

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday, 26 May 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, D Eatough, AE Elkington,
RT Esling, L Fox, RSV Jarman, KA McLoughlin.

Also present: EA Roy (Clerk)

Apologies for absence: Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor
JA Needham. Apologies were also received from Borough Councillor Fox and
Mrs Mithra Tonking

Members of the public attending: None

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Minute 13: Public Session

The Chairman welcomed Mr Gary Sage, Rural Policy Officer for East Staffordshire Borough Council and invited him to address the meeting.

Mr Sage began by thanking the Parish Council for the opportunity to visit, and explained that he had been involved in rural matters for nearly twenty years in a variety of roles. These had been in different geographical areas such as Hertfordshire and Devon. His three-year contract with ESBC involved rural strategy, rural proofing and implementing a rural business support fund.

The rural strategy itself had been issued in draft and will now be developed - incorporating some of the comments received - and should be out for comment by the end of October.

Rural proofing (from the White Paper) was designed initially for government policies as a means to ensure that they were applicable also to rural areas. The idea is to extend that concept to East Staffordshire and a paper is now with the Council for review.

A rural business support fund of £25K is intended to prime new rural businesses. The target is to help five businesses get up and running by the year-end.

He also reported that he was involved in the rural aspects of other strategies, such as housing. The recent housing needs survey showed that a shortage is imminent and a housing strategy is aimed at addressing this need. If the Parish Council is able to identify specific categories of housing need, then these could be factored into the plan to give a clear rural dimension.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that the rural strategy should lead into plans with clear objectives and measurable outcomes.

The commitment of ESBC to the rural strategy should see funding released in subsequent years. This will help fund the plans that develop from it which in turn should help to leverage additional finance from other sources.

A further comment suggested that the interests of different parishes may be co-incident. Grouping together under the umbrella of the strategy could help to identify common areas and justify solutions that would not be affordable for a single parish.

There being no members of the public present, normal business was resumed at 19:49.

Minute 14: Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Powers to Act

Cllr Charles was elected Chairman by consent, and took the Chair.

Cllr Esling was elected as Vice Chairman.

It was proposed (CC), seconded (LF) and agreed that executive powers be delegated to the clerk of the council, following consultation with the chairman or vice-chairman of the council or committee as appropriate, for matters which require a decision before the next ordinary meeting. No such action may involve expenditure not already agreed in the budget. All actions must be reported to the next meeting of the Council.

Minute 15: Appointment of Members to Groups

Councillors agreed to serve as follows (the Chairman and Vice Chairman are ex officio members of all working groups):

Group	Members
Competitions	Alan Elkington, Jean Needham
Finance	David Eatough, Linda Fox
Newsletter	Linda Fox, Kate McLoughlin
Recreation	Clive Cook, Kate McLoughlin, Jean Needham
Rural Housing	Roger Jarman
Traffic & Parking	Clive Cook, David Eatough, Linda Fox, Roger Jarman
Village Property	Alan Elkington, Roger Jarman

Office	Members
Finance Officer	Linda Fox
School Governor	David Eatough
United Charities	Philip Charles, Clive Cook
SPCA	(none)
Village Hall	Clive Cook
Vital Villages	Bob Esling
Millennium Green	Clive Cook
Almshouses	Chairman – ex officio
RISES	Linda Fox
Community First Responders	Bob Esling, Kate McLoughlin

Minute 16: Approve and sign the Minutes of the previous Meeting

It was proposed (CC), seconded (RE) and agreed that the Minutes of the previous meeting be signed as a true record of proceedings subject to corrections to include the first initial for Councillor Elkington and elimination of duplicate paragraph number at minute 8.4 and following.

Minute 17: Matters arising and matters of report

17.1 Quality Council: The Clerk reported that he had completed a draft application form for Quality Status in order to assess what areas may need further work. This was available for members to view. As part of his portfolio, he had also prepared an analysis of his training needs which he introduced for comment.

Minute 18: Declarations of interest

There were no declarations.

Minute 19: Planning

19.1 Applications

331 - HO/08085/014: The Former Presbytery, Church Lane: Erection of a single storey rear extension

Received: 30/04/04 Replied: 18/05/04 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

332 - LB/03261/006: Norfolk House, High Street: Retention of satellite dish on chimney stack

Received: 10/05/04 Replied: 24/05/04 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

333 - PA/28176/005: High Elms, Port Lane: Erection of a stable block

Received: 10/05/04 Replied: 24/05/04 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

334 - HO/10277/008: Land adjacent Shade Elm, Goose Lane: Erection of a detached garage and store

Received: 12/05/04 Replied: 27/05/04 Response: The Parish Council objects to the proposed garage on the grounds that it will significantly alter the view along Goose Lane by building close to the road edge. The proposed layout does not offer adequate visibility for egress from the garage or parking places. Additionally the proposed building is out of scale with the environment and, with the proposed parking, involves the loss of mature hedge.

335 - HO/22041/009: Oak Lodge, Yeatsall Lane: Retention of link conservatory

Received: 12/05/04 Replied: 27/05/04 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

336 - HO/22041/010: Oak Lodge, Yeatsall Lane: Retention of existing walls and gates to access

Received: 12/05/04 Replied: 27/05/04 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

337 - HO/22041/011: Oak Lodge, Yeatsall Lane: Retention of existing barn as swimming pool

Received: 12/05/04 Replied: 27/05/04 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

338 - PA/01717/014: Doctors Surgery, Schoolhouse Lane: Erection of single storey front and side extensions

Received: 17/05/04 Replied: 27/05/04 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application providing the off-road parking facilities are not reduced.

339 - HO/05304/009: Brooklyn, Ashbrook Lane: Erection of a two storey side extension

Received: 19/05/04 Replied: 27/05/04 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

19.2 Decisions

The following applications have been AGREED:

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

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

327 - HO/19273/007: Heathfield, Lichfield Road: Erection of conservatory and porch on eastern elevation

328 - PA/10277/006: Daisybank, Goose Lane: Conversion and extension to existing outbuilding to form ancillary accommodation to dwelling

329 - PA/25107/014: Ash Farm, Glass Lane: Retention of existing farm building and use of part of ground floor for on-site farm facilities

330 - PA/20982/006: Land adjacent Goose Cottage, Goose Lane: Erection of detached dwelling, detached double garage/office, construction of vehicular access and formation of replacement parking spaces (amended plans)

The following applications have been REFUSED.

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

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

No applications have been WITHDRAWN.

No applications have been DEFERRED.

19.3 Correspondence and other planning matters

19.3.1 The Clerk reported that Mrs Anne Garfield left ESBC on 21/5/04 to take up a new post in West Devon. Until the appointment of her replacement, Wendy Keach is dealing with planning issues for Abbots Bromley.

19.3.2 We have been advised that the appeal on application **294 - PA/28176/002 Stables at High Elms** is now to be by Public Enquiry rather than Informal Hearing. A date has yet to be announced for this to take place. A replacement application has been made to try and shortcut the appeal procedure.

19.3.3 We have received notice of a further appeal lodged by Mr Ashton against enforcement notice **EN/25107/007** requiring him to remove a lorry body, storage container and static caravan from the site. The Planning Inspectorate has advised that they will link this appeal with that against refusal of permission on application **269 - PA/25107/010**.

Minute 20: Financial Matters

20.1 Financial report for May

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

20.2 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>
8/594	G McCulloch	240.00	Grass cutting	OSA 1906, s.10
		150.00	Bark for Millennium Green	PHA 1961, s.52
9/595	SPCA	3.00	Mentor evening for Clerk's AQA	LGA 1972, s.111
	TOTAL payments	393.00		

20.3 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>
10/596	Allianz Cornhill	996.31	Annual premium	LGA 1972, s.111
11/597	SLCC	12.50	Update to WWYC course	LGA 1972, s.111
12/598	Abbots Bromley PCC	34.00	Newsletter printing	LGA 1972, s.142
13/599	Studiocraft	9.28	Newsletter paper	LGA 1972, s.142
14/600	Paul Sweetman	280.45	Village agent salary/expenses	[Vital Villages]
	TOTAL payments	1332.54		

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

20.4 Section 137 payments

The Clerk reported the following requests:

<i>Vch/Chq</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>
15/601	St Giles Hospice	10.00	Donation requested by K Cadman for Jubilee Certificate
16/602	The Shop	11.95	Refreshments at Parish Assembly
17/603	Alan Elkington	30.00	Best Kept Village competition prizes – to purchase book tokens
	TOTAL payments	51.95	

It was proposed (LF), seconded (RJ) 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.

It was noted that the amount donated to St Giles Hospice in recognition of the work on the Jubilee Cup certificate had been unchanged for several years. The Chairman was asked to suggest to Mrs Cadman that she consider increasing the suggested donation to St Giles in future years.

20.5 Other financial matters

- 20.5.1 We have received a quotation from Graham McCulloch of £160 to cover the following items of work at the Pinfold: Repairs to and painting of bus shelter, painting of milestone, removal/treatment of moss. Agreed to proceed.
- 20.5.2 Work carried out in follow up to the inspection of Millennium Green play equipment will cost approximately £500. Councillors agreed that costs of this work should be met from the recreation fund.
- 20.5.3 We are invited to attend a one-day conference organised by the SLCC on community projects – details are enclosed with this agenda and indicate relevance to the current state of Vital Villages. It was agreed that Clerk and Cllr Elkington would attend, and

that we would also extend an invitation to Mithra Tonking as Chair of the Vital Villages Steering Group.

Minute 21: Group Reports

21.1 Recreation

The Clerk reported that replacement seats were on order and should be fitted in the next two weeks. Potential measures for sound proofing the slide and closing the gap above the barrier on the multi-play will be discussed with the fitter when he comes.

Feedback has been provided by David Truslove on the remaining issues with the ramp on the multi-play. After reviewing the recommendations it was agreed that no further action would be taken other than continue to monitor the situation.

21.2 Village Property

The Clerk summarised progress on a number of the items identified in the recent inspection that were now either complete or in progress:

- Bench seat plugs have been lowered
- Protruding screws in Butter Cross notice board have been truncated
- East Staffordshire Tourism have given permission for us to varnish their notice board and advise that contents are being updated
- East Staffordshire Borough Council have been asked to look at their bins on the Green – feedback awaited

Cllr Elkington had observed that those waiting for a bus at Bromley Wood appeared to be waiting in cars rather than using the Hoar Cross bus shelter. The Clerk was asked to review the history of the shelter and report back.

21.3 Traffic, Parking, Highways

Agreed to continue seeking volunteers and the Clerk was asked to email the group in Bagot Street who complained about speed. Councillors Charles and Elkington indicated their willingness to participate.

The presence of travellers at the Cross of Hands was noted and also the fact that steps were being taken to remove them. It was suggested that the Clerk write to SCC and see what steps they propose to take to prevent further occurrences.

Cllr Fox reported that having considered the matter of quiet lanes again, it seems that there are potential risks. These arise because the limits are not enforceable, but their presence might lull non-motorised users into a false sense of security.

The Clerk reported that Richard Rayson was considering opportunities for us to carry out grass cutting work on his behalf. Although there were potential benefits in terms of village appearance, there were also technical problems in terms of suitable contracting capacity and equipment. Clerk asked to discuss with Graham McCulloch and report back when further information available.

School Governors at their last meeting noted the speed and volume of traffic in Schoolhouse Lane as well as traffic speed through the village. They are concerned about the risk of accidents and wished their concerns to be reported to the Parish Council.

21.4 Competitions

Nothing to report.

21.5 Newsletter

The latest issue was being distributed.

21.6 School Governor's Report

Cllr Eatough reported that he had attended two meetings recently and was surprised by the amount of paperwork that the current educational policies created. A roll of 120 is now forecast for the coming year. Plans for a single intake per year have been delayed until at least 2005.

Due to difficulties with the proposed planting of the bank, the trees have been planted in the school grounds.

He also reminded the Council that Mrs Potter would be retiring at the end of the year and her successor had now been appointed.

21.7 Village Plan

Nothing to report.

21.8 RISES

Cllr Fox reported that we had received a payment for the half-year to the end of March amounting to £283.56. Proposals for using this are now awaited.

21.9 Community First Responders

Cllr Esling reported that confirmation has now been received of the £5,000 from the SCC Local Member Initiative Scheme. Two other applications for funding are in progress.

21.10 Village Hall

Nothing to report.

Minute 22: Correspondence, bulletins and reports

22.1 A reply from ABB to concerns about replacement street lighting was noted.

22.2 We have been advised by the Stafford Historical and Civic Society that they have been given some slides of the Horn Dance. Agreed that we should ask to be sent the slides, ascertain the copyright situation and consider lodging them with the Stafford Records Office.

Minute 23: Items for agenda of next meetings

Trent and Dove Housing

Minute 24: Date, time and place of next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 30 June in the Memorial Room at the Village Hall.

The Meeting concluded at 22:10 pm.

Chairman Date:

Proposed: Seconded: