

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2013

PRESENT:

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Steven Ball, Mandy Berrisford, Karen Burton, Dave Hales, Seb Daly, Richard Head, Hayley Kerr, Frank Speed, Jo Thomas and Chris Watkin.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Borough Councillor Becket.
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).
Nine members of the public.

12/13 An apology for absence was received and accepted as a valid reason for absence under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 from Cllr Harrison (work).

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

13/13 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

The following members declared prejudicial interests in Item 10 (proposed musical event, Betley Court Farm) for the reasons listed: Cllr Berrisford (trading relationship with landowner); Cllr Daly (Vice-Chairman of the Horticultural Society which had an interest in the site); Cllr Hales (neighbour); Cllr Speed (landowner of site); Cllr Thomas (potential family financial interest in the event).

All remaining members declared personal interests in the same item through their acquaintance with Cllr Speed as landowner.

The Clerk declared a personal interest in a letter received from Barthomley Parish Council as he was Clerk to that council.

14/13 **RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 22nd November 2012 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

15/13 **RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 10th January 2013 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

16/13 The meeting was adjourned to allow public participation.

Two members of the public wished to speak on Item 10 (Proposed Music Event, August 2013) to express concern regarding its potential impact on the village. Their concerns included potential noise, parking problems, traffic management, litter, security and public order, lack of advance publicity regarding the proposal, and the possibility of further expansion in the future.

The Clerk outlined the legal background to the consideration and granting of a public entertainment licence for the event by Newcastle Borough Council. He clarified that the consideration of the application was a matter entirely for the Borough Council, and that there were only three statutory consultees: the Police (on issues of public order and traffic management), the Fire & Rescue Service (on issues of public and site safety), and the

Borough's Environmental Health Department (on issues of public and environmental protection). The Parish Council had not been advised of the application, and had only been made aware of the matter after Newcastle BC had granted permission.

The Chairman expressed his concern and surprise that the Parish Council was not a consultee on such matters, but this was the case.

A third member of the public, who was the promoter of the event, wished to clarify the proposals to dispel some concerns. He stressed that it would not be a three day event, but three separate evening concerts of different tone and interest. The event, which would be held within a fenced area, was licensed from 2 to 10.30pm on each day and no activity would be permitted outside those hours. The licence was subject to a large number of conditions which addressed many of the concerns raised. There would be a Noise Management Plan intended to minimise impact on nearby properties. A Traffic Management Plan would address issues of traffic and parking, and it was believed that queueing would be minimised.

The two previous speakers then raised a number of questions to which the promoter responded. In particular assurances were sought regarding the monitoring of the event, and the post-event review to be carried out by the Borough Council. An assurance was also sought that the Parish Council would respond to any complaints arising from the event. The Chairman replied that, although the Parish Council had no formal status or role, he would wish the Council to respond appropriately by reviewing the event at either a regular or special meeting as necessary.

The promoter stressed that villagers would be kept informed, that they would be provided with a contact phone number and that the event's security team would be professional and well qualified.

17/13 In view of the concerns raised the Chairman suggested that Item 10, relating to the music event, should be taken immediately. This was accepted by members.

[Having declared prejudicial interests Cllrs Berrisford, Daly, Hales, Speed and Thomas left the meeting and took no part in the discussion of this matter]

18/13 Members considered the proposed Music Event for which a Public Entertainment Licence had been issued by Newcastle Borough Council. At the request of members the Clerk explained that the Parish Council had no role in the consideration of the licence application, and had not even been notified of the planned event. He summarised the extensive list of conditions which had been imposed by the Borough Council on the Licence issued. Members stressed the importance of making it clear to the public that the Parish Council had not ignored the issue but had simply not been informed of the proposed event.

RESOLVED that the Borough Council be informed of the concerns raised by members of the public and be urged to ensure that the conditions attached to the Licence should be strictly enforced.

[Cllrs Berrisford, Daly, Hales, Speed & Thomas rejoined the meeting]

19/13 The Chairman reported on activities undertaken since the last meeting. He was expecting to attend the next Rural Transport Meeting on 7th February. Some issues had arisen regarding the use of the Council's grit supplies but these had been resolved, and grit had been made available at key locations during the recent bad weather.

20/13 The Vice-Chairman reported that he had been unable to attend the meeting to discuss the proposed change of status of Madeley High School.

21/13 Cllr Head advised members that the improvement works to the Village Hall had now commenced and an official reopening was scheduled for 9th March. Cllr Thomas advised that the Madeley LAP meeting had been cancelled due to adverse weather.

22/13 The Clerk reported that following clarification of the Tax Base for 2013-2014 he had been able to issue a precept on the Borough Council of £9,769. This would return the actual sum payable per property to the level of 2011-2012. These actions were in accordance with the Council's resolutions recorded in minutes 344/12 and 8/13 and had been carried out in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders on Urgent Business.

RESOLVED that the Clerk's actions be endorsed.

23/13 Members considered the following planning application:

12/00794/FUL & 795/CON Erection of ground floor rear extension and ancillary works to kitchen and first floor bathroom at Lime View, Main Road, Betley

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objection to the application.

24/13 The Clerk reported that there had been no further progress on application 12/00690 relating to an application for a Lawful Development Certificate for a proposed use as a wedding venue, Buddleigh Farm, Betley.

25/13 Members considered possible action under planning legislation to secure repairs to the collapsed wall in Betley. The Clerk advised that the Borough Council had concluded that the wall was not of a status which would allow action under planning legislation, and that the future of the wall was a matter for the adjoining landowners and the owners of the wall, if they could be determined. It was understood that the County Council was proposing to erect fencing to secure its boundary and concern was expressed that the siting of such a fence could compromise any future works to restore the wall.

RESOLVED a) that the Clerk write to the Borough Council expressing its disappointment that such a historic feature within the Conservation Area had been allowed to deteriorate;

b) that the Clerk write to the County Council asking for a site meeting to discuss the matter, and to secure a solution which would permit future restoration of the wall.

26/13 Members considered the response received from HM The Queen following her receipt of details of the Diamond Jubilee events held in the village. It was suggested that the materials received should be preserved and displayed within the village; appropriate quotations for framing had been received.

RESOLVED a) that the items be framed in the dark blue framing at the listed cost of £80.99;

b) that they be placed on loan for the duration with the Trustees of the Village Hall for public display.

27/13 Consideration of the Council's potential role in emergency planning was deferred to await further details from the Borough Council.

28/13 Members considered initiatives being undertaken or considered by the Parish Council.

29/13 Clearance of pavements. The Clerk advised that he was awaiting a response regarding the cost of further clearance work in the Balterley area.

30/13 Gully emptying. Work was still awaited; the Clerk would prompt the County Council.

31/13 Bus facilities, Main Road/East Lawns. The Clerk advised members that he was awaiting quotations for works to relocate the Newcastle-bound stop.

32/13 Gritting. Grit supplies had been provided as appropriate. In light of certain comments made regarding potential liability if grit was supplied, or spread inadequately or inappropriately, there was some discussion of the legal implications of the Council's policy. The Clerk advised that as long as the Council acted reasonably there would be no realistic prospect of liability. However the Council did need to consider its obligation to take reasonable steps to protect the public, especially if and where it invited the public onto its property e.g. the Memorial Garden.

RESOLVED that the Council does not consider it appropriate to grit the Memorial Garden path under normal circumstances, since it was no more or less a hazard than neighbouring highways/pavements which were untreated by the Highways Authority, but that consideration should be given if a specific event was being held.

33/13 Millennium Trees. The Village Hall Committee had not yet carried out any planting work as it was an inappropriate time, and further thought was being given to their appropriate use.

34/13 Cllr Burton reported that the County Council had now agreed with the proposed installation of kissing gates to replace stiles on Footpaths 4 & 5. There was now a need to secure landowner permission.

RESOLVED that a Working Group of Cllrs Burton and Speed be authorised to progress the matter.

35/13 Members discussed the Community Speed Watch Scheme. Two further volunteers had been identified. The Clerk advised that a poster inviting further interest had been placed on the parish noticeboards.

36/13 Members noted that no further action was required in respect of the budget and precept for 2013/14.

37/13 Members considered area issues raised by members.

RESOLVED that the issue of dog fouling across the parish be considered at the next meeting.

38/13 Members considered highway issues raised by residents of Den Lane, Wrinehill and Church Lane, Betley.

RESOLVED a) Den Lane. That Staffordshire County Council be asked to provide additional signage and pre-zone signage to raise awareness of the speed limit, and to relocate or alter the existing signage to ensure that it is visible and not obscured by vegetation;

b) Church Lane. That the difficulties caused by inappropriate parking be highlighted through the Parish Magazine.

on the outcome of the parish walks which had been carried out. The Clerk would forward the reports to the appropriate authorities.

39/13 The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting.

RESOLVED a) that Cllr Daly be nominated to the vacancy for a governor at Betley Primary School;

b) that the letter from Barthomley Parish Council regarding the Cheshire East Development Strategy consultation be received, and that the Parish Council enter a 'holding objection' at this stage requesting that the potential impact of the proposed developments to the south east of Crewe on neighbouring authorities should be considered.

40/13 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

41/13 The Clerk advised that any balance of funding remaining under the Borough Council's Community Chest scheme would need to be allocated by 31st March (other than a small permitted carry-forward).

RESOLVED that the balance available to the Parish Council be reviewed at the February meeting.

42/13 **RESOLVED** a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:

G Griffiths	salary & expenses	£600.27	1080
Lampholder 2000 Ltd	Christmas lighting	£ 66.00	1081

b) that the Financial Statement be received;

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

43/13 Members of the Laudy Croft Working Group advised that no maintenance work was currently required.

44/13 Members considered Council communication, and matters to be included in the next issue of the Parish Magazine.

45/13 Members of the Memorial Garden Working Group reported that winter bedding could now be planted following removal of the Christmas Tree. Thanks were expressed to Cllrs Ball and Speed, and former councillor Mark Morris, for their work in removing the tree.

46/13 Date of next meeting: Thursday 28th February 2013.

47/13 **RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the following item under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Section 100A (Schedule 12A Part I) of the Local Government Act 1972 in that it relates to potential contractual arrangements for the supply of goods and services, and/or potential legal proceedings by or against the authority, and that it is considered to be in the public interest to exclude.

48/13 The Clerk advised that no further communication had been received from the Borough Council regarding land at Laudy Croft.