

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2019

104/19 PRESENT:

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Mandy Berrisford, Neil Bullock, Seb Daly, Dave Hales, Richard Head, Tony Reah, Frank Speed, Ian Walton and Chris Watkin.

105/19 IN ATTENDANCE:

County Cllr Northcott.
Borough Cllr G White.
One member of the public.
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

106/19 Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ecclestone (family) and Townsend (away)

107/19 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

The following members each declared a prejudicial interest in the planning application relating to Betley Court Farm: Cllr Speed (applicant), Cllrs Bettley-Smith, Daly, Hales and Head (through their close connections and/or friendship with the applicant). All other members declared a personal interest through their acquaintance with the applicant.

108/19 **RESOLVED** that subject to the corrections set out below the minutes of the meeting of 28th March be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

**CORRECTIONS: Min. 80/19 - "closin g date" to read "closing date";
Min. 93/19 - "reomval" to read "removal".**

109/19 The Chairman outlined the procedure for public participation; however the single resident present indicated that he merely wished to observe the meeting.

110/19 The Chairman indicated that having been on holiday for most of the period since the last meeting he had nothing to report.

111/19 Neither the Vice-Chairman nor the Clerk had anything to report that wasn't otherwise covered by the agenda.

112/19 Borough Cllr White presented his report to the meeting, which included the following:

The recent Council meeting had discussed air quality monitoring highlighting a particular issue with Nitrous Dioxide levels on the A53. The operation of the Lyme Lottery, which had raised £27,000 for local good causes in the previous year, was under review. The Quarter 3 review of financial performance indicated that some areas were over budget. A High Street Funding bid had been submitted for £420,000; a decision was expected in the summer. The Borough Council's Forward Plan had been submitted, and could be viewed on the website.

The recent by-election in Chesterton had resulted in a Borough Independent gain from Labour; a further by-election would be held in Whitmore on 2nd May.

On local issues the Planning Committee had received an update on planning at Doddlespool. Condition 3 of the permission for the trackway required a satisfactory scheme of work to be accepted before work could commence. An initial submission had caused concern to both the waste authority and the County Council and further information had been sought. This had been received on 22nd April and was considered to be satisfactory. Condition 3 having now been met work could recommence. However regular checks would be

carried out to ensure compliance and there would be bi-monthly reporting to committee. In addition the new Chief Executive had been briefed during a visit to the ward and had given a personal commitment to get involved as necessary. The Chairman welcomed this reassurance and thanked Cllr White for his efforts.

113/19 County Cllr Northcott presented his report to the meeting, which included the following:

The allocation of secondary school places had seen 92% of children secure places at their first choice. There were plans to deliver an additional 360 places at a cost of £10M. The authority had received a Good rating for children's services from a recent OFSTED report.

With the move to warmer weather the emphasis was returning to pothole repairs. He had met with highways officer David Greatbatch and had raised issues of speed monitoring and road usage. He had made a further request for gully maintenance. The Chairman pointed out that the heavy rain of the past 48 hours had resulted in flooding.

Staffordshire Day would be repeated on 1st May.

Members raised concerns regarding the reporting of highways faults, specifically a case where a fault was reported at 4.30pm and a response was received at 7.30am the following morning that the site had been inspected and didn't need attention. Members were sceptical that an inspection could have been carried out within that time frame. Cllr Northcott suggested that an Inspector may have checked the site on their way from/to work, or that an inspection may already have been carried out in response to a previous report. The fault had subsequently been logged via the MyStaffordshire App, and the feedback had been that the fault would be dealt with, which further clouded the issue.

114/19 The Council's representatives on outside bodies presented their reports.

Cllr Berrisford provided feedback from the Conservation Advisory Working Group in relation to the Betley Court Farm planning application.

Cllr Reah reported on the Locality Action Partnership meeting on 2nd April. PCSO Gemma Crank had returned as the local Police Community Support Officer. An increase in flytipping in the general area had been noted.

Cllr Head advised that the refurbished play area would be reopening on Sunday 12th May with a Picnic in the Playground event for the community. There had been a few isolated cases of vandalism and littering and the CCTV security system had been enhanced.

Cllr Daly reported that there had been no recent Governors' Meeting. He also reported that he had accepted a cheque from the Bonfire Committee for a further Speed Monitoring Device.

115/19 The Clerk advised that no items had been dealt with as urgent business since the last meeting of the Council.

116/19 The Clerk advised members that two planning applications had been traced, of which the Parish Council didn't appear to have received prior notice. Although the closing date for consultation had expired in both cases they were still listed as under consideration on the Borough's planning website. He had advised members of the applications and the Council would need to consider how they wished to deal with them.

RESOLVED that the two applications be considered at this meeting.

117/19 Members considered the following planning application.

[Having each declared a prejudicial interest in this matter Cllrs Bettley-Smith, Daly, Head, Hales and Speed withdrew from the meeting during its consideration and took no part in the discussion.]

In the absence of both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman it was **RESOLVED that Cllr Watkin take the Chair during consideration of this item.**

19/00183/FUL Conversion to holiday accommodation, piggery at Betley Court Farm, Main Road, Betley.

RESOLVED that the Council has no objection to the application subject to the applicant complying with the observations of the Conservation Officer and the Conservation Advisory

Working Group in respect of archaeological recording and preserving the character of the building.

[Cllr Bettley-Smith resumed as Chairman]

118/19 Members considered the following planning application.

19/00170/FUL Attached garage, The Brae, Den Lane, Wrinehill.

RESOLVED that the Council has no objection to the application.

119/19 The Clerk advised members of the following planning decisions:

16/00262 Conversion to residential, The Old Piggery, Bowhill Lane - approval of various conditions related to facing materials etc - PERMITTED

19/00080 Detached property, land adj to Mayfield, Church Lane - REFUSED

19/00131 First floor extension, Cranbrook, Balterley Green Road, Balterley - PERMITTED

120/19 The Clerk presented his report to members setting out the Budget Out-Turn for 2018-19.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

121/19 Cllr Head provided an update on the Neighbourhood Plan. Work was in progress on the business and employment study and a meeting with the consultants was scheduled for early May. Although progress was slower than anticipated it was important to get things right.

122/19 Members considered issues relating to Council property and assets.

123/19 A recent incident at Sandy Croft had involved a group of young people congregating there until around 0130 or 0200. There had been some noise but no indication of any trouble. However on visiting the site the following morning there was significant littering, including broken glass which was clearly inappropriate on an area of public open space. Cllr Hales and several local residents had gathered up the litter and disposed of it in an appropriate manner. Members considered the issues arising out of this incident.

RESOLVED a) that Sandy Croft be closed to the public from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise except with prior consent from the Parish Council;
b) that appropriate signage be obtained and that the new policy be publicised as appropriate;
c) that, in view of the difficulties in emptying a bin, and the likelihood that a bin would attract further littering, no such bin be provided;
d) that signage “Please take any litter home” be installed at the egress from the site;
e) that the Village Hall Committee be invited to adopt a similar policy for consistency.

Cllr Berrisford reported that she had obtained wildflower seed as requested, and Cllr Hales undertook to spread the seed on the Eastern part of the site.

Members considered the fencing of the boundary with Common Lane.

RESOLVED that the lower stretch be refenced as soon as possible, as previously agreed and the upper stretch, above the upper gate, be refenced with posts and sheep fencing within the agreed budget.

124/19 Members considered the suggestion that a flagpole should be provided on the Memorial Garden.

RESOLVED that no further action be taken until the matter of the Cedar tree is resolved, and that an arboricultural report should be obtained to establish an appropriate course of action.

125/19 Area issues raised by members were considered. There were no matters requiring decision, however the following matters were noted:

It had been established that the discharge of water onto Back Lane was not, as previously thought, the result of a water supply leak but was linked to blocked drainage on adjoining land with a third party owner.

126/19 Members considered highways issues. The Clerk advised that the quotation for further “siding out” work between Betley and Balterley was at a higher figure than previously anticipated, and asked for a Council decision on how to proceed.

RESOLVED that the specification for the work be amended to include only the section between Post Office Lane and Back Lane, as the worst affected stretch, and that the contractor be asked to carry out the work in June as arranged.

127/19 The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting. There were no matters requiring decision.

128/19 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 :

Swarco Traffic Ltd	Speed monitoring	£3,207.06	1448
SPCA	Subscription	£ 323.00	1351
L Rimmer	Meml Garden	£ 240.00	1352
Wm Riley & Sons Ltd	Sandy Croft (seeds)	£ 172.80	1353

b) that payment of the following be deferred pending clarification of the goods/services obtained;

T Townsend	Speed equipment	£ 14.10	1449
Humphreys Signs & Print	Speed signage	£ 51.60	1450

c) that the Financial Statement be received;

d) that the Bank Statement, having been inspected by the Chairman be noted and the reconciliation verified and be signed by the Chairman.

129/19 Members considered issues relating to council communication.

130/19 Date of next meeting: Thursday 23rd May 2019.