

# **BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2010**

### **PRESENT**

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Steven Ball, Jo Cameron, David Hales, Simon Harrison (from min.16), Richard Head and Chris Watkin.

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Two members of the public  
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk)

12/10 Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Daley, Speed and Price. Apologies for likely lateness and possible absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Berrisford and Harrison.

Apologies for absence were also received from Borough Cllrs Bwecket and Wemyss and County Cllr Chapman.

13/10 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items. There were no declarations at this point.

14/10 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meetings of 26th November 2009, 15th December 2009 and 29th December 2009 be approved as a true record of the meetings and be signed by the Chairman.

15/10 **RESOLVED** that, subject to the addition of the name of Cllr Harrison to the list of apologies received and accepted, the minutes of the meeting of 13th January 2010 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

16/10 The meeting was adjourned to allow public participation. Two members of the public participated.

The first member of the public raised two issues. He alleged that trailer loads of rubble had been dumped in woodland (known as bluebell wood or The Slum) near Model Farm. In response it was indicated that the regulatory authorities for such activities were the Borough Council (planning) and/or the Environment Agency (waste disposal). He also commented that a stile on a public footpath off Common Lane had been blocked. In response it was made clear that the issue had been raised with Staffordshire County Council's Rights of Way Unit, from whom no response had been received to date.

The second member of the public represented the developer who had expressed an interest in the Blue Bell site, and wished to update members of the council on the current position. His client had now completed the purchase of the site, and was keen to consult locally on options for the future of the site. In the meantime the property would continue to be marketed as a going concern (i.e. as a public house) as required by the planning authority, but in the present climate this was unlikely to be a viable option. He also

advised members that the historic toll board had been removed from the Blue Bell, and was with Newcastle Borough Council for safekeeping.

[Cllr Harrison joined the meeting at this point]

17/10 The Chairman presented a report on his activities since the last scheduled meeting, which had primarily been concerned with the planning application submitted for the Model Farm complex, and which had included a meeting that afternoon with an officer of the Borough Council.

18/10 The Clerk advised members of the position regarding the light at The Butts/ Church entrance. The light was a Borough Council responsibility, and the Borough's contractors had been in touch to confirm that they were in a position to carry out repair work subject to authority from the Borough. He had therefore contacted Cllr Becket, asking him to bring whatever pressure he could to bear. He also advised members that the Council's printer/copier had developed a fault and was no longer functional. The cost of any repair was likely to exceed the value of the equipment, which seemed to be 4-5 years in age, and he was seeking the Council's views on what action to take.

**RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to dispose of the printer/copier in an appropriate manner.**

19/10 Members considered further observations on the following planning application, previously considered at the meeting of 13th January.

**09/00674/FUL & 00675/LBC Conversion and extension of farm complex to form hotel and function room, restaurant, spa etc, new vehicular access, car parking etc, Betley Model Farm, Betley**

**RESOLVED that, subject to minor drafting corrections, the Parish Council formally and fully endorses the report prepared by the Chairman, and now placed before members.**

20/10 Members received the following planning decision notice:

09/00684/FUL Double detached garage, The Old Stables, Balterley –  
PERMITTED

21/10 The Clerk reported that an appeal had been lodged against the refusal of planning application 09/00316/FUL Decking in garden (retrospective), Daisy Cottage, New Road, Wrinehill.

**RESOLVED that the Council restates its existing view by objecting to the application.**

22/10 Members considered the Council's response to an expression of interest in potential redevelopment of the Blue Bell Inn site, Wrinehill, in the event of it no longer remaining in use as a public house, and the future of the Wrinehill Garage site.

In a lengthy discussion members considered possible options for the site, and the degree to which the Council should involve itself in pre-application discussions.

**RESOLVED that the Clerk be asked to prepare a paper for the next meeting, summarising the issues raised in the discussion, and setting out a possible**

**submission of the Council's views which could be shared with the Borough Council, potential developers and/or local residents.**

23/10 Members considered a report prepared by the Clerk setting out the Council's recent expenditure patterns and outlining a draft budget and precept for 2010-2011.

**RESOLVED a) that the precept for 2010-2011 be set at a figure of £10,130;**  
**b) that the draft budget as set out by the Clerk be approved, subject to an additional £570 being transferrred from reserves.**

24/10 The Clerk set out a draft Tender List for the development of a community website, including both local companies and national companies with particular expertise in developing parish council websites.

**RESOLVED that the Tender List be approved, comprising Jamiimedia; Dan Lindop; Newebia; Rapid Web; Myren Sawiak; G Scott; Wellymedia; Wonderweb Design; Cornish webservices; mh-p; ParishCouncil.net; Pythononline.**

25/10 Members considered the Council's nomination to the Management Committee of the Rural Runabout Service.

**RESOLVED that Cllr Bettley-Smith be appointed as the Council's representative.**

26/10 The Clerk invited the Council to consider the return of unspent monies from the grant provided by the Horticultural Society.

**RESOLVED that the money allocated toward enhanced Christmas lighting, which had not been spent, be returned with thanks to the Horticultural Society.**

[Cllrs Ball, Harrison & Head declared personal interests owing to their involvement with the Horticultural Society's Bonfire Committee]

27/10 The Clerk reported to members the current position regarding applications for financial assistance, invoices to hand, and submitted the Financial and Bank Statements.

**RESOLVED a) that the Clerk be asked to provide a full report on the allocation of Community Chest monies to the February meeting;**

**b) that the Council authorises payment of the following:**

<b>G Griffiths</b>	<b>salary &amp; expenses</b>	<b>£ 677.68</b>	<b>867</b>
<b>Betley &amp; District Horticultural</b>	<b>Society return of grant</b>	<b>£ 181.00</b>	<b>868</b>
<b>Betley Village Hall</b>	<b>hall hire</b>	<b>£ 48.00</b>	<b>869</b>
<b>MG Sawiak</b>	<b>website specification</b>	<b>£ 50.00</b>	<b>870</b>

**c) that the Financial Statement be received;**

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

28/10 Members of the Laudy Croft Maintenance Working Group reported that no further maintenance work was required.

29/10 Members considered issues relating to communication.

30/10 Members of the Memorial Garden Working Group reported that due to adverse weather conditions the removal of the Christmas tree and lights had been delayed, but was likely to take place within a few days. It was noted that it was very difficult to

remove the lights without damage to the bulbs, and it was suggested that a budgetary provision needed to be made.

It was noted that a hoarding had been placed on the Memorial Garden advertising a local event.

**RESOLVED that a policy regarding the use of the Memorial Garden be considered at the February meeting of the Council.**

31/10 Members considered local highway issues.

**RESOLVED a) that the Clerk write to the County Council expressing the Council's deep concern regarding the poor condition of Common Lane, and expressing concern that the County Council could incur liability because of the very poor state of the road;**

**b) that concern also be expressed regarding the very poor state of the road surface in Roger Avenue/ Lakeside;**

**c) that consideration of the siting of the speed camera can be deferred to the February meeting.**

32/10 The Council considered area issues raised by members.

**RESOLVED that the Clerk seek a response from the County Council's Public Rights of Way Unit regarding the status of Footpath 19.**

33/10 The Clerk submitted details of correspondence received since the last meeting.

**RESOLVED that the Chairman seek to rearrange the meeting to discuss the closure of the old churchyard in order to avoid a clash with the scheduled April meeting of the Parish Council.**