

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held on Wednesday, 23 May at 7.30 pm  
in Church House, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given.

Present: Cllrs: PJ Charles, LG Ferguson (L Fe below), L Fox, , KA McLoughlin, MM Moore, C Talbot, SM Tonking.

Apologies: Cllrs: RSV Jarman and S Wilson and Borough Councillor AJH Fox.

Also present: PJ Youngs (Clerk).

Members of the public attending: none.

**Minute 12: Public Session**

Since there were no members of the public present a public session was not held.

**Minute 13: Election of Chairman**

The Chairman, Cllr. Tonking, stated that, after two years in office she did not wish to be considered for a further term. **Cllr. Fox proposed, Cllr. Moore seconded and it was agreed unanimously that Cllr. Talbot serve as Chairman for the next twelve months.** Cllr. Talbot agreed and took the Chair.

The Chairman, supported by all councillors, paid generous tribute to his predecessor, Cllr. Tonking, for all the hard work she had done and the major tasks which she had undertaken in her two years as Chairman.

**Minute 14: Election of Vice Chairman**

**Cllr. Tonking proposed, Cllr.Fox seconded and it was agreed unanimously that Cllr. Ferguson be invited to serve as Vice Chairman for the year.** Cllr. Ferguson agreed to do so but on the condition that there should be no expectation that he would succeed to the Chairmanship, as is customary practice, given the range of commitments which he carries. This was accepted.

The Clerk stated that he would be issuing the standard “forms of acceptance” for completion.

**Minute 15: Powers to Act**

**It was proposed (MT), seconded (MM) and agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman should be invested with Powers to Act between Meetings.**

**Minute 16: Appointment of other Officers and Members to Groups.**

Councillors agreed to serve as follows:

- |                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (i) Recreation:        | Cllrs. Charles, Moore and Tonking. |
| (ii) Village Property: | Cllrs. Charles, Jarman and Wilson. |

- (iii) Traffic and Parking: Cllrs. Charles, Fox and Jarman
- (iv) Competitions Cllr. Charles.
- (v) Rural Housing: Cllrs. Jarman, Tonking and Wilson
- (vi) Newsletter: Cllrs. Ferguson, Fox and Moore.

(Chairman and Vice Chairman are entitled to serve, ex officio, on all Groups)

**Other offices and representation on other groups.**

- (i) Finance Officer: Cllr. Fox
- (ii) School Governor: Cllr. Ferguson
- (iii) United Charities: Cllrs. Charles and Talbot
- (iv) SPCA: A representative to attend, as convenient.
- (v) Village Hall: Cllrs. Fox and McLoughlin.

**Minute 17: Approve and sign the Minutes of the previous Meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> April**

**It was proposed (L Fe), seconded (LF) and agreed that the Minutes be signed as a true record of proceedings** subject to the correction of typographical errors recorded under points 5.3, 5.9.1. and 5.9.2. and the substitution of “Millennium Green” for “New Village Hall” in the heading to point 6.1.1.

**Minute 18: Matters arising and Matters of Report.**

None, though the Clerk drew attention to the document recorded as “enclosure e” despatched with the calling papers setting out his conduct of Council business since the last Meeting.

**Minute 19: Planning**

**19.1 Applications**

- (i) **HO/09049/009: Birchwood View Cottage, Hoar Cross:** erection of detached garage, carport and store.  
*PC response:* no objections.
- (ii) **HO/07351/004: 6 Bromley Wood:** erection of a detached garage.  
*PC response:* no objections.
- (iii) **HO/13229/036: The Crofts:** Erection of single storey extension to garage block.  
*PC response:* “A majority of the Parish Council raise no objection to this proposed development though one councillor considers that the proposed block seems disproportionately large for the development and the proposed lean-to has different roof tiles to the existing ones. Also, the plans do not make clear whether there is an intention to remove the tree.”
- (iv) **HO/03853/006: 2 Paget Rise:** erection of first floor side extension.  
*PC response:* no objections
- (v) **TN/00238/010: Tree Works to 1 Ash tree:** Diamond Cottage, Marcia Rice Court.  
*PC response:* no objections

- (vi) **CU/11528/015 Yeatsall Farm:** conversion of existing farm buildings to form 3 residential units and alterations to vehicular access.

*PC response:* no objections

- (vii) **HO/22537/008 The Old School Hall:** insertion of a new window to entrance hall

*PC response:* no objections

## **19.2 Decisions**

19.2.1. The following applications have been **PERMITTED:**

- (i) **LB/05395/008: Leighton/Maxstoke House, Bagot Street:** restoration of door casings.
- (ii) **HO/14807/019: The Crofts:** erection of a single storey rear extension

19.2.2. The following application has been **REFUSED:**

**HO/03853/005: 2 Paget Rise:** erection of first floor extension.

19.2.3. The following applications have been **DEFERRED** pending a meeting on site of Members of the Planning Committee - with representatives of the Parish Council invited to be present:

- (i) PA/11009/005: Ashbrook Lane: erection of 10 detached dwellings.
- (ii) FP/11009/006: Ashbrook Lane: diversion of part of Public Footpath No 12.

## **19.3. Other Planning Matters**

19.3.1. Proposed development of ten dwellings of Ashbrook Lane. Cllr.

Tonking reported on the site meeting referred to under point 19.2.3. above. Arguments, mostly put forward previously by the Parish Council, were strongly pressed. These were that there should be

- (i) adequate provision for parking
- (ii) access for emergency services and refuse collection vehicles
- (iii) appropriate gardens to the properties, and
- (iv) no inappropriate overlooking of other properties.

It was reported that Borough Councillor Fox, who had attended as a member of the Planning Committee, had displayed spirited support for these conditions and opposition generally to the proposed overcrowding of properties on the site.

19.3.2. Beth Johnson Housing Association. The Chairman drew attention to a letter from the Association seeking information on any possible sites in the village where 2/3 bedroom houses might be built. The Clerk was asked to reply, stating that councillors would keep the request in mind and make contact if suitable locations came to attention.

19.3.3. Tree felling. Cllr. Tonking reported that she had contacted the ESBC Planning Department regarding various planning queries of which tree felling was one. The guidance on trees within Conservation Areas is that works to these do not require planning permission but the owners of those wishing to carry out the works are required to notify the Local Planning

Authority of the intended works so that the Authority has the opportunity to place Tree Preservation Orders on the tree(s) if necessary. Cllr. Tonking suggested that the various planning guidance could be included in an article in the next Newsletter.

## **Minute 20: Finance**

20.1 Finance Statement for May. The Chairman drew attention to the Statement which had been issued prior to the Meeting. **It was proposed (SMT), seconded (LF) and agreed that the Statement be accepted.**

### 20.2 Bills to pay

<b>Payee</b>	<b>sum due</b>	<b>details</b>
Studiocraft	4.64	Copy paper for printing of Newsletter
Cllr. Tonking	30.00	Prizes for Best Kept Village anti-litter campaign. Cllr. Tonking explained that, owing to some collaboration between participants, it was considered appropriate to present some joint prizes - costing somewhat more than previously envisaged.
AB PCC	17.00	Printing of the Newsletter.

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

### 20.3. Section 137 requests

None.

20.4. Parish Council notice board. It was agreed, in the light of the reported likely difficulties suggested by the Borough Planning Department that the best course would be not to proceed with the proposal to replace the Council's notice board on the wall of the "Goat's Head" public house.

20.5. War Memorial. Cllr. Tonking reported that the review Panel of the Friends of War Memorials had given approval in principle to the request for a contribution to the funding of the proposed renovation of the War Memorial. A number of points had been made, however, notably in relation to what any grant could/could not cover and a further break-down of various costs was now required. The Clerk agreed to liaise with the two contractors as necessary.

### 20.6. Other financial matters.

20.6.1. Highways Maintenance Agreement. The Clerk announced that owing to changes in regulations published by the DETR in relation to the 1972 Local Government Act the existing Agreement between Staffordshire County Council and the Parish Council would lapse on 26 June. However, if the Council was agreeable, the same terms could apply under the Local Government Act of 2000. **It was proposed (PC), seconded (L Fe) and agreed that the Clerk be authorised to communicate with the County**

**Council to ensure that a new agreement, based on the one already in existence, be put into effect immediately after 26 June.**

- 20.6.2. Work to be undertaken under the terms of the Highways Agreement. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr GC McCulloch to ask him to undertake various tidying operations along main roads running through the village, Narrow Lane and clearance of drain outside the Almshouses.
- 20.6.3. Items for removal of litter from the Village Hall site and the Millennium Green and dog fouling. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the various parties as necessary.
- 20.6.4. Bedding Plants Attention was drawn to a letter offering £65.00 for spending on plants - available until January 2002.
- 20.6.5. Recreation Account - rate of interest. The Clerk was asked to investigate with Lloyds/TSB the possibility of transferring this money to a higher interest-bearing account.

## **Minute 21: Group Reports**

### **21.1 Recreation**

Footpaths and foot and mouth restrictions. It was suggested that footpaths might be re-opened at short notice and the Clerk agreed to keep councillors posted. In the meantime he was asked to notify the Countryside Officer of SCC that the notice on the gate of the field adjoining the Village Hall site had been removed.

### **21.2 Village Property**

- 21.2.1. Schoolhouse Lane recreation area. Cllr. Tonking reported upon discussions which she had had with Mr Boucher-Giles of Sherlock Homes. Mr Boucher-Giles has offered to plant three or four native nut trees on the Parish Council land leased from the school and will ask his landscape adviser to draw up plans to show to the Parish Council. In addition he felt it would be possible to re-locate the present stock fence at the rear of the building site to the rear boundary of the Parish Council land, and similarly to fence the southern boundary. He would also ask his landscape adviser as to the cost of hedging slips for the western boundary; the Parish Council would be expected to contribute to the cost of these and the new fencing..
- 21.2.2. Village Leaflet. It was announced that good publicity had been given to the launch of the leaflet, including a mention on Radio Derby. It was agreed that Mr Malcolm Barnes had done a very good job, both in the production and distribution of the leaflet.
- 21.2.3. Village Hall. No further information was to hand concerning the landscaping around the Hall.
- 21.2.4. Allotment off Lichfield Road. It was pointed out that, notwithstanding the fact that Mr PJ Male had paid the annual fee for the allotment, no

priority could be given to the purchaser of his house in re-awarding its tenancy. Hence, on Mr Male's departure, the allotment should be advertised.

21.2.5. Litter bin in Uttoxeter Road. Councillors were thanked for moving this to a more suitable place by the 'bus shelter. (see Minute 6.2.2.)

### 21.3. Traffic and Parking

21.3.1. Various matters to report to SCC Highways Department. The Clerk was requested to report/liaise as circumstances required with regard to the following:

- (i) vegetation obscuring road signs in Ashbrook Lane,
- (ii) potholes at the Cross of Hands junction, in the lane beyond Poplar Farm, in Port Lane and in Yeatsall Lane, just before the junction with B 5013,
- (iii) bollards removed from traffic calming features in Lichfield Road.
- (iv) lighting remains unsatisfactory at the traffic calming feature on the Uttoxeter Road.

21.3.2. Matters to report to the police.

- (i) children skateboarding dangerously in Salter Grange and Paget Rise,
- (ii) cars being parked on the pavement in Bagot Street.

21.3.3. Copy of letter to SCC written by Mr A Elkington. The Clerk read a letter which Mr Elkington had written concerning the difficulties he has experienced in having an oil tanker deliver fuel to his property which, he asserts, is due to the traffic calming arrangements.

There was nothing to report under **Competitions, Rural Housing, Newsletter and School Governor.**

### **Minute 22: Matters arising from the Annual Assembly Meeting, 12 April.**

The report was noted. There were expressions of appreciation to Cllr. Tonking and Mr Simon Tonking for arranging refreshments.

### **Minute 23: "A New Focus for Uttoxeter and Beyond".**

The Clerk reported upon a meeting which he had attended on 21 May. The meeting, arranged by ESBC, was intended as an inaugural meeting for various interested parties who might be involved in a DETR-inspired market town initiative for the development and regeneration of Uttoxeter and the surrounding area - including Abbots Bromley. The news release paper had explained that where the initiative had been introduced elsewhere such matters as had been addressed included:

- (i) the development of local businesses and the creation of job opportunities,
- (ii) the restoration of high streets,
- (iii) the improvement of transport links, and
- (iv) the improvement of community spirit by encouraging wide consultation and involvement on various projects.

The scope of any such scheme would be broad, addressing the economic, social and environmental challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century for the community.

Councillors expressed the wish to be kept in touch with developments and the information pack accompanying the launch was issued, together with a circulation list. It was also felt that it would be helpful to resurrect the Village Design Statement as a means of defining within the immediate community the priorities deemed to be important to this village.

The Clerk, in the meantime, agreed to act as the link person with the project.

**Minute 24: Correspondence, etc.**

24.1. Cllr. Tonking referred to a letter which she had received from Mr K Baker. In the letter he enquired what progress was being made regarding the production of a Village Design Statement.

24.2. The Clerk read a letter received from Mrs J Bailey touching upon matters which she had raised at the Annual Parish Assembly:

- (i) speed ramps in Bagot Street or by the Buttercross;
- (ii) a play area for the under fives;
- (iii) hire charges for the village hall.

The Clerk was asked to reply to the various points in the following terms:

- (i) it was impractical to think in terms of traffic calming features as suggested;
- (ii) to repeat the advice given by Borough Councillor Fox given at the Annual Parish Assembly (6.3.);
- (iii) Cllr. McLoughlin advised that Mrs Bailey should get in touch with the Chairman, Mr D Towell to discuss the possibility of a discretionary rate for hiring the hall.

**Minute 25: Items for the Agenda of the next Meeting**

- (i) Horn Dance on 10 September - and the possibility of arranging entertainers; (it was also agreed that the Clerk should offer an invitation to the newly-appointed Mayor of Burton upon Trent to attend the event)
- (ii) Millennium Green - and specifically the extent of vandalism taking place.
- (iii) Village Design Statement.

**Minute 26: Date and place of next Meeting**

The next Meeting will be held at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 27 June in Church House.

The Meeting concluded at 9.45 p.m.

Chairman.....Date.....

Proposed ..... Seconded .....