

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2017

30/17 PRESENT:

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Seb Daly, Graham Ecclestone, Dave Hales (from min.36), Richard Head, Jo Thomas (from min.35), Terry Townsend, Ian Walton and Chris Watkin.

31/17 IN ATTENDANCE:

One member of the public.
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

32/17 Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Berrisford (family) and Speed (other commitment).

RESOLVED that the apology from Cllr Berrisford be considered an appropriate reason for absence under Sn.85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

An apology for absence had also been received from County Cllr Loades, who had experienced ill health but was hoping to be available from the end of February. Nothing had been received from the Borough Councillors.

33/17 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Cllr Daly declared a prejudicial interest in respect of planning application 17/000016 as he owned property overlooking the application site.

34/17 **RESOLVED that, subject to the correction of minutes 14/17 and 18/17 by the substitution of “Cllr Hales” for “Cllr Daly” in each case, the minutes of the meeting of 26th January 2017 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

35/17 One member of the public was present and wished to comment on recent changes to refuse collection services in The Butts.

[Cllr Thomas joined the meeting during this item]

Residents had received notification that the refuse collection staff would no longer collect from unadopted highways and that residents would be required to leave bins etc. Either to the A531 or to Church Lane for collection. No reason had been given and the advice was itself contradictory as the suggested location by the church wall was itself a private highway

[Cllr Hales joined the meeting at this point]

36/17 The Chairman reported on actions since the last meeting. He had attended a meeting of the Rural Runabout Scheme and reported that there had been a fall in bookings and that a shortfall of approximately £600 was expected. It was agreed that the scheme should be publicised to include a piece in the parish magazine explaining its role.

37/17 The Vice-Chairman indicated that he was still waiting for Cllr Loades to offer a date for a site meeting to discuss traffic issues in Bowhill Lane/ Church Lane. He had also received representations regarding the changes to refuse collection.

38/17 The Clerk reported on the following matters.

He had received representations on two highways issues: damage to railings and signage at the B5500/ Englesea Brook Lane, and the landslip at Den Lane. On the former he had been advised that the railings repairs were a matter for the landowners; on the latter he had contacted the County Council but had yet to receive any response.

He had made representations to the County Council regarding the withdrawal of Village Lengthsman/ Highways funding from 2017-18. He had received no response from officers; Cllr Loades had responded by saying he was unhappy with the County Council's performance.

A partial VAT refund had been secured.

The requested third kissing gate had been installed as requested off Common Lane.

39/17 The Clerk advised members that the County Councillor had presented an apology but no report. No information had been received from the Borough Councillors.

RESOLVED that the Council express its disappointment regarding the lack of any reports.

40/17 Cllr Hales advised that the Betley Trust would be meeting in April.

41/17 Cllr Head advised members that the Village Hall Committee would be looking for partners to develop the refurbishment of the play area in view of the high cost.

42/17 The Clerk advised members of Urgent Business dealt with since the last meeting.

In consultation with the Chairman he had authorised and arranged payment of fees for the website and artwork preparation in connection with the Neighbourhood Plan.

43/17 There was nothing further to report regarding the extension of the burial ground.

44/17 Members considered the following planning application.

17/00016/FUL Single storey rear extension at 5 Rodger Avenue, Betley
RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objection subject to the Local Planning Authority satisfying itself that there is no adverse impact on the residential amenity of the neighbouring property.

45/17 Members considered the following planning application.

17/00056/FUL Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension at 6 Brassington Street, Betley
RESOLVED a) that the proposal is not consistent with the recommendation of the Conservation Advisory Working Group in respect of the previous application (15/00722) in that it proposes the use of a render finish rather than brickwork;
b) that the current proposal has less architectural merit than the permission previously granted (15/00722) in that the lantern feature skylight has been deleted resulting in a flat roof;
c) that the Parish Council therefore objects to the application.

46/17 Members considered the following planning application.

17/00066/FUL Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission 15/00759/FUL additional plans BBI/LB/2016 and M15/1224/B06 regarding boundary treatment to Checkley Lane at former Blue Bell Inn site, New Road, Wrinehill
RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objection.

47/17 The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had been invited to meet with representatives of the Borough Council to discuss the use of the commuted sum received following the grant of permission for development of the former Blue Bell Inn site.

RESOLVED that the invitation be taken up, and that the Parish Council be represented by the Chairman together with Cllrs Thomas and/or Walton as available.

48/17 The Clerk reported that the Boundary Commission had issued draft proposals for changes to electoral arrangements for Newcastle Borough Council. Their proposal included a two-member ward comprising the Parish of Madeley combined with Betley, Balterley & Wrinehill. This appeared to be the only practical option and members were pleased that the area of the Council would not be split.

RESOLVED that the proposal be noted.

49/17 Members considered issues relating to the Laudy Croft site, in particular the options for furnishing the site with benches and picnic tables as previously agreed.

RESOLVED that the seats be engraved 'Laudy Croft 2017'.

50/17 Cllr Head reported on progress on the development of a Neighbourhood Plan. Design of the Questionnaire had now been completed and would proceed to printing and distribution.

51/17 There was nothing further to note regarding the traffic safety issues around the school. Members were disappointed that the long-awaited report was not available. The Clerk commented on the lack of response from the County Council on a range of highways issues, with e-mails unanswered.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write to the Chief Executive of the County Council expressing the Council's concerns regarding the lack of response.

52/17 It was noted that some resurfacing works were underway to local pavements, though the sections chosen seemed a little arbitrary. In particular the narrowest section of the Bowhill Lane/ Church Lane pavement had yet to receive any attention. Progress would be monitored with a view to further consideration at the March meeting.

53/17 Cllr Townsend advised members of the current situation regarding the purchase of portable speed monitoring equipment. He had spoken to other parish councils which had used a particular supplier and would bring a firm proposal to the next meeting.

54/17 Area issues raised by members were considered.

Balterley. It was noted that tree damage in the Balterley area had resulted in damage to an overhead electrical supply. This had been reported to the emergency services and dealt with. It was reported that the owners of the Broughton Arms had confirmed that negotiations were currently under way with contractors and utility suppliers, suggesting that the scheme was still likely to proceed. Mud on the road in the Doddlespool area would be reported to the appropriate authorities as a hazard.

Betley. Members considered the changes to refuse collection arrangements in parts of Betley.

RESOLVED that the following observations be submitted to the Borough Council:

- a) that the alterations constituted a significant change to the method of working and that the Parish Council and residents should have been notified in advance, and consulted on the proposals;
- b) that the existing arrangements should be maintained until consultation is completed;
- c) that the Parish Council wishes to establish the “safety and operational reasons” for the changes;
- d) that the Parish Council wishes to know which areas are to be subject to changed arrangements;
- e) that the changes are likely to depress recycling rates;
- f) that the matter be considered further at the March meeting.

Wrinehill. Concern was expressed regarding earthworks off Checkley Lane. The Clerk would check whether planning permission was required.

55/17 The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting. The Chairman had received a representation regarding heavy vehicles passing through the village. It was agreed to table the matter on the agenda of the March meeting.

56/17 Members considered two applications under the Borough Council’s Community Chest scheme.

Cllrs Head and Walton each declared a prejudicial interest in this matter as officers of the Village Hall Committee (an applicant) and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration. Cllrs Bettley-Smith and Thomas each declared a personal interest through their involvement with groups associated with the Village Hall.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council recommends approval of the following grants:

Betley Village Hall Committee	£500
Betley Junior Youth Club	£300

57/17 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

58/17 **RESOLVED** a) that the Council notes the following payment, authorised under the Urgent Business procedure:

Design Office	Neighbourhood Plan (design)	£ 312.00	1269
J Bailey	Neighbourhood Plan (website)	£ 30.00	1270

b) that the Council authorises payment of the following:

G Griffiths	Salary/ Expenses	£ 803.18	1271
G Griffiths	Salary/expenses (Neigh Plan)	£ 153.90	1272
TW Heler & Son	Installation of kissing gates	£ 528.00	1273
T Gee	Neighbourhood Plan (cartridges)	£ 35.69	1274

b) that the Financial Statement be received;

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

59/17 Members considered any necessary works at the Memorial Garden.

RESOLVED that the Working Group arrange the removal of the flagpole and the lighting looms from the tree as a matter of urgency.

60/17 Members considered matters relating to council communication.

61/17 Date of next meeting: Thursday 23rd March 2017.