

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held on Wednesday, 26 February, 2003 at 7.30 p.m.  
in the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given.

Present: Cllrs: PJ Charles, C Cook, RT Esling, LG Ferguson (Chairman - L Fe below), L Fox, RSV Jarman, KA McLoughlin and JA Needham.

Also present: EA Roy (Clerk)

Apologies for absence: Cllr S Wilson Cllr, Borough Councillor AJH Fox

Members of the public attending: Mr & Mrs Burrows, Mr & Mrs Mansell, D Hammersley, M Robson, John Acres, Stephen Lowe

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**Minute 107: Visit by Redrow Homes**

John Acres (Redrow Homes) and Stephen Lowe (Consultant Architect) were present and introduced the proposed redevelopment of the land behind Ivy House. John Acres reported that formal lodging of the application would be delayed pending completion of a detailed survey of the existing buildings. Their understanding of the conservation area and existing appearance of the village shaped their approach to the development. They believed that they had achieved a scheme that was in sympathy to the environment. The proposed houses were small and aimed squarely at the lower end of the market.

Stephen Lowe outlined some key elements of the proposed layout explaining that provision for adequate access is being achieved through the removal and rebuilding of the dress shop further back. The slope of the site and presence of Ivy House had dictated much of the layout of the remainder of the area.

Feedback raised the issues of the number of parking spaces and visibility for egress (given the amount of on-street parking by users of the Post Office).

John Acres also explained that as part of the developer contribution, they are expected to provide funding towards local open spaces. Options included the five-a-side pitch or the play area in Schoolhouse Lane.

The Chairman thanked Messrs Acres and Lowe for their contribution.

During a passing discussion of the Cricket Ground lease, Mr Mansell mentioned that the lease and cutting of grass was resolved – it seemed that it could be done by the school groundsman for a donation of “a couple of pints of beer”.

### **Minute 108: Visit by PC Boulter**

The Chairman welcomed PC Boulter who started by describing the changes in policing that had taken place last August.

With regard to speeding on Uttoxeter Road, PC Boulter said that speeding was an issue throughout the village and that although he would be using a speed gun, it would probably have little long term effect. Cllr Jarman raised the issue of large farm vehicles driven by young drivers and wondered if there were opportunities for education or reduction of the speed limit to 20 mph?

PC Boulter reported that two warnings have been issued to cars parking on the pavement. He will continue to monitor and is now aware that there are also issues at the other end of the village. Offences are driving on the footpath or causing obstruction – not parking on the footway. Most vehicles are not causing an obstruction and the main issue is around the end of Church Lane. Some white lines to provide a clear area might be worthwhile. This and other issues could be addressed by the Traffic and Working Group.

PC Boulter said that he had spent some time trying to sort out the issues in Harley Lane including talking to the farmers concerned.

The Chairman thanked PC Boulter for being present on his day off.

### **Minute 109: Public Session**

There being no members of the public remaining, normal business was resumed at 8:38 pm.

### **Minute 110: Approve and sign the Minutes of the previous Meeting**

***It was proposed (CC), seconded (LF) and agreed that the Minutes of the meeting be signed as a true record of proceedings*** subject to the following corrections: Date of next meeting should read **26** February.

### **Minute 111: Matters arising and matters of report**

- 111.1 **Harley Lane hedge erosion (Minutes 75.3.4, 81.2, 87.3.5):** Dianne Fryer has reported further incidents and has involved both the Police and SCC Highways. The signs ordered before Christmas have still not arrived, but are being chased by Richard Rayson. There is a proposal to initially install white marker posts and then tall kerbs to provide some protection. It was noted that if a width restriction is still required, then the Traffic Working Group must nominate this as part of their input to the local transport plan.
- 111.2 **Race Relations Act (Minute 76.2):** Deferred to a later meeting as notes from the meeting between Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk are yet to be written up.
- 111.3 **Public notices (Minute 85.3.2, 99.4):** There was no feedback on the relative circulation of different papers from discussions with newsagents.
- 111.4 **Ambulance Service visit (Minute 89.5, 99.11):** The first visit was found to be very informative and useful. A second visit will be made by the Clerk, Cllrs Ferguson, Jarman, Esling, Charles on Tuesday 18 March.
- 111.5 **Jubilee Cup (Minute 103):** The Chairman confirmed that Jill Crooks would be pleased to receive the cup. Chairman to ask Kath Cadman to produce certificate for Alex Fox.

- 111.6 The Clerk provided a brief overview of the SPCA pre-election training he had attended earlier in the week. Arising from this, it was noted that the May meeting would need to take place earlier than the proposed date of 21<sup>st</sup> May. The Clerk was asked to check availability for Church House on 14<sup>th</sup> May as an alternative.

## Minute 112: Planning

### 112.1 Applications

**239 - PA/05471/011: The Bungalow:** Erection of a detached dwelling, detached double garage and alterations to the existing vehicular access  
Received: 03/02/03 Replied: 20/02/03 Response: Although there is no objection to the proposed dwelling, there are strong objections to approving this development as only a part-plot of the complete site. With no other development proposals, or arrangements in place for landscaping and maintenance of the remainder of the site, this application is unacceptable to the Parish Council. (Plus specific comments)

**240 - PA/08499/017/AG: Land adjacent to the Village Hall Bagot Street:**  
Provision of enclosed purpose built multi sports facility, fencing and four 8M high floodlighting columns  
Received: 07/02/03 Due: 25/02/03 Response: As the application is made on behalf of the Parish Council, there are no objections to the proposal. However, for the benefit of nearby residents, it is proposed that the operation of the floodlights should be restricted to the same hours as the adjacent tennis courts.

**241 - PA/27849/001/AG: Adjacent Townend Cottages, Uttoxeter Road:**  
Formation of touring caravan site, erection of reception/toilet accommodation, installation of septic tank and alterations to existing vehicular access  
Received: 07/02/03 Due: 25/02/03 Response: There is no objection in principle to the proposal, although some councillors feel that the other options described could offer less disturbance to nearby residents. It is suggested that the 30 mph speed limit be extended to beyond the site opening and that a suitable entrance be made that allows caravans turning right to enter the site without undue impact on other traffic.

**242 - TN/13229/040: The Crofts, Market Place:** Removal of lime tree  
Received: 11/02/03 Due: 28/02/03 Response: No objection.

**243 - HO/22013/015/AG: Thyme House, Town End Farm, Lichfield Road:**  
Erection of part single storey, part two storey rear extension  
Received: 12/02/03 Due: 28/02/03 Response: No objection.

**244 - PA/18950/008/AG: Springbank Farm, Radmore Lane:** Change of use from agricultural land to domestic garden and construction of menage  
Received: 18/02/03 Due: 06/03/03 Response: No objection.

### 112.2 Decisions

The following applications have been AGREED:

**236 - HO/25284/008: Spring View Cottage, Ashbrook Lane:** Retention of front boundary fence

**238 - RM/25481/007: Port Lane Farmhouse:** Reserved matters application for approval of materials, landscaping and fencing

No applications have been REFUSED.

No applications have been DEFERRED.

**112.3 Correspondence and other planning matters**

112.3.1 The Clerk reported that he was now posting a weekly planning list on the notice board under the Butter Cross. This listed all applications still in their consultation period.

112.3.2 The Clerk reported that a meeting for elected representatives in the area has been arranged for 3<sup>rd</sup> March when Mike Waldron will address the general planning issues relating to wind farms. The parishes of Blithfield, Kingstone, Marchington, Draycott and Newborough have been invited, as have the borough, county councillors and MP. Michael Fabricant has offered his apologies.

112.3.3 The Clerk reported that Powergen have agreed to carry out some additional studies on wintering and night flying birds. RSPB and English Nature will complete this work around the beginning of May. Development of the environmental impact statement continues in parallel and they are also trying to take into account the feedback being received from a small number of residents. So far no one has taken up their offer of a visit to an existing wind farm and they also believe that no one has taken up the offer of discussions with the independent acoustic consultants. Copies of a leaflet from the "Abbots Bromley and Woodlands Wind Farm Action Group" were introduced by the Clerk.

112.3.4 Cllr Ferguson reported that the compound at the Walton site in Ashbrook Lane was painted bright pink and not at all sympathetic to the surroundings. This seems to be a feature of Walton Homes developments. Clerk to raise with ESBC Planning.

**Minute 113: Financial Matters****113.1 Financial Statement for February**

The financial statement for February was introduced by the Clerk. ***It was proposed (PC), seconded (LF) and agreed that the statement be approved.***

**113.2 Report on payments made since the last Meeting:**

The following payments had been made with the approval of the Chairman and Vice Chairman:

<i>Vch/Chq</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Powers</i>
66/471	Rainbow Guides	40.00	Grant for sponsored event	LGA 1972 s.137
67/472	Community Council	14.40	Best Kept Village competition	LGA 1972 s.137
	<b>TOTAL payments made</b>	<b>54.40</b>		

**113.3 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>
68/473	Audit Commission	141.00	External audit 2001/2002	ACA 1988 s.7
69/474	Abbots Bromley PCC	18.00	Newsletter printing	LGA 1972 s.137
70/475	Studiocraft	4.64	Newsletter paper	LGA 1972 s.137
71/476	AB Village Hall	63.00	Room hire – Dec-Mar	LGA 1972 s.150
72/477	G C McCulloch	120.00	Devolved work	LGA 1972 s.101
73/478	Slower Speeds Initiative	11.00	Killing Speed guide	LG&RA 1997 s.30
74/479	SPCA	7.50	Election training event	LGA 1972 s.111
	<b>TOTAL payments</b>	<b>365.14</b>		

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

**113.4 Section 137 payments**

113.4.1 A letter has been received from the Scouts asking for support and we have the sum of £400 set aside that can be donated and could also consider a supplementary grant if funds permit.

113.4.2 Following a short discussion it was resolved that the Council, in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should contribute £400 which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure. **Proposed (RJ), seconded (RE) and agreed.**

### **113.5 Other financial matters**

113.5.1 **Completion of audit:** The Clerk reported that the period for the public display of the Annual Statement and inspection of the audited accounts had expired, and that the audit process for 2001/2 was now complete.

113.5.2 **Visit of IIA:** The Clerk reported that Bryan Sullivan, Clerk to Longdon Parish Council, had conducted his initial audit visit on the previous day and introduced the interim audit report. Prior to a final visit, the Council would need to carry out reviews of insurance, risks and banking arrangements in order to satisfy the full range of topics the audit is required to examine. There was one issue arising from the audit relating to the sale of books. The Clerk was asked to write to SPCA seeking guidance on this issue.

113.5.3 **New Village Hall:** Further to the resolution passed at the previous meeting (Minute 101.5.3), a letter to Lloyds TSB authorising them to close the New Village Hall account was signed by the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Finance Officer.

113.5.4 **Cricket Club:** A letter had been received from the Chairman of the Abbots Bromley Cricket Club requesting support in purchasing new equipment needed to honour the terms of a revised lease on their ground. In view of the statement made earlier by Mr Mansell, the Clerk was asked to refer this item back to the Cricket Club for clarification.

## **Minute 114: Group Reports**

### **114.1 Recreation**

114.1.1 The report on the Annual Inspection of the Millennium Green by the National Playing Fields Association has now been received. Copies have gone to the Trustees of the Millennium Green and to the Recreation Working Group. To be discussed at the next meeting.

### **114.2 Village Property**

Nothing to report.

### **114.3 Traffic, Parking, Highways**

114.3.1 No meeting has yet been held and it was suggested that one take place immediately after the site meeting (see below).

114.3.2 A site meeting at the Hoar Cross junction to discuss the safety issues raised in the public session on 29 January has been arranged for 4 March.

114.3.3 We are invited to submit proposals for the local transport plan. The Traffic and Parking working group have the details

114.3.4 The Clerk reported that no action had been taken on his earlier report of the missing lines outside Richard Clarke First School but this has now been added to the schedule of work for the lines crew.

- 114.3.5 Repairs to the sign at the junction of the Uttoxeter and Rugeley roads were taking longer than expected due to theft of the damaged sign. A new one had been ordered but there is currently a backlog, further delaying completion of the repair.
- 114.3.6 The Clerk reported that work will be taking place in the village over the next few days dealing with minor issues from the re-kerbing. There should be no disruption to traffic.
- 114.3.6 Cllr McLoughlin has been contacted by neighbours who back onto Narrow Lane and would like to reduce the hedge height to improve their view. They are willing to do the work but do not feel they should have to remove the off-cuts. As Narrow Lane is controlled by County, the Parish Council should not be involved.
- 114.3.7 Clerk to ask G McCulloch to continue his work on widening Narrow Lane up to Goose Lane.
- 114.3.8 Cllr Charles reported that he has had complaints that ditches are not being cleared on Mill Green and Broad Lane. Clerk to talk to Highways.
- 114.3.9 There are issues with litter, weeds and mud from R&D Motors down to the church gate. It is not clear who owns this and first step will be to establish this. Clerk to enquire of PCC.

#### **114.4 Competitions**

- 114.4.1 The entry for the Best Kept Village competition had been submitted. A sheet advertising the poster competition was introduced by the Chairman. Copies will be provided to schools and the Scouting groups. Weed-killing around the traffic calming should be scheduled before 1<sup>st</sup> May and we should encourage litter picking around the village hall. Cllr McLoughlin agreed to take up with the Village Hall management committee.
- 114.4.2 We have still not received any information from the Heart of England Tourist Board on the "Britain in Bloom" competition.

#### **114.5 Rural Housing**

Nothing to report.

#### **114.6 Newsletter**

- 114.6.1 Has been issued.

#### **114.7 School Governor's Report**

- 114.7.1 An eco project has been started and includes a secret garden with a wildlife pool.

#### **114.8 Village Plan**

- 114.8.1 Cllr Esling reported that a meeting the previous evening had made good progress on the questionnaire, which will be reviewed at the Steering Group next Tuesday. This should enable questionnaires to be issued by the end of March.

### **Minute 115: Freedom of Information Act**

- 115.1 The Clerk introduced a draft publication scheme. ***Proposed (CC), seconded (PC) and agreed that this be adopted.***

### **Minute 116: Annual Parish Assembly**

- 116.1 Agreed that Clerk should issue invitations to usual list of speakers with the addition of Paul Sweetman. Notification of the event with an invitation to attend should also go to all village organisations.

- 116.2 It was suggested that the cost of refreshments could be met from s.137 and that this should be formally discussed next meeting under Finance.
- 116.3 Clerk to produce posters, put item into Parish News and provide a draft agenda for the next meeting.

### **Minute 117: Recycling**

- 117.1 Cllr Fox reported that she was attempting to arrange a meeting to discuss the distribution of existing money.
- 117.2 ESBC have promised an additional bin for plastics imminently.

### **Minute 118: Crossing Patrols**

- 118.1 As Cllr Wilson was not present this item was not discussed.

### **Minute 119: Correspondence, bulletins and reports**

- 119.1 There is another "Road Show" by the Standards Board in Nottingham on Thursday 27 March from 5.30pm. We have a booking form for anyone wishing to attend. Cllr Jarman offered to attend - Clerk to make booking.
- 119.2 Notification has been received from Staffordshire County Council of their intention to adopt a Waste Local Plan. Details are available at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/waste](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/waste).
- 119.3 A request has been received from Jane Parkes, ESBC, for help with a questionnaire on access to council services. The questionnaires were distributed.
- 119.4 A letter and statement from Alun Michael (DEFRA) provides an update on the Licensing Bill with regard to concessions for certain groups.
- 119.5 Further correspondence on the proposed wind farm has been received. Clerk asked to respond.
- 119.6 A card has been received from the Rainbow Guides thanking the Council for the grant towards the "big bounce".
- 119.7 A letter has been received from Anthea Blower thanking the Council for the offer of a grant towards new badminton equipment.

### **Minute 120: Items for agenda of next meeting**

Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000  
Annual review of risks and insurance  
Review of bank accounts  
Annual inspection report on the Millennium Green equipment  
Proposed input to the local transport plan  
Election  
Finalise arrangements for Annual Parish Assembly

### **Minute 121: Date, time and place of next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 26 March 2003 in the Memorial Room of the Village Hall.

The Meeting concluded at 10.25 pm.

Chairman ..... Date: .....

Proposed: ..... Seconded: .....