

# BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2011

### PRESENT

Councillors Robert Bettley-Smith, Steven Ball, Mandy Berrisford, Seb Daly, David Hales, Richard Head (from min. 101), Simon Harrison, John Price, Frank Speed, Johanne Thomas and Chris Watkin.

### IN ATTENDANCE

County Cllr Chapman

92/11 Apologies for absence were received and accepted as valid reasons for absence under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 from Cllr Morris (work). An apology for absence had also been received from Borough Cllr Becket. The Clerk reported that after the last meeting he had received notice from Cllr Berrisford that she had been unable to attend that meeting because of work commitments. This would normally have been acceptable as a valid reason for absence under Section 85, but could not be applied retrospectively.

93/11 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Cllr Berrisford declared a prejudicial interest in the item relating to the Cricket Club in view of her own and family members' past involvement with the Club, and continuing issues regarding that involvement. Cllr Bettley-Smith indicated that he had previously declared a personal interest in the same matter in view of his own membership and a family member's involvement as a playing member; as he was no longer a member and his family member was no longer involved he no longer felt it necessary to declare an interest.

94/11 **RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 24th March 2011 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

95/11 There being no members of the public present there was no requirement for public participation.

96/11 The Chairman reported that the supply of grit to be made available for community use in winter 2011/12 had now been delivered and was in storage.

97/11 County Cllr Chapman presented his report to the meeting. He indicated that he had little to report, but had been seeking to establish a standardised response by the Police to liaising with local parish councils, and would appreciate a view on a reasonable commitment. Members felt that 2 to 4 visits each year would be reasonable and that initially attendance at the Annual Electors' Meeting (May) and the January meeting of the Council would be reasonable. Cllr Chapman undertook to obtain police representation at the Electors' Meeting.

98/11 The meeting considered the lack of any response from the Cricket Club following the concern expressed by the Council over errors contained in the Management Committee Report to the Club AGM.

(Having declared a prejudicial interest Cllr Berrisford withdrew during consideration of this item)

**RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to write again to the Cricket Club setting out the Council's wish to see a correction published, that the letter be sent by recorded**

**delivery, and that the Club be advised that if no response was received within 14 days of receipt then the Council would have to consider taking further steps to ensure that the matter was brought to a satisfactory conclusion.**

99/11 Cllr Thomas and the Clerk reported on their attendance at a recent presentation by the Borough Council on the use of the Public Sector Mapping Agreement (PSMA) and Geographic Information System (GIS) by parish councils. Cllr Thomas outlined the potential uses of the Agreement. The Clerk explained the procedures by which the Council could become involved, and the financial implications which were restricted to the costs of travel/ training which were likely to be modest.

**RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to take any necessary steps to participate in the PSMA and GIS initiatives.**

100/11 The Clerk reported that there were no planning applications to hand.

101/11 The Clerk reported that the Conservation Advisory Working Party (CAWP) was to consider a planning application within the Parish, and that members might wish to offer some guidance to the Council's representative on the Working Party regarding the conservation implications of the proposal, which was for "Erection of a new Shippon" at Home Farm, Balterley Hall, Balterley (Reference 11/00157/LBC).

(Cllrs Daly and Speed declared prejudicial interests in this matter as the Applicant was a client and friend respectively. Both members withdrew during its consideration)

**RESOLVED that, without prejudice to any further consideration of the full application by the Council, the CAWP be advised of the Council's initial view that the proposed development does not appear to adversely affect the setting of the listed building, that the existing building is closer to the listed building, and that the provision of an earth bank with planting was likely to be more beneficial to visual amenity than the existing arrangements.**

(Cllr Head joined the meeting during consideration of this item, but took no part in the discussion and abstained from voting)

102/11 Members considered what approach should be taken when the full application was received.

**RESOLVED that in view of the significance of the proposed development a special meeting should be held if necessary to consider such an application.**

103/11 Members considered progress on the community website and agreed it would be desirable to have elements of the website available for demonstration at the Annual Electors Meeting. Members would meet to draw together further material needed for the website.

104/11 Members reviewed arrangements to mark the Royal Wedding. It was reported that there had been a full uptake of tickets for both events, and that all arrangements appeared to be in place.

105/11 The Clerk advised members that invitations to tender had been issued for pavement clearing work, and that the results should be available for the May meeting.

106/11 Members noted that concern had been expressed regarding the poor condition of the grassed area at the entrance to East Lawns. The possibility of the Parish Council taking over the management of the area, with financial support from the appropriate owners (it was unclear whether this was Aspire or Staffordshire Highways), was suggested. The Clerk would seek to clarify the position regarding ownership and maintenance responsibilities.

107/11 Members considered arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting.

**RESOLVED that a budget of up to £100 be provided toward the cost of food and drink at the Annual Parish Meeting be held on Thursday 19th May 2011, in line with arrangements in previous years.**

108/11 The Council considered area issues raised by members. Concern had been expressed regarding the condition of the noticeboard at Balterley (A531), which had been incapable of being opened during the winter. The Clerk explained that the effects of temperature and moisture meant that it was often difficult to open this noticeboard, and the one of similar design at the Memorial Garden, during the winter months. Attempts had been made to correct this fault, but the amount of movement in the wood made it difficult to find a solution.

**RESOLVED that the issue be considered at the next meeting.**

109/11 The Council considered highways issues.

**RESOLVED that the issue of gully clearing be considered at the next meeting.**

110/11 The Clerk presented members with correspondence received since the last meeting.

**RESOLVED a) that the Council take out a year's membership of the Community Council of Staffordshire, subject to approval of the necessary payment at the next meeting of the Council;**

**b) that the report from a member of the public that the village's 'twin' in France had written to the Parish Council but had not received a response be noted, but that no such communication had been received by the Clerk or any current member of the Council, and that this be reported back to the resident concerned.**

111/11 The Clerk advised members that he had now received three quotations for the groundworks necessary for the installation of the bench at Balterley.

**RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded during consideration of this 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 expenditure proposed to be incurred which may be subject to tendering and terms for a contract for the supply of goods or services.**

112/11 **RESOLVED a) that the tender from M Morris of Betley in the sum of £150 be accepted;**

**b) that specific instructions for the precise siting of the bench be given to the contractor on site by the Clerk after examination by Cllrs Ball and Hales.**

(Note: members were not aware of the identity of the tenderer during consideration of this item, and there was therefore no necessity to declare any relevant interests)

113/11 **RESOLVED that the press and public be readmitted to the meeting.**

114/11 The Clerk advised that application forms for the Community Chest Grants Scheme had now been received from the Borough Council.

115/11 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:**

<b>R Aspinall</b>	<b>installation of water supply</b>		
	<b>at Memorial Garden</b>	<b>£702.00</b>	<b>940</b>
<b>Derbyshire Aggregates</b>	<b>rock salt/ grit supply</b>	<b>£270.00</b>	<b>941 (Sn 137)</b>
<b>NPOWER Ltd</b>	<b>electricity supply</b>	<b>£ 25.97</b>	<b>942</b>

**b) that the Financial Statement be received;**

**c) that the Bank Statements be noted, and the reconciliation verified.**

116/11 The Clerk submitted to members the statutory Statement of Accounts and Statement of Assurance for 2010-2011, and outlined the steps required to be taken by the Council.

**RESOLVED a) that the Annual Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement be approved, and be signed by the Chairman;**

**b) that Mr Thomas Dunlop be appointed to continue as Internal Auditor to the Council.**

117/11 The Clerk reported that the Borough Council had agreed to the Parish Council's request for a meeting to discuss issues relating to land at Common Lane, Betley.

**RESOLVED that, in view of the uncertain outcome of the Parish Council elections, a meeting be sought with the Borough Council to take place after the Annual Meeting on 26th May.**

118/11 Members noted that no maintenance work was required at Laudy Croft.

119/11 The Chairman expressed the Council's appreciation of the contribution made over many years to the Council, and the wider community, by Cllr John Price who would be retiring at the forthcoming elections. He had served the Council as Chairman, and for some years as Vice-Chairman, and had also made a particular contribution to the work of the Village Hall. Other members also paid tribute to Cllr Price's contributions.

Cllr Price responded by thanking the Chairman and members for their kind words. He had enjoyed his time on the Council, was sorry to leave and wished members well for the future. He felt that the current Council – Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Clerk and other members - was a very successful group who worked well together, and enjoyed their work.

**RESOLVED that the thanks of the Council be extended to Cllr Price for his long and distinguished service to the Council.**

120/11 The Clerk advised members that as only two nominations had been received in the Balterley Ward Cllrs Ball and Watkin had been returned unopposed, with one vacancy to be filled after May 5th. In the Wrinehill Ward three nominations had been received and Cllrs Berrisford, Harrison and Speed had been returned unopposed. In the Betley Ward eight nominations had been received for the six positions, and an election would therefore be necessary on May 5th, with the six leading candidates to be elected.

121/11 The Clerk advised members of the conclusion of the first stage works to provide a water supply to the Memorial Garden, and sought authority to arrange for the work to be completed. Members also considered planting works for the summer.

**RESOLVED a) that the Clerk be instructed to progress any necessary works to complete the provision of a water supply;**

**b) that members of the Memorial Garden Working Group be authorised to arrange summer bedding up to a budget of £300.**

122/11 Members questioned the value of membership of the Staffordshire Parish Councils Association in view of the poor quality of literature received. The Clerk reported that the Association was helpful in providing detailed information and advice.

**RESOLVED that membership be reviewed as part of the budget process.**

123/11 Date of next meeting – Thursday 26th May 2011.