

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2008 at 7.30 pm**  
in the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given

**Present:** Cllrs PJ Charles; R Bell; S Coxon; A Elkington; Mrs L Fox; RSV Jarman; R Mills; Mrs C Veitch; B Waring

**In attendance:** County Cllr P Atkins; Borough Cllr A Fox; Mrs S Buxton (Clerk); Mr Steve Bradbury – Streetlighting Manager for Staffs County Council; Mr Martin Beavis – Project Manager for Eon

**Members of the public attending:** 24

**Apologies:** Mr & Mrs S Tonking, Mr & Mrs Dodsworth

Contents:

Minute 202:	Public Session .....	1
Minute 203:	Declarations of Interest.....	4
Minute 204:	Lighting in Abbots Bromley .....	4
Minute 205:	Community Gangs.....	5
Minute 206:	Millennium Green.....	5

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Cllrs Atkins and Fox, Mr Bradbury and Mr Beavis and the parish councillors introduced themselves

**Minute 202: Public Session**

A resident from Market Place:-

- The lighting scheme is inappropriate for a conservation area and gives light trespass and nuisance
- Centre of the village is the main concern, although there are concerns with Bagot Street and High Street
- Appears that light levels are the only criteria which have been used in determining the scheme
- Complaints were first raised in August and after two months no news on the resolution of the problems has been received

A resident from High Street:-

- His work has seen him constantly in dispute with engineers and it has always been on the grounds of aesthetics and this experience is shared by a number of retired architects in AB
- It seems the decisions are based on engineering criteria and with no reference to aesthetics
- The village centre has a scheduled monument, many grade II listed buildings and is in a conservation area
- What qualifications do Mr Bradbury and Mr Beavis have with regards to lighting

Mr Bradbury and Mr Beavis:-

- Both stated that they were project managers and employed lighting designers as required
- Every road in Staffordshire is classified in terms of requirements for lighting and the lighting put in AB is below the classification determined level for the road through the village
- The wall mounted lights are identical to the ones which they replaced

A resident from High Street:-

- Information provided on luminance is 14.9 pre installation and 15 since installation, but the luminance appears to have doubled since installation
- Has English Heritage been consulted or their website visited?
- English Heritage state that such schemes must have flexibility and sensibility

Mr Bradbury and Mr Beavis:-

- Have tried to contact English Heritage but received no reply
- The CPRE website is more useful
- The previous lighting was over 30 years old and did not meet the standards required today for light levels and energy efficiency
- The 25 year PFI contract is to address the issue of the poor lighting infrastructure in Staffordshire

Discussion took place on which standards have to met in 2008 when installing lighting and whether English Heritage had been considered an appropriate consultee

A resident from High Street:-

- Why didn't SCC wait for a reply from English Heritage?

A resident from Alfred Lyons Close:-

- Raised issues regarding the lights changing the character of the village and why had the Village Design Statement been ignored?

Cllr Alex Fox:-

- The Village Design Statement has no legal status, where one exists, planners must refer to them but they are not obliged to follow them

A resident from Bagot Street:-

- The lights are brighter and are on all day and why are the boxes so large for the small amount of gear they contain?

Martin Beavis:-

- The boxes hold a solar self setting time switch and the means of isolating individual lights safely

A resident from High Street

- Is the luminance at pavement level the same as before?
- The Institute of Lighting Engineers state that in a rural village that 5 lux is required
- Is it possible to see the readings of light levels prior to the installation?
- ESBC has refused to employ a Conservation Officer and who looks after the issues in AB?

Martin Beavis and Steve Bradbury:-

- The lamps deteriorate with time, this is called the maintenance factor. At the end of the deterioration the lights must be 6 lux
- There is no such definition as rural small village and each road is individually classified
- The calculations were done by design engineer using specialist software
- It is very difficult to take readings as weather condition affect brightness a great deal
- All lighting designers use the same software packages and have done so for a number of years

Cllr Alex Fox:-

- The standards for lighting come from Europe as so many of our standards do now and they are closely linked to Health and Safety. This now impinges on local authorities as SCC officers are now open to challenge if there is an accident and charged with corporate manslaughter and this therefore drives lighting standards
- Can the maintenance deterioration be speeded up or the lights turned down?
- The borough doesn't need a full time officer and employs consultants when needed and it is not material in this discussion
- Lighting is a county council function not borough council one

Cllr Roger Jarman:-

- A letter has been received from Mr & Mrs Tonking expressing a different view. They acknowledge the need for change sometimes and find the increased lighting levels reassuring. ABB had been very helpful in resolving an issue relating to their wall mounted lights. They do feel that the four lights on Crown Bank are disproportionately high when considered in their surroundings and the Village Design Statement should have been referred to

Cllrs Philip Atkins and Alex Fox:-

- Both have received letters of support for the lights
- The Crown Bank lights do appear to be to extreme

A resident from Ashbrook Lane:-

- Uttoxeter Road and Lichfield Road have differing light levels

Martin Beavis and Steve Bradbury:-

- Lichfield Road has pole mounted lights and every road is classified individually.
- No work is being done on Lichfield Road at this stage
- 25,000 lights out of 110,000 have so far been replaced under the PFI contract

A resident from Market Place:-

- why are double lights necessary on Crown Bank?
- If turning right off Crown Bank the increased lighting level makes it very difficult to see
- Why couldn't wall mounted lights be used for Crown Bank?
- There is a house opposite the War Memorial with two lights on and no one has approached the owner for permission

Cllr Philip Atkins:-

- As county councillor he was approached for a view on the lighting in 2006 and suggested consultation should be done through the parish council, who were keen to discuss the proposals
- The initial proposals were very different to the final scheme and residents would have found them appalling and he believes the installed scheme is an honest attempt at doing a good job
- Two columns still need to have new heads fitted
- English Heritage would prefer different heads and smaller columns
- To move this forward need to look at what can be done and to review this in a finite time, with the two officers attending another parish council meeting to report back
- SCC cannot find any funding for any alterations, all of which have a cost
- As an aside Cllr Atkins believes the wooden telegraph poles look more unsightly than the lamp standards

A resident from High Street:-

- The lights are simply not suitable in design and a lot of money appears to have been wasted

A resident from Paget Rise:-

- As you leave a well lit area at night and go onto unlit rural roads, your vision is affected initially, is this not a safety issue?

A resident from Alfred Lyons Close:-

- Something has to be done as people cannot be expected to wait three years for the light levels to reduce before they are able to sleep

Cllr Steve Coxon:-

- The increased lighting is welcomed by many elderly people and those with young families

Cllr Roger Jarman:-

- It has to be remembered that not everyone opposes the lights

A resident from High Street:-

- Can the light bulbs simply be changed?
- He should not have to buy black out blinds simply to be able to sleep at night

Cllr Alex Fox:-

- There are two issues, the lights on the houses and Crown Bank
- Martin Beavis has said that the wall mounted lights can be reduced at an approximate cost of £250 to £300 per lantern
- ESBC WASPs money may be able to fund up to four alterations of this type
- Could wall mounted lights or two less poles or all single lights or smaller columns on Crown Bank be considered?
- Martin Beavis stated that he did not believe that any of these options would achieve the required light levels

A resident from Bagot Street:-

- The lights are the same as in Uttoxeter Market Place

Cllr Alex Fox:-

- Crown Bank lighting is inappropriate and a solution must be found
- Have to remember that any new lights must meet new standards
- The parish council did their best to achieve improvements to the lighting and got a lot of unfair criticism
- SCC should be looking at the lighting in the village and seeking a solution as the Lighting Authority
- Along with Cllr Atkins he will be able to find some funds
- Lighting on the Buttercross side of the road was resisted by the parish council

A resident from High Street:-

- Can residents be involved in reviewing any new designs

Martin Beavis:-

- The lanterns chosen are one of the most efficient available and details can be seen on the Urbis Lighting website ([urbislighting.com](http://urbislighting.com))

A resident from Market Place:-

- Expressed concern re: consultation and that additional funds will be required to resolve the situation. Full consultation must be engaged before any further money is spent

A resident from Ashbrook Lane:-

- What is the best that can be achieved on the Crown Bank with wall mounted lights?

Cllr Philip Atkins:-

- The road would not be lit by wall mounted lights sufficiently

Two residents from High Street:-

- Couldn't funding be used to get accurate data by using a consultant?
- Expert advice on conservation is needed too

Cllr Philip Atkins:-

- Data obtained and provided by SCC is usually very accurate

After the main discussion it was felt that the parish council should formally request from SCC and Eon specific information regarding reducing the wattage of any of the wall mounted lights, shielding of wall mounted lights, reducing wattage of lights on Crown Bank, switching off the back lights on Crown Bank, considering alternate designs for Crown Bank, full technical information and costs and prompt feedback on all options

Normal business was resumed at 9.07 pm

### **Minute 203: Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Mills – Planning Applications

### **Minute 204: Lighting in Abbots Bromley**

**RESOLVED:**that SCC and Eon be requested to investigate or provide the following and report back on progress to the parish council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2008:-

- To review whether any of the wall mounted lights can be replaced with lower wattage fittings and what the cost would be
- To look at shielding any wall mounted lights which shine into bedrooms and where the wattage cannot be reduced and what the cost would be
- To switch off the two back lights on the twin headed lamp stands on Crown Bank from tomorrow and the parish council will review this at their meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2008 to see if this experiment can continue if no complaints have been received
- To look at alternative lighting designs for Crown Bank included a fully wall mounted scheme so that it can be shown through the presentation of such a scheme that a wall mounted scheme is not feasible
- To request technical specifications and costs for all proposals to be discussed

**RESOLVED:** the clerk will forward details of everyone who has complained to her about light pollution through their windows to Steve Bradbury and he will review all complaints made to SCC so that all wall lights which have been the subject of a complaint regarding light pollution are looked at with a view to reducing the wattage

**RESOLVED:** the clerk will arrange for a notice on the noticeboard and the website, explaining why the back lights are switched off and what action is being taken

### **Minute 205: Community Gangs**

Cllr Atkins briefly explained that in East Staffs there is to be a team of men with a lorry visiting every three months who can attend to jobs which generally get overlooked as they are low priority. The next week is scheduled for the end of January. All councillors had a list illustrating the types of jobs which can be covered by the Community Gangs and how it varies from the Lengthsman's Scheme.

**RESOLVED:** that the council will need to review the list of jobs for Community Gangs at every parish council meeting for the clerk to feed through to Highways

Cllr Fox also pointed out to the council that ESBC has a hotspot team who can attend to specific problems, such as graffiti if the parish requires assistance

### **Minute 206: Millennium Green**

All councillors present at the last meeting had received copies of the draft legal documents supplied by Mithra Tonking.

**RESOLVED:** the clerk would provide copies to the three councillors absent from the last meeting

**RESOLVED:** the clerk would contact the SPCA for legal advice on the documents

Cllr Atkins, Steve Bradbury and Martin Beavis left the meeting

### **Minute 207: Planning**

#### **207.1 Applications Received**

**579 - PA/13229/046/CEH: Crofts Annexe, Market Place, Abbots Bromley:** Change of use of ground floor office (Class A2) to residential (Class C3) to form one dwelling  
Received: 06/10/08 Due: 24/10/08 Response: the parish council has no objection to this application

**580 - LB/13229/047/CEH: Crofts Annexe, Market Place, Abbots Bromley:** Removal of one internal wall, bricking up of opening to rear elevation and insertion of one Velux window to roof.  
Received: 06/10/08 Due: 24/10/08. Response: the parish council has no objection to this application

**RESOLVED:** that the clerk notify the above responses to ESBC

There being no other business, the chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.50 pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2008