

# **BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May 2014**

### **PRESENT:**

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Mandy Berrisford, Seb Daly, Dave Hales, Richard Head (from min.151), Hayley Kerr, Frank Speed (from min.140) and Chris Watkin (from min.148).

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

One representative of United Utilities.  
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

136/14 The first item of business was the election of a Chairman for 2014-15. Cllr Robert Bettley-Smith was nominated by Cllr Daly and seconded by Cllr Berrisford. There were no other nominations.

**RESOLVED that Cllr Robert Bettley-Smith be elected as Chairman for 2014-15.**

137/14 The next item of business was the election of a Vice-Chairman for 2014-15. Cllr Sebastian Daly was nominated by Cllr Bettley-Smith and seconded by Cllr Berrisford and others. There were no other nominations.

**RESOLVED that Cllr Sebastian Daly be elected as Vice-Chairman for 2014-15.**

138/14 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Ball (work), Burton and Thomas (ill health). An apology for likely late arrival had been received from Cllr Head.

An apology for absence had been received from Borough Cllr Becket.

139/14 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Cllr Bettley-Smith declared a personal interest in Item 16 (Collapsed wall, Betley) as a Director of Betley Heritage Ltd. All members declared a personal interest in Item 14 (Licence Review, August Music Event).

140/14 The representative of United Utilities was invited to update members on progress regarding the improvement works being carried out locally. As requested United Utilities stickers had been placed on traffic notices to indicate what work was being carried out. Members expressed general satisfaction with the arrangements which had been made.

[ Cllr Speed joined the meeting during the above item ]

141/14 The Council considered the appointment of representatives to serve on outside bodies and internal groups.

142/14 **RESOLVED a) that the following members be appointed to outside bodies:**

<b>Conservation Advisory Working Group</b>	<b>Berrisford, Harrison</b>
<b>Standards Committee</b>	<b>Bettley-Smith (as Chairman)</b>
<b>Newcastle District Parish Councils Association</b>	<b>Thomas</b>
<b>Madeley Locality Action Partnership</b>	<b>Thomas</b>
<b>Rural Runabout</b>	<b>Bettley-Smith</b>

**Betley Trust**  
**Village Hall Committee**  
**Children & Learning Partnership**

**Ball**  
**Head**  
**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**

**Watkinson, Harrison (Parish Magazine)**  
**Chairman & Vice-Chairman (other media)**  
**Responsible Financial Officer (Clerk)**

**Internal Accounts**  
**Planning:**

**Balterley**  
**Betley**

**Ball, Kerr, Watkin**  
**Head, Thomas (general applications)**  
**Bettley-Smith, Daly (specialist applications)**  
**Berrisford, Harrison**

**Wrinehill**  
**Laudy Croft Maintenance**  
**Memorial Garden**  
**Website**

**Bettley-Smith, Hales, Speed**  
**Bettley-Smith, Daly, Hales, Speed**  
**Berrisford, Bettley-Smith, Daly,**  
**Harrison, Head**

143/14 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.

144/14 **RESOLVED that the Clerk (Mr Gwyn Griffiths) be reappointed as Responsible Financial Officer for 2014-2015.**

145/14 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.**

146/14 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.**

147/14 **RESOLVED that meetings in 2014-15 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.** (Members gave consideration to altering the meeting date to the last Thursday of each month but concluded to continue with current practice.)

148/14 **RESOLVED that, subject to the amendment of 'b y' to read 'by' in Minute 123, the minutes of the meeting of 24th April 2014 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

[Cllr Watkin joined the meeting during the above item]

149/14 There were no members of the public present to engage in public participation.

150/14 The Chairman reported to members on matters dealt with since the last meeting. The next meeting of the Rural Transport project was scheduled for 23rd May. Informal discussions had taken place with representatives of St Margaret's Church regarding the need for a new burial ground. The matter would be considered by the Parochial Church Council at its May meeting and it was anticipated that further discussion with the Parish Council would occur in September.

151/14 The Clerk advised members that a resident had expressed concern that the telephone numbers of councillors were not listed on the website. This had been a conscious decision in view of the problems which could be caused when personal details such as telephone numbers and e-mail addresses were widely circulated. The Clerk also advised members that the plaque for the WI tree on the Memorial Garden was safely in the possession of a member of the WI.

[Cllr Head joined the meeting during the above item]

152/14 Cllr Head, as the Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee, advised that funding was still being actively sought for further improvement works.

153/14 The Clerk advised members that no matters had been dealt with under the Council's provisions for Urgent Business since the previous meeting.

154/14 Members considered the following planning application.

**14/00268 Rear extension, Daisy House, New Road, Wrinehill.**

**RESOLVED that the Council has no objection to the application**

155/14 The following planning determination notice had been received.

14/00156/FUL Repair & restoration of garden wall, 2 Court Walk, Betley – PERMITTED

156/14 It was noted that at the recent Annual Electors' Meeting Cllr Becket had indicated that the possibility of enforcement action relating to planning issues at Buddleigh Farm and Old Hall Farm were currently under consideration by the Borough Council.

157/14 Members reviewed issues arising from the Annual Electors' Meeting which had taken place a week previously. It was noted that the only issue raised had been the low attendance, but it was felt this indicated general satisfaction with the work of the Parish Council.

158/14 Members noted the outcome of the Review of the Public Entertainment Licence in respect of the music event at Betley Court Farm carried out by the Borough Council.

[Cllr Speed, having declared a prejudicial interest in this matter, indicated a willingness to withdraw from the meeting. However, as the matter was solely for information and there was no substantive discussion it was not felt necessary that he should withdraw]

**RESOLVED that the notice of the decision be formally received and noted.**

159/14 Members considered initiatives being undertaken or considered by the Parish Council.

The Chairman advised members that he had been in touch with the Environmental Health Officer at the Borough Council and was seeking to establish what scale of works would be necessary to bring the Laudy Croft site into various potential uses.

The Clerk reported that he had now made contact with Aspire's landscape officer, and was confident that a meeting could be arranged to discuss potential improvements to the landscaped area at the junction of East Lawns with Main Road.

**RESOLVED that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorised to represent the Parish Council at any meeting with representatives of Aspire.**

160/14 Members were advised that work at the collapsed wall, Main Road, Betley was progressing, and that the Betley Heritage Trust now had a website betleywall.tumblr.com was scheduled for 6th May and that the funding from the County Council had been transferred into a holding account at the Borough Council. The contractor engaged to carry out the work had withdrawn but an alternative contractor was being arranged.

161/14 Members noted that the Community Speed Watch equipment was now being deployed on the A531 on a regular basis and the scheme seemed to be working well. Congratulations were extended to all concerned.

162/14 Members considered area issues raised by members.

**RESOLVED that the Clerk be asked to establish the ownership of the triangle of land at the junction of Old Road with New Road, Wrinehill.**

163/14 Members considered highways issues. It was noted that there was still serious concern regarding the County Council's failure to address the issues of flooding and debris on the A531 in the Doddlespool area.

**RESOLVED that the Clerk be instructed to write in appropriate terms to the County Councillor and the relevant highways officer stating the Council's concerns regarding the road safety hazard created.**

164/14 The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting.

**RESOLVED a) that in regard to the Borough Council's consultation on licensing of sex establishments the Parish Council expresses the view that, where relevant, parish councils should be automatic consultees;**

**b) that in regard to the Borough Council's 'Communities Day' the Council expresses its concern that holding such events on weekdays excludes a significant part of the community.**

165/14 The Clerk tabled the Annual Statement of Accounts and Governance Statement as required under audit regulations. The Return, together with books of account etc had been inspected by the Council's Internal Auditor who had found everything in order.

**RESOLVED that the Statement of Accounts and Governance Statement be approved, and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.**

166/14 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

167/14 **RESOLVED a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:**

St Margaret's PCC	churchyard maintenance	£ 500.00	1137
Severn Trent Water	memorial garden	£ 12.85	1138
DT Askey	memorial garden	£ 135.00	1139
Betley Village Hall	hall hire	£ 153.00	1140
G Griffiths	salary/ expenses	£ 603.23	1141

**b) that the Financial Statement be received;**  
**c) that the Bank Statements be noted, and the reconciliation verified**  
**and be signed by the Chairman.**

168/14 The Clerk having advised member of the presence of significant numbers of rabbits on Laudy Croft, consideration was given to any appropriate response.

**RESOLVED that the reports of the Clerk & Chairman be noted and the situation be monitored and recorded, but that at the present time no further action is felt to be necessary or appropriate.**

169/14 Members considered Council communication, and matters to be included in the next issue of the Parish Magazine.

170/14 Members considered works required at the Memorial Garden. It was noted that overhanging vegetation had been a problem to a neighbouring property; the Clerk would instruct the Council's contractor to carry out necessary work.

171/14 Members considered matters for future Agenda.

172/14 Date of next meeting: Thursday 26th June 2014