

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday, 30 November 2005 at 7.30 pm
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, J Needham

Also present: EA Roy (Clerk)

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

Members of the public attending:
Mr & Mrs Palmer, Mrs Wilson

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Minute 70: Public Session

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

Mr Palmer spoke about the proposals for a merger of Staffordshire Ambulance Service with those from neighbouring counties. He pointed out a number of dangers he believed were inherent in the proposal and asked the Parish Council to oppose the merger. In particular he cited the adverse impact it could have on the operation of the Community First Responders.

Normal business was resumed at 19:55pm.

Minute 71: Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted.

Minute 72: Declarations of interest

Cllr McLoughlin declared an interest in the financial item regarding Community First Responders.

Minute 73: Matters arising and matters of report

73.1 Circulated documents: No issues.

- 73.2 Parish Council Surgery:** Cllr Fox reported that a suggestion had been made that permanent lights be installed on the oak tree as an alternative to the annual Christmas tree.
- 73.3 Staffordshire Consortium of Infrastructure Organisations Questionnaire (See minute 65.1):** Cllr Fox reported that she had completed a copy of the questionnaire and passed the other onto David Towell.
- 73.4 Ambulance Service merger:** The Clerk was asked to draft a letter outlining the Parish Council concerns regarding the proposed merger.

Minute 74: Planning

74.1 Applications

431 - LB/15095/019: The Cottage, Uttoxeter Road: Erection of attached garage
Received: 24/10/05 Replied: 03/11/05 Response: The Parish Council have no objections in principle to the proposed development. It questions whether straight, rather than curved, lintels would be more in keeping with the existing structure?

432 - PF/27479/007: Willow Brook Farm, Pinfold Lane: Prior Notification for the erection of an agricultural building to be used for the storage of foodstuffs, equipment and veterinary products

Received: 01/11/05 Replied: 11/11/05 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

433 - PA/13229/044: Rear of Crofts College, Bagot Street: Conversion of existing garage block to form a single dwelling and erection of a detached double garage
Received: 03/11/05 Replied: 11/11/05 Response: The Parish Council objects in principle to this application as an unnecessary and inappropriate "backland" development within the Conservation Area. It is noted that cars already park on the pavement in front of The Crofts obscuring the view at the junction with Schoolhouse Lane. The proposed development would further exacerbate the already inadequate parking facilities resulting in additional "overflow" parking with consequent risks to pedestrians and other road users.

434 - PA/20982/007: Land adjacent Goose Cottage, Goose Lane: Erection of a detached three storey dwelling, detached double garage and construction of vehicular access
Received: 10/11/05 Replied: 21/11/05 Response: The Parish Council objects to these revised plans for the site. It believes that the combination of increased roof height and additional second floor windows would create a building mass that crowds the site and is disproportionate to the Goose Lane setting. Comparisons with properties on Bagot Street are not relevant to this location. The Parish Council also notes that the prior application clearly specified obscure glazing for windows that overlooked nearby properties. Such a provision is not evident in this new application.

435 - HO/07917/003: 32 Swan Lane: Erection of a two-storey side extension and front porch
Received: 21/11/05 Due: 08/12/05 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

436 - PA/13229/044: Rear of Crofts College, Bagot Street: Conversion of existing garage block to form a single dwelling and erection of a detached double garage (Amended plans)

Received: 25/11/05 Due: 16/12/05 Response: The previous Parish Council comments are not changed as the result of these amended plans.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk communicate these responses to the local planning authority.

74.2 Decisions

The following applications have been **AGREED** subject to stated conditions

426 - LB/26439/019: Blithe Farm: Conversion and alterations to existing cart shed to facilitate change of use to residential

428 - PA/17519/004: Radmore Fields Farm, Radmore Lane: Erection of an agricultural building for the storage of livestock and machinery

430 - HO/01298/008: 1 Swan Lane: Erection of rear conservatory

No applications have been **REFUSED**

No applications have been **REVISED**

The following applications have been **WITHDRAWN**

427 - OU/15976/009: Cala-Bona/Fairview, Ashbrook Lane: Outline planning application for the erection of eight dwellings with details of means of access

74.3 Correspondence and other planning matters

74.3.1 The Clerk reminded members that a date for an informal hearing of the Redrow Homes appeal had been set for 10am on 31 January 2006 at Burton Town Hall. Cllr Eatough offered to represent the Council and the Clerk was asked to provide background information.

74.3.2 The Clerk reported on the invitations from Staffordshire County Council to participate in the creation of the Development Framework for Minerals and Waste. Cllrs Elkington and Jarman offered to review the documents.

Minute 75: Financial Matters

75.1 Financial report

The Clerk introduced the financial report for November 2005 and reported that a repayment of £138 VAT had been received.

RESOLVED: That the statement be approved and the Chairman sign the report.

75.2 Report on payments made since the last meeting

The Clerk reported that two payments had been made since the last meeting. He explained that one of them was required following an error he made in banking the wrong cheque.

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details	Powers
46/719	Abbots Bromley PCC	376.69	Replacement of cheque 712	[RISES]

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details	Powers
53/720	Graham McCulloch	287.20	Grass cutting	OSA 1906 s.10
	TOTAL payments	663.89		

75.4 Bills to pay

The Clerk introduced the following for payment:

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details	Powers
54/721	AB Village Hall	2400.00	Grant towards drive repairs	LGA 1972 s.133
55/722	Woodgrow Horticulture	807.81	Playground bark	PHA 1961 s.52
56/723	K McLoughlin	9.28	Paper for newsletter	LGA 1972 s.142
57/724	Abbots Bromley PCC	17.00	Newsletter printing	LGA 1972 s.142
58/725	Eric Roy	366.33	Clerk's salary/expenses	LG(FP)A 1963 s.5 LGA 1972 s.112(2)
59/726	R Blower	70.00	Notice board for bus stop	LGA 1972 s.142
60/727a	Abbots Bromley PCC	309.00	Churchyard grass cutting	LGA 1972 s.214
60/727b	Abbots Bromley PCC	100.00	Towards clock maintenance	PCA 1957 s.2
	TOTAL payments	4079.42		

RESOLVED: That these payments be made.

75.5 Section 137 payments

The Clerk introduced the following requests and proposed payments under section 137:

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details
61/728	CPRE	25.00	Annual membership fee
	East Staffordshire CAB		Help with set up costs
	TOTAL payments made	25.00	

The Clerk introduced a letter from Burton CAB outlining their plans to provide a service across East Staffordshire following the demise of the Uttoxeter CAB. They asked if the Council could assist with their start-up costs. The Clerk was asked to write offering to support with publicity, and to suggest willingness to consider financial help when detailed plans are in place.

RESOLVED: That the Council, in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should make the above 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.

75.6 Other financial matters

75.6.1 Budget for 2006/7: The Clerk introduced a summary timetable for budget preparation, and invited Councillors to return their proposals for projects. Agreed that the Finance Working Group would meet at 7:30pm on 13th December.

75.6.2 Newton Hurst Lane: Blithfield Parish Council has asked the Council if it would consider contributing towards the costs of safety improvements at the junction.

RESOLVED: That the Council offer up to 40% of the balance of cost after grants from other bodies.

75.6.3 Community First Responders: We have received a letter advising that the equipment required cost less than expected. CFR ask for guidance about the £1000 grant payment made by the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: That the money be used by CFR to meet operational expenses.

75.6.4 Community Footpaths Initiative: Staffordshire County Council has asked invited the Parish Council to bid for funding for rights of way projects. Cllr McLoughlin asked whether the stile where the Staffordshire Way exits Narrow Lane onto the field could be replaced with a kissing gate. The Chairman explained that this was not possible, but materials were available to replace the stile when volunteers were available. As this was part of the Staffordshire Way, the Clerk was asked to report this to the County Rights of Way department.

RESOLVED: That no bid for funding is made for the next financial year.

Minute 76: Group Reports

76.1 Recreation

The Clerk reported that 10 cubic metres of bark had been delivered to the Millennium Green play area but he was still awaiting a visit from Universal Play to carry out remedial work on the multi-play at the Millennium Green and to deliver the special yellow paint.

The Clerk reported that he had been contacted by David Truslove who was involved in discussions on the grading and levelling of the access path to the Nuttery as a pre-condition to handover.

The Clerk introduced an email from Matt Tracey concerning village facilities, and was asked to write suggesting that they form a group with parents to raise funds and advising that help from Councillors might be offered, which could include finance, if suitable plans and team are put in place.

76.2 Village Property

The Clerk reported that Mr Wilson had suggested the Parish Council contact ESBC Environmental Health department concerning the state of Cedar Cottage. They have an "empty property policy" that might apply. The information was noted for future reference.

76.3 Traffic, Parking, Highways

Cllr Fox reported that work being carried out in Lichfield Road appeared to be in preparation for re-surfacing in the New Year. The Clerk was asked to write and ask if they planned to inform residents, in view of the fact that this was overlooked for Uttoxeter Road. It was noted that the Parish Council had not been informed of the date for the work, neither was it responsible for informing residents.

Cllr Jarman pointed out that there was light on the Heathfield bungalow that was dazzling for road users approaching from Lichfield. The Clerk was asked to write pointing out the potential danger.

Cllr Elkington reported that inconsiderate parking by the Pinfold bus stop was making boarding buses difficult. As there was a bus stop on either side of the road, the addition of road markings did not really offer a solution.

There was some discussion of vehicle-activated signs and these could be considered for inclusion in the project list for next year.

76.4 Competitions

Cllr Elkington reported an increase in dog fouling, and proposed that posters be used to raise awareness. He also noted that two of the girls' school cottages were in need of external decoration. Cllr Elkington offered to call in and raise this matter with the school.

There was a discussion of potential prize projects. This concluded that a permanent Christmas tree on the green would be a worthwhile option. Cllr Charles offered to investigate varieties and costs in time for the next meeting.

76.5 Newsletter

Cllr McLoughlin introduced two outline schedules, and after a short discussion it was agreed that the second of the two proposed schedules was preferred.

76.6 School Governor's Report

Cllr Eatough reported that the next meeting of governors would be in January.

76.7 Village Plan

Cllr Elkington reported that the Under 5s Play Area grants had to be used by the end of March 2006.

The Clerk gave a brief report on the progress with the Village Design Statement.

76.8 RISES

Cllr Fox reported that a cheque for £341.44 had been received for materials recycled through the Schoolhouse Lane bins in the six months to the end of September.

76.9 Village Hall

Cllr Cook reported that expenditure had exceeded income in the last month – due mainly to a large bill for gas.

Minute 77: Correspondence, bulletins and reports

- 77.1 Staffordshire County Council is carrying out a consultation on climate change. A copy of the survey has been provided for each member of the Council to complete and return.
- 77.2 SPCA has supplied details of training courses including "What's on the agenda?" to be held in Cannock on Friday 9th December at 1.30pm.
- 77.3 SPCA has asked if members would complete an on-line questionnaire at <http://policiesurveys.staffordshire.police.uk/PolicingForYou/index.htm>
- 77.4 East Staffordshire Neighbourhood Watch invited attendance at an event on 24 November to promote their "Watch Out" early warning system.
- 77.5 Staffordshire County Council has invited the Council to respond to a consultation on the review of school places in East Staffordshire. The document has been circulated and members may wish to discuss their response. Cllr Eatough offered to take the comments and document so that he could compose a response.
- 77.6 Simon Adderley has invited the Council to contribute to the formulation of a twenty-year plan for the area. The Clerk was asked to reply and send a copy of the Village Action Plan.

- 77.7 Abbots Bromley Village Hall Management Committee has written to express their thanks for generous grant to the drive re-surfacing.
- 77.8 Inspector Mason has emailed details of local consultation events to increase awareness of the issues relating to structural reform of the Police.
- 77.9 The Tourism Officer for East Staffordshire has written inviting contributions to the monthly "What's On Guide" and asking if we wish to receive a copy.

Minute 78: Protocol for Councillor/Clerk relations

78.1 The Clerk re-introduced a draft model protocol produced by SPCA. This offered guidelines that could be considered as "best practice". If agreeable to members, this could be adopted and become an Appendix to Standing Orders.

RESOLVED: That the protocol be adopted and reviewed when the Standing Orders are next updated.

Minute 79: Code of Practice for Handling Complaints

79.1 The Clerk reminded members that last year a draft "Code of Practice for Handling Complaints" was created and circulated for comment, but never revised and adopted. He provided a brief summary of the comments made at the time and outlined some possible courses of action. Cllr Esling agreed to review the proposal, background documents and comments and come back with a recommendation to the Council.

Minute 80: Items for agenda of next meetings

11 January

- Planning applications
- Budget preparation

25 January

- Abbots Bromley PCC additional costs for churchyard maintenance
- Code of practice for handling complaints
- Visit from the Fire Service District Officer (via Simon Wilson)

Minute 81: Date, time and place of next meetings

It was agreed that the next meetings should be held at 7.30pm on Wednesdays 11 and 25 January 2006 in the Memorial Room at the Village Hall.

The Meeting concluded at 22:15 pm.

Chairman

Date: