

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councillor – you are summoned to attend a Council meeting on
**Thursday 24th January 2019 at 7.30pm at
Betley Village Hall (Committee Room)**

Gwyn Griffiths
Clerk & RFO
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AGENDA Thursday 24th January 2018

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declaration of Interest in Items on the Agenda
3. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 22nd November and 20th December 2018
4. Public participation in any item on the Agenda
5. Reports
 - To receive any reports
 - a) Chairman & Vice-Chairman b) Clerk c) County Councillor d) Borough Councillors
 - e) Representatives on outside bodies
6. Clerk to report on matters dealt with as Urgent Business since the last meeting
7. To consider any planning applications to hand at preparation of agenda
8. To receive the results of planning application determinations received
9. To consider any further planning applications, planning appeals/enforcement issues, progress of previous planning applications and other planning matters
10. To consider matters relating to planning/ enforcement issues in the Doddlespool area
11. To approve a Budget and Precept for 2019-2020
12. To consider any issues relating to HS2
13. To consider progress on the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan and related issues (if any) arising from the Newcastle and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Local Plan.
14. To consider any issues relating to Council property or assets (e.g. Sandy Croft, Memorial Garden).
 - To consider an Invitation to Tender Specification for maintenance of the Memorial Garden

To consider quotations for a replacement noticeboard and bench at Balterley, and two benches at Sandy Croft.

15. Area Issues : a) Balterley b) Betley c) Wrinehill

16. Highway Matters

17. Correspondence

18. Financial Matters

a) Applications for financial assistance

b) Payment of Invoices

c) To receive the Financial & Bank Statements

19. To consider council communication

20. Any items for next/ future Agenda

21. Date of next scheduled meeting: Thursday 28th February 2019

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 2018

320/18 PRESENT:

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Mandy Berrisford, Neil Bullock, Seb Daly, Graham Ecclestone, Richard Head, Tony Reah, Ian Walton and Chris Watkin.

321/18 IN ATTENDANCE:

County Cllr Northcott.
Borough Cllrs G & S White.
One member of the public.
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

322/18 Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Hales (work), Speed (family) and Townsend (family).

323/18 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Cllr Walton declared a prejudicial interest in any matters relating to Betley Court as an immediate neighbour.

Cllr Head declared a personal interest in any matters relating to Betley Court as a friend of the applicant and as a former tenant.

Cllr Daly declared a personal interest in any matters relating to planning and environmental issues at Duddlespool as the landowner was a former client of his practice. In the event of any substantive discussions relating to activities on the land he would regard it as a prejudicial interest.

324/18 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meetings of 25th October be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

325/18 The Chairman outlined the procedure for public participation, and the meeting was adjourned to allow the public to speak.

One member of the public (the applicant for planning permission at Betley Court) wished to update members.

He had hoped to have submitted a fresh application by now but discussions with neighbours and planning officers had led to different suggestions on the appropriate precise location of the proposed visitor building. In the end he had decided to press ahead as per the planning advice given.

326/18 The Chairman advised members that he had been engaged in extensive discussions with the MP, Borough Councillors and other relevant contacts regarding the issues at Duddlespool which would be reviewed later on the Agenda.

327/18 The Vice-Chairman indicated that he had nothing to report that wasn't otherwise covered on the Agenda.

328/18 The Clerk reported that he had been unable to arrange the migration of the website to a new host within the necessary timescales and therefore suggested that the site be migrated over a period of time given the volume of information involved. Members accepted that this would be appropriate.

329/18 Borough Cllr Gary White presented his report to members which included the following matters.

Council had met the previous evening. A Council Plan for 2018-22 had been approved, setting out the Council's key priorities. The proposed changes to the recycling scheme had been approved and tags were appearing on bins setting out the changes including charging for garden waste. The "call-in" of the University

Growth Corridor plan had been rejected and the project would now be taken forward. This would include removing the golf course from the Green Belt. The Council was applying to take part in a business rates pilot having learnt from its previous lack of success. A new car parking strategy was being developed with the aim of encouraging footfall in the town centre. The developers had withdrawn from the Ryecroft scheme and the Borough and County Councils were funding a £70,000 study to provide specialist advice on future use of the site. This was likely to lead to an increased element of housing and a reduced retail component. Previous proposals to transfer the market to a private entity had been reversed and the market would remain a Borough Council facility. The Guildhall would be transferred for a 12 month trial period to Go Staffordshire with support from the Friends of the Guildhall and community groups with a view to developing a long term future.

