

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on Wednesday, 30 January 2008 at 7.30 pm**  
in the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given

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

**Also present:** EA Roy (Clerk), Mrs S Buxton (Clerk from 1<sup>st</sup> February),  
Borough Cllr A Fox (For public session only)

**Apologies:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr DT Eatough.

**Members of the public attending:**

Mr and Mrs Turvey and group of young people  
Mr and Mrs Tonking  
Mr Simpson

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**Minute 93: Public Session**

The Chairman introduced Mrs Sue Buxton who would be taking up the role of Clerk to the Parish Council from 1<sup>st</sup> February.

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

Mrs Turvey gave some feedback on current issues with young people in the village and made suggestions about the way forward. A spokesperson for the younger people pointed out that there was nothing in the village for the older teens and that some new facilities would be helpful.

Mr Tonking drew attention to the appearance of a galvanised 8 metre column and a discussion on the options for getting this removed ensued.

Mr Simpson asked about the land adjacent to Church View and requested permission to gate the strip of land at the back of his property for reasons of security.

Borough Cllr A Fox made a few points relating to the wind farm application and thought that the time for comments might be extended. As someone who had indicated opposition to the proposal, he has declared an interest and will therefore not take part in any management of the application within ESBC. He summarised the issues that could legitimately be taken into account by a planning committee in considering such an application.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for their contributions.

Normal business was resumed at 2016.

### **Minute 94: Minutes of previous meeting**

***RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meetings on 28 November 2007 and 16 January 2008 be accepted as an accurate record.***

### **Minute 95: Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **Minute 96: Matters arising and matters of report**

- 96.1 Circulated documents and Clerk's log:** A proposal from Cllr Coxon that some articles from CPRE Fieldwork could be usefully re-printed in the Bulletin was noted. There was a short discussion of how documents would be circulated and returned to the new Clerk, and it was agreed that a combination of postage, delivery or return at the following meeting would be used depending on document size and urgency.
- 96.2 2008 dates:** The Clerk introduced a summary sheet of meeting dates for 2008, and drew attention to the fact that the proposed date for the Parish Assembly clashed with use of the Millennium Hall by the Players and suggested an alternative date of 21 May. Also, the new Clerk would not be available on 30 July due to a prior commitment, so it was agreed that the meeting be moved to 23 July and the surgery also held one week earlier. Cllr Fox is no longer available for the May surgery – Cllr Waring offered to cover this but would not be available for September. These changes were agreed and the Clerk was asked to update the bookings with the Village Hall and Church House respectively.
- 96.3 New member:** The Clerk reported that ESBC Electoral Office had confirmed that no request for an election had been made following the resignation of Cllr Esling. The Council therefore had sixty days in which to co-opt an additional member. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks.
- 96.4 Parish Council surgery:** Cllr Coxon reported that many of the issues raised related to recent vandalism, and advice was given to report each incident to the police. Dog fouling was also mentioned and the possibility of additional bins suggested as a part-solution. Noted that this might be funded from a future RISES payment. There were offers of help for Speed Watch. Other villages in the area have used pavement markings to act as a deterrent to dog fouling. Rev Payne visited to outline his objections to the wind farm.
- 96.5 Christmas tree:** The Clerk drew attention to an item in the Parish News complimenting the tree and illuminations. He was asked to write to Mr P Brandrick to thank him for providing the tree.

## Minute 97: Planning

### 97.1 Applications

**542 - HO/20841/010: Chase View, Lichfield Road:** Erection of a two storey side extension and log store  
Received: 21/01/08 Replied: 31/01/08 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

**543 - PA/26905/010: Bagots Park, Dunstall Lane:** Erection of eight 100 metre high wind turbines and associated substation, one 70 metre high anemometry mast and the formation of associated access tracks and temporary works compound  
Received: 28/01/08 Due: 05/03/08

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

### 97.2 Decisions

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

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

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

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

### 97.3 Correspondence and other planning matters

The Clerk introduced a letter from ESBC Planning about “Electronic Consultations” and gave further clarification based on his exchange of emails with Peter Short. There was a discussion about the prospect of reviewing applications by this method. It was agreed that the new Clerk would provide an emailed link to a future plan so that members can evaluate the feasibility of reviewing on-line before responding to Mr Short.

The Clerk drew attention to a letter from Airtricity, accompanying a copy of the Environmental Statement supporting their application to develop a wind farm at Bagot’s Park. He reported that, in line with the earlier decision by Council, and following discussions with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, a brief edition of the Bulletin had been prepared to accompany the questionnaire previously proposed. An “open morning” at Church House on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February would allow residents to review plans and documents as well as discuss informally with Councillors. Cllrs Charles and Waring will be in attendance and others as available.

An extraordinary meeting had been called for Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, at which there would be opportunity to receive representations from residents before engaging in a discussion and formulating a response. It was agreed that the Council would not make a decision at that meeting, but would reflect on the views expressed until the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February.

