

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on Wednesday, 27 June 2007 at 7.30 pm**  
in the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given

**Present:** Cllrs: PJ Charles, S Coxon, DT Eatough (Chair), AE Elkington,  
RSV Jarman, C Veitch, BJ Waring

**Also present:** EA Roy (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs RT Esling and L Fox, and also received from Borough Councillor Fox.

**Members of the public attending:**  
Mr JH Evans, Mrs P Evans.

**Contents:**

Minute 27: Public Session.....	1
Minute 28: Minutes of previous meeting .....	1
Minute 29: Declarations of interest .....	1
Minute 30: Matters arising and matters of report .....	2
Minute 31: Planning.....	2
Minute 32: Financial Matters.....	4
Minute 33: Group Reports.....	5
Minute 34: Correspondence, bulletins and reports .....	6
Minute 35: Appointment to Working Groups .....	7
Minute 36: Code of Conduct.....	7
Minute 37: Items for agenda of next meeting.....	8
Minute 38: Date, time and place of next meeting.....	8

**Minute 27: Public Session**

The Chairman welcomed the new members of Council.

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public present and invited them to address the meeting. Mrs Evans was present to express her concerns about an anticipated application for a wind farm.

Normal business was resumed at 19:37pm.

**Minute 28: Minutes of previous meeting**

***RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting on 16 May 2007 be accepted as an accurate record.***

**Minute 29: Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## Minute 30: Matters arising and matters of report

**30.1 Circulated documents:** None.

**30.2 Parish Councils' Forum:** The Chairman gave brief feedback on the recent meeting at Burton Town Hall attended by himself and the Clerk. Details of a new Community Empowerment Network had been explained, but this seemed mainly relevant to urban areas. There was also information on an initiative with police-community involvement that could have some potential value.

**30.3 Abbots Bromley PCC:** The Clerk reported on a series of discussions with Mr Grundy about the possibility of creating a new surfaced walkway alongside the vicarage garden wall. This would provide access to the new graves and to the footpath used by many local dog walkers. Although final estimates of cost were still being prepared, this was expected to be in the region of £5,000 and the PCC would value support from the Parish Council for the project. Plans to replace the gates at the end of Church Lane were also being considered and if carried through, would improve the access for vehicles to carry out the work on the walkway. The Clerk was asked to feedback to Mr Grundy the support of the Council in principle for these improvements.

**30.4 Horn Dance:** Cllr Jarman reported that he was no longer able to manage the bookings in the time immediately before Horn Dance day as he would be away. Cllr Veitch offered to assist on the day. Cllr Charles reported that a trailer could be available for use in moving the stalls, but a suitable tow vehicle would be required.

## Minute 31: Planning

### 31.1 Applications

**505 - HO/13984/008: 6 Radmore Lane:** Erection of rear conservatory  
Received: 29/05/07 Replied: 05/06/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

**506 - CU/11168/006: Bagots Bromley Farm:** Conversion of existing agricultural buildings to form five dwellings with associated garaging  
Received: 29/05/07 Replied: 28/06/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

**507 - OU/24590/007: Woodland Barn Nurseries:** Outline application for the erection of a detached agricultural workers dwelling  
Received: 05/06/07 Replied: 14/06/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this development and notes that any consequential reduction in unloading/loading at the Lichfield Road site will be very beneficial.

**508 - HO/06621/010: 2 Forge Cottages, Lichfield Road:** Erection of a single storey front extension  
Received: 05/06/07 Replied: 14/06/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

The Clerk introduced a letter from Airtricity providing brief details of their plans for eight wind turbines on the site of the following two applications.

**509 - PA/26905/006: Bagots Park:** Installation of a 70m high anemometry mast for the measuring of wind data for the period of three years

Received: 14/06/07 Replied: 28/06/07 Response: The Parish Council objects to this application due to the loss of visual amenity to nearby residents and to users of the Staffordshire Way and other popular walks in the area. Given that previous anemometry data has been collected at this location, and that the applicant indicates that they have already decided to make an application for installation of wind turbines, the case for this tower seems unjustified.

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**511 - ES.07/12: Richard Clarke First School:** Replacement cedar clad two classroom modular building

Received: 18/06/07 Replied: 28/06/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

**512 - HO/19273/008: Heath Field, Lichfield Road:** Erection of a detached double garage with play room above

Received: 21/06/07 Replied: 28/06/07 Response: The Parish Council raises no objection to this application.

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

### 31.2 Decisions

The following applications have been **AGREED**

**499 - HO/22673/002: 6 Ashbrook Lane:** Erection of a front porch

**501 - HO/03181/014: The Forge House, Bromley Wood Lane:** Erection of a detached double garage and storage building

**502 - HO/30424/004: Genolden, Ashbrook Lane:** Erection of a two storey side extension, a single storey rear extension and rear conservatory. Formation of a chimney, installation of two dormer windows on the front elevation, a front porch and a detached single garage.

**503 - HO/01502/012: Fairview, Ashbrook Lane:** Erection of pitched roof on existing flat roof

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

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

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

### 31.3 Correspondence and other planning matters

The Clerk reported that the appeal by Mr and Mrs Blount against the decision by East Staffordshire Borough Council to refuse permission for a proposed extension to 5 Cecil Payton Close has been dismissed.

It was agreed to continue with the current method of reviewing applications needing a response before the next meeting. This would continue to be based on email notification to all members and circulation to Chairman, Vice Chairman, Cllr Fox, Cllr Elkington, Cllr Jarman. (Also agreed that circulation for other documents would be DE, PC, LF, RE, AE, BW, SC, CV, RJ.)

The Clerk drew attention to the offer in the letter from Airtricity for them to visit and provide the Council with an opportunity to discuss their plans. The Clerk was asked to advise Airtricity that the Council would be content to receive information at the public events and to suggest that the public consultation should encompass all affected parishes.

## Minute 32: Financial Matters

### 32.1 Financial report

The Clerk introduced the financial statement for June, and gave a brief report on recent transactions.

**RESOLVED: The statement be approved and the Chairman sign the report.**

### 32.2 Report on payments made since the last meeting

The Clerk reported that no payments had been made since the last meeting.

### 32.3 Bills to pay

The Clerk introduced the following for payment:

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details	Powers
13/831	Bryan Sullivan	60.00	Internal audit	ACA 1988 s.7
14/832	e-on Energy Services	85.39	Repairs to floodlight	PCA 1957 s.3
15/833	Graham McCulloch	296.00	Grass cutting	OSA 1906 s.10
16/834	Information Commissioner	35.00	Annual registration fee	LGA 1972 s.111
17/835	Eric Roy	439.40	Clerks salary/expenses	\ LG(FP)A 1963 s.5 &
18/836	HMCR	303.35	Tax/NI for April-June 2007	/ LGA 1972 s.112(2)
19/837	Abbots Bromley PCC	480.00	For churchyard maintenance	LGA 1972 s.214
	TOTAL payments	<u>1864.54</u>		

**RESOLVED: That these payments be made.**

### 32.4 Section 137 payments

The Clerk reported that a request had been received from the Abbots Bromley Community First Responders for a grant towards a replacement vehicle. A provision for this had been included in the budget for the present financial year.

Vch/Chq	Payee	Amount	Details
20/838	Abbots Bromley CFR	1750.00	Grant towards replacement vehicle
	TOTAL payments	<u>1750.00</u>	

**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.**

### **32.5 Other financial matters**

- 32.5.1 **Annual audit:** The Clerk reported that the period for public inspection of the accounts ended on 2 July and the annual return will be posted on 4 July to reach the external auditor in time for the scheduled audit date of 10 July.
- 32.5.2 **Bedding/bulb grant:** East Staffordshire Borough Council has offered a grant of £64.52 towards the cost of bedding plants or bulbs. Any claim would have to be made before the end of January.
- 32.5.3 **Village Hall field fencing:** The fencing along the boundary at the rear of the Village Hall requires replacement for safety reasons and the Village Hall committee have requested help meeting the cost. The Clerk was asked to reply with an offer to match-fund the contribution from the Village Hall.
- 32.5.4 **Bank mandate:** It was agreed that the bank signing instructions should be updated to reflect the new membership of the Council, and the Clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements.

## **Minute 33: Group Reports**

### **33.1 Recreation**

The Clerk reported that some redecoration of the Millennium Green equipment had been achieved, but had almost immediately been completely covered by new graffiti. It was agreed that this needs to be addressed in a future newsletter.

The Clerk suggested that the Council consider complete repainting of the Millennium Green play equipment to avoid unnecessary deterioration. Noted for future reference.

There was no further progress on replacement of fencing at the Millennium Green. The possibility of temporary repairs was suggested so that some hedging could be established – perhaps using the bulbs/bedding grant?

Cllr Coxon had reported that the litter bin at the Nuttery is not being emptied. The Clerk subsequently established that this is not included in the services provided by ESBC, which are limited to bins adjacent to highways. The ESBC waste team have offered to provide a quote for a regular emptying service once they have carried out a site visit. Cllr Charles also offered to empty the bin on his inspection visits if some means of opening the bin was provided.

Cllr Coxon reported that some defects in the wet pour had been reported to Lappsett, and their response was awaited. The condition of this would be monitored during weekly inspections to check that it did not deteriorate to a dangerous state.

### **33.2 Village Property**

The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with Darrell Scott of ESBC who was asking his local team to start making some of the improvements in litter bins that the Council had requested. When the team had achieved all that they could do with their existing resources, there would be an opportunity for a further review to agree any additional actions required.

Glynn Hook from SCC had reported that he was looking an alternative supplier for lighting the War Memorial, and hoped to arrange another demonstration shortly. The Clerk gave details of a meeting with County lighting engineers and ABB planned for the following day. This was to review their proposal for replacement street lighting.

### **33.3 Traffic, Parking, Highways**

The Clerk reported that he was awaiting a response from Richard Rayson to a number of issues raised. He also reported that Highways had intervened to prevent lorries that were servicing the Persimmons contract in Rugeley from using the village as a shortcut.

Cllr Elkington reported that the Speedwatch team had been out recently. A letter to invite participation from residents of the main through roads would be going out with the Bulletin.

### **33.4 Competitions**

Cllr Elkington reported that first round judging was complete, and a further visit will be made if we get through to the second round. Prizes for winners of the poster competitions are needed. Cllr Elkington was authorised to purchase these on behalf of the Council.

### **33.5 Newsletter**

The Clerk passed on a request from Cllr Esling for the Chair and Vice Chair to provide brief items that would introduce them to readers for the next Bulletin. Cllr Elkington initiated a discussion of the Bulletin distribution arrangements in the light of the changed membership of the Council.

### **33.6 School Governor's Report**

Cllr Coxon reported that it was intended to keep the work on the new classroom on schedule. It was possible that there could be some temporary access issues for nearby residents.

### **33.7 RISES**

Nothing to report.

### **33.8 Village Hall**

Nothing to report.

## **Minute 34: Correspondence, bulletins and reports**

- 34.1 **East Staffordshire Borough Council:** Has written inviting Councillors to enter their gardens into the Councillors Challenge Cup category of the "Brighter Borough Gardening Competition". Entries are required by Friday 29 June.
- 34.2 **Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association:** Has written with a reminder that there is one vacancy on the SPCA Executive Committee which meets five times a year. This would be to serve until the 2008 AGM. Nominations need to be with SPCA by Friday 29 June.
- 34.3 **Shirley Mann:** In response to a letter of thanks for her contribution to the Parish Assembly, Mrs Mann has suggested that the Council might wish to consider setting up an environmental group to promote sustainability in Abbots Bromley.

- 34.4 **Horn Dance etching:** The family of the late S.M. Bonham-Carter have written offering the village her 1928 etching of the Horn Dance. They report that the etching is professionally framed and in perfect condition. Miss Bonham-Carter has a portrait of Ralph Vaughan Williams in the National Portrait Gallery. Agreed that we would like to receive this on behalf of the village and that it could be displayed either in Church House or the Village Hall. The Clerk was asked to investigate possibilities.
- 34.5 **Local NALC Conference:** There is to be a one-day event supported by the Standards Board in Birmingham on Thursday 19 July exploring how the revised code of conduct will affect parish and town councils.
- 34.6 **SPCA Chief Executive's Circular:** The Clerk introduced copies of the circular and drew attention to the appointment of the new Chief Executive and to forthcoming training events.

### Minute 35: Appointment to Working Groups

- 35.1 Appointment of members to working groups had been deferred from the Annual Meeting until the full complement of Council members was in place. Chairman and Vice Chairman are entitled to serve, *ex officio*, on all groups.
- 35.2 The membership of working groups was agreed as follows:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Members</b>
Competitions	(none)
Finance	Alan Elkington, Linda Fox, Caroline Veitch
Newsletter	Bob Esling (Editor), Clerk (Publisher), Alan Elkington (Distribution)
Recreation	Steve Coxon, Caroline Veitch
Sustainability/environment	Linda Fox, Barrie Waring
Traffic & Parking	Linda Fox, Roger Jarman, Barrie Waring
Village Property	Steve Coxon, Roger Jarman

The Rural Housing group was considered unnecessary in the short term.

- 35.3 Allocation of roles and representation was agreed as follows:

<b>Office</b>	<b>Member(s)</b>
Almshouses	Chairman – <i>ex officio</i>
Finance Officer	Caroline Veitch
Millennium Green	(none)
RISES	Linda Fox
SPCA	(none)
School Governor	Steve Coxon
United Charities	Philip Charles, Alan Elkington
Village Hall	Barrie Waring

### Minute 36: Code of Conduct

- 36.1 The Clerk introduced the new guide from the Standards Board which had been issued to members, and also a small pocket reference.
- 36.2 The Standards Board had written with additional information on the revised model code drawing attention to the opportunity for Parish Councils to adopt the optional paragraph 12(2) that provide members with an opportunity to speak on issues in which they had an interest. The Clerk pointed out that the Council presently only allowed members of the

public to speak in the public session before a meeting, and members also had that same opportunity to speak. Any change to include paragraph 12(2) within the adopted code of conduct would require a corresponding change to Standing Orders to allow members of the public to address a meeting of Council.

**RESOLVED: That paragraph 12(2) will not be included in the adopted model code, and the existing arrangements for contributions from the public and members with an interest, will stand.**

36.3 The Clerk drew attention to the need for members to complete a register of interests and issued forms to those members still needing to do so.

**Minute 37: Items for agenda of next meeting**

- Request from Abbots Bromley PCC for support in creating new path
- Horn Dance stalls arrangements
- New working group for Crime and Disorder

**Minute 38: Date, time and place of next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 25 July 2007 in the Memorial Room at the Village Hall.

The Meeting concluded at 22:19pm.

Chairman .....

Date: .....