Locally he had pressed Paragon to encourage them to lodge a new planning application (which was now to hand). He had also devoted a significant amount of time to issues in the Doddlespool area.

330/18 County Cllr Northcott presented his report to members which included the following matters.

A public consultation on an Educational Skills Strategy (Special Needs) was underway with a closing date of 23rd December. An OFSTED/CQC scoping report was under preparation on Children’s Support (Special Educational Need and Disability). As part of the budget process it had been agreed that the additional early validity on bus passes would end from Spring 2019 and there was to be a reduction in the senior management team. However the School Crossing Patrol Review had been “called in” for further consideration. Final budget proposals would go to the February 2019 Council meeting.

The County Council and the CCGs (Clinical Commissioning Groups) had committed to a new approach to Children’s Mental Health.

In the most recent period 313 pothole repairs had been repaired with 209 new reports meaning that progress was being made. Funding was in place for such work but staff shortages had impacted on the service which could be provided. This was noted and the Councillor thanked the Parish Council for reporting issues and pressing for action.

331/18 The Clerk advised on items dealt with as urgent business since the last meeting of the Council. He had arranged for the payment (signatories Cllrs Daly, Head & Watkin) of the invoices approved at the last meeting as follows (an error had been noted on cheque 1419; this had been corrected and reissued as cheque 1425):

SL Hurrell	Laudy Croft signage	£ 150.00	1417
Total Security TSL	Security services	£ 36.00	1418
L Rimmer	Memorial Garden maintenance	£ 220.00	1419
TA Dunlop	Internal audit	£ 30.00	1420
T Townsend	Noticeboard repairs	£ 37.00	1421
L Rimmer	Memorial Garden maintenance	£ 80.00	1425

The opportunity had also been taken to arrange payment of the following invoices:

Croft Castings Ltd	Memorial Garden signage	£ 230.40	1422
RBL Poppy Appeal	Donation	£ 50.00	1423
RS Caldecott	Memorial Garden Repairs	£ 200.00	1424

332/18 The Chairman reported on issues relating to activities at Doddlespool which had been raised by local residents, and on which he had been involved together with the M.P. and Borough Councillors and which would inform discussion on the following item.

333/18 Members considered a series of propositions tabled by the Chairman relating to the role of the Environment Agency, Staffordshire County Council and Newcastle Borough Council in responding to planning and environmental issues in the Doddlespool area. Each proposition was considered in turn.

[Cllr Daly declared a prejudicial interest in this matter, withdrew from the meeting and took no part in the discussion of agenda items 333 to 339]

334/18 **RESOLVED: The Parish Council has no confidence in The Environment Agency due to their failure to use their enforcement powers in respect of containing, and then ensuring the timely removal of, baled and other waste on land at Doddlespool. The Parish Council considers the Environment Agency has failed in their duty to protect the environment in the locality. The Parish**

Council calls upon the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency and the Defra Minister to investigate as a matter of urgency and report their findings to the Parish Council.

335/18 **RESOLVED: The Parish Council has no confidence in Staffordshire County Council's administration, with particular reference to their failure to deal correctly with activities on land at Doddlespool Farm, or to discharge their statutory obligations and carry out enforcement activities. The Parish Council requests the Chief Executive to investigate matters and invites the Chairman to respond to the Parish Council.**

336/18 Cllr Northcott advised members that a Planning Enforcement Notice had been served that afternoon regarding the export of soil from the site. Cllr Gary White also provided an update. He had attended the Planning Committee meeting which had considered the application for the trackway off Waybutt Lane. He had aired the previous history of the site and the past behaviour of the applicant. He had asked the committee to consider appropriate conditions to any grant of permission, and to ensure that any conditions were both monitored and enforced. Performance against conditions, and any breaches, would be included in a bi-monthly report to Committee. Both Councillors White had expressed concern at the lack of previous prosecution action and the Chief Executive would now be directly involved.

337/18 **RESOLVED: The Parish Council notes that the Chief Executive of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council is now directly involved in the Planning and Enforcement issues on the land at Doddlespool Farm. The Parish Council supports the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive in their decision to become involved, thanks them for their involvement and sees no reason, at this time, why their involvement should not result in a satisfactory outcome.**

338/18 **RESOLVED: The Parish Council thanks Councillors Gary and Simon White, Councillor Northcott and Paul Farrelly MP for their excellent work on behalf of the residents within the Parish, and for their support, with regards to the land at Doddlespool Farm, and for the actions already taken to address relevant issues and to improve the situation.**

339/18 It was noted that works had commenced on the trackway at Doddlespool very shortly after the grant of permission and it was felt unlikely that the conditions required to be met before the start of works could have been met, particularly in relation to Conditions 11 and 13. Cllr Gary White undertook to raise this with the Planning Department to see if there had been any breach.

340/18 The Clerk reported on the following planning decisions.

18/00299 Trackway, land off Waybutts Lane, Balterley - PERMITTED (subject to conditions, as referred to in Min.339).

18/00457 Replacement of roor door and window, 3 Ravenshall Barns, Ravenshall, Wrinehill - PERMITTED.

341/18 The Council received reports from its representatives on outside bodies. Cllr Reah had attended his first meeting of the local Locality Action Partnership (LAP). He had been struck by the relatively low-level issues within the parish compared to neighbouring parishes, and advised that the Borough Council's Streetscene service was to face a reduction of 75% in its budget. Cllr Bullock reported on his attendance at the recent Borough Council Parish Forum the details of which had been supplied to members by e-mail. The most significant item was that the Joint Local Plan timetable had now been put back by a year and the next consultation was now scheduled for October to December 2019. Cllr Head advised that there was nothing significant to report in respect of the Village Hall.

342/18 Members considered the following planning application.

18/00846/FUL Partial demolition, partial renovation and new build extension; changes to existing car park and landscaping, Broughton Arms, Balterley.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objection in principle to what is proposed and welcomes the retention of the original 19th Century building. However the scale and form of the development is such that the Local Planning Authority needs to be satisfied that what is proposed is

necessary for the development of the business, that the design, materials and finish are appropriate to the particular location and that the development is consistent with Borough Planning Policy. The Borough also needs to be satisfied that the extension of the car park into the Green Belt is necessary and that there are exceptional reasons to justify an exception being made to that aspect of the Borough Planning Policy.

The Parish Council has serious highway concerns and the Highway Authority needs to be satisfied that the proposals do not represent a hazard. Specifically the Parish Council considers that the location of the car park entrance does not offer sufficient visibility and therefore there may be a need for additional speed limits on adjacent roads.

The Parish Council also notes that there is no Design and Access Statement associated with the application. The D&A Statement for the previous permission referred to a second vehicular entrance which did not appear on the plans submitted, and the Council would ask that any uncertainty in this area needs to be clarified.

[Cllr Ecclestone declared a prejudicial interest in the above item as the licensee of a potential competitor business, withdrew from the meeting, and took no part in the consideration of this item of business.]

343/18 The Clerk advised members of the receipt of a further planning application and invited the Council to determine how it wished to deal with the application.

RESOLVED that the application be considered at this meeting.

344/18 Members considered the following planning application.

18/00820/FUL Two storey rear and single storey side extensions, Green Valley Farm, Common Lane, Betley.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objection in principle but the Local Planning Authority will need to satisfy itself that the scale, form, design and materials are appropriate to its location within the Green Belt and that the volume increase is within Green Belt policy.

345/18 The Clerk advised members that an appeal had been lodged against the refusal of planning application 18/00490 (Garage at Rosebank, New Road, Wrinehill). As a householder application it would be determined on the basis of material submitted to date and no further action was required.

346/18 The dedication of the war memorial feature on the Memorial Garden had taken place, and there was a general view that it was a valued addition to the local streetscape. A significant number of comments had been received to that effect. Cllr Hales wished to record his appreciation of the work done by members involved in the project and its success. Consideration was given to the form of remembrance in future years.

RESOLVED a) that in future years the Parish Council should obtain two wreaths, one to be laid at the Church on Remembrance Sunday, the other to be laid at the Memorial Garden on Armistice Day itself;

b) that the Memorial Garden wreath be removed on the Thursday eve of the Christmas Lights event;

c) that the Parochial Church Council be thanked for its role in the project.

347/18 The Clerk advised members that there was nothing to report in relation to HS2.

348/18 Cllr Head reported on progress relating to the Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted that, as previously noted, the Joint Local Plan process had now been delayed by approximately twelve months. This would influence the timetable for the Neighbourhood Plan, but could allow the NP to be more influential in shaping the JLP.

349/18 Members considered issues related to the Council's property and assets. Arrangements for the Christmas Lights switch-on event were reviewed. It was confirmed that the electrician had checked the electrical installation and that all was in good order. Members noted that one of the benches at Sandy Croft had been damaged beyond repair following an incident with the grass cutting machinery, having previously sustained damage from blowing over. It was also noted that there was an error on the information board.

RESOLVED a) That the Clerk obtain quotations for two benches for Sandy Croft, to replace the damaged bench and to provide a further bench, and that the Council's usual contractor be engaged to provide the necessary additional base, and to provide bracket fixings for all the benches;
 b) that the Clerk investigate possible means of correcting the error on the information board.

350/18 Area issues raised by members were considered.

It was noted that the Council, when resurfacing New Road, Wrinehill had failed to reinstate the 30mph markings. The Clerk would draw this to the attention of the County Council.

It was noted that the grit bins had been filled.

351/18 The Clerk tabled correspondence received. There were no matters requiring decision.

352/18 The Clerk asked members to provide guidance on the Budget and Precept for 2019-20. In light of the continuing reduction in both funding and local services from both the Borough and County Councils, and the public consultation carried out in 2017 which showed support for a modest additional Parish Council precept to protect and enhance local services it was **RESOLVED** that an increase equivalent to **£10 for a Band D property should be made in the 2019-20 precept to raise approximately £5,600pa.**

353/18 Members considered meeting arrangements for early 2019, in view of the fact that the normal venue would not be available for the March meeting and that the Annual Electors' Meeting would need to be scheduled. Members noted that the facilities at the school, used for the current meeting, were satisfactory.

RESOLVED a) that the March meeting be held on the scheduled date of 28th March, using the school as the venue;

b) that the Annual Electors' Meeting be held on Thursday 2nd May;

c) that the School be thanked for providing a venue for the current meeting, and that a donation to the value of the normal hall hire cost be made to the school in recognition of their ready co-operation.

354/18 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

RESOLVED a) that the Council authorises payment of the following :

L Rimmer	Meml Garden & Bulbs	£ 640.00	1426	
Rogers Masonry	Memorial Garden stone	£1,010.40	1427	@
G Griffiths	Salary & Expenses	£1,020.45	1428	
G Griffiths	Salary & Expenses (Neighbourhood Plan)			
		£ 307.80	1429	
Betley Senior Citizens	Donation (Christmas Event)			
		£ 250.00	1430	
Mh-p internet	Website	£ 756.00	1431	
R Head	Neighbourhood Plan	£ 12.78	1432	

c) that the Financial Statement be received;

d) that the Bank Statements be noted, and the reconciliation verified and be signed by the Chairman.

@ - Account was subsequently paid directly by the Parochial Church Council; the cheque (1427) was therefore

355/18 Members considered issues relating to council communication.

356/18 Date of the next meeting: Thursday 24th January 2019.

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 20th December 2018

357/18 PRESENT:

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Neil Bullock, Dave Hales, Richard Head, Ian Walton and Chris Watkin.

358/18 IN ATTENDANCE:

Five members of the public.

Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

359/18 Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ecclestone & Reah (work), Berrisford, Daly, Speed and Townsend (family).

RESOLVED that the apologies for absence be accepted as valid reasons for absence under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

360/18 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Cllr Walton declared a prejudicial interest in matters relating to Betley Court as an immediate neighbour.

Cllr Head declared a personal interest in matters relating to Betley Court as a friend of the applicant and as a former tenant.

Cllr Bullock declared a personal interest in planning applications 18/00884, 927 & 929 as he was acquainted with the applicants.

361/18 The Chairman outlined the procedure for public participation, and the meeting was adjourned to allow the public to speak.

The first member of the public wished to comment on the Betley Court application as an adjacent resident, and was also speaking on behalf of other residents of Court Walk.

They had hoped that the revised application would respond to the objections raised by residents but all residents of Court Walk remained concerned on key elements of the application:

Noise and disturbance and congestion particularly at the entrance to Court Walk;

Noise and disturbance from visitors arriving and leaving the proposed parking area;

The parking area was immediately adjacent to private gardens.

The large new building proposed was within the Green Belt and close to neighbouring properties giving rise to concerns of smells and noise.

It had originally been said that the gardens would only be open to the public for a limited number of weekends but the application placed no restriction on opening.

Residents were unconvinced that the proposals were viable and could lead to further proposed development.

The Chairman advised the member of the public that the application had been “called in” to be considered by the planning committee and that he would have an opportunity to address that committee if he so wished.

The second member of the public wished to express concern at the proposed developments at Old Hall Farm. He considered the application to be invalid as the certificate contradicted other statements within the application: it was stated that there was “no associated dwelling” but two nearby properties were in the ownership of the applicant family; it was stated that “no trees or hedges” would be affected but the application site was actually an orchard which had been identified as a priority habitat. He felt that any dwelling at this stage should be a temporary structure until the viability of the proposed business could be demonstrated. The business plan submitted seemed to exclude capital costs and some revenue costs.

The third member of the public (an applicant for planning permission at Old Hall Farm) indicated that she did not wish to debate the issue, but was confident that the ownership details had been accepted by the Borough Council. She would be happy for members to visit the application site, and was confident that the application would be dealt with fairly.

362/18 There were no urgent reports from members or Clerk. No urgent business had been dealt with since the last meeting.

363/18 Members considered the following planning application.

18/00968/FUL Demolition of existing garage, extension and remodelling of dwelling at The Spinney, Bowhill Lane, Betley for Mr Stantchovsky

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objection to the proposal.

364/18 Members considered the following planning application.

18/00943/FUL Opening of gardens as a visitor attraction, construction of detached building to form toilets/ office and facilities for light refreshments, demolition of garages and construction of car parking at Betley Court, Main Road, Betley for Dr N Brown

RESOLVED

The Parish Council objects to the application.

The Council is strongly of the view that the preservation of the Listed Building is to be encouraged, however the application submitted cannot be supported for the following reasons:

- a) The Council does not consider that very special circumstances exist to justify the development;**
- b) The very special circumstances claimed by the applicant, that the development would “increase the income generated by the property” in order to secure the future of the Listed Building are not supported by any evidence (see footnote 1);**
- c) The Council is concerned that the size of the proposed accommodation to service the visitor attraction is excessive at 84m².**
- d) The Council is concerned that there could be a significant adverse impact on neighbouring properties and has received objections from several members of the public.**

365/18 Members considered the following planning application.

18/00927/FUL & 00929/AGR Erection of calf shed (927) and cattle shed (929), Old Hall Farm, Main Road, Betley for Mr & Mrs McDowell

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would ask the local planning authority:

- A) to satisfy itself that the proposed buildings are necessary for the farming system proposed, in addition to the several buildings that have been erected on the site in recent years, not all of which appear to be fully utilised, and that the system of farming proposed is sustainable;**
- B) to ensure that the siting of the buildings is appropriate within the landscape setting, close to Listed Buildings and the Conservation Area;**
- C) adequately considers issues relating to the 400m amenity distance between agricultural buildings and residential properties as indicated in the Town & Country Planning Act (GPDR) requirements;**
- D) to ensure there is no adverse impact on nearby properties;**
- E) to ensure adequate provision to address slurry, effluent and other potential waste issues arising from the significantly more intensive operation proposed and to work with**

relevant statutory bodies (e.g. Natural England) to ensure protection of the Betley Mere NNR and Ramsar Site.

366/18 Members considered the following planning application.

18/00884/FUL Erection of farm manager's dwelling, land at Old Hall Farm, Main Road, Betley for Mr & Mrs McDowell

RESOLVED The Parish Council is very firmly of the view that the nature and intensity of the current enterprise on the site clearly does not meet the necessary justification for a new dwelling, with the current owner/farmer living about a mile from the site. At the meeting of the Parish Council the applicant indicated that the current operation is managed by a tenant resident in Derby, although this may relate to the sheep enterprise rather than the cattle on site.

With regard to the proposed enterprise the Parish Council notes that the normal practice is for the Planning Authority to consider three years of business accounts before determining any application for a permanent dwelling of this nature; particularly where the abilities and experience of the applicant is unknown. . In the absence of three years of business accounts there can be provision for a temporary provision (e.g. caravan or similar temporary accommodation) in order to allow time to confirm viability and prove the sustainability of the enterprise.

There is also a requirement to consider whether suitable dwellings are available within reasonable proximity to the business. This is the case in Betley where suitable properties are regularly available (e.g. in East Lawns) which would meet the requirement to be in reasonable proximity to the proposed business.

The Parish Council is also concerned at the proposed siting within the orchard which is a significant historical and environmental feature the loss of which should be avoided; advice of Natural England should be obtained.

The Parish Council therefore objects strongly to the application as:

- A) the business case does not appear to be very robust;
- B) there are no business accounts to demonstrate the viability and sustainability of any such business on the site;
- C) The application is for a permanent dwelling which should not normally be permitted until long-term viability has been established;
- D) alternative dwellings are available locally and regularly come on to the market (e.g. East Lawns).

If the Local Planning Authority was minded to grant permission for a dwelling despite the Parish Council's very strong objection this would require an agricultural occupancy condition and the dwelling would need to be tied to the agricultural holding to prevent separate sale at a later date.

367/18 The Clerk formally reported to members the recent road traffic collision at Balterley which had damaged both the bench and the notice board beyond repair. An insurance claim would be submitted to meet replacement costs and the Clerk was authorised to seek prices for quality replacements.

368/18 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due.

RESOLVED that the Council authorises payment of the following :

Swarco	Speed Monitoring Equipment	£3,824.41	1433
L Rimmer	Meml Garden maintenance	£ 60.00	1434
CPRE	Subscription	£ 36.00	1435
S Daly	Christmas Lights Event		
	(Children's treats)	£ 122.00	1436
LB Shepherd	Meml Garden Electrical	£ 50.00	1437

369/18 Date of the next meeting: Thursday 24th January 2019.

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Precept 2019-20

Members,

At its November meeting the Council asked the Clerk to prepare a Budget and Precept based on the principle of an increase in the Precept of £10 per Band D property in line with the response to the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire. The background and response to that Questionnaire are set out below:

The Parish Council asked for an additional question to be added to the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire concerning the Precept (money collected by the Borough on behalf of the Parish Council). This question was asked as funding for Local Communities, from the County and Borough Councils, is being reduced including the c.£1,500 a year grant for pavement maintenance and similar, and the Borough contribution to concurrent functions expenditure.

There was a clear majority in favour of increasing the Precept to maintain (77%) or improve (64.6%) existing services. The table showing responses is below.

25. Which of the following options would you support?			
	Agree	Disagree	Response Total
Maintaining the current Parish Precept, meaning services would have to be cut.	20.2% (35)	79.8% (138)	173
An average increase of £5 per household, per year to maintain current service levels	77.0% (171)	23.0% (51)	222
An average increase of £10 per household, per year allowing services to be enhanced	64.6% (153)	35.4% (84)	237

For 2019-2020, the choice was between an average increase of £5 per year per household to maintain services, or £10 per year to enhance services. Given 64.6% of those responding preferred an enhancement of services the Parish Council is proposing to increase the Precept by an average of £10 per household for 2019-2020. **To put the increase into perspective, the Parish Council has not increased the Precept since 2007, as a result of carefully controlling expenditure to balance the budget and using reserves where necessary.**

There are four elements driving this change in policy:

1. The Council has been able to freeze Council Tax in recent years, but is not immune to inflationary pressures.
2. The Council has only been able to maintain this freeze by the use of balances built up in the past and this clearly cannot continue indefinitely.

3. The County and Borough Councils have in recent years reduced funding for community services (such as contributions to grounds maintenance and minor local highways works) “devolving” responsibilities to parishes, but without devolving funding.

4. There are recognised local demands to enhance the local area.

The table below therefore sets out the following:

Budget for 2018-2019
 Likely out-turn for 2018-2019
 Draft Budget for 2019-2020
 Notes explaining budget provisions/ changes.

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL
BUDGET & PRECEPT 2019-20120
SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

BUDGET & PROJECTION FOR 2018-19
DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2019-2020

		<u>Budget</u> <u>2018-19</u>	<u>Projected</u> <u>2018-19</u>	<u>Draft</u> <u>2019-20</u>
Clerk’s Salary		5,300	5,300	5,500
General Admin:	Insurance	530	530	580
	Audit	130	30	330 a
	Hall Hire	280	300	300
	Subscriptions	360	400	360
	Other	425	475	500
Sandy Croft:	Maintenance	400	nil	400
	Development	1,000 #	1,300 b	1,000 #
Memorial Garden	Maintenance	1,800	1,880	2,000
	Planting	800	800	1,000 c
	Electricity etc	350	120	350
	Water	20	20	20
	Events	150	122	150
Highways		1,000 @	250	1,500 d
Grants	Churchyard	650	650	650
	Others:	500	250	500
Miscellaneous	Speed monitoring	500	6,140	500 e
	Police surgeries	25	nil	25
Neighbourhood Plan	Not Grant-funded	1,000	800	1,000
CONTINGENCY	Village Initiatives	1,500	nil @@	1,500 f
		16,720	19,367	18,165
After use of earmarked reserve		15,720	18,067	17,165

- funded by earmarked reserve

@ - provision made for discretionary highways works

@@ - expenditure on Memorial Garden 1918 commemoration was grant funded

a Inflated expenditure level (largely the result of Neighbourhood Plan grant funding passing through the PC accounts) during 2018-19 is likely to place the Council in a turnover band which will require an enhanced level of audit, incurring additional fees.

b Additional/ replacement benches; provision of information board.

c Adjusted to allow for higher level of planting.

d Provision to resume works previously funded by County Council.

e Two new speed monitoring devices added in 2018-19; fully funded by grant income.

f To cover new initiatives e.g. maintenance at East Lawns/ Main Road.

INCOME BUDGET & PROJECTIONS FOR 2018-19, DRAFT FOR 2019-20

	<u>Budget</u> <u>2018-19</u>	<u>Projected</u> <u>2018-19</u>	<u>Draft</u> <u>2019-20</u>
Precept	10,235	10,235	16,035
Council Tax Support Grant	381	381	381
Concurrent Functions Grant	1,186	1,186	593
Misc Income			
Bank Interest	10	6	nil
VAT reimbursement	800	1,600	800
Grants		7,083	
	12,612	20,491	17,809
Impact on balances - reduction	3,108		
increase		2,424	644

NOTE: Grant funded expenditure on (and grant income for) Neighbourhood Plan is excluded from the above as it does not impact on budget setting or level of precept.

The Draft Budget indicated, based on an increase of £10 in Council Tax payable by individual Band D householders, would result in a balance of £644 in 2019-20 which would be added to the Council's balances. In 2020-21, with the withdrawal of the final tranche of Concurrent Functions Grant, the Council would then have a balanced annual revenue budget.

This Draft Budget could be amended by changes to individual budget lines, or by further use of balances.

Gwyn Griffiths
Clerk & RFO
January 2019

Betley, Balterley & Wrinehill Parish Council

Summary of Balances at 31 March 2019

This paper summarises the Council's position in relation to balances. Following the closure of the Rights of Way Reserve and the County Councillor Grant Reserve (both fully spent or vired) last year the only earmarked reserve at 31.3.19 will be the Sandy Croft Earmarked Reserve. The 31.3.19 figures are, of course, at this stage best estimates.

Members do need to consider the issue which has arisen regarding the speed monitoring equipment. Grant funding, totalling £7,083.06 was secured for this work but the overall cost was only £6,139.56, leaving a balance of £ 943.50.

Members are asked to consider whether this should be:

- a) returned to the grant funders;
- b) used for further speed-related expenditure;
- c) allocated to the Council's general reserves.

Sandy Croft

Balance at 31.3.18	£ 3,812.75
Expenditure in year (to date)	£ 150.00
Anticipated expenditure	£ 600.00
Balance at 31.1.19	£ 3,062.75

Parish Council year-end Balance

General balances at 31.3.18	£12,489.00
Anticipated increase in balances during year	£ 2,424.00
Less provision for (potential) return of grant funding	£ 943.50
Anticipated balance at 31.3.19	£13,969.50

Gwyn Griffiths
Cler & RFO
January 2019