

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday, 31 March 2004 at 7.30 p.m.
in the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given.

Present: Cllrs: PJ Charles (Chairman), C Cook, DT Eatough, AE Elkington, RT Esling, L Fox, RSV Jarman, KA McLoughlin, JA Needham.

Also present: EA Roy (Clerk), Mr & Mrs Cumberlidge, Mr & Mrs Goodwin, Mr & Mrs Hicks, Mr & Mrs Makin, Mr P Gee – Transport Liaison Officer, SCC

Apologies for absence: Bor. Cllr. Fox, Inspector Andy Mason

Members of the public attending: None

Minute 111: Public Session.....	1
Minute 112: Approve and sign the Minutes of the previous Meeting	2
Minute 113: Declarations of interest.....	2
Minute 114: Matters arising and matters of report	2
Minute 115: Parish Assembly	3
Minute 116: Planning	3
Minute 117: Financial Matters.....	5
Minute 118: Group Reports.....	6
Minute 119: Correspondence, bulletins and reports.....	7
Minute 120: Items for agenda of next meetings.....	7
Minute 121: Date, time and place of next Meeting	7

Minute 111: Public Session

The Chairman welcomed Peter Gee from the County Council.

Mr Gee addressed the meeting and explained the context in which they were trying to service the requirements of 200 parishes across the county. The key issue for Abbots Bromley was understood to be speed of traffic through the main street. Key data used in evaluating needs included accident statistics as well as traffic speed surveys. Action was prioritised by the impact that possible measures could have in improving road safety and the need to demonstrate measurable results against key government targets. Speeding is a widespread issue and compared to other locations in the area, Abbots Bromley does not have the most severe problem when measurements are compared. Accident rates are several times greater in other locations in East Staffordshire and overall Abbots Bromley is classed as “medium” priority.

There was some discussion of various issues including:

- A request for extension of the speed limit further out along Lichfield Road perhaps with an additional road narrowing?
- The apparent need for us to have an accident to justify further speed reduction measures
- Why can we not consider the possibility of closing down Uttoxeter Road to see if we can get the same benefits as appear for northbound traffic on Lichfield Road? The same benefit seems to accrue northwest on Bagot Street.

Mr Gee agreed to contact the Police to ask their support in enforcing the limits using the data gained.

Cllr Elkington asked whether extension of 30mph and lighting in Goose Lane to beyond the nursery would be possible to help ensure the safety of children and parents? Mr Gee agreed to look into it.

Cllr Fox enquired if there was a policy on “Quiet Lanes” and it seemed that there was and further information could be obtained from David Sly.

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

Mr Goodwin said that they were present to explain their view on the proposed development at the shop. Their concerns related to the view from their property and the way that the noise would be brought nearer to their home. Mrs Goodwin explained that she felt there were also implications on the conservation area and the possibility that, with the revised layout of the business, it could be operated separately from the dwelling.

Other contributions drew attention to potential difficulties with increased parking, more litter and greater nuisance from careless parking and turning in drives. There was an appreciation that additional space was required but suggestion that a more acceptable layout would be one that did not move the shop entrance. The implications of a lottery machine being installed and that either this, or renting of the business, could lead to increased opening hours were also cause for concern.

Cllr Eatough - as the applicant - said that he appreciated the concerns and explained that his immediate need was for extra room. It seemed that the most useful way of doing this was by replacing the shop space. Due to prior applications, it was unlikely that a lottery terminal could be obtained in the near future. Long term they hoped to stay in the village and had no plans to lease but could not rule this out in the future. He noted the wishes to exchange the shop and living space and will investigate options in the next few days.

Mr Goodwin said that he still had the same concerns and also about the impact on property values. Further discussion introduced no new information.

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for their contributions. Normal business was resumed at 20:29 pm.

Minute 112: Approve and sign the Minutes of the previous Meeting

It was proposed (CC), seconded (AE) and agreed that the Minutes of the previous meeting be signed as a true record of proceedings subject to the on-line version omitting the Jubilee Cup winner.

Minute 113: Declarations of interest

Cllr Eatough declared an interest in the planning application to be considered for the shop.

Cllr McLoughlin declared an interest in the planning application for the Equestrian Centre as an employee of the school.

The Clerk declared an interest in the item under "Financial Matters" relating to the cost of hosting the village web pages.

Minute 114: Matters arising and matters of report

114.1 Horn Dance Day (102.5): A letter has been sent to Mr Macklin thanking him for his work over the years.

114.2 Top Team Quiz (106.5.1): Following feedback from Cllr McLoughlin, our willingness to support re-instatement of the Top Team Quiz has been confirmed.

114.3 Sustainable Staffordshire AGM and Conference: The Chairman reported that he had attended this event and enjoyed the hospitality but had not found the content particularly stimulating.

114.4 Risk Management (106.5.3): At the last meeting it was agreed that, as part of our risk management strategy, a document should be prepared by the Clerk addressing issues that might affect continuity of operations. A draft is now ready for evaluation. Cllr Fox offered

to carry this out. The issue of irreplaceable documents could also be looked at to see if there is any need to take additional measures.

Minute 115: Parish Assembly

- 115.1 The Clerk reported that those invited to speak to the Parish Assembly had all confirmed their willingness to do so. He also introduced a draft agenda for review and was asked to amend this to include the Finance report after the Chairman's report.
- 115.2 A list of village organisations it was proposed to invite was circulated.
- 115.2 The nominee for the Jubilee Cup has indicated his willingness to accept.

Minute 116: Planning

116.1 Applications

Cllr Eatough left the room for the entire period of the discussion on the application relating to The Shop, Uttoxeter Road.

318 - LB/13228/008: St Helens, Uttoxeter Road: Internal alterations to existing garage to form sun lounge including the installation of french windows

Received: 05/03/04 Replied: 22/03/04 Response: The Parish Council raises no objections to his application providing that the materials used are consistent with the conservation area and listed status of the building.

319 - HO/18950/010: Spring Bank Farm, Radmore Lane: Increase in height of rear roof to provide first floor extension, rear conservatory, single storey rear extension, front porch and detached double garage

Received: 11/03/04 Replied: 29/03/04 Response: The Parish Council raises no objections to this application.

320 - PA/20982/006: Land adjacent Goose Cottage, Goose Lane: Erection of a detached dwelling, detached double garage/office/wc and construction of vehicular access

Received: 15/03/04 Replied: 01/04/04 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

321 - PA/01967/052: Latham House, High Street: Retention of roof top boiler flue

Received: 17/03/04 Replied: 01/04/04 Response: The Parish Council objects to the position of this flue in a conspicuous location on the roofline within the conservation area. Existing controls within the area have successfully retained the character of the street and to permit this installation would set an unacceptable precedent. Given the capability of modern boilers and flues, the Parish Council believes there is no reason why the flue cannot exit through the rear elevation.

322 - CU/04325/010: Marsh Farm: Conversion of 2 holiday homes into single dwelling and alterations to vehicular access

Received: 18/03/04 Replied: 01/04/04 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

323 - PC/01967/053: Equestrian Centre, School of St Mary and St Anne:

Continued use of Equestrian Centre for a further 12 months without complying with condition excluding commercial use

Received: 19/03/04 Replied: 01/04/04 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

324 - PA/17662/006: The Shop, Uttoxeter Road: Conversion of existing shop to living accommodation and erection of single storey side extension to form shop and preparation area and rear conservatory

Received: 19/03/04 Replied: 01/04/04 Response: The Parish Council has been made aware of strong feelings from neighbours about this application but recognises that the business has been at this location for many years and prior to the current neighbours moving in. Concerns about future extension to the opening hours have also been raised and could perhaps be addressed by inclusion of a condition on opening hours were the application to be approved. Providing relevant concerns are taken into account, the Parish Council has no objections to this application in principle.

325 - HO/05359/008: Knoyle House, High Street: Retention of gates, walls and pillars

Received: 19/03/04 Replied: 01/04/04 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

326 - HO/10600/005: The Cottage, Schoolhouse Lane: Erection of single storey and first floor rear extensions

Received: 19/03/04 Replied: 01/04/04 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

116.2 Decisions

The following applications have been AGREED:

310 - HO/28698/001: 5 Bromley Wood: Installation of underground 2000 litre LPG tank

312 - HO/16200/010: Oak View Cottage, Bagot Street: Erection of first floor extension and rear porch

314 - CU/11242/010: Bagot Arms Public House, Bagot Street: Use of outbuilding as furniture showroom

The following applications have been REFUSED.

302 - CU/25107/011: Ash Farm, Glass Lane: Change of use of first floor of existing tractor shed to form on-farm facilities to include kitchen and shower area

303 - PA/25107/012: Ash Farm, Glass Lane: Siting of a caravan

313 - PA/27479/004: Meadow Cottage, Bromley Wood: Erection of two agricultural buildings for use as livestock and hay storage, and retention of existing livestock building

315 - OU/28744/001: Field 0301, Radmore Lane: Outline application to develop 0.06 hectares of land by the erection of a farm workers dwelling, installation of septic tank and construction of vehicular access

The following application has been WITHDRAWN.

317 - PA/10277/005: Daisybank and adj. Shade Elm, Goose Lane: Conversion and extension to existing outbuilding to form ancillary accommodation to dwelling and erection of detached garage, store and utility on land adjacent to Shade Elm

No applications have been DEFERRED.

116.3 Correspondence and other planning matters

116.3.1 An invitation to contribute to a review of the approach to planning obligations (s.106) has been received. After a short discussion the Clerk was asked to provide feedback.

116.3.2 Following representations to ESBC Planning, their Enforcement Officer visited the development at Latham House, High Street. The developer was asked to submit an

application for the retention of the new flue fitted without prior approval. No trees have been removed from the site without permission, and there are no planning controls that would prevent the application of paint to the street frontage of the building.

- 116.3.3 The recent document "Important Sites Brief" has again highlighted the value in creating a Design Statement. It is suggested that we should help Vital Villages initiate this work.

Minute 117: Financial Matters

117.1 Financial report for March

The financial report for March was introduced by the Clerk who reported that the invoices from npower had been late due to problems with their systems. ***It was proposed (RE), seconded (LF) and agreed that this statement be approved.***

117.2 Report on payments made since the last Meeting:

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

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details	Powers
87/577	SPCA	3.00	Mentor event for AQA portfolio	LGA 1972, s.111
88/579	G McCulloch	75.00	Work in Narrow Lane	LGA 1972, s.101
	TOTAL payments	78.00		

117.3 Bills to pay

The Clerk introduced the following for payment:

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details	Powers
89/580	Paul Sweetman	356.00	Village agent salary/expenses	[Vital Villages]
90/581	Central N/W Contracting	187.27	Maintenance of floodlights	PCA 1957, s.3
STO	School St Mary & St Anne	1.00	Annual rent on Nuttery	OSA 1906, s.5
91/582	Simon Down	376.00	Churchyard extension	LGA 1972, s.214
92/583	Npower	84.59	Electricity for floodlighting	PCA 1957, s.3
93a/584	E A Roy	89.42	Copier cartridge	LGA 1972, s.111
93b/584	E A Roy	23.50	Hosting costs for AB web pages	LGA 1972, s.144
93c/584	E A Roy	11.75	Additional costs AB web pages	LGA 1972, s.144
	TOTAL payments	1129.53		

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

117.4 Section 137 requests

The Clerk reported the requests that had been received and these were discussed. *Cllr McLoughlin declared an interest in Community First Responders.*

Vch/Chq	From	Amount	Details
86/585	AB Scouts and Guides Hut	450.00	Grant
87/586	Community First Responders	241.00	Grant
	TOTAL payments	691.00	

It was proposed (LF), seconded (CC) and resolved that the Council, in accordance with its powers under Sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should make the above payments which are, in the opinion of the Council, in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure.

117.5 Other financial matters

- 117.5.1 A cheque for £11 sent to the Slower Speeds Initiative in February 2003 has never been presented. Agreed that in closing the accounts for the current year we "write this off".
- 117.5.2 Cllr Elkington offered to assist the Clerk in an inspection of the assets.
- 117.5.3 We have been quoted £150 to supply and spread a lorry load of bark to refresh the surface under the Millennium Green play equipment. Agreed to proceed.
- 117.5.4 Agreed plans for monthly "surgery" to be advertised in the April Parish news could start in May. Church House will be free for the first occasion and £5 per session thereafter.

Minute 118: Group Reports

118.1 Recreation

As part of the follow up to the annual inspection, a site meeting on the Millennium Green play area was held with David Truslove (ESBC officer) who subsequently provided some notes of the meeting. A letter to the manufacturer has sought their advice on some of the matters and further action is in progress to resolve maintenance issues with the bark (see above under Finance).

Cllr Esling suggested that in the light of our experiences with the Millennium Green we require a post-installation audit before accepting responsibility for the new play area. The Project Playground team have been informed.

Cllr Esling reported some further progress had been made on getting access to the Nuttery, but there are several separate issues and an early resolution is not expected.

118.2 Village Property

The Clerk reported that tiles have become dislodged from the Butter Cross. This has been reported to SCC who are seeking approval from English Heritage for the tiles to be replaced, and will then arrange the required work.

118.3 Traffic, Parking, Highways

Cllr Fox offered to explore what the county is doing about Quiet Lanes and see if there are local opportunities.

Cllr Elkington reported that someone is regularly parking a white van in Ashbrook Lane such that it obstructs the pavement completely. Cllr Cook reported that he had received a letter from Mr Jack Biggs drawing attention to similar problems elsewhere in the village.

It was agreed that we should to invite Inspector Mason to attend the next meeting to address this issue and discuss the results of the traffic speed survey.

The Clerk was asked to enquire from ESBC Planning whether changes at Yeatsall Cottages on the Rugeley Road needed planning permission.

118.4 Competitions

Cllr Elkington reported that planters of the type required would cost about £2,500 and so would need some longer term funding plans.

118.5 Newsletter

Nothing new to report.

118.6 School Governor's Report

Cllr Eatough reported that a recent meeting of Governors ratified the budget for next year. Under new rules, intermediate entry during the year will cease and all new pupils will have to start in September.

118.7 Village Plan

Cllr Esling reported that plan production continues and a public meeting on 6 April will seek to identify volunteers to work on the various projects.

118.8 RISES

Cllr Fox reported that at least £200 is expected from the half-year just ended.

118.9 Community First Responders

Cllr McLouglin reported that £5,000 has been committed by County Cllr Philip Atkins from LMIS. The first stage of training for the initial group is now nearing completion.

118.10 Village Hall

Cllr Eatough reported that the AGM was taking place on 14 April.

Minute 119: Correspondence, bulletins and reports

119.1 We have been invited by the Staffordshire Branch of CPRE to attend the AGM at 2pm on Saturday 17 April.

119.2 Mrs Lambert of Ashbrook Lane has written giving details of a recent fall outside the Uttoxeter Road shop which she ascribes to the higher kerbs. The Clerk was asked to reply.

Minute 120: Items for agenda of next meetings

Inspector Mason (or visit from Trent and Dove Housing)
Finalise plans for the 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 28 April in the Memorial Room at the Village Hall.

The Meeting concluded at 10:18 pm.

Chairman Date:

Proposed: Seconded: