

# BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on 28th February 2019

### 31/19 PRESENT:

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Neil Bullock, Seb Daly, Graham Ecclestone, Dave Hales, Richard Head, Tony Reah, Ian Walton and Chris Watkin.

### 32/19 IN ATTENDANCE:

Borough Cllrs Gary and Simon White.  
County Cllr Northcott.  
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

33/19 Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Berrisford (holiday), Speed (work) and Townsend.

34/19 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

There were no interests declared at this point.

35/19 The Clerk advised members of an error in the November minutes, which had not been noticed when those minutes were approved as a true record at the January meeting. The note at the foot of Minute 354 concluded with the words "the cheque (1427) was therefore". This should have read that "the cheque (1427) was therefore cancelled".

**RESOLVED that the correction be noted and approved as a true record.**

36/19 **RESOLVED that subject to the corrections set out below the minutes of the meeting of 24th January be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

**CORRECTIONS: Min. 10/19 - "applicationfor" to read "application for";**

**Min. 15/19 - the words "that the Parish Council" be inserted between "stress to the Borough Council" and "would expect to be consulted";**

**Min. 16/19 - "had ben received" to read "had been received";**

**Min. 18/19 - "Cllrs Dially & Speed" to read "Cllrs Daly & Speed";**

**Min. 23/19 - the words "in 2018" be inserted between "had been carried out" and "and members were invited".**

37/19 There were no members of the public present to engage in public participation.

38/19 The Chairman advised members that he had been involved in a significant amount of correspondence with the MP and others which would be considered later on the Agenda as a highway matter.

39/19 The Vice-Chairman outlined the current NHS consultation on outpatient services in the area. The only significant element for the parish was the location of the Integrated Care Hub in the Newcastle area, and he set out the options considered.

**RESOLVED that the preferred consultation option of Bradwell be supported, and that Cllr Daly be authorised to respond on behalf of the Parish Council.**

40/19 The Clerk advised members of three matters.

The Council's usual contractors had been commissioned to carry out pavement clearing "siding out" work between Betley and Wrinehill to be completed by the end of March.

A representative of Aspire Housing had been in touch regarding the suggested public meeting to discuss potential development at East Lawns. There appeared to have been a misunderstanding in that Aspire thought the Council would be arranging such a meeting, whereas the Council had assumed that no meeting would be arranged until Aspire had prepared a scheme for discussion. He had conveyed this view to Aspire,

suggesting that they should also prepare for the questions which were likely to be raised particularly on access to the site. This action was endorsed by the meeting.

The Borough Council had contacted him asking for guidance for their staff on any queries regarding the increase in the Council precept in 2019. The Clerk had explained the background to the increase.

41/19 County Councillor Northcott presented his report to members which included the following matters:

Council had met on the 14<sup>th</sup> February. The Newcastle Growth Strategy had been approved and supports the County Council's Strategic Plan. The budget for 2019-20 and to 2021 had been approved. The £35M shortfall had been met, and a balanced budget had been achieved. There had been some cuts - the Community Fund had been cut to £2.5k and now had to be totally match-funded. Capital investment for the Chatterley Highway and Keele University had been approved.

The NHS consultation had been considered by the Health Scrutiny Committee. He had raised a number of concerns, such as cross-border working and the use of buildings which were unused. Post-operative discharge arrangements were still not working satisfactorily.

Significant grant funding (£3.795M) had been secured for the Warm Homes Fund; only £500k had been expected.

He was still waiting to meet with Mr Greatbatch of Highways to discuss the divisional highways programme. An additional £9M had been secured for highways works and an allocation of £20k was available to each member.

42/19 Borough Councillors Gary and Simon White presented their report to members which included the following matters:

Council had met and agreed further town centre CCTV. The reduction in car parking charges had been associated with a 17% increase in pre-Christmas footfall in the town centre. Although this had cost around £10k in lost revenue it was clearly more than offset by the benefit to the town.

The budget had been approved and the precept would increase by 2.99%. Core services had been protected, reserves maintained, and additional funding had been provided in the key areas previously identified.

The following local issues had been addressed:

The latest enforcement report for Doddlespool indicated that although there was progress on meeting some of the conditions of the planning consent work should not yet be under way.

The further planning application at the Broughton Arms had been approved.

The application for two barns at Old Hall Farm had been to committee and had been approved; the application for a dwelling would go to the March meeting.

They had approached Streetscene to get vehicles out to clear the roads; members confirmed that they had been deployed.

A member expressed concern that nobody at the Borough Council seemed to be taking overall responsibility for the Neighbourhood Plan process and that there appeared to be a problem with staff recruitment and retention which could adversely impact both Neighbourhood Plans and the Joint Local Plan (JLP) process.

Cllr Northcott indicated that a new member of staff had been recently appointed, that the Loggerheads NP had been signed off by the Head of Planning and the Leader of the Council, and that others could follow. The JLP had been slowed by the need to review housing delivery targets and by the City Council elections creating uncertainty.

43/19 The Council's representatives on outside bodies presented their reports.

Cllr Head reported that grant funding had now been secured for the refurbishment of the play area, which would be opened on the 12<sup>th</sup> May, and that an invitation would be extended to the County and Borough Councillors.

Cllr Daly reported that the governing body was most concerned about parking in the restricted area adjoining the school, and that an application had been submitted to the Parish Council for financial support for the purchase of equipment to discourage such parking. As a school governor and a parent of pupils at the school he would be declaring a prejudicial interest on the application.

Cllr Reah advised that there was little to report from the most recent meeting of the Locality Action Partnership (LAP) but that it would be appropriate to raise the issue of parking at the school at the next LAP since the police were represented.

44/19 As there were a number of current highways issues on which the input of the County and Borough Councillors would be valued the Chairman suggested that the relevant agenda item be brought forward. This was agreed by members.

45/19 Members considered highways issues. The recent fatal road traffic collision on the A531 was noted. A police investigation was underway and it was agreed that it would be inappropriate to comment on any matters which might pre-empt that investigation. The Chairman had been in contact with the investigation team and, at their request, data gathered by the Parish Council's speed monitoring equipment had been released to the investigating officers to inform their review of the incident. He had also been in contact with the MP and the Police and Crime Commissioner and it was suggested that the Parish Council could supply evidence of local concern over traffic speeds, together with objective evidence gathered from the speed monitoring equipment.

Complaints had been registered through the Council's website regarding the condition of the pavements from Betley towards Wrinehill. The initial complaint had been closed, with a claim that no fault had been found. The complaint had been reopened and it now appeared that it might be addressed.

46/19 The Clerk advised that no items had been dealt with as urgent business since the last meeting of the Council.

47/19 The Clerk advised that although no planning applications had been received at the time the agenda was drawn up an application had since been received for a dwelling on land adjoining Mayfield, Church Lane. Members were invited to consider how the application should be dealt with.

**RESOLVED that, in view of the timescale for comment and the significance of the application, a special meeting be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March to consider the application, and any others to hand by that date.**

48/19 The Chairman reported that he continued to be in communication with residents, the MP and the County and Borough Councils as appropriate on issues relating to developments and activities at Doddlespool. The Borough Council was being helpful in addressing the issue; the County Council less so.

49/19 There were no issues relating to HS2 to be considered. The Clerk advised that further documentation had been lodged by HS2 at Crewe Library, and was also available at Newcastle Library. A member reported that complaints had been received that heavy vehicles were using Den Lane to access the work compound in Checkley, which was not in accordance with assurances previously given.

**RESOLVED that the situation be monitored.**

50/19 Cllr Head provided an update on the Neighbourhood Plan. The Working Group had been reviewing the current position - where the programme of work had reached, and where it needed to go next. Members were working hard to refine the Draft Neighbourhood Plan with a view to consultation in April/May. It would then be reviewed in the light of feedback to be followed by statutory formal consultation, further review, before being passed to the Borough Council. It would then be subject to independent examination before the final referendum.

51/19 Members considered issues relating to Council property and assets. The Clerk sought guidance on the wording to appear on the replacement Balterley noticeboard.

**RESOLVED that the wording "Parish Council Notices" be used.**

It was noted that David Griffiths had recently carried out the tree works at Sandy Croft which he had offered to carry out without charge. A member suggested that a further day's work on a paid basis would be beneficial.

**RESOLVED a) that Mr Griffiths be thanked for his generosity in carrying out the work without charge;**

**b) that the Clerk be asked to discuss terms for a further day's work within the agreed terms and within the budget provided.**

52/19 Area issues raised by members were considered. There were no matters requiring decision.

53/19 The Clerk tabled correspondence received. There were no matters requiring decision.

54/19 Members considered an application from Betley School for funding toward the cost of two "Parking Buddies" to be placed in the restricted parking area outside the school to prevent dangerous parking.

**RESOLVED a) that funding in the sum of £269.88 be offered to Betley CE School on the condition that the school assures itself that it is acquiring the most effective available product;**

**b) that the funding be provided from the budget line for support to local organisations.**

[ Having declared a prejudicial interest Cllr Daly withdrew during the above item and took no part in the discussion or decision ]

55/19 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 :**

<b>Shires Pay Services Payroll</b>	<b>£ 24.00</b>	<b>1440</b>
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**Staffordshire County Council**

<b>Speed monitoring signage</b>	<b>£ 348.67</b>	<b>1441</b>
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**c) that the Financial Statement be received;**

**d) that the Bank Statement, having been inspected by the Chairman and Cllr Watkin, be noted, and the reconciliation verified and be signed by the Chairman.**

56/19 Members considered issues relating to council communication.

57/19 Date of special meeting: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019; next scheduled meeting: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019.