

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2014

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Five members of the public.
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

265/14 Apologies for absence was received from Cllrs Ball (work), Berrisford (family) and Burton (work).

266/14 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Cllr Speed declared a personal interest in Item 5 (Planning Application, Doddelespool) as the applicant was a client of his practice. Cllr Speed declared a personal interest in the same item as an acquaintance of the applicant.

267/14 The Chairman outlined the procedure for public participation, and the meeting was adjourned to allow public participation.

A member of the public wished to comment on planning application 14/00610, Doddlespool. The Parish Council needed to ensure that the Borough Council took into account the nearly three years of disruption already suffered. The Parish Council should establish what work remained to be done; how long it would take; whether there would be any further importation of materials; the scale of any stockpiled soil to be exported and how it was to be moved; hours of operation; measures to limit dust, mud etc and number of vehicle movements per day.

268/14 Members considered the following planning application.

14/00610/FUL Retention of water reservoir, formation of hardstandings and repairs to existing track, land at Doddlespool, Main Road, Betley.

RESOLVED that the Council has no objection to the principle of the development by retention of the reservoir, track and hardstanding for agricultural purposes but notes that a significant tonnage of material including in particular peat remains on site and is likely to be moved off-site. The Council is therefore of the view that the local planning authority should take steps to minimise any adverse impact on the amenity of local residents during the removal of such materials, and to minimise any adverse impact on highway safety through the deposit of mud on the highway.

Further, as peat is specifically identified in minerals planning guidance 13, the Council would ask the local planning authority to determine whether the removal of such large quantities of peat during the excavation of the reservoir, and the subsequent

working of the peat for drying purposes, with a view to removal from the holding, amounts to peat extraction, as defined in the Acts, which requires specific planning consent.

269/14 The Clerk reported receipt of a further planning application 14/00700 Dwelling, land off Church Lane, Betley, which could be considered at the meeting of 30th October.

270/14 At this point a member queried whether proceedings were being audio recorded by a member of the public. The Chairman indicated that he had noticed the apparent recording and had taken advice from the Clerk, who had indicated that such recording was lawful. A member of the public confirmed that he was indeed recording some of the proceedings. The Chairman indicated that such recording was acceptable but that it would have been courteous to have indicated in advance that such recording was intended.

271/14 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman reported on a site meeting which had taken place at Laudy Croft that afternoon with representatives of the Borough Council to discuss options for the future use of the site. It was clear that use for allotment purposes would present major problems in view of uncertainty regarding the past use of the site. Other uses suggested by the Parish Council were considered more practical, and use for informal public open space and games would be required only to meet the Public Open Space Standard, which could potentially be achieved by a relatively low level of testing.

RESOLVED that the Clerk and Chairman be authorised to progress the matter by obtaining indicative quotes for the appropriate level of investigative works.

272/4 The Clerk advised members of the continuing review of concurrent function grants being undertaken by the Borough Council. The issue was to be discussed at the Parish Forum to be held on 14th October and it was felt important that the Parish Council should be represented.

RESOLVED a) that the Clerk be authorised to represent the Council at the Parish Forum;

b) that, in the event of the Clerk being unable to attend, Cllr Thomas be authorised to represent the Council.

273/14 The Clerk tabled urgent correspondence received since the last meeting. There were no matters requiring decision.

274/14 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due.

275/14 **RESOLVED that the Council authorises payment of the following:**

Grant Thornton	Audit fee	£ 120.00	1153
DT Askey	Meml Garden	£ 135.00	1154
Betley Village Hall Cttee	Hall hire	£ 183.75	1155
CVS Cheshire East	Payroll services	£ 48.00	1156
Mh-p Internet	Website hosting	£ 756.00	1157