

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

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2013**

### **PRESENT:**

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Mandy Berrisford, Dave Hales (from min.127), Seb Daly, Richard Head, Frank Speed and Chris Watkin.

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

121/13 Apologies for absence was received and accepted as valid reasons for absence under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 from Cllrs Ball (family), Burton (work), Kerr (family) and Thomas (holiday).

An apology for late arrival had been received from Cllr Harrison.

Apologies for absence were also received from Borough Cllr Becket and County Cllr Chapman.

122/13 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items. No interests were declared at this point.

123/13 **RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 28th March 2013 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

124/13 There were no members of the public present to engage in public participation.

125/13 The Chairman reported on activities undertaken since the last meeting, related to the collapsed wall and relocation of a bus shelter, which would be dealt with later on the agenda.

126/13 Cllr Head advised members that work on the Village Hall stage was now complete. Bids for support for further works were still being submitted.

[Cllr Hales joined the meeting at this point]

127/13 The Clerk advised members that no matters had arisen under the provision for urgent business since the last meeting of the Council.

128/13 Members considered the following planning application:

**13/00258 Retrospective application for retention of conversion of barn to ancillary residential accommodation, Buddleigh Farm, Balterley.**

**RESOLVED that the Parish Council is strongly of the view that there must be a legal agreement or planning condition to ensure that this use remains ancillary to the main dwelling, and prevents the accommodation being sold off separately. With these two legal agreements or planning conditions in place the Parish Council would raise no objection to the application.**

129/13 Members considered the following planning application:

**13/00281 Rebuilding of collapsed boundary wall, Roche House, Court Walk, Betley.**

**RESOLVED that the Parish Council strongly supports the application to achieve restoration of this important historical feature.**

130/13 The Clerk advised members of the following Decision Notice received:

13/00025 Alterations and extension, Co-Operative Cottage, Main Road, Betley –  
PERMITTED

131/13 The Clerk advised members that no response had been received to date from the Borough or County Councils regarding issues arising from the Certificate of Lawful Development which had been issued in respect of Buddleigh Farm, Balterley. He had been contacted by a member of the public expressing concern over the manner in which public entertainment licensing might be sought for events.

**RESOLVED that no action be taken until such time as an application for public entertainment licensing is brought to the notice of the Council.**

132/13 The Clerk drew to the attention of members a number of matters relating to the Council's financial position and procedures.

**RESOLVED a) that from financial year 2013-2014 the Council adopt a depreciation policy of a reducing balance basis at the rate of 25%pa, with individual items being assigned a nominal value or being written off as appropriate by decision of the Council acting on the recommendation of the Clerk;**

**b) that the Annual Statements of Accounts and Governance be approved, and signed by the Chairman and Clerk;**

**c) that the satisfactory report of the Council's Internal Auditor be received;**

**d) that consideration of the likely surplus on the Diamond Jubilee Account be tabled as an agenda item for the May meeting;**

**e) that the Clerk's report on the return of VAT, and on the Borough Council's requirement for monitoring the Concurrent Functions Grant be received.**

133/13 The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk reported that they had met on site with representatives of the County Council to discuss the relocation of the East Lawns shelter to achieve better visibility, and progress had been made in establishing a suitable position. However, since the meeting it had become clear that the costs of relocation/refurbishment or replacement, together with groundworks were substantially greater than anticipated in the range of £2,600 to £3,600.

**RESOLVED that the Council does not feel that expenditure on this scale could be justified, and the Clerk be asked to explore alternatives to achieve better visibility with the County Council.**

134/13 It having been agreed that the music event planned for August should remain an agenda item the matter was placed before members. As there was no substantive discussion members who had previously declared prejudicial interests were not required to withdraw from the meeting.

135/13 Members considered developments relating to the collapse of a wall to the rear of Main Road, Betley. Discussions had taken place regarding the creation of a Trust in order to facilitate repair works, and various quotes had been received regarding potential works.

136/13 Members considered initiatives being undertaken or considered by the Parish Council.

137/13 Clearance of pavements and gullies. Members considered necessary works.

**RESOLVED** a) that the use of the gully cleaner be obtained in early May for a further half-day, to be funded from the County Council's highways budget provision, and to address the identified work in Wrinehill and (if time was available) in Balterley.

138/13 Possible Gateway signage. The Clerk advised members that Staffordshire County Council would permit only two forms of gateway signage – a basic sign carrying the settlement name (which could be funded by the County Council budget permitting) or an enhanced sign bearing 'Welcome to' and 'Please drive carefully' (which would have to be funded by the Parish Council).

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk provide a schedule of the required works to the County Council seeking details of costs and timescales.

139/13 Discussion of the Community Footpaths Initiative was deferred to the next meeting.

140/13 Discussion of the Council's potential role in a Community Speed Watch Scheme was deferred to the next meeting.

141/13 The Clerk advised members that although he had received a few photographs suitable for the community website he was still in need of general views of the area and significant buildings and features.

142/13 Members considered area issues raised by members, which included speeding traffic in the vicinity of the school and the desirability of a 20mph zone, and a change of use at a property in the Wrinehill area for which a planning application didn't appear to have been received.

**RESOLVED** a) that consideration of potential measures in the vicinity of the school be considered at the next meeting;  
b) that the Clerk seek further details regarding the planning matter.

143/13 The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting. There were no matters requiring decision.

144/13 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

145/13 **RESOLVED** a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:

|                           |                        |          |      |
|---------------------------|------------------------|----------|------|
| St Margaret's PCC         | churchyard maintenance | £ 500.00 | 1086 |
| Betley Village Hall Cttee | hall hire              | £ 222.75 | 1087 |
| Npower                    | electricity supply     | £ 73.62  | 1088 |
| Staffs Parish Ccls Assocn | subscription           | £ 332.00 | 1089 |

b) that the Financial Statement be received;

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

146/13 Members of the Laudy Croft Working Group advised that no maintenance work was currently required.

147/13 Members considered Council communication, and matters to be included in the next issue of the Parish Magazine.

148/13 Members of the Memorial Garden Working Group advised that no immediate works were required.

149/13 Members considered matters for future Agenda, and arrangements for the Annual Electors Meeting.

150/13 Date of next meeting: Thursday 23rd May 2013.

151/13 **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 ) 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 it is considered to be in the public interest to exclude.**

152/13 The Clerk advised that no further communication had been received from the Borough Council regarding land at Laudy Croft.