

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2015

128/15 PRESENT:

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Mandy Berrisford (from min.143), Seb Daly, Graham Ecclestone, Dave Hales, Mark Morris, Frank Speed, Jo Thomas, Terry Townsend and Chris Watkin.

129/15 IN ATTENDANCE:

Borough Cllr Frankish.
Two members of the public.
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

130/15 The first item of business was the election of a Chairman for 2015-16. Cllr Robert Bettley-Smith was nominated by Cllr Speed and seconded by Cllr Hales. There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED that Cllr Robert Bettley-Smith be elected as Chairman for 2015-16.

131/15 The next item of business was the election of a Vice-Chairman for 2015-16. Cllr Sebastian Daly was nominated by Cllr Bettley-Smith and seconded by Cllr Speed. There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED that Cllr Sebastian Daly be elected as Vice-Chairman for 2015-16.

132/15 An apology for absence was received from Cllr Head (family). An apology for likely late arrival had been received from Cllr Berrisford who was attending a meeting of the Conservation Advisory Working Group on behalf of the Parish Council. In view of the nature of Cllr Berrisford's absence it was considered appropriate to consider Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED that in the event of Cllr Berrisford being unable to join the meeting before it closed her absence be considered as a valid reason for absence under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

133/15 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Cllr Daly declared a personal interest in planning application 15/00327 (Bowhill Lane) in view of its proximity to his place of residence. However he did not feel that it was so close as to represent a prejudicial interest.

All members declared a personal interest in planning application 15/00142 (Common Lane) through their acquaintance with the applicant.

134/15 The Council considered the appointment of representatives to serve on outside bodies and internal groups.

135/15 **RESOLVED a) that the following members be appointed to outside bodies:**

Conservation Advisory Working Group	Berrisford, Watkin
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 former Cllr Ball remain as the Parish Council's representative on the Betley Trust until the meeting of October 2015, and that consideration of a replacement from that date be deferred;

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

Press Liaison	Watkinson (lead member), Thomas (reserve member) (Parish Magazine) Chairman & Vice-Chairman (other media)
Internal Accounts	Responsible Financial Officer (Clerk)
Laudy Croft Maintenance	Berrisford, Bettley-Smith, Daly, Hales, Speed
Memorial Garden	Bettley-Smith, Daly, Ecclestone, Hales, Speed
Website	Berrisford, Bettley-Smith, Daly, Head

d) that the Council's approach to considering planning applications be revised as follows:

- 1. That all members participate in reviewing applications;**
- 2. That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman will normally be engaged only on specialist applications;**
- 3. That general applications will normally be dealt with by an experienced member (Cllrs Berrisford, Hales, Head & Watkin or Chairman/ Vice-Chairman where appropriate) in conjunction with a less experienced member.**

136/15 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.

137/15 **RESOLVED that the Clerk (Mr Gwyn Griffiths) be reappointed as Responsible Financial Officer for 2014-2015.**

138/15 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.

139/15 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 the matter be considered further at a future meeting should any member feel it appropriate.

140/15 **RESOLVED** that meetings in 2015-16 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.

141/15 **RESOLVED** that, subject to the correction of typing errors in Minutes 112 (“impact” for “imopact”) and 114 (“necessary” for “nec essary”), the minutes of the meeting of 23rd April 2015 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

142/15 The Chairman welcomed newly-elected Borough councillor Avril Frankish to her first meeting of the Parish Council, and invited her to report to members. Cllr Frankish advised members that she had been appointed to the Licensing, Staffing and Health & Social Care Scrutiny committees of the Borough Council and was keen to develop an understanding of the relevant issues facing the parish.

The Chairman advised Cllr Frankish that the two immediate local issues were the Stop Notice on works at Doddlespool and the potential impact on the parish of the proposed substantial housing site proposed for the former golf course at Wychwood Village in Cheshire East.

[Cllr Berrisford joined the meeting at this point]

143/15 The Chairman presented his report on activities since the previous meeting. He had attended a meeting of the Rural Transport scheme which was proceeding in a satisfactory manner and was seeking to encourage wider use of the minibus by the local community. The Safety Advisory Group in relation to the planned concerts at Betley Court Farm was working well and the arrangements asked for previously, such as a police presence, had been agreed. The Annual Electors’ Meeting had taken place, with another low attendance and only one issue, the possibility of a skateboard facility in the village, having been raised.

144/15 Members reported on outside bodies.

Locality Action Partnership. Cllr Thomas reported that she had met with Ian Blythe of Staffordshire Police and had agreed times and dates for a programme of police surgeries to be held at different times of the day to suit the needs of residents.

there had been no meeting since the last Parish Council. However the first police surgery at the Reading Room had taken place and went well. The next scheduled surgery was to be at lunchtime on Saturday 9th May.

[Cllr Thomas left the meeting at this point]

Conservation Advisory Working Group. Having attended that evening’s meeting Cllr Berrisford would report on the discussion at the appropriate stage in the agenda.

145/15 The Chairman outlined the procedure for public participation and the meeting was then adjourned.

146/15 A member of the public wished to explain the background to the recent premises licence application in respect of Betley Court Farm, which was intended to cover the Show and Bonfire, Game Fair and up to five other events during a calendar year.

[Since there was no substantive discussion of this matter, and the meeting stood adjourned during the member of the public’s comments, which were purely for information and not for comment or discussion Cllr Speed did not declare an interest in the matter. He made it clear that if the matter was raised during the meeting proper or

in the event of any substantive discussion he would declare a prejudicial interest and withdraw from the meeting as the proprietor of Betley Court Farm]

147/15 The Clerk advised members that, since the last meeting, there had been no urgent business requiring action.

148/15 Members considered the following planning application:

15/00142/FUL Two storey rear extension, new front porch and new vehicular access, Briarwood, Common Lane, Betley for Mr A Rhodes.

RESOLVED that the Council supports the application

149/15 Members considered the following planning application:

15/00327/FUL Conversion of existing piggery buildings into two single storey dwellings, including demolition of redundant outbuildings and erection of garage block with associated landscaping for Mr D Witter.

RESOLVED that the Council supports the application as it is of the view that the development would enhance the appearance of the area, given the dilapidated state of the buildings currently.

However, if the Local Planning Authority is minded to approve the application the Council would wish to make the following representations:

a) that it would prefer the use of brindled clay tiles as a roofing material;
b) that it would prefer that the ridge height of the garages be lowered so that the overall height matched that of the buildings forming the residential dwellings;
c) that, in view of the site's proximity to Betley Primary School and the traffic congestion and dangers at that location, and in the interests of highway safety the LPA should impose a condition that during construction the delivery of materials to the site should only be permitted before 08.00 or between 09.30 and 15.00, except during school holidays.

150/15 The Clerk advised members of the following planning decisions.

15/00079 Construction of dwelling, land adj. Old Farm, Main Road, Betley - REFUSED

15/00226/7 Extension and conversion to ancillary residential use, Schoolroom, adj. The Croft, Main Road, Betley - APPROVED

15/00269 Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of replacement dwelling, The Brae, Den Lane, Wrinehill - APPROVED

151/15 Members considered issues raised at the Annual Electors' Meeting. Following a decision by the Village Hall Committee that they could not consent to siting a skateboard facility on their site the Parish Council had been asked to consider whether a suitable site could be found within the control of the Council.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council does not have a site within its control suitable for such an use.

152/15 Further to minute 114 of the April meeting the Chairman confirmed that the Borough Council was agreeable to the general scheme proposed to include informal open space, tree planting and a conservation area. There was now a need to draw up a more formal proposal to obtain Borough Council approval and cost estimates.

RESOLVED that the Laudy Croft Working Group be authorised to meet and to draw up a scheme for consideration at the June meeting.

153/15 Members considered potential enhancements and projects in the parish.

RESOLVED a) that the proposed extension to the Churchyard be noted, but that further consideration be deferred pending a clear proposal from the church authorities;
b) that the programme of tree works at Main Road/ East Lawns proposed by Aspire be noted and that the Parish Council would broadly support such works and would be prepared to provide financial support for replacement planting;
c) that, in view of the confusion over the works proposed, consideration of works to the bench(es) in that area be deferred.

154/15 Area issues raised by members were considered.

RESOLVED a) that consideration of the filling of the Balterley vacancy be deferred to the June meeting;
b) that the Clerk be authorised to commission strimming around the Church Lane bench to be carried out by the Council's contractors under the terms agreed;
c) that Cllr Hales be authorised to arrange for treatment of the benches managed by the Parish Council.

155/15 Members considered highways issues.

156/15 The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting. There were no matters requiring decision.

157/15 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

158/15 **RESOLVED** a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:

P Brooks & Son	Meml Gdn maintenance	£ 100.00	1180
Severn Trent Water	Meml Gdn water supply	£ 14.89	1181
Betley Village Hall	Hall hire	£ 126.88	1182
G Griffiths	Salary/expenses	£ 585.22	1183

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

159/15 The Clerk presented members with a Summary Report of outcome against budget for 2014-15.

RESOLVED that the Report be received.

160/15 Members considered any necessary works related to the Memorial Garden. The Clerk advised that he had been unable to obtain a quote for summer bedding (Minute 123/15c refers) in view of the need for a clear specification.

RESOLVED that the Clerk, in consultation with Cllr Speed, be authorised to meet with the existing contractor on-site to discuss an appropriate planting scheme, within the existing budgetary provision.

161/15 Members considered Council communication, and matters to be included in the next issue of the Parish Magazine.

162/15 Date of next meeting: Thursday 25th June 2015.