

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday, 26 July 2006 at 7.30 pm**
in the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given

Present: Cllrs: PJ Charles (Chairman), AE Elkington, RT Esling, L Fox,
RSV Jarman, KA McLoughlin, J Needham

Also present: EA Roy (Clerk)

Apologies: Apologies from Cllrs Cook and Eatough were received and accepted. Apologies were also received from Borough Councillor A Fox

Members of the public attending:
None.

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Minute 35: Public Session

There being no members of the public present, no public session was held.

Minute 36: Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting on 27 June 2006 be accepted as an accurate record.

Minute 37: Declarations of interest

There were none.

Minute 38: Matters arising and matters of report

38.1 Circulated documents: There was a short discussion of the NALC document concerning revised licensing arrangements for village halls. The Clerk reported that there were no issues with the Council continuing to meet in the village hall as, although the premises were now licensed, at the times the Council met, no authorisation to sell alcohol was operative. Additionally, he reminded Council of previous SPCA advice that, as long as no alcohol was brought into the meeting room, the Council could meet even when alcohol was on sale elsewhere in the building.

- 38.2 Parish Council surgery:** The Chairman introduced a summary report of issues raised at the surgery held the previous Saturday morning, specific items to be dealt with under the relevant agenda topic.
- 38.3 Lloyds TSB:** The Clerk reported that he had contacted Lloyds and asked for a refund of the unauthorised borrowing fee levied at the start of June. Although defending the charge as legitimate and formally stated in the definition of account charges, they have refunded it as a one-off gesture of goodwill. A service to automatically transfer funds from the deposit to current is only available as a chargeable service, at an annual cost of £50.

Minute 39: Planning

39.1 Applications

474 - HO/16070/005: Miresbrook House, Miresbrook Lane: Erection of a first floor front extension, front porch and bay window (revised scheme) and retention of a fence on south west boundary
Received: 29/06/06 Replied: 17/07/06 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

475 - HO/30795/001: 5 Alfred Lyons Close: Erection of a two storey side extension
Received: 17/07/06 Replied: 27/07/06 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

476 - HR/30803/001: Harts Farm, Radmore Lane: Removal of 183m of hedgerow
Received: 24/07/06 Replied: 27/07/06 Response: The Parish Council objects to the removal of this hedge as it is on the route of the Staffordshire Way and the impact of removal will make following the route more difficult. This may well result in additional crop damage due to lack of definition of the footpath.

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

39.2 Decisions

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

464 - PA/30665/001: Gilleons Hall Farm, Orange Lane: Erection of an agricultural workers dwelling

465 - CU/01055/009: Rookery Farm, Orange Lane: Conversion and alteration to existing redundant agricultural building to form dwelling to be occupied by agricultural worker

467 - HO/01605/009: Crofts Barn, School House Lane: Conversion of existing garage to form bedroom and en suite

468 - HO/08932/004: 22 Needwood Grange: Erection of rear conservatory

The following applications have been **REFUSED** for stated reasons

466 - HO/30687/001: Hillcrest, Harley Lane: Erection of a two-storey side extension

The following applications have been **REVISED** – None

The following applications have been **WITHDRAWN** – None

39.3 Correspondence and other planning matters

The Clerk reported that the Abbots Bromley Village Design Statement was scheduled for consideration at the ESBC Cabinet on 7th August 2006 with a recommendation to adopt.

The Clerk reported that he had received a complaint about work on a yew tree at the Bagot Arms believed to be the subject of a tree preservation order. Several members of the public had already reported this to ESBC and an investigation was under way.

Minute 40: Financial Matters

40.1 Budget report

The Clerk introduced a budget report for the first quarter and noted that there were no major deviations requiring adjustment at the present time. Since the report date, £50 of the allotment rent had been received.

RESOLVED: That the budget report be accepted.

40.2 Financial report

The Clerk introduced the financial statement for July.

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

40.3 Report on payments made since the last meeting

The Clerk reported that the following payment had been made since the last meeting:

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details	Powers
20/769	G McCulloch	254.60	Grass cutting	OSA 1906 s.10
	TOTAL payments	254.60		

40.4 Bills to pay

The Clerk introduced the following for payment:

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details	Powers
21/770	AB Village Hall	75.00	Room hire	LGA 1972 s.150
22/771	Eric Roy	490.93	Clerk's salary/expenses	LG(FP)A 1963 s.5 & LGA 1972 s.112(2)
24/773	AB PCC	472.00	Churchyard maintenance	LGA 1972 s.214
25/774	Bryan Sullivan	70.00	Internal audit fee	ACA 1988 s.7
	TOTAL payments	1107.93		

RESOLVED: That these payments be made.

40.5 Section 137 payments

The Clerk reported that a request had been received from Blithfield Parish Council for a grant towards the costs of the improved visibility at the Newton Hurst Lane turn from the funds set aside for this purpose in November 2005. Current requirement is for £730 for perforated pipe and fittings and a contribution towards the cost of diesel for vehicles being provided on-loan.

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details
23/772	Blithfield Parish Council	800.00	Grant for Newton turn visibility improvements
26/775	Bob Esling	20.13	Refreshments for Parish Assembly
	TOTAL payments	820.13	

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.

40.6 Other financial matters

40.6.1 **Annual audit:** The Clerk introduced the Annual Return and invited the Council to approve the annual statement of accounts in section 1 and the assurance statement in section 2 - based on the financial controls exercised through the year and the statement by the independent internal auditor.

RESOLVED: That the Council approve sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Statement and that the Chairman sign these on behalf of the Council.

40.6.2 **Inventory list:** The Clerk introduced an updated inventory list including the recently purchased equipment for the Under 5s play area, and invited the Council to approve this.

RESOLVED: That the Council approve the revised inventory lists amended on 13 July 2006 and that the Chairman sign this on behalf of the Council.

40.6.3 **Cricket Club loan:** The Clerk reported that the final repayment has now been received from the Cricket Club and the club has been formally notified that any obligations under the loan have been discharged.

40.6.4 **Nuttery insurance:** The Council may wish to consider authorising the Clerk to take out appropriate insurance cover on the equipment and safety surfaces at the Nuttery on completion of the installation. Such cover to be reported to, and approved by, the next meeting of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to put insurance into effect on completion of the play area and report back to the next Council meeting.

40.6.5 **Nuttery invoices:** The Clerk reported that the work on the Nuttery was almost complete and asked if the Council wished to authorise payment of the Lappset invoice on receipt subject to: (a) The project team confirming in writing that they are satisfied that the works carried out are in accordance with the specification, (b) Adequate funds for the payment being available from the Under 5s Project, and (c) Prior consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman. The Clerk reported that a separate order was being placed with a local company for tarmac application and it was now the view of the Project Team that this needed to be completed before use. He also gave an update on actions in progress to obtain a contribution of £1738 from the developer's bond (to meet the cost of grading and levelling the access path) that would be needed to complete the funding for the tarmac. In the event that this sum is not received in time to pay the tarmac invoice, the Under 5s Project have asked if the Council would loan this sum to allow work to proceed?

RESOLVED: That the Clerk pay the invoice subject to the above conditions and that if necessary, the Council underwrite the money due from the developer bond to enable completion of the path surfacing.

40.6.6 **Bulb/bedding grant:** The Clerk reported that East Staffordshire Borough Council is making available a grant of up to £64.52 towards the cost of bedding plants/bulbs. If the Council wishes to take up this offer, receipts must be submitted by 31 January 2007. The Clerk was asked to obtain bulbs ready for planting in September.

- 40.6.7 **Remembrance day:** The Clerk reported that Abbots Bromley Royal British Legion has enquired if the Council wishes to order a wreath. The Clerk was asked to confirm that it did.

Minute 41: Group Reports

41.1 Recreation

The Clerk reported on weed killing and progress with remedial work following the inspection report on the Millennium Green.

The Chairman reported that there was no great progress on the football pitch and that there were significant issues to be addressed relating to the ongoing management.

41.2 Village Property

The Clerk reported that the tree planted on the village green had succumbed to the long hot dry spell and would need to be replaced in the Autumn. Mr McCulloch had offered his labour free of charge to carry out the necessary work.

41.3 Traffic, Parking, Highways

The Clerk reported on recent correspondence with Highways and said he would raise again the issue of a blocked gully at Waters Road. Other key points were:

- Highways are not aware of any general issues of inability to get through to Clarence
- A camera survey of the problem area opposite the Ashbrook Lane/Lichfield Road junction is proposed to try and diagnose the underlying problem without having to resort to large scale works with the consequent disruption to traffic/business
- Action is being considered over the obstruction of the footway by the Goat's Head and this could include the provision of white lining
- Narrow Lane resurfacing has taken place although it is not clear that this has addressed the root problems causing the flooding

Cllr McLoughlin reported that horses with young riders had been down Narrow Lane, and it was agreed that this was potentially dangerous. A note is being put into the Parish Magazine and Cllr Elkington offered to post a notice at High Ash advising against riding in the lane.

Cllr Fox said that she had reported to Clarence the lack of verge cutting in Cow Lane and was also concerned about parking at the Hoar Cross junction. Parking there seems to have worsened since the installation of the white posts. The Clerk will ask ESBC Planning if there is any enforcement action that could be taken to require the provision of off-road parking.

At the surgery, an enquiry was made as to what had been done since the Bromley Wood meeting with Highways at which improved signs had been promised. It was agreed that there had been no obvious improvements.

In response to a complaint at the surgery about excess speed in Lichfield Road, the Speed Watch team will aim to include this area in their future schedule of monitoring.

41.4 Competitions

Cllr Elkington reported that our submissions to the poster competition had not been successful. Awarding of prizes for the village poster competition would need to be completed as soon as possible.

The Best Kept Village competition results will be announced on Monday 31st July 2006.

41.5 Newsletter

Nothing to report.

41.6 School Governor's Report

Nothing to report.

41.7 Village Plan

Cllr Elkington reported that a meeting of the Steering Group was planned for the following Monday and a potential village agent has been identified.

41.8 RISES

Cllr Fox reported that following issues with overflowing paper bin at Schoolhouse Lane, a second container had now been provided.

41.9 Village Hall

Cllr Fox reported that the caretaker had resigned and the post was now being advertised.

Minute 42: Correspondence, bulletins and reports

- 42.1 The county lighting engineers have advised that replacement of the installations along the main street is scheduled for next year and they would like to start discussions about the nature of this in the context of the conservation area. Cllrs Charles, Elkington, Fox and Jarman would like to be involved and proposed dates were Tue 15, Wed 16, Thu 17, Tue 22, Wed 23, Thu 24 at about 1730. The Clerk was also asked to invite Mithra Tonking.
- 42.2 Uttoxeter Crime Prevention Panel has advised in a recent email that it is planning to merge with Uttoxeter Neighbourhood Watch.
- 42.3 East Staffordshire Review of School Places: Notification has been received that the review is published on the county council web pages.
- 42.4 East Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association: Have written to enquire if the Council wishes to attend a meeting on Tuesday 12 September. The Clerk was asked to advise that no one from the Council is available to attend.
- 42.5 Needwood Estate – Woodland Assurance Scheme: Notification has been received of the intention to seek adoption under the scheme.
- 42.6 St Giles Hospice has sent an invitation to the annual service of thanksgiving at Lichfield Cathedral on Sunday 17 September.
- 42.7 Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association has provided details of the AGM, forms for nomination of Executive Committee members and details of the NALC Conference.

Minute 43: Horn Dance

- 43.1 Agreed that the charges set in 2005 would remain unchanged for 2006. At present there are only five trestles available although it may be possible to make arrangements to bring the village show stalls.

Minute 44: Items for agenda of next meeting

- Grass cutting contract for April 2007 – October 2009
- Future newsletter format

Minute 45: Date, time and place of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 27 September 2006 in the Memorial Room at the Village Hall.

The Meeting concluded at 21:10 pm.

Chairman

Date: