

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday, 28 March, 2001 at 7.30 p.m.
in Church House, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given.

Present: Cllrs: PJ Charles, LG Ferguson (L Fe below), L Fox, RSV Jarman, KA McLoughlin, MM Moore, S.M Tonking (Chairman) and S Wilson.

Also present: PJ Youngs (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr. C Talbot, Borough Councillor AHJ Fox

Members of the public attending: Mr BC Macklin

Minute 117: Public Session

The Chairman welcomed Mr Macklin and invited him to share any matters of concern, referring - for the benefit of councillors - to a letter which he had previously sent.

Mr Macklin spoke of his concerns regarding:

- (i) traffic calming on the Uttoxeter road, which, he felt, constituted a danger to road users if drivers approached it too quickly, and
- (ii) the raised kerbs in Bagot Street following recent work carried out. He said that, in his view, once the kerb had been raised on the south side it would effectively reduce the carriage way to two lanes making the movement of vehicles difficult, given the problem of parked cars.

The Chairman thanked Mr Macklin for voicing these concerns. She said that he rightly drew attention to difficulties which exist but, so far as the traffic calming measures are concerned, the scheme is still under review by the County Highways Department and better lighting and signing is anticipated. As regards the well-known problems in Bagot Street the Chairman said that there could be no justification for continuing the practice of vehicles being parked, in part, upon the pavement even though this had the effect of allowing traffic to pass more freely.

In summary, it was agreed that those involved in devising measures to achieve greater safety on the highway could not legislate for either thoughtlessness on the part of drivers or actions in breach of the law carried out by them.

The public session concluded at 7.40 p.m.

Minute 118: Approve and sign the Minutes of the previous Meeting (28 February)

It was proposed (RJ), seconded (LF) and agreed that the Minutes be signed as a true record of the proceedings subject to the corrections/amendments as follows:

Page	Minute	correction/amendment
6	110.3.1.	<i>Traffic calming to read Ashbrook Lane, not Uttoxeter Road</i>

Minute 119: Matters arising and matters of report.

Page	Minute	Comment
3	108.3.2	With reference to the proposed housing development off Schoolhouse Lane the Chairman reported that the access for vehicles to the play area had been restored on the most recent copy of the plans.
3	108.3.3.	It was reported that the business centred upon "The Beeches" in Bagot Street had ceased.
5	110.2.3.	Expressions of appreciation were given regarding the placing of dog fouling notices in Lintake Drive.
7	112	The Clerk reported that Mr Mike Lewis would be able to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 12 April to receive the Jubilee Cup certificate; Mrs Christine Lewis would be unable to attend and had given her apologies.

Minute 120: Planning

120.1 Applications

- (i) **PA/25107/003 Ash Farm, Glass Lane:** erection of an agricultural worker's dwelling.
PC response No objections
- (ii) **26439: Blithe Farm, Abbots Bromley: six conversion notices:**
 - (a) *conversion of existing threshing barn to residential use & installation of septic tank,*
 - (b) *conversion of existing implement shed and hayloft to residential use & installation of septic tank,*
 - (c) *conversion of existing cowshed to residential use,*
 - (d) *conversion of existing cart shed to residential use.*

Councillors raised objections to these applications on the following grounds:

- (i) given the remote situation of Blithe Farm and the hazards to traffic which already exist on the minor country roads leading to it, it is felt that such developments would increase traffic and, in consequence, heighten dangers for drivers, walkers and livestock;
- (ii) it is considered that such developments would not lead to a conservation of the natural environment nor reduce the need for travel in the countryside; quite the reverse, in fact;
- (iii) the plans do not represent a genuine measure of farm diversification nor accord with any recognised principle of rural development.
- (iii) **LB/05395/008: Leighton/Maxstoke House:** restoration of door casing.
PC response: No objections
- (iv) **PA/19865/005: Land off Schoolhouse Lane:** erection of two detached dwellings and construction of detached garage block
Councillors, whilst raising no objection in principle, requested the Clerk to point out to the Planning Department that the site plan is incorrectly drawn on the plans and constitutes an infringement of the Section 106 Agreement.

