

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held on Wednesday, 27 October 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)

Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Borough Councillor Fox.

Members of the public attending: Mr Jeffery

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### **Minute 62: Public Session**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Jeffery and invited him to address the meeting.

Mr Jeffery explained that he had recently spent some time in Devon and become aware of the Parish Day held in South Tawton. This had seemed to him to be an excellent way for people to get to know one another and also achieve some useful work. He suggested that it might be something that Abbots Bromley could consider although he personally felt unable to participate. He thought that to be successful it would need to be at least 12 months in the planning so that sports clubs programmes could be planned around it.

Comments by Councillors recognised the potential value of such a day but also expressed concern about whether it would be possible to motivate participants.

The Chairman thanked Mr Jeffery for his contribution. Normal business was resumed at 19:47.

### **Minute 63: Approve and sign the Minutes of the previous Meeting**

Subject to correction of a typographical error in minute 55.2, ***it was proposed (RJ), seconded (LF) and agreed that the Minutes of the previous meetings be signed as a true record of proceedings.***

### **Minute 64: Declarations of interest**

Cllr Charles declared a personal interest in the item relating to St Giles Hospice.

### **Minute 65: Matters arising and matters of report**

**65.1 Vital Villages (55.3):** The Clerk confirmed that a cheque from ESBC had been received and paid into the bank to put the Vital Villages fund back into credit.

- 65.2 Out of hours cover (57.3):** Cllr McLoughlin reported on her attendance at the briefing on 13 October. Staffordshire Ambulance Service now provides a service outside of core working hours. You still telephone the surgery but your call will be re-directed to a trained person in the ambulance service HQ. Home visits by nurses or paramedics can take place and, up to midnight only, it is possible to go to Burton to see a doctor by appointment. Doctors are on hand to answer questions when this is necessary.
- 65.3 SPFA AGM (57.4):** Cllr Charles reported that he attended the meeting of the Staffordshire Playing Fields Association on 20 October. The relevance to our parish is not obvious.
- 65.4 Sustainable Staffordshire (57.2):** Cllr Charles, in reporting on his attendance at the Sustainable Staffordshire forum on 27 October, said that it had proved to be a very interesting event with several worthwhile sessions. Information from the event is available for loan.
- 65.5 Background noise at Council meetings:** Cllr Cook explained the reason why the music was being played in the foyer. Cllr Jarman asked if a change of venue or evening could be considered? The village hall committee are still trying to improve matters, and it was agreed to monitor the situation.
- 65.6 Horn Dance slides:** Cllr Charles introduced some prints from the slides passed on from the Stafford Historical Society.

## Minute 66: Planning

### 66.1 Applications

**361 - HO/10277/009: Shade Elm, Goose Lane:** Erection of detached garage and store

Received: 11/10/04 Replied: 28/10/04 Response: The Parish Council still believes that the proposed building will destroy one of the key village scenes of the view along Goose Lane - because of the height and proximity to the carriageway of the proposed building. As it would be opposite a property which is already very close to the road, the effect would be accentuated. Some Councillors also expressed concerns about the impact on pedestrian safety.

**362 - HO/10600/006: The Cottage, Schoolhouse Lane:** Erection of a single storey and first floor rear extension

Received: 11/10/04 Replied: 28/10/04 Response: The Parish Council has no objection to this application.

**363 - PA/17519/003: Radmore Fields Farm, Radmore Lane:** Erection of hay barn

Received: 25/10/04 Replied: 28/10/04 Response: The Parish Council has no objection to this application.

### 66.2 Decisions

The following applications have been AGREED subject to stated conditions (None)

The following applications have been REFUSED:

**354 - PA/01717/016: Land adjoining Broughton Nook, Schoolhouse Lane:** Erection of a detached garage for use as a lorry store/workshop

No applications have been WITHDRAWN.

### 66.3 Correspondence and other planning matters

- 66.3.1 The Clerk reported that in response to an enquiry, the Planning Authority had confirmed that no permission was required prior to erection of the proposed notice board for footpaths information.
- 66.3.2 The Clerk drew attention to the relatively new government Planning Policy Statement 22 on Renewable Energy which would affect the outcome of any planning application for a wind farm. He also reported on correspondence received from Messrs Horan and Core on the subject.
- 66.3.3 Cllr Eatough reported that he had attended the meeting in Marchington where the representatives from ABEnergy had been subjected to intense questioning. Cllr Cook pointed out that he had been informed of errors in the CO<sub>2</sub> savings cited on the ABEnergy flyer, which seem to have been overstated by a factor of 39.
- 66.3.4 There was a short discussion on the means of reviewing applications arriving between meetings. For trial period a reduced group of Councillors will be consulted prior to the Clerk making a response and others informed of applications by email. This group will include Cllrs Charles, Cook, Esling, Elkington and Fox. ***It was proposed (RE), seconded (LF) and agreed that Standing Order 68 be suspended during the three-month trial.***

### Minute 67: Financial Matters

#### 67.1 Financial report for October

The financial report was introduced by the Clerk who noted that the cheque written to the Scouts & Guides had never been presented and was now over six months old and no longer valid. ***It was proposed (RJ), seconded (DE) and agreed that the statement be approved.***

#### 67.2 Budget report for half year

The Clerk introduced a report on the progress against budget for the first two quarters which showed a stronger position than forecast. ***It was proposed (RE), seconded (CC) and agreed that the statement be approved.***

#### 67.3 Report on payments made since the last Meeting:

No payments had been made since the last meeting.

#### 67.4 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>
43/629	Public Works Loan Board	1661.27	Village Hall loan repayment	LGA 1972 Sch 13
44/630	G McCulloch	240.00	Grass cutting	OSA 1906 s.10
	<b>TOTAL payments</b>	<b>1901.27</b>		

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

#### 67.5 Section 137 payments

*(Cllr Charles left the meeting for the discussion of St Giles item and Cllr Esling took the chair)*

The Clerk introduced the requests that had been received and, after discussion, it was agreed to defer a decision on St Giles until a later date when more funds might be

available. ***It was proposed (CC), seconded (LF) 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 payment which is, 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>
45/631	County Air Ambulance	200.00	In recognition of use of public toilets at Goat
	<b>TOTAL payments</b>	<b>200.00</b>	

## **67.6 Other financial matters**

67.6.1 **Royal Oak allotment:** Noted that tenancy was until 31 March 2004 and so any action before then would be premature.

67.6.2 **Footpaths notice board:** The Clerk was asked to get quotes for construction of the new notice board.

## **Minute 68: Group Reports**

### **68.1 Recreation**

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

A request had been received from Mike King for a letter confirming the support of the Parish Council for the multi-play project near the Village Hall. The Clerk was asked to write on behalf of the Council.

The Clerk was asked to enquire whether plans for the transfer of the Millennium Green were progressing or had been abandoned.

### **68.2 Village Property**

Cllr Esling asked if there was any danger due to loose bricks at the Hoar Cross bus shelter. Agreed to post a notice to the effect that the shelter will be dismantled after 1<sup>st</sup> December. ***It was proposed (AE), seconded (RJ) and resolved that if no objections were received, Cllr Eatough would dismantle the remaining brickwork and clear the site.***

### **68.3 Traffic, Parking, Highways**

Cllr Cook reported that the induction of the volunteers for the Community Speedwatch had been held on the previous day. The time had been very valuable and operations could commence soon after the jackets are available in two weeks time.

Cllr Charles reported that a gully in Schoolhouse Lane next Hilda Cottage is blocked.

### **68.4 Competitions**

Cllr Elkington introduced the report from the BKV judges and drew attention to the key points. Some of these would be relatively easy to address but others seemed almost irrelevant to the competition itself. Recruiting others in the village to assist with preparing their part of the village would help significantly.

Cllr Elkington also raised a number of questions about potential uses of the ESBC planting grant. It was agreed that a group meeting be held to make recommendations to the next Parish Council meeting.

Standing orders were suspended so that Mr Jeffery could ask a question. He enquired if more could be done to keep the public informed of what has been done? Councillors outlined the steps already taken to communicate such information. Normal business was resumed.

**68.5 Newsletter**

Cllr McLoughlin reported on the newsletter progress and briefly summarised the items included. The aim was to publish in the next 7-10 days.

**68.6 School Governor's Report**

Cllr Eatough reported that a governor's meeting three weeks ago dealt with routine matters and also noted the imminent departure of Mrs Potter.

**68.7 Village Plan**

Nothing to report.

**68.8 RISES**

Cllr Fox reported that a cheque for the last period would be due soon.

**68.9 Community First Responders**

Cllr McLoughlin reported training was continuing and a vehicle had been purchased.

**68.10 Village Hall**

Cllr Cook reported that finances had made a dramatic turn round in the first nine months of this year compared to 2003. Grants are now being sought for the multi-play pitch and some difficult issues are being faced with proposed changes to licensing.

*(Due to the time, the items on Quality Parish status, New Village Leaflet and Horn Dance Day were deferred. The Clerk was asked to circulate details of proposed changes to the leaflet so that these could be discussed at the following meeting)*

**Minute 69: Correspondence, bulletins and reports**

- 69.1 We have been invited to suggest items for the agenda of the next ESBC Parish Councils' forum scheduled for 8 December. Noted.
- 69.2 A letter from Staffordshire County Council advises that proposals for the reorganisation of special schools have been made and that comments must be received 29 November. Noted.
- 69.3 A letter from Staffordshire County Council outlines the requirement for a "Rights of Way Improvement Plan" and invites contributions. Noted.
- 69.4 A letter from Staffordshire County Council invites feedback through a single page questionnaire as input to their budget planning process. Cllr Esling offered to respond.
- 69.5 A letter from Uttoxeter Town Council solicits the views of Parish Councils on the East Staffordshire review of the bus pass scheme. Noted.

**Minute 70: Items for agenda of next meeting**

- Discussion and/or agreement of new complaints procedure
- Preparations for 2004/5 budget
- Review of Parish Council surgeries (in context of budget preparations)

- Quality Parish status
- New village leaflet

**Minute 71: Date, time and place of next Meetings**

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 1 December in the Memorial Room at the Village Hall.

The Meeting concluded at 22:14pm.

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

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