

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd April 2015

98/15 PRESENT:

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith (from min.124), Steven Ball (from min.111), Mandy Berrisford, Karen Burton (from min.109), Seb Daly, Richard Head, Frank Speed, Jo Thomas and Chris Watkin.

99/15 IN ATTENDANCE:

Borough Cllr Becket.
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

100/15 In the absence of Cllr Bettley-Smith the chair was taken by Cllr Daly as Vice-Chairman.

101/15 Apologies for absence was received from Cllrs Burton (work), Hales and Head (work). An apology for absence had been received from County Cllr Loades who felt that attendance was inappropriate during the election period. Apologies for likely late arrival had been received from Cllrs Ball and Bettley-Smith.

102/15 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.
No interests were declared at this point.

103/15 **RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 26th March 2015 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

104/15 The Clerk advised that although the minutes of the March meeting had been approved as a true record at the April meeting, he had since realised that a section of text had inadvertently been included in minute 59/15 which related to matters dealt with at the February meeting.

RESOLVED that the words “nature of the site was such that it was unsuitable for grazing and that the Parish Council’s intention that the site be open to community use would also make grazing inappropriate” be deleted from the official copy of minute 59/15, and that the deletion be signed and dated by the Chairman.

105/15 There were no members of the public present to engage in public participation.

106/15 The Clerk advised members that at the close of nominations there had been three valid nominations for the Wrinehill Ward, six for the Betley Ward, and two for the Balterley Ward. There would therefore be no need for a poll in any ward, and one vacancy for a member in the Balterley Ward. It was agreed that consideration of co-option to fill the vacancy should be deferred to the June meeting.

107/15 No report had been received from the County Councillor. However he had advised the Clerk that he would be pressing ahead with his idea of holding meetings with groups of Parish Council Chairmen and had asked for suggestions of potential dates. As the position of

Chairman was subject to election in May it was agreed that no further action was appropriate at this stage.

108/15 Borough Cllr Becket presented his report to members, which he pointed out would be his last report as he was not seeking re-election to the Borough Council.

Doddlespool waste. Following the resumption of tipping the Borough Council had issued a stop notice, which had resulted in work ceasing. He felt strongly that until an agreement could be reached on a way forward the stop notice, which currently expired on 30th April, should be reissued. Cllr Becket wished to thank local residents for their patience, the waste planning officer at Staffordshire County Council and the Newcastle Borough Council planning officers. The Environment Agency, on the other hand, had not been supportive despite the best endeavours of the local M.P.

Gorsty Golf Course Housing Application. Cllr Becket had discovered that the application had been delegated to officers at Cheshire East Borough Council, which he found astonishing given the size and significance of the development. The main impact on Betley would be traffic generation linked to congestion at Junction 16 and he felt that the current works would not address the issue. He had urged the County Council to raise an objection on highways grounds but was not confident that they would do so. He recommended that the Parish Council should work with neighbouring parishes to raise the issue, including the need for a law change to allow the local landowner (the Duchy of Lancaster) to be subject to compulsory purchase if necessary.

On behalf of members the Chairman thanked Cllr Becket for all his help over the years of his service as a Borough Councillor.

109/15 Members reported on outside bodies.

Locality Action Partnership. Cllr Thomas reported that 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 Burton joined the meeting at this point]

Conservation Advisory Working Group. Cllr Berrisford had been unable to attend the last meeting and expressed concern that there was no means of contacting the Borough Council if a late change of plan or work commitment meant that she was unable to attend; she felt it was important to be able to offer an apology for absence under such circumstances. The Clerk would investigate whether a direct contact number could be obtained.

110/15 The Clerk advised members that, since the last meeting, there had been no urgent business requiring action.

111/15 Members considered the following planning application:

15/00226/FUL & 227/LBC Extension & conversion to ancillary residential use, Schoolroom, adj The Croft, Main Road, Betley.

RESOLVED that the Council has no objection to the application.

[Cllr Ball joined the meeting during the above item]

112/15 Members considered the following planning application:

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

RESOLVED that the Council has no objection to the application in principle, but the local planning authority will need to ensure that the proposed works are in accordance with Green Belt Policy.

The Parish Council also wishes to point out that two nearby properties have been demolished with little or no work carried out to provide the proposed replacements, and that the resulting sites have an adverse impact on the Green Belt. The Parish Council would not wish Wrinehill to become a community of unfinished projects to the detriment of the appearance of an area within the Green Belt, by permitting further demolition without a guarantee of a replacement being constructed.

113/15 It was noted that application 15/00078/LBC for retention of a staircase at Beehive Cottage, Back Lane, Betley had been APPROVED.

114/15 The Vice-Chairman and Clerk reported that, along with the Chairman, they had attended a meeting with planning and environmental health officers at the Borough Council on Monday to discuss their reaction to the findings of the investigatory work carried out at Laudy Croft by Wardell Armstrong. The general response was positive and the suggested treatment of the one trial pit which had recorded any problems, by designating the area as a conservation area without public access, was acceptable. Clarification had also been obtained that planning permission would not be necessary unless any permanent structures were proposed.

115/15 The Clerk advised members that the relevant officer at Aspire Housing had now responded regarding landscaping at Main Road/East Lawns, would be visiting the site in the next few days, and would then provide details of proposed works.

116/15 Community Speed Watch had resumed.

117/15 Area issues raised by members were considered. There were no matters requiring decision, but the County Council would be advised of the defective streetlighting on Den Lane and the need to sweep Church Lane.

118/15 Members considered highways issues.

119/15 The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting. There were no matters requiring decision.

120/15 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

121/15 **RESOLVED a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:**

P Brooks & Son	Meml Gdn maintenance	£ 100.00	1178
G Griffiths	Salary/expenses	£ 228.36	1179

b) that the Financial Statement be received;

c) that Mr T Dunlop be reappointed as Internal Auditor;

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

122/15 Members considered any necessary works at Laudy Croft. It was noted that posts should be placed to mark the locations of the test pits, but that no further work was necessary.

123/15 Members considered any necessary works related to the Memorial Garden. Some concern was expressed regarding the lack of spring bulbs, the effect when the Christmas Tree was removed leaving a bare border, and the need to plan summer planting.

RESOLVED a) that a programme of spring bulb planting be agreed at the September meeting;

b) that additional winter bedding be provided following the removal of the Christmas Tree in future years;

c) that the existing contractor be invited to quote for the provision and planting of a programme of summer bedding.

[Cllr Bettley-Smith joined the meeting at this point]

124/15 Members considered Council communication, and matters to be included in the next issue of the Parish Magazine.

125/15 On behalf of the whole Council the Chairman thanked Councillors Ball, Burton and Kerr for their dedication to the work of the Parish Council during their terms of office.

RESOLVED that the retiring members be thanked for their contribution to the Parish Council.

126/15 Cllr Ball raised the matter of his role as the Parish Council's representative on the Betley Trust in view of his retirement from the Council. He would wish to attend the October meeting of the Trust, but would then be happy either to continue or to be replaced by a serving councillor. The Clerk advised that though the Parish Council had a power of nomination it was not obliged to nominate a councillor and indeed Cllr Ball's predecessor in the role had continued after retirement from the Council.

RESOLVED that Cllr Ball continue as the Council's nominee to the Betley Trust, subject to any further resolution by the Council after May 2015.

127/15 Date of next meeting: Thursday 28th May 2015 (Annual Meeting).