- (v) **PA/11009/005: Ashbrook Lane:** erection of ten dwellings and garages (REVISED APPLICATION)

Councillors reiterated their objections to the original site plan and asked the Clerk to convey the reasons for continued objections on the following grounds:

- (i) there are, in the judgement of the councillors, too many properties on this site which would result in an unacceptable increase in the amount of traffic joining the highway, Ashbrook Lane, at the single point of access;
 - (ii) there would be an increased demand on existing sewage disposal arrangements, and
 - (iii) the development is out of character with the linear nature of other building in this area of the village; in fact, it represents a small urban development in what is plainly a rural locality.
- (vi) **HO/14807/019: The Croft, Uttoxeter Road:** erection of a single storey rear extension.
PC response: no objections
- (vi) **HO/05359/006: Knoyle House, High Street:** erection of a single storey rear extension
PC response: no objections
- (vii) **HO/06704/006: 63 Seedcroft Lane:** erection of a two storey side extension.
PC response: no objections
- (viii) **CU/05685/004: Harts Farm, Bromley Hurst:** conversion of barn to dwelling and other adaptations to form two holiday dwellings
PC response: no objections

120.2 Decisions

120.2.1. The following applications have been **APPROVED**, albeit subject to stated conditions

- (i) **HO/26440/002 Anta Cottage, Bagot Street:** erection of a two storey side extension.
- (ii) **HO/06956/012 The Cottages, Ashbrook Lane:** erection of a rear conservatory

120.2.2. The following applications have been **REFUSED**

PA/00897/013 Grange House, Bromley Wood: continued use of part of building as an office and use of land for the storage of motor vehicles.

120.2.3. Correspondence

Regarding Ref. TN/00613/007/AG the Planning Department reported as follows concerning the lopping of an Ash Tree at Norbury House, Bagot Street "...I can confirm that there is no intention to place a Tree Preservation Order on the tree and therefore there are no objections to the works as proposed."

120.2.4. Other Planning Matters

120.2.4.1. Local Plan on Deposit: First Deposit Consultation. The Chairman announced that the Borough of East Staffordshire had announced an extension of the period for comments upon the Draft Local Plan Review - to 6 May in fact. It is clear from what had been revealed in relation to Abbots Bromley that the Borough does not envisage any significant building in this village beyond the current limits - though individuals may appeal against this if they so desire. Councillors concurred with the stance adopted by the Borough and there was general support for the Chairman's stated view that "it would be inappropriate for further development beyond the existing boundaries of Abbots Bromley". It was further agreed that the Council's views on this matter should be made known and that the Chairman and the Clerk should consult upon how this should best be achieved.

120.2.4.2. Roadside signs. The Chairman reported that notices recently erected by the School of St Mary and St Anne had been discussed with the School's Bursar and a request made that future signs advertising particular events should be taken down as soon as the event was over. The same requirement relates to other signs erected by village organisations. The discussion widened in terms of what notices were acceptable especially in the light of national guidelines given in a recent DETR booklet (which permits, within limits, notices erected by voluntary organisations) and policies in force locally by both Staffordshire County Council and the Borough of East Staffordshire.

120.2.4.3. School of St Mary and St Anne. The Chairman announced that the school had notified her of intentions to develop Latham House. Work to renovate St Raphael's is out to tender.

Minute 121: Finance

121.1 Finance Statement for March The Chairman drew attention to the statement which had been circulated with other papers prior to the Meeting. **It was proposed (RJ), seconded (L Fe) and agreed that the statement be accepted.**

121.2 Report on payments made since the last meeting The following payments had been made with the approval of the Chairman and Vice Chairman:

<i>date</i>	<i>payee</i>	<i>sum</i>	<i>explanation</i>
060301	GC McCulloch	£65.00	clearance of Narrow Lane - from devolved maintenance monies
120301	ABPCC	£140.50	letting fee on Church House for PC meetings for the year 2000/01
<i>for New Village Hall</i>			
140301	Woodward Electrical	£381.88	as directed by ACT Treasurer.

121.3 Bills to pay

280301	npower	£84.59	quarterly floodlighting payment
280301	Staffordshire County Council	£7,050.00	PC contribution towards traffic calming on the Uttoxeter Road (it was pointed out that £4,000.00 will be paid by ESBC from the WASP

budget and £1,050.00 VAT will be recovered.

It was also suggested that Mr Eric Roy be reimbursed £23.50 being the annual charge for the use of a server used in running the Abbots Bromley website.

It was proposed (LF), seconded (PC) and agreed that the above payments be made.

121.4 Section 137 payments

The Chairman drew attention to appeals for financial aid which had been received from Abbots Bromley Scout Group and the Abbots Bromley Guides. It was noted that a resolution had been taken previously (see Minute 109.4) to make a payment to the Scouts of £400.00 on receipt of a submission. **It was proposed (LF), seconded (MM), and agreed that a donation of £100.00 should be made to the Guides in addition to the donation already agreed for the Scouts.**

In respect of an appeal for financial assistance received from the Pre-school Playgroup it was agreed that the status of this organisation was unclear. Although a charity, it is not a voluntary organisation. The Chairman agreed to ascertain the exact nature of the group, and to find out the rules for Section 137 donation and report to the next meeting.

121.5 Consideration of the purchase of a new Parish Council notice board. It was decided to defer consideration of this item until the next meeting, in order to allow further time for review. It was suggested that the Clerk should contact the ESBC Planning Department to enquire whether planning permission would be necessary if a replacement notice board were to be favoured.

121.6 War Memorial renovation. The Chairman requested the Clerk to make available to her the most recent quotations from contractors so that she could complete the submission for financial aid from the organisation "Friends of War Memorials"

121.7 Other Financial Matters.

121.7.1. Finance for the Village Information Leaflet. The Chairman explained that the project is nearing completion; 20,000 copies will cost £1,980.00. In meeting this amount £1,000.00 can be identified from the funds of the closed Horn Dance Promotion Group. In addition, an invoice should be raised for the sum of £500.00 which ESBC had agreed to contribute from its WASP provision. It meant, stated Cllr. Tonking, that the remaining £480.00 would have to be found by the Parish Council. **It was proposed (PC), seconded (KM) and agreed that this sum should be allocated to the project and the Chairman was also authorised to ask Malcolm Barnes to print the leaflet.**

121.7.2. Annual Parish Meeting. **It was proposed (PC), seconded (L Fe) and agreed that an appropriate sum should be set aside for the provision of wine and light refreshments on a 'sale or return' basis at the conclusion of the Parish Meeting.** The Chairman agreed to make the necessary arrangements.

Minute 122: Group Reports

122.1 **Recreation**

122.1.1. Millennium Green Trust The Chairman reported that the Millennium Green Trust meets on 10 April when it is expected that the final accounts will be presented.

122.1.2. Annual Inspection of the Green. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the appropriate department of the Borough Council to ensure that the annual inspection of the equipment takes place. Cllr. McLoughlin stated that Mr R Tough has been spoken to concerning the need to keep up-to-date records of his weekly inspections in the book dedicated to this purpose. It was also stated that the inspection arrangements would be considered at the next Trustees' meeting.

122.1.3. Annual "Playmobile" The Clerk reported that a letter had been received announcing that the Borough would not be operating the "Playmobile" this year; instead, a sum of money had been set aside to assist local groups which might wish to arrange similar activities during the school summer holidays. Councillors welcomed this development and suggested that the Clerk circulate the letter and application form to likely interested parties in the village.

122.2 **Village Property**

122.2.1. Damage to Buttercross. The Clerk reported that he is still in touch with Staffordshire's Conservation Officer regarding the damage caused by a school 'bus last December. He will keep the Council posted. In the meantime he is assured that no significant damage to the structure has been done.

122.2.2. Overgrown hedge. The Clerk was asked to contact the tenant farmer whose hedge borders the pavement on the Uttoxeter Road and is in need of trimming.

