

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2011

PRESENT

Councillors Robert Bettley-Smith, Steven Ball, Seb Daly, David Hales, Simon Harrison, John Price and Chris Watkin.

IN ATTENDANCE

One member of the public
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk)

30/11 Apologies for absence were received and accepted as valid reasons for absence under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 from Cllrs Berrisford (work), Head (holiday), Speed (work) and Thomas (holiday). Apologies for absence had also been received from County Councillor Chapman and Borough Councillor Becket.

31/11 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items. No declarations were made at this point.

32/11 **RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 27th January 2011 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

33/11 The meeting adjourned to allow public participation.

The member of the public present had been invited by the Council to consider whether an appropriate event could be held to mark the 90th anniversary of the Royal British Legion. He indicated that there was the possibility of devoting an existing event to this purpose.

He also referred to early preparations which were underway to consider a village event to mark the Royal Wedding in April. A public meeting was scheduled for 1st March to consider the matter, and it was felt appropriate that a member of the Parish Council should attend.

The meeting having resumed it was:

RESOLVED

a) that Cllr Thomas be asked to report back to the next meeting of the Parish Council on the meeting of 1st March;

b) that the Parish Council would support any local celebration and/or appeal organised by an appropriate local organisation in connection with the Legion Anniversary.

34/11 The Chairman advised that he had nothing to report since the last meeting.

35/11 The Clerk reported that he had now received further information from the British Library regarding a copyright issue relating to a history of Betley produced in the very early 1960s, which had been published by the Village Hall Committee, in whom copyright probably resided. He would pass the relevant information to the British Library and the Committee.

36/11 County Cllr Chapman had reported that an improvement was being developed for the Bowsey Wood Road junction layout, and that drainage issues at Cracow Moss had been resolved to the satisfaction of the local resident who had raised the issue.

37/11 The Borough Councillor had provided the Clerk with a list of subjects he wished to report.

Council Tax. There was no increase this year, and no major service changes or redundancies.

Wrinehill Garage and Blue Bell sites. Cllr Becket suggested that it might be useful if the Parish Council was to restate to the Borough Council its concerns regarding the condition of the Wrinehill Garage and Blue Bell sites.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk conveys to the Borough Council the Parish Council's serious concerns regarding the further deterioration of the sites, and the prospect of trespass, vandalism and personal injury.

Doddlespool. Construction of the machinery store was likely to be delayed, and the Borough Council was negotiating possible landscaping. There had been no progress regarding the status of the Farm Shop, and whether or not planning consent was necessary.

Waste Management. The Borough Council had won a national Government Business Award for its work in this area.

Cllr Becket had also suggested that the Parish Council might wish to express concern regarding local highway accident issues, particularly in view of recent accidents.

RESOLVED

That the Police be invited to the next meeting to consider the issue.

38/11 The Clerk reported that no further communication had been received from the Cricket Club regarding the Council's request that the error in reporting the Council's involvement in a recent grant application be corrected.

RESOLVED

That a letter be sent expressing the Council's disappointment in not receiving a response to date.

39/11 The Clerk reported that there were no planning matters to place before the Council.

40/11 Members were invited to consider their involvement in the Conservation Advisory Working Party.

RESOLVED that the following policy be adopted with immediate effect:

Where the Parish Council has been able to discuss the application prior to the CAWP meeting then the representative would convey the views of the Parish Council. Where the Parish Council has been unable to discuss the application then the representative would be permitted to express a broad position on the potential impact of the development, subject to the CAWP realising that any views expressed may be amended following consideration by the Parish Council.

41/11 Members considered the development of the community website. The Clerk reported that he had started the process of placing archive minutes on the website, but that other material was still outstanding from members. Members also considered the basis on which commercial businesses should be included on the site.

RESOLVED that the website should be limited to businesses with retail premises within the parish.

42/11 Members considered the Parish Council's potential role in marking forthcoming public occasions.

RESOLVED that with regard to the royal wedding in April 2011 the Parish Council agrees to support in principle a village event to mark the event, subject to further consideration at the March meeting in light of any discussions at the meeting planned for 1st March.

43/11 Members considered potential initiatives to be undertaken by the Parish Council in 2011-2012.

