

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2008 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, L Fox, RSV Jarman, C Veitch, BJ Waring

**In attendance:** Mrs S Buxton (Clerk), Borough Councillor A Fox

**Apologies:** None

**Members of the public attending:** 31 residents

**Contents:**

Minute 105: Declaration of Interest .....	1
Minute 106: Public Session .....	1
Minute 107: Resolution to Rescind a Previous Decision of the Council ..	3
Minute 108: Planning.....	3
Minute 109: Financial Matters.....	4
Minute 110: Date, time and place of next meetings .....	4

**Minute 105: Declaration of Interest**

None

**Minute 106: Public Session**

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

Cllr Fox informed the meeting that he has relinquished the leadership of ESBC for this particular item of business, which allows him to speak freely on the matter.

Cllr Fox covered the following points:-

- the role of the planning applications committee
- the application is for 8 towers, 110 metres tall
- the wind farm will fuel 10,000 homes, according to the application
- there will be a feeder road through the woods
- each turbine will have a base of approx 1000 tonnes of concrete
- individuals must send a letter to the authority with their views
- a leaflet summarising the facts and issues including the key dates
- any views must be relevant to local planning policies, any other views are irrelevant for the consideration of this application.
- Visual impact- particularly the closeness to neighbouring properties, and its effect on the local landscape and on properties further afield
- 132 families live within 2 ½ km of the site
- noise pollution presents associated health hazards
- 4 of the turbines are adjacent to the Staffordshire Way (the application does mention diverting the footpath)
- the last application was withdrawn due to the questionable quality of the wind at the site
- the site sits on some very important aquifers, which supply water to adjacent properties

- the site is identified in the Staffs Wide Landscape Plan as worthy of restoration to its original form.
- the site is adjacent to the ancient Needwood Forest
- wildlife on the site is of great importance and two of the turbines are in the flight path of the herony. One dead barn owl has been killed by the anemetry tower
- the site is adjacent to Goat Lodge which is a designated SSSI

Members of the public spoke as follows:-

S Peart – Paget Rise – do believe in renewable energy, but must do the right thing. His concerns are noise nuisance and its impact on health. Low frequency noise is a significant issue, which has been measured from wind farm sites, and can cause extreme distress. Wind turbine noise affects the internal noise levels within dwellings and noise at night was greater than anticipated - once woken people had difficulty returning to sleep. Noise complaints have been received on 27 out of 137 wind farm sites. AM noise is another issue about which there is limited research at present. The health impact can lead to vibroacoustic disease, which can be very distressing.

D Murray – Radmore Lane – sees this as a very important decision. The reduced CO2 emissions benefit appear to be tiny. Denmark was a leader in wind farm development but they have discontinued development as they think they have no CO2 benefit. Many wind farms would be needed to equal the output of Rugeley Power Station. The visual intrusion will be significant in an area of natural beauty and the development will reduce amenity to everyone locally. The landscape will be changed and everyone in the area will be affected. The wind farm would be an industrial development in a quiet rural environment. The damage to wildlife is very important and the mitigating proposals will not necessarily be effective. The attractiveness of the village will be affected. Lower property values will result. The development will have an absentee landlord who is not interested in the local area he is running a business, which is likely to make a very high profit over the life of the wind farm. There is a rush now to access subsidies which will not be available in a few years time. Why can't the development be put on hold until the results from the anemometry tower are known? Airtricity have been running a stall in Burton on Trent and have a draft letter asking people to support the development of a wind farm in Abbots Bromley.

M King, Heatley Lane – sees opportunities from a wind farm. Understand people's concerns, but need alternative forms of energy, but doesn't know if wind farms are a way forward. Over the last 5 years attempts have been made to provide facilities for young people in the village and this development may be a possible opportunity to get money from the developers for our young people. The village has not been successful in grant application as there are no ethnic minorities living or major problems with vandalism in the village. From visits to a number of wind farms he doesn't find them too obtrusive personally and sees them as reasonably environmentally friendly. Could ESBC be requested to impose conditions for funding on the application?

The application allows for £18,500 pa for life time of project, to be spread over the villages of Abbots Bromley, Kingstone, Marchington and Marchington Woodlands, and this is based on assumed efficiency of 30 – 35 % which may not be achieved.

R Payne, Bagots View – the developer is trying to sell the project with spin and vague language in the reports. The towers will be the size of Rugeley Power Station, but there will be eight not two. The turbines are the size of single decker bus and the towers will be 15 foot wide. This constitutes an unacceptable industrial development of a power station in a rural part of Staffordshire which will provide doubtful benefit.

Normal business was resumed at 2015.

## Minute 107: Resolution to Rescind a Previous Decision of the Council

The clerk reported that she had received a resolution from three members to rescind the previous decision made at the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2008, for the council to formulate its view on the planning application for a proposed Wind Farm at the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2008 and instead to make the decision at this meeting

**Resolved:** Abbots Bromley Parish Council should rescind its decision made on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2008, of making a decision on the planning application for the proposed Wind Farm at the meeting scheduled on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2008, and that the Council should make its decision at the the end of this special meeting.

## Minute 108: Planning

### 108.1 Applications Received

**543 - PA/26905/010 Bagot's Park, Dunstall Lane:** Erection of eight 110 meter high wind turbines and associated substation, one 70 meter high anemometry mast and the formation of associated access tracks and temporary works compound

Received: 01/20/08      Due: 05/03/08      Decision:

The chairman reported on the results of the survey throughout the village.

155 forms returned out of approximately just over 600 delivered – just over 25%

Q 1 Are you aware of proposals? 151 yes, 1 no, 2 spoilt, 1 not sure – 98% aware

Q 2 Do you support application? 70 yes, 81 no, 2 spoilt, 2 not sure

The 2 spoilt questionnaires were photocopies

Cllrs Eatough, Mrs Fox, Elkington, Waring, Mrs Veitch and Jarman detailed their views against the proposed development of a wind farm, covering the visual impact, hydrology, ecology, archaeology, noise, the route of the Staffordshire way, access to the national grid and pylons, effect on birds, particularly from the heronry, effect on hot air balloons and light aircraft, possible flooding up or down stream, pollution, the likely output from the development in terms of the electricity, the suitability of the site in terms of development of a wind farm and the limited benefits to the village.

Cllr Coxon spoke in support of the application and questioned the pollution issue as this should be managed through the management of the contract. His concern is about climate change and our children's future with wind energy being one of the only viable renewable technologies. The ecology and geology are matters which would clearly have to be dealt with. The visual impact is a matter of personal opinion.

He clarified his employment with National Grid, confirming that this development was of insufficient capacity to connect into the national grid network and therefore had no interaction with his employer. If this development were to go ahead it would more likely be detrimental rather than beneficial to National Grid. Thus he believed he had no interest to declare.

Cllr Charles was neutral on the application, not believing that the development would be intrusive but disappointed with information on heron flight in the Environmental Impact Statement and concerned about traffic

**Resolved** that the parish council object to this application for the reasons of visual impact, hydrology, ecology, archaeology, noise pollution, aviation activity, the route of the Staffordshire Way and limited benefit to the village. The vote was carried 7 in favour of objecting to the application (Cllrs Eatough, Charles, Elkington, Mrs Fox, Jarman, Veitch and Waring) and 1 against objecting to the application (Cllr Coxon)

**544 – PA/19842/011: Bromley Park Farm Buildings, Bromley Park Farm:**  
 Erection of an agricultural workers dwelling  
 Received: 31/1/08                      Replied: 21/2/08                      Decision: The parish council has  
 no objection to this application as long as agricultural conditions apply indefinitely

**545 – HO/10489/002: 7 St Nicholas Way:** Single storey side and rear  
 extensions  
 Received: 31/1/08                      Replied: 21/2/08                      Decision: The parish council has  
 no objection to this application

**547 – LE/01349/007: Radmore House, Radmore Lane:** Application for  
 certificate of lawfulness for the continued use of land for domestic garden and the  
 retention of the access and entrance gates  
 Received: 19/2/08                      Due: 03/03/08                      Decision: The parish council has  
 no objection to this application

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

**Minute 109: Financial Matters**

**109.1 Payments to be made**

The Clerk introduced the following for payment:

<i>Vch/Chq</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Powers</i>
61/879	Graham McCulloch	£150.00	Devolved maintenance	LGA 1972 s.101
62/879	Graham McCulloch	£360.00	Removal of trees between MG and Alfred Lyons Close	LGA 1972 S.101
63/880	Christopher Dunmore	£945.87	Restoration of MG path	PHA 1961 s.52
	<b>TOTAL payments</b>	<b>1455.87</b>		

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

**Minute 110: Date, time and place of next meetings**

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held at 7.30pm in the Memorial Room at the Village Hall on Wednesday 27 February 2008.

The Meeting concluded at 21:05 pm

Chairman .....

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2008