

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2017

298/17 PRESENT:

Cllrs Seb Daly, Mandy Berrisford, Graham Ecclestone, Richard Head, Terry Townsend, Ian Walton and Chris Watkin.

In the absence of the Chairman the Vice-Chairman (Cllr Daly) took the Chair.

299/17 IN ATTENDANCE:

One member of the public.

Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

300/17 Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Bettley-Smith, Morris, Speed and Thomas (all of whom had other commitments). An apology for absence had been received from County Cllr Northcott.

301/17 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items. There were no declarations at this point.

302/17 Members considered the minutes of three recent meetings.

303/17 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of 10th August 2017 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

304/17 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of 28th September 2017 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

305/17 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of 12th October 2017 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

306/17 The Chairman outlined the procedure for public participation, and the meeting was adjourned to allow the public to speak. One member of the public was present and wished to advise members of issues which had recently arisen in respect of dogs being exercised in the area. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council had no powers in the matter and the matters would need to be taken up via the Borough Council Dog Warden or informally.

[Cllr Daly declared a personal interest in this matter as the subject of the Matter raised was a client of his practice.]

307/17 The Chairman had circulated his report on the meeting held with a representative of County Highways. Progress appeared to have been made though in light of past experience members were concerned that assurances had rarely led to action on the part of the County Council.

308/17 County Cllr Northcott had presented his report to members by e-mail.

RESOLVED that the Review of Public Rights of Way be tabled at the next meeting.

309/17 No Reports, nor Apologies, had been received from either of the Borough Councillors.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be asked to write to the Borough Councillors expressing the Council's disappointment that neither reports nor apologies had been received.

310/17 There had been no full meeting of School Governors since the last meeting. The Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee reported that the AGM would shortly take place and that there were vacancies on the Committee. The Council's representative on the Conservation Advisory Working Group had been unable to attend the most recent meeting. She understood that the Group had expressed concern regarding the single Betley item under consideration (17/00768).

311/17 The Clerk advised members that no matters had been dealt with under the Council's provision for Urgent Business.

312/17 Members considered the following planning application.

17/00814/AGR Proposed produce/straw shed, Bow Hill Farm, Bowhill Lane, Betley.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objection to the principle of this application. However, in view of the poor access to this location along a narrow lane which passes the village primary school the Parish Council urges the Local Planning Authority to impose an appropriate condition prohibiting access for construction traffic at times when children will be accessing the school.

[Cllr Daly declared a personal interest in the above matter as his property overlooked the access to the application site.]

313/17 Members noted the following planning decision:

17/00715/FUL Alterations, 5 Den Lane, Wrinehill - PERMITTED.

314/17 Members considered no further action was required at this point on matters relating to Aspire Housing and HS2.

315/17 Members considered the Council's property and assets.

316/17 In respect of the Memorial Garden it was noted that a significant quantity of daffodil bulbs had been obtained and these would need to be planted as soon as possible at both the Memorial Garden and other suitable locations in the parish.

RESOLVED that the Council's usual contractor be employed on the agreed terms to plant daffodil bulbs at the Memorial Garden and at the other identified locations in the parish in liaison with Cllr Speed.

Arrangements for the Christmas Lights event on Friday 1st December were also discussed and tasks and budgets agreed in line with existing policy.

317/17 In respect of Laudy Croft members considered draft artwork for the information board and for future use of the top part of the site, which was considered suitable for planting. Members were advised that a local resident had offered to fund the purchase of appropriate

trees if the Council was minded to create a community orchard. Members also considered evidence which suggested that the true historic name of the site was Sandy Croft and that Laudy Croft had emerged by the misreading of Sandy Croft written in cursive script.

RESOLVED a) that the design of the artwork be supported in principle subject to the suggested minor revisions;

b) that, in the light of the historical evidence, the site should be described in future as “Sandy Croft”;

c) that the top part of the site be developed as a community orchard, featuring traditional varieties of apples and pears and such other species as might be appropriate, with an intent of being of benefit to both local residents and wildlife;

d) that the offer of funding toward the purchase of trees be accepted with thanks;

e) that appropriate expert advice be sought on the planting scheme;

f) that any further necessary expenditure to facilitate the scheme be funded from the earmarked budget for the site;

g) that Cllr Head and the Clerk be authorised to make any necessary arrangements in accordance with policy and budget.

318/17 Members considered a paper tabled by the Clerk outlining a draft set of Financial Regulations based on current best practice. In view of legislative changes and changes in money values it was suggested that these should replace the Regulations previously used by the Council subject to members being satisfied that they were appropriate.

RESOLVED that the Draft Regulations be approved and adopted with immediate effect.

319/17 Members considered progress on the Neighbourhood Plan. Reports summarising the results of the Questionnaire had been deposited in The Swan, Village Hall and Reading Room and had been well received. An information leaflet had been prepared and was tabled at the meeting. Printing was being arranged with an intention to deliver by December.

320/17 Members considered issues relating to speed monitoring. The Council’s equipment was proving to be both effective and well received. However it was felt that a further location on the triangle of grass opposite the Hand & Trumpet would be useful, allowing traffic there to be monitored and - hopefully - excessive speed discouraged. The site had been approved by County Highways and the cost was expected to be in the region of £140.

RESOLVED that an additional pole for speed monitoring equipment be installed at the identified location with any costs (including brackets and other necessary fittings) to be funded from the contingency budget.

321/17 Members considered area issues raised by members.

RESOLVED a) that any appropriate action be taken to address the issue of weed growth on the pavement and kerbing of the A531 in Balterley;

b) that the hazardous telephone pole on Main Road, Betley be reported to BT;

c) that the faulty grids outside Shuffers Wood, Main Road be reported to the Highways Authority.

322/17 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:
Reading Room **Hall Hire** **£ 17.25** **1321**
c) that the Financial Statement be received;
d) that the Bank Statements be noted, and the reconciliation verified
and be signed by the Chairman.

323/17 Members considered issues relating to council communication.

324/17 Date of the next meeting: Thursday 23rd November 2017.