

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd May 2013

PRESENT

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Mandy Berrisford, Seb Daly, Dave Hales, Simon Harrison (from min.154), Richard Head, Jo Thomas (from min.174) and Chris Watkin.

IN ATTENDANCE

Borough Cllr Becket.
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

153/13 **Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 2013-14.** Cllr Bettley-Smith was nominated to serve as Chairman and Cllr Daly was nominated to serve as Vice-Chairman (proposed by Cllr Berrisford, seconded by Cllr Head).

RESOLVED that Cllrs Bettley-Smith and Daly be elected to serve as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively for 2013-14.

154/13 Apologies for absence were received and accepted as valid reasons for absence under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 from Cllrs Ball (family), Burton (family), Kerr (family) and Speed (work).

Apologies for likely late arrival had been received from Cllrs Harrison and Thomas.

[Cllr Harrison joined the meeting at this point]

There was some discussion of the procedure for registering and accepting apologies for absence and the requirements of Section 85. The Clerk explained that there was no definition given in the Act for what constituted an appropriate or valid reason for absence, but he would prepare a note for members setting out the background.

155/13 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items. There were no interests declared at this point.

156/13 The Council considered the appointment of representatives to serve on outside bodies and internal groups.

157/13 **RESOLVED a) that the following members be appointed to outside bodies:**

Conservation Advisory Working Group	Berrisford, Harrison
Standards Committee	Bettley-Smith (as Chairman)
Newcastle District Parish Councils Association	Thomas
Madeley Locality Action Partnership	Thomas
Rural Runabout	Bettley-Smith
Betley Trust	Ball
Village Hall Committee	Head
Children & Learning Partnership	Berrisford

(to act as a point of contact; the Council would not seek to directly influence the meetings of the Partnership)

b) that the following members (or Clerk as appropriate) be appointed to internal groups:

Press Liaison

Harrison (Parish Magazine), with Watkin to deputise as necessary

Chairman & Vice-Chairman (other media)

Responsible Financial Officer (Clerk)

Internal Accounts

Planning:

Balterley

Betley

Wrinehill

Laudy Croft Maintenance

Memorial Garden

Website

Ball, Kerr, Watkin

Head, Thomas (general applications)

Bettley-Smith, Daly (specialist applications)

Berrisford, Harrison

Bettley-Smith, Hales, Speed

Bettley-Smith, Daly, Hales, Speed

Berrisford, Bettley-Smith, Daly,

Harrison, Head

158/13 The Clerk outlined to members the requirement to carry out certain annual requirements: the appointment of a Responsible Financial Officer, Risk Assessment, consideration of Standing Orders, and schedule of meetings for the coming year.

159/13 **RESOLVED** that the Clerk (Mr Gwyn Griffiths) be reappointed as Responsible Financial Officer for 2013-2014.

160/13 The Clerk outlined to members the requirement for the Council to carry out an annual risk assessment. Members considered the Council's Risk Management Policy and the measures in place to address physical, financial and policy risks.

RESOLVED that the Council is satisfied that all necessary and appropriate measures are in place to address risk, but that if members had any concerns these should be notified to the Clerk in advance of the next meeting.

161/13 The Clerk invited members to consider whether any changes to Standing Orders were appropriate.

RESOLVED that no changes to Standing Orders were required at this point, but that if members had any concerns these should be notified to the Clerk in advance of the next meeting.

162/13 **RESOLVED** that meetings in 2013-14 be held on the fourth Thursday of each month, but that no meetings be scheduled at this point for the months of August and December.

163/13 **RESOLVED** that, subject to the addition of the name of Cllr Harrison (from min.129) to the list of those present and the insertion of 'Cllr Harrison joined the meeting at this point' between minutes 128 and 129, the minutes of the meeting of 25th April 2013 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

164/13 There were no members of the public present to engage in public participation.

165/13 The Chairman reported on his activities since the last meeting. He had attended the Borough's Civic Reception on 15th May, and had been invited to comment on the changes implemented at the Village Post Office. He drew to members' attention the Wychwood Village Community Action Group, which was campaigning against potential further residential development on the site of the current golf course. He could confirm that the Clerk had submitted the necessary forms to HMRC in respect of tax and NI (P14 & P35).

166/13 The Vice-Chairman noted that the school crossing warning lights had been reinstated.

167/13 Borough Cllr Becket presented his report, which included the following.

Apologies for absence. Further to the earlier discussion he advised that as far as the Borough Council was concerned there were effectively no valid reasons for absence under Section 85, though consideration might be given in cases of significant long-term ill health.

Buddleigh. Cllr Becket commented on the planning controls in place, and suggested the Parish Council might wish to press the Borough Council to ensure that action would be taken on any infringement.

Cheshire East development. He understood that the proposal to allocate the Wychwood Village site for development was unlikely to be supported by Cheshire East Council.

168/13 Cllr Head, as the Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee, advised that he had little to report, though they were pleased that a fundraising event planned for June was already sold out. It was noted that Cllr Ball had attended a meeting of the Betley Trust in May on behalf of the Council.

169/13 The Clerk advised that no actions had been taken under the provision for Urgent Business since the last meeting.

170/13 The Clerk advised that although there had been no planning applications to hand at the preparation of the agenda one had subsequently been received. Members considered the appropriate course of action to deal with this application.

RESOLVED that, in view of the limited impact of the proposed works, the application be dealt with immediately.

171/13 Members therefore considered the following planning application:

13/00373/AGR Extension and upgrade of roadway within woodland, south of Back Lane, Balterley.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no comment to make on the application.

172/13 The Clerk advised that no planning decision notices had been received.

173/13 The Clerk advised members of the response received from Newcastle Borough Council regarding the Council's letter seeking clarification on certain "conditions" on which the grant of a Certificate of Lawful Development (CLD) was dependent. Members reviewed activities undertaken at Buddleigh Farm since the issue of the CLD for use as a wedding venue on a limited number of dates.

RESOLVED that the Clerk advise the Local Planning Authority of events notified to the Parish Council.

[Cllr Thomas joined the meeting at this point]

174/13 The Clerk tabled a paper he had prepared describing the current status of the emerging Local Development Plan for Cheshire East, and the current consultation on new or amended sites which had emerged since the initial consultation, particularly in the Weston and Barthomley areas.

RESOLVED that the following comments be made to Cheshire East Council in response to the consultation on new or amended proposals:

a) That further allocations of this nature would have an additional and significant adverse impact on the regeneration and sustainability of North Staffordshire;

b) That there would be a direct adverse impact on the parish through increased traffic levels;

c) That development in the Green Belt should only be permitted under very special circumstances and that no special circumstances had been identified.

175/13 There were no matters arising from the previous week's Annual Meeting of Electors.

176/13 Members considered issues relating to excessive traffic speeds in the area of the school.

RESOLVED that the County Council, as Highways Authority, be asked to consider the following measures:

a) the creation of a 20mph zone from the junction of Bowhill Lane/ Church Lane with Main Road (A531) to the boundary of the built-up area of the village;

b) the installation of flashing 'Child' warning signs at either side of the school;

c) such additional measures as the Highways Authority considers appropriate to secure a safer traffic environment.

177/13 Consideration of the final accounts for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and the use of any surplus was deferred as further payments were now expected.

178/13 Members considered progress on initiatives undertaken, or proposed to be undertaken, by the Parish Council.

179/13 Balterley pavements. It was noted that work had been carried out by the 'Parish Gang' along part of the B5500.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be asked to obtain tender prices to continue work to the Church at Balterley.

180/13 Members noted that the planned August music event had not been raised at the Annual Meeting of Electors. There was no substantive discussion and members with an interest were therefore not required to withdraw.

181/13 The Chairman reported on progress regarding the collapsed wall at the rear of Main Road, Betley. A limited company [Betley Heritage Ltd] had been formed as an administrative vehicle to progress possible works, with Cllr Bettley-Smith and an affected resident as Directors.

[Cllr Bettley-Smith declared a personal interest at this point and indicated that though this would be likely to represent a prejudicial interest in the future at this stage – as the limited company was inactive – his interest was personal]

Members considered what role it would be appropriate for the Parish Council to play in the activities of Betley Heritage Ltd.

RESOLVED a) that the Parish Council supports the principal aim of the company to secure the preservation of the wall;

b) that – if invited – the Council would wish to take out membership of the company, and to be represented within the company;

c) that at this stage Cllrs Hales and Thomas be nominated to represent the Council at the next planned meeting of the company and at any further meetings until any further consideration of the Council's participation and representation.

182/13 Consideration of the Community Paths Initiative was deferred to the next meeting.

183/13 It was noted that in excess of twelve volunteers had now come forward to participate in a Community Speed Watch Scheme, and that this was felt to be a sufficient number to proceed with such a scheme. Cllr Thomas would co-ordinate necessary arrangements for training, and it was hoped that a scheme could be set up later in the year.

184/13 Members considered area issues raised by members.

RESOLVED a) that the Police be advised of the issues raised re low-level criminality in the area;

b) that the Local Planning Authority be asked to clarify the planning issue raised;

c) that possible legal measures available to address the issue of the Wrinehill garage site be considered further at the next meeting.

185/13 Members continued to express concern regarding highways drainage and safety issues in Checkle Lane, Wrinehill, Doddelespool and on the B5500 in Balterley. In all cases the Parish Council had intended to commission work to address the problem, but had been instructed by Staffordshire County Council that such work would not be permitted and would have to be carried out by the County Council. Members felt that SCC must act promptly as there was a clear hazard.

186/13 The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting. There were no items requiring decision.

187/13 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

188/13 **RESOLVED a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:**

G Griffiths	salary & expenses	£824.35	1093
Severn Trent Water	Meml Gdn water supply	£ 13.84	1094
T Dunlop	internal audit	£ 30.00	1095
R Beddis	Jubilee booklet	£ 48.42	1096

b) that the Financial Statement be received;

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

189/13 Members of the Laudy Croft Working Group advised that no maintenance work was currently required.

190/13 Members considered issues relating to parish communication, and items to be included in the next issue of the Parish Magazine.

191/13 Date of next meeting: Thursday 27th June 2013.

192/13 **RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the following item under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Section 100A (Schedule 12A Part I 8, 9 & 12) of the Local Government Act 1972, in that it relates to potential contractual arrangements for the supply of goods and services, and/or potential legal proceedings by or against the authority, and that exclusion is considered to be in the public interest.**

193/13 The Clerk advised members that no further communication had been received from the Borough Council in respect of possible contamination and planning conditions at Laudy Croft.