RESOLVED a) that the Council agrees in principle to carry out further works to reclaim overgrown pavements and that Cllrs Bettley-Smith and Ball identify the areas to be dealt with, and that the Clerk then seeks tenders to carry out such works on a day rate and/or job quote basis;

b) that the Chairman be authorised to order two tons of salt grit to be made available for community use in winter 2011/12;

c) that Cllr Hales be asked to gauge the strength of local feeling on the potential provision of additional lighting in Common Lane, Betley.

44/11 Members considered the invitation to attend the 2011 Mayor's Ball.

RESOLVED that the Chairman co-ordinate expressions of interest, to advise the Clerk of any planned attendance by Monday 28th February.

45/11 Members considered their response to the consultation on the Borough Council's Rural Green Space Strategy. Four members had met to consider the questionnaire supplied, and had drafted a response. The Clerk advised members of a number of mapping errors and anomalies in the documentation prepared.

RESOLVED a) that the response to the questionnaire be adopted;

b) that the Clerk be authorised to advise the Borough Council's consultants of the errors contained within the documentation.

46/11 The Clerk advised the Council of procedures and timescales in connection with the Parish Council election scheduled for 5th May.

47/11 Members were invited to raise any area issues. There were no matters identified.

48/11 Members considered highways issues, noting that there had been some improvement in the standard and effectiveness of both maintenance and streetsweeping.

49/11 The Clerk submitted details of correspondence received since the last meeting.

RESOLVED that the Council notes the expression of interest received regarding the Blue Bell and asks the Clerk to seek further information.

50/11 The Clerk reported to members that the licence agreement from Newcastle Borough Council allowing the Parish Council to place a bench at Balterley was a standard document, and that the various clauses which appeared irrelevant to the case could be disregarded. He therefore suggested there was no reason not to sign the agreement.

RESOLVED a) that the Clerk be authorised to sign the Agreement and to arrange the necessary payment;

b) that Cllr Hales be authorised to place an order for a suitable bench (similar to that purchased for Church Lane, Betley) subject to a maximum price of £300 (net of VAT).

51/11 The Clerk reported that he had received a request from the Borough Council for financial support toward the cost of displaying the tollboard from the Blue Bell at the Borough Museum. **RESOLVED** that the Council notes the request from the Borough Council regarding display of the toll board from the Blue Bell, but feels that it should appropriately be housed within the Parish, and therefore declines to make any contribution at this time.

52/11 Members considered the use of the remaining balance of the Community Chest allocation for 2010-2011.

RESOLVED a) that a further allocation toward the Madeley & District Community Association of £125 be recommended in view of their having met the requirements set to release further funding;

b) that a further allocation toward the Betley Village Hall Committee of £226.88 be recommended;

c) that £100 be retained as a balance to 2011-2012.

53/11 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:

Staffordshire County Ccl	licence fee	£ 50.00	935
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b) that the Financial Statement be received;

c) that the Bank Statements be noted, and the reconciliation verified.

54/11 Members of the Laudy Croft Working Group reported that no actions were required.

55/11 Members considered material for the next issue of the church magazine.

RESOLVED that the following items be featured: reminder of Memorial Garden policy; community grit supply initiative; arrangements to provide bench at Balterley.

56/11 Members considered the provision of Christmas lighting at the Memorial Garden noting that although the current lighting was attractive and well regarded, it was expensive in both energy and in replacement of bulbs.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be asked to discuss options with the Borough Council with a view to developing a more cost and environmentally effective approach.

57/11 **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 Section 2 and Section 100A (4) Schedule 12A (9) of the Local Government Act 1972, in that it relates to terms to be proposed by the authority under a contract for the supply of goods and services, and that disclosure of such information would not be in the public interest.

58/11 The Clerk reported that he had now been able to secure an additional tender price for the installation of a water supply at the Memorial Garden, and placed the two tenders before members.

RESOLVED that Tender B, being the tender from Roy Aspinall in the sum of £585 (net of VAT) be accepted by the Council, and that the Clerk be asked to arrange the necessary works.

59/11 **RESOLVED** that the press and public be readmitted.

60/11 Date of next meeting: Thursday 24th March.