A County Council consultation, on the new single application planning form and validation criteria, ends on Tuesday 4 March and affects waste management. Further details are available on-line at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/planning](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/planning).

## Minute 98: Financial Matters

### 98.1 Budget report

The Clerk introduced a budget report for the end of December 2007 and reminded members that this had been used as the basis for the 2008/2009 budget calculations and precept request. He noted that "Miscellaneous income" was £1840 more than forecast and would be augmented to over £1900 by an additional grant payment from ESBC. This extra income would be offset by expenditure on the regeneration of the Millennium Green area.

### 98.2 Financial report

The Clerk introduced the financial statement for January. He reported that since the statement was prepared, the Ruchi Restaurant had formally signed their tenancy agreement and provided a cheque for the rent to April 2008.

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

### 98.3 Report on payments made since the last meeting

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

### 98.4 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>
56/874	Community Council	13.50	BKV entry fee	LGA 1972 s.137
57/875	Eric Roy	388.38	Clerk's salary/expenses	LG(FP)A 1963 s.5 & LGA 1972 s.112(2)
58/876	Graham McCulloch	335.90	Millennium Green work/shrubs	PHA 1961 s.52
59/877	XMA Limited	180.45	Printer toner (x 3)	LGA 1972 s.142
60/878	Malcolm Brown	535.00	Installation of gate and fence	PHA 1961 s.52
	<b>TOTAL payments</b>	<b>1453.23</b>		

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

### 98.5 Section 137 payments

The Clerk reported no new requests had been received.

### 98.6 Other financial matters

98.6.1 **Report of internal auditor:** The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor had provided a report following his interim audit visit and this would be circulated.

98.6.2 **Accounts software:** The Clerk advised that the current accounting software had failed to install on the notebook PC of the new Clerk and it seemed that the easiest option would be the purchase of a later version compatible with Vista at a cost of approximately £50.

**RESOLVED: That the new Clerk purchase a copy of the required software.**

98.6.3 **Appointment of external auditor:** Notification has been received from the Audit Commission of the appointment of Jackie Bellard as external auditor for the next five years.

- 98.6.4 **Transfer of bank authority to new Clerk:** The Clerk introduced a letter authorising Lloyds TSB to send statements to the new Clerk and to allow her to transfer funds between accounts using the telephone authorisation system.  
**RESOLVED: That the letter be signed by three Councillors to authorise the bank to make these changes.**

## Minute 99: Group Reports

### 99.1 Recreation

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

- New pedestrian gate and adjacent fence installed
- Preparatory work on re-surfacing of path carried out
- Metal paint for slide and poles received
- Permission for work on trees received
- Two trees at rear of Alfred Lyons Close removed
- Old fencing removed
- Shrubs pruned, trees lopped and small surplus trees removed and new shrubs planted
- Re-painting of equipment scheduled for March – at present the outgoing Clerk has this stored for collection by Mr McCulloch together with the relevant materials safety sheets

The transfer of the Millennium Green has hit snags in the legal process and options are currently being investigated by Natural England. The Clerk will provide Cllr Veitch with copies of recent correspondence on the subject.

### 99.2 Village Property

The Clerk reported that potential problems with the earthing of the roadside cabinet had been identified when the Christmas lights were connected. A visit from ABB to review the present earthing arrangements might lead to the recommendation that Central Networks come and provide a "Protective Multiple Earth" – which would cost £98 + VAT.

The Clerk reported a further discussion by telephone with the solicitor about land at Goose Lane had taken place but a promised update had not yet been supplied. Further to the request made earlier by Mr Simpson, it was agreed that Mr Simpson could enclose the strip of land rear of Church View.

**RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to Mr Simpson advising that the Council has no objection to his proposal for improving security.**

In a recent inspection of assets, it had been noted that the front plank of the bench outside Richard Clarke school was broken and that an exposed screw was potentially dangerous. The Clerk was asked to contact Richard Blower and make arrangements for the bench to be repaired.

The Clerk reported that he had been in further discussions with Glynn Hook about replacement lighting for the War Memorial and provided details. After a short discussion it was agreed that an LED solution would be preferred with any risks of theft offset by appropriate insurance.

The Clerk reported that he had received a draft letter from ABB to residents about the need for wayleave agreements on their properties for the new lighting scheme. He expressed concern that the slow rate of progress on consultation would lead to ABB imposing a scheme in order to meet their contractual deadlines. He had written to County

Councillor Atkins and Borough Councillor Fox to make them aware of the situation and invite their support.

Cllr Jarman agreed to take up the issue of the light at the Bagot Arms with John German in an attempt to influence the developer to accept a wayleave agreement. The Clerk to provide Cllr Jarman with background information.

The Clerk reported that, following an assessment of the Deodar Cedar tree in the church yard with Mr McCulloch, he had now submitted an application to ESBC Planning to crown raise the tree by removal of the lower circle of branches.

The Clerk reported that Mrs Cownie was visiting Abbots Bromley the following afternoon to present her aunt's etching of the Horn Dancers to the village. He and Cllr Charles were expecting to meet Mrs Cownie in Church House at 4:30pm. Other Councillors were welcome to join them.

### **99.3 Traffic, Parking, Highways**

Cllr Waring reported that a recent news item indicated Parish Councils might be able to influence the inclusion/exclusion of HCV-suitable routes in Ordnance Survey data. Cllr Waring would follow this up to explore the possibilities.

Cllr Waring noted that some local companies were using the route through the village and suggested that a letter could be written to them to see what reaction was obtained. At the very least this would inform follow up action. It was agreed that this would be done and Cllr Waring will provide a draft letter for the Clerk to send. Similar action in Kings Bromley met with some positive results.

The Clerk reported a discussion with Richard Rayson about the extension to the speed restriction in Goose Lane. For progress to be made, agreement from the landowners on either side of Yeatsall Lane was needed and the help of the Parish Council in achieving this was requested. The Clerk was asked to find out how far up the lane the signs would need to be placed.

Cllr Coxon noted that cars were now parking on the pavement by Church House with the attendant problems. The Clerk was asked to write to the police to request their assistance in putting notes on the offending vehicles.

### **99.4 Competitions**

Cllr Elkington reported that an entry for the 2008 Best Kept Village competition was being prepared.

### **99.5 Newsletter**

A shorter Bulletin had been created to publicise the wind farm application and the steps being taken by the Council to facilitate consultation. This was now available to distribute with questionnaires. It was noted that with the resignation of Cllr Esling, and departure of the Clerk, the editing and production of further issues needed to be considered at a future meeting.

### **99.6 School Governor's Report**

Cllr Coxon reported on the arrangements for the new head to start. His own term as governor is reaching an end but he was willing to take over the "community" role previously held by Cllr Eatough.

**RESOLVED: That Cllr Coxon be the Parish Council representative on the board of governors for RCFS, in succession to Cllr Eatough.**

**99.7 RISES**

Cllr Fox reported that a further payment of over £500 was expected. She also offered to investigate the possibility of acquiring additional dog bins funded from this payment.

**99.8 Village Hall**

Cllr Waring reported that on his last attendance at the management committee, he had given an indication of the discussions now taking place with youth. Cllr Fox reported on the visit of a professional company to present "Growing Old Disgracefully" on Easter Saturday to help raise funds for the Village Hall.

**Minute 100: Correspondence, bulletins and reports**

**100.1 ESBC Parish Councils' Forum:** A meeting of the forum is to take place in Burton Town Hall at 6.30pm on Monday 11 February. Chairman and Clerk (or their deputies) are invited to attend.

**100.2 SPCA East Staffordshire:** The agenda for the annual liaison meeting with the County Council at 7.45pm in Denstone Village Hall on Thursday 21 February has been received. The Council is invited to send two representatives.

**100.3 Abbots Bromley PCC:** A letter has been received thanking the Council for their support in the past year, and in particular for the extra grant towards the cost of clock maintenance. The letter also advises that planning permission having been granted for the new path, work on this was expected to start on 14 January.

**100.4 SPCA training update:** SPCA has written reminding of the "Internal Audit" course planned for 31 January, "Chairmanship Skills Part 5" on 6 February, Budgets and Annual Returns on 21 February, Project Management on 20 March and Organising Consultations on 2 April.

**100.5 Climate Change project:** SPCA has written about a climate change project that has been initiated by the County Council, inviting Parish Councils to get involved.

**100.6 Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service:** The service is facilitating some awards for their staff and inviting nominations from members of the public before the end of January.

**100.7 Communities First:** A letter from the County Council outlines a proposal relating to the development of local services and offers to provide a speaker to come and talk about various issues.

**Minute 101: Jubilee Cup and Parish Assembly**

101.1 In the absence of forms to provide written nominations, discussion was deferred until the next meeting.

101.2 It was agreed that the main hall should be booked for the Parish Assembly and consideration given to inviting external speakers on the subjects of either Climate Change or Communities First as notes in the Correspondence (see above).

## Minute 102: Adoption of Standing Orders

102.1 In accordance with paragraph 71 of Standing Orders, a motion to adopt revised Standing Orders was moved at the November meeting and adjourned.

***RESOLVED: That the revised Standing Orders be adopted.***

## Minute 103: Items for agenda of next ordinary meeting

S.137 grants to local organisations under  
Co-option of a new member  
Nominations for 2008 Jubilee Cup

## Minute 104: 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 Friday 22 February 2008 to receive residents views on the wind farm application
- On Wednesday 27 February 2008 for all other business including response on wind farm application

The Meeting concluded at 22:05pm.

Chairman .....

Date: .....