

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 5th January 2011

PRESENT

Councillors Robert Bettley-Smith, Steven Ball, Mandy Berrisford, Seb Daly, Dave Hales (from min.307), Simon Harrison, Richard Head, John Price, Frank Speed, Jo Thomas and Chris Watkin.

IN ATTENDANCE

Three members of the public Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk)

306/10 An apology for absence was received, and accepted as a valid reason for absence under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, from Cllr Morris (work commitment). An apology for late arrival had been received from Cllr Hales. An apology for absence had been received from County Cllr Chapman.

307/10 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

(Cllr Hales joined the meeting at this point)

The Clerk advised members of the requirements of the Code of Conduct where members might be occasional or regular customers of a business which was linked to a planning application.

Cllrs Daly and Speed declared prejudicial interests in planning application 10/00704 as the applicants were clients and friends respectively. Cllrs Berrisford, Price and Thomas declared personal interests in the same item as they were customers of the business operated by the applicants.

308/10 The Chairman adjourned the meeting at this point to allow public participation.

One member of the public indicated that he wished to comment on planning application 10/00704 as the applicant. The purpose of the application was to allow covered storage of machinery which was currently stored outside in connection with a potato-growing enterprise.

(Cllrs Daly & Speed withdrew during this item)

309/10 Members considered the following planning application:

10/00704/AGR Erection of a building for storage of machinery, land off Doddlespool Farm, Main road, Betley

In introducing the item the Chairman and Clerk explained that although the consultation letter referred to the application as though it was a normal planning application the application form suggested that it was an application for prior notification of agricultural development. The Clerk apologised for not spotting this distinction prior to passing the papers to members, and indicated that this was likely to mean that the planning authority would only consider details of siting and design, rather than the principle of development. In view of the uncertainty regarding the precise nature of the application it was agreed to deal with the item as a conventional application, and allow the Borough Council to disregard any comments which were considered to be irrelevant to the application.

RESOLVED That the Parish Council believes that the siting, construction and materials are acceptable, but – in the absence of a business case – cannot make a judgement in respect of planning policy S.3, and that the planning authority therefore needs to establish that the development proposed is essential for the efficient operation of a viable agricultural business as required under Policy S.3

310/10 The Clerk advised members that a planning application (10/00691) had been received by the Council in December, for a sun room at Brooklands, Common Lane, Betley. As the applicant was a member of the Parish Council he had, after consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, canvassed members to see whether it would be practicable for the Council to hold a special meeting to consider the application. In view of the number of members who had expressed the view that they would need to declare a prejudicial interest it became clear that a quorate meeting could not be held. He had submitted a response to the Borough Council outlining the circumstances and asking the Council to deal with the application in accordance with normal planning requirements.

(Cllr Hales declared a prejudicial interest in this matter as the applicant, but was not required to leave the meeting as the item was solely for information and there was no discussion of the matter)

311/10 Members considered progress on the development of a community website. A meeting of the Working Group had been held, and work for various pages had been allocated.

312/10 The Clerk presented his report on correspondence received since the last meeting.

313/10 The Clerk advised members that he had been asked by the Borough Council to provide an indicative figure for the likely precept for 2011-2012.

RESOLVED that an indicative figure of £10,130 (as in 2010-11) be provided.

314/10 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due. In presenting the cheque book for signature he indicated that a member had inadvertently signed an unissued cheque stub at the last meeting, which could compromise its issue. He therefore suggested that the cheque involved be cancelled without issue.

RESOLVED a) that cheque 930 be cancelled without being issued;

b) that the Council authorises payment of the following:

D T Askey	memorial garden maintenance	£160.00	931
Shelutions Ltd	bus shelter repair	£559.30	932

(Cllr Berrisford withdrew from the meeting at this point)

315/10 Members considered the response received from the Chairman of Betley Cricket Club regarding comments made at the Club's AGM.

RESOLVED that the Clerk respond to the Cricket Club as follows:

a) thanking them for the formal acknowledgement that the Parish Council had not behaved in any way inappropriately in respect of the consideration of any grant applications;

b) asking that the Cricket Club advise all who were in receipt of the Management Committee Report presented to the AGM that there was an error with reference to the Parish Council, identifying the error, withdrawing the comments made, and setting out a correct version of events.

316/10 Date of next meeting Thursday 27th January 2011.