

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday, 26th March, 2008 at 7.30 pm
 in the Village Hall, Abbots Bromley, pursuant to notice having been given

Present: Cllrs: D Eatough; PJ Charles; S Coxon; A Elkington; Mrs L Fox; RSV Jarman; R Mills; Mrs C Veitch; B J Waring

In attendance: Mrs S Buxton (Clerk)

Apologies: Borough Cllr A Fox

Members of the public attending: None

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The chairman welcomed Cllr Roger Mills to the council as the newly co-opted councillor. He had completed his declaration of acceptance of office prior to the meeting.

Minute 123: Public Session

None

Minute 124: Minutes of previous meetings

RESOLVED: *that the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February, 2008, be signed as a true and correct record*

RESOLVED: *that the minutes of the meeting held on 29th February, 2008, be signed as a true and correct record after the following amendments:-*

- **Minute 111: Public Session** – *to add “The council had offered to meet the young people and Mrs Turvey had not arranged this” at the end of the item on Young People.*
- **Minute 117.1: Recreation Report** – *to add after Voluntary Youth Services “with Cllr Coxon and Cllr Mrs Veitch*
- **Minute 119: Co-option to Council Vacancy** – *to change “them” to “him” in the last sentence*

Minute 125: Declarations of Interest

None

Minute 126: Matters Arising and Matters of Report

126.1: Minutes of 22nd February, 2008 – Cllr Coxon drew the council's attention to the reference to National Grid, which is not technically correct and the description used should have been "Electrical Distribution Network."

126.2: Clerk's log

- **Bin Newton Hurst Lane** – a reply to this query had been received sometime ago, when SCC had indicated that they would not put a bin there as they were not aware of the problem and the situation would be monitored
- **Lighting on Bagot Barn** – to date written confirmation from the owner has not been received
- **Emails from Police re: crime** – the clerk reported that these do go to schools, although the school did appear to be unaware of the recent incident with regards to a car which had been reported

126.3: Land adjacent to Church View, Goose Lane

Cllr Eatough agreed to supply the clerk with possible dates for a meeting with the solicitors, the day after the meeting, so that the clerk could arrange the meeting

RESOLVED: that a site meeting be arranged involving Cllrs Eatough, Charles and Jarman

Minute 127: Planning

127.1 Applications Received

548 – PF/07197/007: Park Farm, Radmore Lane: Erection of an agricultural building for the storage of fodder. Received: 21/2/08. Response: The parish council has no objection to this application.

549 – HO/00613/018: Lancsuss, Bagot Street: Erection of a single storey rear extension. Received: 1/3/08. Response: The parish council has no objection.

550 – LB/00613/019: Lancsuss, Bagot Street: Demolition of existing conservatory and removal of asbestos roof and erection of a single storey rear extension. Received: 1/3/08. Response: The parish council has no objection.

551 – HO/09870/006: 6 Preedys Close: Erection of a first floor side extension, front porch and front canopy roof. Received: 1/3/08. Response: The parish council has no objection.

552 – PA/25284/009: 10 Ashbrook Lane: Erection of two storey attached dwelling (Revised scheme). Received: 1/3/08. Due: 22/3/08. Response: The parish council notes that the work appears to already be going ahead.

553 – HO/10016/008: Town Top, Lichfield Road: Raising roof height to accommodate additional living accommodation, erection of a side conservatory, new boundary wall and entrance gates and the formation of new vehicular access. Received: 7/3/08. Due: 26/3/08. Response: The parish council has concerns regarding the raised roof line and its impact on the conservation area.

RESOLVED: the clerk notify the above responses to the planning authority

127.2 Decisions

None

127.3 Other Planning Matters

Ivy House – the appeal is now underway and comments can be sent to the Planning Inspector

RESOLVED: the council would not send a response to the planning inspector

Churchyard Tree – permission has been granted for the crown lifting of deodar cedar

RESOLVED: the clerk instruct Mr McCulloch to undertake the work

East Staffs Design Guide SPD: the draft document is available for consultation

RESOLVED: Cllrs Jarman, Mills and Mrs Fox will look at the document and report to the next meeting

Minute 128: Financial Matters**128.1 Financial Report for February 2008**

The clerk reported that the RISES money received had not been included in the receipts. It was also noted that £1 paid to St Mary's and St Anne's School was in respect of the rent on the Nuttery

RESOLVED: that the report be approved and the chairman sign the report

128.2 Report on payments made since the last meeting

The clerk reported that no payments had been made

128.3 Miscellaneous financial matters

- **Payment of Clerk's gratuity** - The clerk reported that the gratuity to Mr Roy had to be paid net of tax and NI as two years ago the opportunity to register the gratuity scheme had not been taken. At the time the SPCA had not notified councils of the need to register such schemes. A number of parish councils in Staffordshire have found themselves in the same situation.
- **Accounts software** – the clerk reported that she had had to make a technical call to Intuit to resolve the problems with the software. The cost had been £35.00 for a one off call, the other option had been for a years unlimited help1-4 at a cost of £149.99.

128.4 Payments to be made

The Clerk introduced the following for payment:

| Vch/Chq | Payee | Amount | Details | Powers |
|---------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 68/885 | PCC | 500.00 | Donation to footpath in Churchyard | |
| 69/886 | AB Village Hall | 201.00 | Room Hire Jan – Oct 08 | LGA 1972 s. 150 |
| 70/887 | Post Office Ltd | 0 | PAYE/NI liability | LGA 1972 s. 112(2) |
| 71/888 | E Roy | 0 | Gratuity | LGA 1972 s. 112(2) |
| 72/889 | S Buxton | 408.61 | Salary and office Feb 08 | LGA 1972 s.112(2) |
| 73/890 | S Buxton | 118.78 | Expenses | LG(FP)A 1963 s.5 |
| | TOTAL payments | 1228.39 | | |

RESOLVED: That the above payments be made.

Minute 129: Group Reports

129.1 Recreation

The clerk reported that the paint had now been collected for the Millennium Green and the work would be undertaken as soon as the weather allows.

Cllr Coxon reported that the under 5's playground is locked at dark, but the notice does not reflect this

RESOLVED: Cllr Coxon will renew the notice of opening times at the Nuttery

A report on the meeting which had taken place on 18th March, 2008 was given. The notes taken by Cllr Mrs Veitch were circulated. Mark Koszak from Staffordshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services (SCVYS) had attended along with a good number of young people and some adults.

The meeting was intended to be the discussion forum, with the ideas and work being done by the young people. The young people had indicated that basically they wanted somewhere to meet, possibly a shelter, but Mr Koszak had pointed out that there could be problems with siting and lack of supervision, and suggested a Youth Club may be better. If the Youth Club route is pursued, SCVYS can offer help with peripatetic staff, training, insurance, and CRB checks initially, but the adults to run the club would have to be provided locally.

The Crown has been approached about their room, but it is not deemed suitable.

Cllr Coxon has drafted a newsletter and Mrs Copland and some of the young people are working on a newsletter. Mrs Turvey has agreed to attend a training course on running a Youth Club.

Overall the meeting was well attended and was very successful with a good atmosphere.

A number of young people have places at Burton College, but there is no public transport available. It was noted that it is very sad that young people who want to attend college but can't due to lack of travel provision. Mark Koszak had agreed to investigate the Youth Forum in Uttoxeter and Burton on Trent to see if it is possible to lobby for a bus service. It was noted that the Girl's School must run a day bus from Burton to Abbots Bromley, could this present any opportunities for co-operation in transport provision?

RESOLVED: that the clerk would speak to SCC re: the provision of a bus service from Abbots Bromley to Burton to cater for college students.

Where could a shelter be sited? – the Millennium Green was a possibility, but it would need to be ascertained if this were possible. A basic shelter could start at £5,000, but £10,000 is really required for a decent shelter. Mayfield Youth Shelter cost around £1,000, but this was a self build. Any shelter would have to be well lit and in a public place.

Simon Tonking expressed an interest in helping with a self build project.

It is known that in Penkridge, the Church has open doors on Friday evenings for Young People and hot chocolate and biscuits are served. The clerk reported that similar scheme had operated in Yoxall too.

RESOLVED: that a further meeting be held in April

RESOLVED: that the clerk enquire about the need for planning permission for the erection of a youth shelter.

There have been some problems with young people and the Nuttery Play Area, but the only damage done has been to bend the bin lid. During the last week a group of 3 lads had been hanging around the Nuttery and had refused to move. It is felt this is rather intimidating for the young children and that if it reoccurs the police should be called. It was noted that great care should be taken when speaking to young people in these situations so as not to compromise personal safety.

129.2 Village Property

The bench by the bus stop opposite the top shop is being used as a congregation point and there has been a request that this be removed. In addition litter round the village is a problem.

RESOLVED: that no further action be taken at present until the outcome of the youth project is known.

129.3 Traffic, Parking, Highways

Four companies have responded to the letter sent to all local haulage companies.

Letters have been sent to both SCC and ESBC regarding roads included on sat nav systems. ESBC had contacted the clerk to say that this was a matter for the county council.

Site Meeting – this had been attended by Cllrs Charles, Jarman and Waring and the clerk with Richard Rayson from SCC to discuss a number of issues.

- **Re-siting the 30 mph restriction on Goose Lane** – siting of the new signs had now been agreed on both Goose Lane and Yeatsall Lane, and this will include the nursery entrance. Cllrs Charles and Jarman would be discussing this with the landowners involved.
- **Graffiti on pavements** – Goose Lane, Friary Avenue and surrounds – Mr Rayson has promised to get the contractors to come back and paint over the red and other coloured marks. Anti-graffiti paint is not an option on tarmac as it dissolves it.
- **Man holes on Ashbrook Lane** – Mr Rayson will make arrangements to get these surveyed and any work required will necessitate the closure of Ashbrook Lane
- **Weight limit** – the possibility of a weight limit in the village was discussed, but B roads are identified as suitable roads for HCV traffic. At present SCC are carrying out a review of the grading of roads within the county.
- **Speed limit in the village** – the question of introducing a 20 mph restriction in the village was discussed, but this is unlikely to be achievable, as it would have to be part of a county wide policy. E.g outside all schools, and there are places where this would simply not be viable
- **Illuminated speed signs** – a resident has offered to organise fund raising towards the installation of such signs. Mr Rayson explained that input of a financial contribution did not automatically move a location up the list. If the area is not assessed as needing such signs, they are not provided. At present all villages in the county are being assessed.

Mr Rayson has agreed to assess Abbots Bromley by means of three temporary signs at the village entrances. For the first week the signs are not switched on and then they are operational. Often with signs at the village entrances it slows traffic down but then it speeds up in the village centre again. The county council policy is that there must be a major problem before any action is taken.

- **Lichfield Road footpaths** are due to be resurfaced during the financial year starting on 1st April 2008

- **Goose Lane** – Butt Cottage to Barn – the ditch has been completed filled in due to over-running by heavy vehicles
RESOLVED: the clerk will report this matter to CLARENCE
- Goats Head parking – concern was expressed regarding the danger caused by cars parking on the road around the corner by the Goats Head
RESOLVED: the clerk will speak to SCC re: the safety of this parking practice and the manager of the pub to ask if signage could be considered in the windows of the pub asking customers to park responsibly
- **Lichfield Road gulley work** – the barriers appear unsightly, this is because they have to meet with EEC rules. This was noted but it falls outside Abbots Bromley

129.4 Competitions

Best Kept Village Competition – nothing to report

129.5 Newsletter

The future editing and production of the newsletter need to be resolved.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Jarman will discuss the technicalities of the newsletter with Eric Roy

129.6 Richard Clarke First School

A new headteacher starts after Easter

129.7 RISES

Cllr Mrs Fox briefly outlined what the RISES scheme was and who the members of the committee were – herself, the manager of the Crown, Michelle Moore and Jill Crook. The money is held by the parish council for the committee to decide how to spend. Suggested projects being looked at are equipment for the junior football and cricket teams or gravel around the recycling bins, but it is brewery land and they could be insurance problems.

129.8 Village Hall

An excellent event had been run last weekend. At the moment minor damage is being repaired as and when it occurs and the boiler has been fixed. Both the chairman and the treasurer have indicated that they will be resigning at the AGM next year.

Minute 130: Correspondence, bulletins and reports

130.1 SPCA Training

The clerk reminded councillors of the forthcoming training sessions being run by the SPCA

130.2 Lighting

The clerk had received a copy of the letter being sent to householders with wall mounted lamp fittings recently. ABB had also informed her that 4 fancy lighting columns will be required, two on Crown Bank, and one in front of both the Crofts and Crofts Cottage

130.3 New Model Publication Scheme

The clerk asked for this to be carried forward to the next meeting.

Minute 131: Parish Assembly and Jubilee Cup

131.1 Award of Jubilee Cup in 2008

Cllr Charles reported that the intended recipient had indicated their willingness to be awarded the Jubilee Cup

RESOLVED: the clerk will write to invite the recipient to the Parish Assembly

RESOLVED: that Cllr Charles will make arrangements for the certificates to be done for last year's recipients and for them to return the cup

131.2 Parish Assembly

A brief discussion took place on the format and speakers

RESOLVED: that the clerk invite Mark Koszak from SCYVS and Insp Smith, the new local police inspector to come and speak at the meeting

RESOLVED: that the clerk will invite all those who normally prepare reports to do so

RESOLVED: the clerk will discuss the council report with Eric Roy

RESOLVED: that Cllrs Mrs Veitch and Charles will arrange coffee and biscuits

Minute 132: Items for Next Meeting

- Publication Scheme
- Hoar Dance tables etc

Minute 133: Date, time and place of next meeting

RESOLVED: that the next meeting should be held at 7.30pm in the Memorial Room at the Village Hall on Wednesday 30th April, 2008

The Meeting concluded at 21.40 pm

Signed _____
Chairman

Date 30th April, 2008