

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 26th April 2012

PRESENT

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Steven Ball, Karen Burton, Seb Daly, Dave Hales (from min.102), Frank Speed (from min.100), Jo Thomas and Chris Watkin.

IN ATTENDANCE

Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk)

96/12 Apologies for absence were received and accepted as valid reasons for absence under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 from Cllrs Berrisford (family), Harrison (work), Head (work) and Kerr (indisposition).

Apologies for absence had also been received from County Cllr Chapman (other meeting), and Borough Cllrs Becket (other meeting) and Wemyss (work).

97/12 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.
There were no interests declared at this point.

98/12 **RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 22nd March 2012 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

99/12 There were no members of the public present to participate in public participation.

100/12 The Chairman presented his report on activities since the last meeting. A Parish Plan review meeting had taken place, and had been relatively successful. Notes from the meeting would be written up by the Clerk, for presentation to the Annual Electors' Meeting and to be placed on the website. Progress against the original Parish Plan would then be reviewed and the local community would then be reconsulted.

[Cllr Speed joined the meeting at this point]

The Chairman advised that he would be attending a meeting of the Rural Transport Scheme on 5th May and the Mayor-making on 16th May.

101/12 The Vice-Chairman advised members that he had also attended the Parish Plan review meeting, and had also attended the Madeley Community Award Scheme event.

102/12 The Clerk updated members on the requirements necessary to exercise the General Power of Competence under the Localism Act, which included substantial clerk training.

[Cllr Hales joined the meeting at this point]

The Borough Council had now given an assurance that the Parish Council would in future be advised of any changes to the Tax Base, which would impact on the Council Tax payable for any precept set.

The Parish Council was now registered as an employer under the requirements of HMRC.

The Council's bankers had asked for clarification of the Council's full title, as the bank account was held in the name of 'Betley & Balterley Parish Council'.

RESOLVED That the Council's bankers be formally notified that the full name of the Council is, and has for some time been, Betley, Balterley & Wrinehill Parish Council; asks its bankers to make any necessary adjustments to the account title; and authorises the Clerk, along with other account signatories where necessary, to take any steps necessary to resolve this matter.

103/12 The Clerk advised members that Cllr Becket had reported that enforcement action in respect of the snack bar operating at the junction of Post Office Lane, Balterley was now under way. Members noted that the operation had been absent on recent occasions, and that the use might have ceased.

104/12 Cllr Head, as the Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee, had advised that the farmers markets were currently under review.

105/12 Members considered the following planning application:

12/00164/LBC Conversion of farm buildings to three residential units, Ravenshall Farm, Main Road, Betley

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

106/12 The Clerk advised that no Planning Decision Notices had been received.

107/12 The Clerk advised receipt of a late planning application (as below). Members considered the procedure for dealing with the application.

[Cllr Daly declared a prejudicial interest in this application as the applicant was a client, and withdrew from the meeting]

RESOLVED that the application be considered at this meeting.

Members then considered the following planning application:

12/00171/AGR Prior Notification of agricultural development, Gorse Cottage, Bowhill Lane, Betley.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objection in principle but the local planning authority will need to establish:

- a) **That the holding represents a viable agricultural holding;**
- b) **That the building is necessary to service that agricultural holding.**

108/12 Members considered progress on initiatives undertaken, or proposed to be undertaken, by the Parish Council.

109/12 Balterley pavements. The pavement to the south of Back Lane had now been cleared by the Parish Council's new contractor, and it was anticipated that Staffordshire County Council staff would clear the path to Doddlespool Hall on Tuesday of next week.

110/12 Other pavement works. The County Council had been advised that the Parish Council's priorities for work in Betley/ Wrinehill would be the Wilderness area, followed by the pavements opposite the Village Hall.

111/12 Common Lane lighting. Members discussed whether there was a clear wish to see additional lighting provided.

RESOLVED that in view of the fact that more representations had been received against such additional lighting rather than in favour, and that the provision of such lighting might not be consistent with the Parish Plan, that no further action be taken.

112/12 East Lawns/ Main Road landscaping.

RESOLVED that in view of the absence of any communication from Aspire Housing the matter be taken no further.

113/12 Bus waiting/ shelter facilities. It was noted that improvements requested at Main Road/ East Lawns (Crewe-bound) and at the Village Hall bus stops had now been completed.

RESOLVED that the Council notes, with satisfaction, that the requested work had now been completed, and that the matter could now be closed.

114/12 Cllr Thomas reported on progress regarding arrangements for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Event. Three meetings had taken place: two of the Working Group and a site meeting with the Cricket Club. Matters were proceeding very satisfactorily.

There would be no collective 'Big Lunch' event, but a number of individual events would be taking place. The Mayor would be in attendance for the tree-planting, and the badminton group had agreed to adopt it for maintenance. Arrangements for the Children's Tea Party were progressing, and the Betley Trust had sponsored the commemorative books. An application had been made to County Cllr Chapman for £450 toward the event.

The beacon event at the Cricket Club would begin at 7.30, with music from then to 10pm (both live and recorded). This would be followed by a homily, the national anthem, church bells and the lighting of the beacon. There would not now be a barbeque, instead ticketholders would be offered a hot pork bap.

RESOLVED that the actions and decisions of the Working Party be endorsed and approved, and that the Working Party be authorised to undertake any further necessary expenditure within budget.

115/12 Members considered a letter relating to the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. It was suggested that the Horticultural Society could appropriately be nominated.

[Cllr Daly declared a prejudicial interest as an office holder of the Society and withdrew from the meeting. Cllrs Ball, Hales and Speed declared prejudicial interests as committee members and withdrew from the meeting]

RESOLVED that the Betley & District Horticultural Society be nominated under the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service scheme, and that the Clerk be authorised to progress the application.

116/12 Cllr Burton reported that the application under the Community Paths Initiative, authorised at the previous meeting, had been submitted and that a site visit was to be held on 10th May. It was noted that some of the work identified had already been completed independently of the application.

Landowners had yet to be consulted on the proposals.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be instructed to write to the relevant landowners (to be identified by Cllrs Burton and Speed) to advise them of the application.

117/12 The Clerk advised members that an application to participate in the Community Speed Watch Scheme had been submitted, and the local police notified. Responses were awaited.

118/12 Members considered whether to renew the Council's membership of the Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA).

RESOLVED that, on balance, the Council wishes to maintain its membership but that the Clerk be asked to advise the SPCA of its concerns regarding the service provided, and that the decision to maintain membership was not unanimous.

119/12 The Clerk advised members on the progress of the community website, which was showing a steady increase in usage. He had been contacted by a resident offering photographic images for the site.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be asked to obtain further information re the photographs on offer.

120/12 Members considered area issues raised by members. It was noted that permission for the extension to car parking at the Hand & Trumpet, Wrinehill had been granted, but subject to a list of conditions, some of which were required to be met before work could commence.

121/12 Members considered highway issues raised at the Parish Plan Review meeting (see min.), in particular the growing problem of the parking of vehicles on the pavement and creating an obstruction. Police advice was that any parking which did not allow for the free passage of a double child buggy/ pram or wheelchair would be considered to be obstruction of the highway and could be subject to police action.

RESOLVED that the problem created by inconsiderate parking, and the prospect of police action where an obstruction was caused, should be highlighted through the Council's noticeboards and on the community website.

122/12 Concerns were expressed regarding the failure to clear drains in the highway at the Wilderness, and the condition of pavements between the Wilderness and Coachman's Cottage which were a hazard to users.

RESOLVED that the Clerk report these faults to Staffordshire County Council.

123/12 The Clerk reported that there was no correspondence to be tabled.

124/12 The Clerk reported that there were no applications for financial assistance, and one application under the Community Chest Scheme from Betley Bike-Curious.

[Cllr Daly declared a prejudicial interest as one of the organisers of Betley Bike-Curious and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item]

[Cllrs Ball, Hales & Bettley-Smith declared personal interests as they, or family members were planning to participate in the event]

RESOLVED that the Borough Council be recommended to support a Community Chest grant of £300 toward Betley Bike-Curious.

125/12 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

126/12 **RESOLVED a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:**

Npower Ltd	electricity (Christmas lights)	£ 74.81	953
R Aspinall	pavement clearing	£336.00	954
St Margaret's PCC	churchyard maintenance	£500.00	955
Staffordshire Parish			
Councils' Association	membership subscription	£333.66	956
Community Council			
Of Staffordshire	membership subscription	£ 22.00	957

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

127/12 The Clerk presented the Annual Statement of Accounts and Governance Statement for audit purposes to members for consideration.

RESOLVED a) that the Annual Statement of Accounts and Governance Statement for 2011-2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman;
b) that the Council reappoints Mr T Dunlop of Galway Grove, Shavington to act as Internal Auditor to the Council.

128/12 Members of the Laudy Croft Working Group advised that no maintenance work was currently required.

129/12 Members considered issues relating to council communication, and items to be included in the next issue of the Parish Magazine.

130/12 Members considered maintenance of the Memorial Garden, particularly in view of events marking the Diamond Jubilee.

RESOLVED that the Memorial Garden Working Group be authorised to arrange necessary works within the approved budget.

131/12 Date of next meeting: Thursday 24th May 2012 (Annual Meeting); Annual Electors' Meeting, Thursday 31st May 2012.

132/12 The Clerk advised members that it would be helpful if consideration be given before the Annual Meeting regarding the filling of various positions on outside bodies and internal groups.

RESOLVED that the Council's current nominee to the Betley Charitable Trust (a former councillor) be advised that the Council was likely to be able to offer a nomination from within its membership this year, and be thanked for her willingness to serve.

133/12 **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 98, 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.**

134/12 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.