122.2.3. Foot and mouth disease. It was reported that all local footpaths are closed.

122.3. **Traffic and Parking**

122.3.1. Parking in the village This issue, one of a number raised in Mr Macklin's letter, was discussed. There was agreement that the painting of double yellow lines would be inappropriate in this village; equally, concerns were expressed regarding the common practice of parking on the pavement, a practice made all the easier where there is a low kerb rise occasioned by the use of granite setts. The Clerk was asked to contact the police to investigate, notably in Bagot Street.

122.3.2. 'Bus parking on the pavement outside the Crofts, Market Place. A councillor stated that it was common practice for Arriva buses to park on the pavement outside the Crofts. The Clerk was asked to contact the company to express councillors' concern regarding this.

122.3.3. Modification of traffic calming build out, Ashbrook Lane. The Clerk was asked to contact the County Highways Department in an effort to discover when these alterations are due to commence. It should be pointed out that the Council intends to notify local residents in advance of the work being carried out.

122.3.4. Footpath, Lichfield Road Attention was drawn to the fact that at a recent site meeting in the village with a County Council surveyor it had been pointed out that there was a need for a stretch of pavement along Lichfield Road opposite Ashbrook Lane, a point which was acknowledged in a letter from Mr E Smith of the Highways Department dated 5 March 2001. It was decided that the situation should be monitored.

122.4. **Competitions**

122.4.1. Best Kept Village Competitions. Posters were distributed for display.

122.4.2. BBKV posters. It was hoped that, as previously, the schools would be able to produce appropriate posters for display. There is a need for re-cycling posters as well as anti-litter posters.

122.4.3. Pre-BKV tidy. The Chairman stated that she would prepare a notice for distribution appealing to residents to make a special effort to tidy around their properties on 23 April in readiness for the first inspection which is expected to take place early in May. It would repeat the appeal made most recently in the Newsletter.

122.4.4. Top Team Quiz. The Chairman stated that, if available, she would be willing to deputise for an absentee in the next round of the competition.

122.5 **Rural Housing**

The Chairman stated that she was pessimistic regarding any progress being made on the proposed development on the Fire Station site, the problem being the access from Goose Lane and the unwillingness, so far, of local residents to release the necessary strip of land to permit the project to proceed. The Chairman asked for the support of the Parish Council in making a personal approach to the individuals concerned, which support was given.

122.6. **Newsletter**

Cllr. Ferguson stated that it was hoped that the next edition of the Newsletter would appear at the end of April. He appealed for topics and writers and a number of suggestions (and volunteers) were forthcoming.

122.7. **School Governor's Report**

Cllr. Ferguson reported as follows:

- (i) he had attended two evening seminars at Stafford on the duties and responsibilities of school governors; he had found these very useful;
- (ii) he had been appointed Vice Chairman of the Staffing Sub Committee at Richard Clarke First School and had been asked to serve as the designated governor to monitor the teaching of humanities at the school.

Minute 123: Village Information Leaflet.

The Chairman expressed her thanks for the assistance which she had received in producing the leaflet and there was general satisfaction that it had been achieved without having had to resort to advertisements. It was recognised that there would be a logistical problem in storing so many leaflets; at the same time it had been felt that this was the most cost-effective way of proceeding. (see also Minute 120.7.1.)

Minute 124: Award of Jubilee Cup 2001

The Chairman stated that she had approached Mr Ken Webb as a potential recipient of the trophy this year and he had said that he would be both delighted and honoured to receive it.

Minute 125: Correspondence etc.

The Chairman drew particular attention to the following items received:

- (i) copies of NALC Review for circulation;
- (ii) invitation to the Mayor's Annual Dinner on 27 April; apologies to be recorded;
- (iii) Parish Council Forum - which she was unable to attend - on 27 March
- (iv) SPCA Seminar on the Rural White Paper on 8 May.

The Chairman also announced the Consecration of the Burial Ground extension on 1st May at 10.00 a.m. to which councillors are invited.

Minute 126: Items for the Agenda of next meeting

- (i) Notice boards in the village
- (ii) Report on matters raised at the Annual Parish Assembly

Minute 127: Date and time of next Meeting

The next Meeting will be held on Wednesday 25 April at 7.30 p.m. in Church House.

The meeting concluded at 10.00 p.m.

Chairman..... date.....

Proposed..... seconded.....