

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2015

330/15 PRESENT:

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Seb Daly, Dave Hales, Richard Head, Mark Morris, Frank Speed, Jo Thomas, Ian Walton and Chris Watkin.

331/15 IN ATTENDANCE:

Borough Cllr Avril Frankish.
County Cllr David Loades.
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

332/15 Apologies for absence was received from Cllrs Berrisford (work), Ecclestone (holiday) and Townsend (previous engagement).

333/15 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Cllr Walton declared a personal interest in the planning application relating to the Broughton Arms as a past customer and in view of comments made by him as a local resident which had appeared in the local press.

334/15 There were no members of the public present to engage in public participation.

335/15 Borough Cllr Frankish indicated that she had nothing significant to report to the Council.

336/15 The Clerk informed members that he had been advised of a further local contractor capable of carrying out the works proposed at Laudy Croft and, in view of the difficulties in obtaining competitive quotes for work, he invited members to consider whether the company should be invited to quote for the work.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to issue an invitation to tender to Nuthatch Land Works of Smiths Green, Barthomley.

337/15 Members considered the following planning application:

15/00964/FUL Partial demolition and construction of replacement building, Broughton Arms, Balterley.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objection in principle to what is proposed and welcomes the retention of the original 19th Century building. However the scale and form of the development is such that the Local Planning Authority needs to be satisfied that what is proposed is necessary for the development of the business, that the design, materials and finish are appropriate to the particular location and that the development is consistent with Borough Planning Policy. The Borough also needs to be satisfied that the extension of the car park into the Green Belt is necessary and that there are exceptional reasons to justify an exception being made to that aspect of the Borough Planning Policy.

The Parish Council has serious highway concerns and the Highway Authority needs to be satisfied that the proposals do not represent a hazard. Specifically the Parish Council considers that the location of the car park entrance does not offer sufficient

visibility and therefore there may be a need for additional speed limits on adjacent roads. The Parish Council also notes that there is reference in the Design and Access Statement to a second vehicular entrance which does not appear on the plans submitted, and that this needs to be clarified.

338/15 County Councillor Loades having joined the meeting he was invited to present a report to members if he so wished. He reported on the following matters.

He advised members that family ill-health had restricted his activities recently but that the matter had now been resolved.

Highways/ Church Lane. A scheme to introduce a 20mph zone on Church Lane and on the A531 had been developed and would go to public consultation. Three options to address pedestrian safety issues in Church Lane were under consideration. These were:

- a) controlled access at school arrival/ departure times;
- b) closure at school arrival/ departure times;
- c) road calming measures.

There were difficulties in securing the trimming back of hedges or relocation of walls as these were in private ownership, but he was investigating possible heritage lottery funding for wall works.

HS2. A meeting had taken place two weeks earlier to outline the current position regarding changes to the proposals in the area. He was arranging a “HS2 Roadshow” to visit affected areas to explain and suggested that this might visit Betley on a Saturday. This was welcomed by members.

[The Clerk declared an interest in the matter relating to HS2 as proposed changes, which might impact on Staffordshire, were partly intended to mitigate the impact on the area in which he was resident. As there was no substantive discussion or decision required he did not feel it was necessary to go any further but he wished members to be aware of the potential for a conflict of interest]

339/15 Members considered the following planning application:

15/01033/FUL Proposed split level dwelling, land to rear of Grindley Cottage, Church Lane, Betley.

RESOLVED that the Council does not have sufficient confidence that the proposal will not have an adverse impact on views into and out of the Conservation Area and on the setting of the Grade I Listed Building (St Margaret’s Church) and therefore objects to the application.

[Cllr Speed left the meeting at this point]

340/15 The Clerk informed members that he had been advised by the Borough Council’s planning department that the proposed development on the Blue Bell site would not now contain any affordable housing, but that instead the developer would make a commuted payment to facilitate affordable housing elsewhere. It was not clear how local such support would be, nor what form it could take. A view was expressed that the village would best be served by the provision of a wider range of housing stock, to include smaller, low-cost properties.

Members reviewed the ongoing issues in the Doddlespool area. The Chairman informed members that he had not written to the MP as the substance of the complaint, of inaction on the part of the Environment Agency, had been overtaken by events in that EA representatives had visited the site.

[Cllr Daly declared a personal interest in the above matter as the landowner was a client of his practice]

341/15 As the next item of business related to the terms and conditions of an identifiable member of staff it was:

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 1) of the Local Government Act 1972 in that it relates to information relating to a particular employee and that it is considered to be in the public interest to exclude.

342/15 Members considered the terms and conditions of employment of the Clerk in light of the 2014-16 pay award, details of which were now to hand.

RESOLVED a) that the terms of the National Joint Council for Local Government Services award be implemented with effect from 1st January 2015 as recommended by the NJC;

b) that consideration of the appropriate Scale Point be deferred.

[The Clerk withdrew during consideration of the business referred to in minute 342]

[Cllr Hales left the meeting at this point]

343/15 Members considered a report prepared by the Clerk setting out a Draft Budget and Precept for 2016-17 which would allow the Council Tax precept payable by individual households to be unchanged from 2015-16.

RESOLVED a) that the principle of a budget and precept resulting in an unchanged Council Tax bill to individual households be reaffirmed;

b) that the Clerk be instructed to present a final detailed budget, reflecting the observations of members, to the Council at its scheduled January meeting for approval.

344/15 Members considered use of the remaining balance in the Highways allocation 2015-16.

RESOLVED that the Council's usual contractor be engaged to carry out pavement clearing work, to include removal of waste materials, between Doddlespool and Post Office Lane and between Back Lane and Betley Hall Gardens within the remaining budget.

345/15 Area issues raised by members were considered. There were no matters requiring decision.

346/15 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

347/15 **RESOLVED a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:**

J Thomas	Christmas Event sweets	£ 62.52	1210
Mh-p internet	Website	£ 756.00	1211
Betley Village Hall Cttee	Hall hire	£ 126.00	1212
Reading Room	Room hire (police surgery)	£ 21.00	1213