extension as originally requested was still what was needed to protect pedestrians.

Cllr Waring gave an update on the HGV initiative and reported that he had heard from three volunteers wishing to assist.

Cllr Elkington gave an update on the current status of Speedwatch and the recent installation of signs at Stowe by Chartley.

A report of mud on the road in Lintake Drive (caused by works nearby) should be passed to Clarence.

80.4 Competitions

Cllr Elkington reported that presentations will be made just before Christmas.

80.5 Newsletter

Nothing to report.

80.6 School Governor's Report

Cllr Eatough reported that a new governor was now needed.

80.7 RISES

Nothing to report.

80.8 Village Hall

Cllr Waring reported on the problems with youths sleeping rough round the hall. The Chairman reminded members of the importance of reporting each incident of damage and getting a crime number. The police have responded with a weekend presence and this is to be continued.

Minute 81: Correspondence, bulletins and reports

81.1 Sustainable Staffordshire: A letter informs the Council that the future of this initiative is under review following proposals by the County Council to withdraw funding from April 2008. The views of Councils are being sought. The Clerk was asked to respond.

81.2 SPCA East Staffordshire: A proposal for the annual liaison meeting with the County Council has been received with an invitation to propose alternate topics. No alternatives were suggested.

81.3 Community Council: Has provided details of a competition for community shops in Staffordshire.

81.4 SPCA: Has invited attendance at a "Quality Event" on Monday 3 December in Stafford which will include presentations and lunch. The Clerk was asked to enquire if Councillors Fox or Jarman would be willing to attend. SPCA have also supplied details of a NALC event on 30 January and invited nominations for the SPCA Executive.

Minute 82: Recruitment of new Clerk

82.1 The Clerk reported that six people had requested details of the Clerk vacancy and two applications had subsequently been received. The Clerk introduced details of the two applications.

82.2 It was agreed that both applicants would be interviewed starting at 7pm on Wednesday 5 December, and the Clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements.

Minute 83: Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

83.1 The Clerk introduced a proposal recommending that the Standing Orders be updated to include a previously agreed change to Appendix B covering the Jubilee Cup and to add the new Model Code of Conduct. He also recommended that no changes be made to the Financial Regulations at the present time.

PROPOSED: That the revised Standing Orders be adopted, but in accordance with Standing Order 71, the resolution was adjourned until the next meeting.

Minute 84: Items for agenda of next meeting

Budget meeting on 16 January:

- To review a proposed budget and agree the precept request and review planning applications

Ordinary meeting on 30 January:

- Possible visit from LPU inspector
- To introduce the new Clerk
- To consider nominations for the Jubilee Cup
- To discuss the format for the Parish Assembly
- To formally adopt the revised Standing Orders
- To consider a proposal to extend RISES to include sustainability issues

Minute 85: Date, time and place of next meetings

It was agreed that the next meetings should be held at 7.30pm in the Memorial Room at the Village Hall:

- On Wednesday 16 January 2008 to consider only urgent matters and the budget
- On Wednesday 30 January 2008

The Meeting concluded at 22:11pm.

Chairman

Date: