

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday, 29 September 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,
L Fox, RSV Jarman, KA McLoughlin, JA Needham

Also present: EA Roy (Clerk)

Apologies for absence: Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Esling and
Borough Councillor Fox.

Members of the public attending: Mr C Edwards, ESBC Conservation Officer, Mr M Horan

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Minute 50: Public Session

The Chairman welcomed Mr Edwards, ESBC Conservation Officer, and invited him to address the meeting.

Mr Edwards provided some notes and then went on to explain his role in the planning team as advisor rather than decision maker. His background was in architecture and he now works with planners and policy officers in the area of conservation. Additionally he liaises with other bodies such as English Heritage who are consultees on conservation matters, and with others doing similar roles to his across Staffordshire. Abbots Bromley conservation area is due for review next year.

He has a fund available to help assist with the conservation of buildings when this is considered appropriate. This could typically help with the cost of window replacement or roofing.

Conservation Area documents are adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance. The one for Abbots Bromley predates the latest thinking, and needs updating to fit into the new development framework and would be revised following recent guidelines.

Questions and answers then explored in some detail the implications of the conservation area and potential impact of a new document. This would separate character assessment from character statement – the latter providing a shorter usable document for public consumption.

The Chairman thanked Mr Edwards for his interesting contribution and then invited Mr Horan to address the meeting.

Mr Horan explained that he was part of small action group who would like to make four points for the Council to consider with regard to the proposed wind farm in Bagot Forest:

1. The people who will be affected: Costs to those who live nearest could include disruption of the tranquillity they moved here to enjoy and those living nearest would be most affected.

- There is no clear consensus on the transmission of noise – especially the impact of low frequencies that are not included in the measured spectrum but carries the furthest distance.
2. The landscape: Placed on the high ground the visual impact will affect a beautiful area of the country including the Staffordshire Way. The trees in the area are around 10 metres high and the turbines proposed would be 100 metres high – higher than Blackpool Tower. Furthermore, while the Tower is only 8 metres wide at the top and static, the turbine blades will be moving and around ten times wider. Once permission is granted, the status of the land will be changed and make subsequent industrialisation much easier as well as setting a precedent for others in the area.
 3. The science that underlies it: The noise measurement uses an “A” weighting that excludes low frequency noise. The basis for the need is highly questionable and there is a counter-argument on the subject of CO₂ suggesting that you will get the opposite effect to the one you expect. The intermittent nature of the wind means that you need to keep existing power stations running in case they are needed and this causes them to operate less efficiently.
 4. The public: The majority of the people who live in this area will not understand the detailed arguments and some effort should perhaps be expended in making sure that they do have the opportunity to appreciate all these implications. He wished the Council to support the action group in putting the other side of the argument.

In response to a question he suggested that an event in the village hall could be used for exhibitions and speakers as part of a rolling programme.

The Chairman thanked Mr Horan for his contribution. Normal business was resumed at 20:41.

Minute 51: Approve and sign the Minutes of the previous Meeting

It was proposed (CC), seconded (LF) and agreed that the Minutes of the previous meetings be signed as a true record of proceedings.

Minute 52: Declarations of interest

The Clerk and Chairman both declared a personal interest in the matter of a request from the Footpath Society for a contribution to a new notice board. It was agreed that Cllr Cook would take the chair for this item.

Minute 53: Matters arising and matters of report

- 53.1 Lighting in Goose Lane (45.6.5):** Following investigations by SCC lighting engineers, it has been determined that it would be necessary to erect three new streetlights on Goose Lane to illuminate up to, and including, the nursery entrance. This would be at an approximate cost of £800 per unit. The Clerk has written confirming that the Council is willing to contribute up to £1000 towards the capital cost, providing the work is carried out prior to the winter. SCC has raised orders for the work with both the electricity supply and lighting contractors.
- 53.2 Royal Oak “allotment” (46.2):** The Parish Council does own the small piece of land between the Royal Oak and the Millennium Green and the Clerk wrote to Mr Gill reminding him of his obligations under the agreement. The early days of new ownership appear not to have gone smoothly.
- 53.3 Blocked gullies (46.3):** Following a general clean-up and inspection of drains and gullies by Mr McCulloch, SCC Highways engineers have been given details of those which need to be cleared with specialist equipment.

Minute 54: Planning

54.1 Applications

354 - PA/01717/016: Land adjoining Broughton Nook, Schoolhouse

Lane: Erection of a detached garage for use as a lorry store/workshop

Received: 16/08/04 Replied: 15/09/04 Response: The Parish Council raises no objections to this application although they would have appreciated some indication of the dimensions of the proposed building.

355 - LB/28867/004: 6 High Street: Erection of a single storey rear extension, internal alterations and the installation of roof lights in the rear elevation

Received: 04/09/04 Replied: 27/09/04 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

356 - HO/28867/003: 6 High Street: Erection of a single storey rear extension

Received: 04/09/04 Replied: 27/09/04 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

357 - HO/16481/007: 14 Paget Rise: Erection of part first floor part two storey side extension, detached double garage with playroom above and the erection of a 2M high boundary wall

Received: 04/09/04 Replied: 27/09/04 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

358 - LB/05604/007: Chesterton House, Bagot Street: Installation of 6 Velux rooflights and internal alterations to the ceiling

Received: 04/09/04 Replied: 27/09/04 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

359 - HO/06057/007: Church View, Hall Hill Lane: Erection of single storey front extension

Received: 16/09/04 Replied: 30/09/04 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

360 - HO/29282/001: 23 Goose Lane: Construction of pitched roof over existing flat roof garage and erection of a rear conservatory

Received: 22/09/04 Replied: 30/09/04 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

54.2 Decisions

The following applications have been AGREED subject to stated conditions

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

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

341 - HO/01298/005: 1 Swan Lane: Erection of a single storey front and two-storey side extension

342 - LB/03149/014: Inglenook Cottage, Bagot Street: Erection of a front canopy

343 - PA/03149/015: Inglenook Cottage, Bagot Street: Erection of a front canopy

351 - HO/12563/010: Mount Pleasant, Uttoxeter Road: Erection of a two storey extension including installation of dormer windows and use of roof space as 3rd floor and single storey side extension (revised proposal)

352 - CN/09889/006: Hilda Cottage, Schoolhouse Lane: Demolition of lorry garage/workshop building

The following applications have been REFUSED:

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

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

353 - PA/09889/007: Part site of Hilda Cottage, Schoolhouse Lane: Erection of a detached dwelling

No applications have been WITHDRAWN.

54.3 Correspondence and other planning matters

- 54.3.1 The Clerk reported that the Council had been informed of the appeal decisions relating to applications 260 - PA/25107/007 and 269 – PA/25107/010 for Ash Farm, Glass Lane. Although the findings are complex, in essence it overrules the ESBC notice to remove the caravan and lorry body and allows development of sheep/lambing pens but not the portal framed shed.
- 54.3.2 The Clerk reported that leaflets had been distributed, and an exhibition held in the Village Hall announcing that ABEnergy has “taken over” the development of the proposed wind farm at Bagot’s Park and intends to submit a planning application within the next few weeks. A letter had been received that day from the Chairman of Marchington Parish Council inviting the Council to make their views known. The Clerk was asked to reply advising them of the preparations in hand and pointing out that judgement would need to be reserved until an application was made.
- 54.3.3 The Clerk reported on the outcome of a number of items raised with ESBC Planning Enforcement following discussion with the Chairman.
- 54.3.4 A second deposit consultation of the Local Plan was in progress and Councillors had recently had the opportunity to review the changes since the first deposit. The Clerk will pass back comments.

Minute 55: Financial Matters

55.1 Financial reports for August/September

The financial reports were introduced by the Clerk who reported that over £200 had been raised from traders’ licences on Horn Dance day. ***It was proposed (CC), seconded (AE) and agreed that the statement be approved.***

55.2 Report on payments made since the last Meeting:

The following payments had been made after discussion with the Chairman and Vice Chairman:

<i>Vch/Chq</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Powers</i>
30/616	Graham McCulloch	0.00	Grass cutting (Cheque lost)	OSA 1906 s.10
31/617	AB Village Hall	7.25	Room hire	[Vital Villages]
32/618	Graham McCulloch	60.00	Devolved maintenance	LGA 1972 s.101
33/619	Graham McCulloch	240.00	Replacement for chq no 616	OSA 1906 s.10
34/620	Paul Sweetman	126.00	Village agent salary	[Vital Villages]
	TOTAL payments	<u>433.25</u>		

55.3 Bills to pay

The Clerk introduced the following for payment explaining that although the Vital Villages funds were insufficient to meet the payments, a cheque had been written and was on the way to cover the difference:

<i>Vch/Chq</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Powers</i>
35/621	St Nicholas PCC	25.00	Church House hire for surgeries	LGA 1972 s.150
36/622	Graham McCulloch	240.00	Grass cutting	OSA 1906 s.10
36/622	Graham McCulloch	30.00	Devolved maintenance	LGA 1972 s.101
37/623	Allcock Stirland	3880.00	Plan printing/binding	[Vital Villages]
38/624	E A Roy	13.57	Plan package/posting	[Vital Villages]
39/625	E A Roy	915.88	Clerk's salary/expenses	LG(FP)A 1963 s.5 LGA 1972 s.112(2)
TOTAL payments		5104.45		

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

55.4 Section 137 payments

The Clerk introduced the requests that had been received and, after discussion, ***it was proposed (LF), seconded (AE) and agreed that the Council, in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should make the following 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.***

<i>Vch/Chq</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>
40/626	Sustainable Staffordshire	10.00	Grant requested towards Forum costs
41/627	Donna Louise Trust	200.00	Grant requested towards operating costs
42/628	AB Royal British Legion	30.00	Contribution towards cost of wreath for remembrance day
TOTAL payments		240.00	

55.5 Other financial matters

(The Chairman left the room and Cllr Cook took the chair for this item)

55.5.1 **Footpaths notice board:** The Council has been asked by the Footpath Society if it would consider supporting the project to provide a notice board and maps of local walks. An application to the County Council Community Footpaths Initiative has resulted in a grant of £500 towards expected project costs of £880.

It was proposed (AE), seconded (KM) and agreed that the Council offer to make the planning application on their behalf and underwrite the completion up to maximum sum of £300, funded by transfer from the Millennium Green insurance budget.

(The Chairman returned to the meeting)

55.5.2 **Bedding/bulb grant:** We have been notified of a grant of up to £64.52 available from ESBC for bedding and/or bulbs. This would need to be claimed with receipts before 31 January 2005. Cllr Elkington offered to provide a proposal to the next meeting on how this should be spent.

Minute 56: Group Reports

56.1 Recreation

The Clerk reported that a quotation for adjusting the multi-play barrier height was still awaited.

56.2 Village Property

The Clerk reported that temporary work carried out on the Butter Cross prior to Horn Dance day had made the tiles safe. A repair would need English Heritage approval and the necessary paperwork would take SCC some time to prepare.

56.3 Traffic, Parking, Highways

Cllr Cook reported that he had another volunteer for Community Speedwatch and forms have been passed to Inspector Andy Mason for a team of seven people.

Cllr Fox reported that there had been some telephone calls on the subject of parking at the Hoar Cross junction and County Councillor Atkins was following this up.

Cllr Charles reported damage to the bank beyond the end of Schoolhouse Lane on the ensuing rise. He also said that the meeting at the Newton turn was held and that the rumble strips provided were not very effective. He also reported damage to the road surface on the Burton road from beyond the final traffic calming.

The Clerk reported that Peter Linney had complained to him of damage to Radmore Lane and that while on holiday he had seen several villages on a Norfolk "A" road with 20mph speed limits.

Cllr Needham reported that on Horn Dance day the traffic seemed to gridlock while the dancers were at the Bagot. Cllr Jarman said it was acknowledged that mistakes had been made and some lessons learned.

56.4 Competitions

A certificate had been received for our second prize in the Best Kept Village competition. Cllr Elkington reported that he had been invited to become a judge. He was awaiting feedback on the current year before any further planning for next year could take place. Cllr Fox thanked him for his efforts.

56.5 Newsletter

Cllr McLoughlin reported that she was trying to get the next newsletter out, but was still waiting for some promised items. With planned absences of several members, delivery early in October was not feasible.

56.6 School Governor's Report

Cllr Eatough reported that he had now completed the first part of his governor training but still had another section to come.

56.7 Village Plan

The Clerk gave a brief summary from notes supplied by Mithra Tonking reporting the succession of Paul Sweetman by Penny Ward as the new village agent.

56.8 RISES

A cheque was sent to First Responders and an acknowledgement received.

56.9 Community First Responders

Cllr McLoughlin reported training was continuing and the finance to obtain a vehicle and equipment was now available.

56.10 Village Hall

Complaints about a party on 23rd July had been received and were being dealt with.

(Agenda items on Quality Parish Status and the new village leaflet were deferred to the next meeting due to the time)

Minute 57: Correspondence, bulletins and reports

- 57.1 A letter and guide from Ken Birch (ESBC Monitoring Officer) draw attention to the need to declare interests and the difference between a "personal" and "prejudicial" interest. Noted.
- 57.2 Sustainable Staffordshire are holding their annual forum on Wednesday 27 October in Stafford from 0930-1530 and invite the Council to send a delegate. Cllr Charles will attend.
- 57.3 The Council is invited to send up to 2 representatives to a presentation on the new arrangements for "Out of Hours Cover" on Wednesday 13 October at 6:30pm in the Town Hall at Burton. Cllr McLoughlin will attend.
- 57.4 The Council is invited to send a representative to the AGM of the Staffordshire Playing Fields Association in Burton at 2pm Wednesday 20 October. Cllr Charles will attend.
- 57.5 The Council has received details from SCC of the public consultations on the Local Transport Plan together with copies for each member of associated booklets.
- 57.6 The Council has been informed by Steven Gardiner (ESBC) that the East Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership is carrying out a survey on crime and disorder. Any residents who wish to complete the survey are invited to get in touch with him.
- 57.7 The Council has been informed by Alun Michael (DEFRA) that a consultation on Cleaner Neighbourhoods due to end on 24 September has been extended and gives the web reference of the consultation document.

Minute 58: Items for agenda of next meeting

- Deferred items on Quality Parish status (Cllr Elkington) & New village leaflet
- Discussion and/or agreement of new complaints procedure
- Review of how we manage applications and other documents needing review
- Horn Dance day 2004 (Cllr Charles)

Minute 59: Date, time and place of next Meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 27 October in the Memorial Room at the Village Hall.

The Meeting concluded at 22:24 pm.

Chairman Date:

Proposed: Seconded: