

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2014

PRESENT:

Cllrs Seb Daly, Dave Hales, Richard Head, Frank Speed, Jo Thomas (from min.15) and Chris Watkin.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Two members of the public.

PCSO

Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

1/14 Apologies for absence was received from Cllrs Ball, Berrisford, Head and Thomas.

An apology for absence had also been received from Borough Cllr Becket. County Cllr Loades had another meeting, but hoped to be able to attend at some point during the meeting.

2/14 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Cllr Speed declared a prejudicial interest in Item 14 (Licence Review, August Music Event) as the landowner. All members present declared personal interests in Item 14 (Licence Review, August Music Event) through friendship with the landowner of the event site.

3/14 **RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 28th November 2013 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

4/14 The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow public participation.

The first member of the public referred to matters at Buddleigh Farm. A premises licence application had been submitted to permit music and the sale of alcohol. In his view there were a number of difficulties with the application.

The application did not relate to the area for which a certificate of permitted development had been issued, but for the whole 17 acre site including Buddleigh Farm, Hunters Tryst, outbuildings and a range of fields, and incorporating the domestic curtilage. The application should be referenced to the site previously identified, or a bar could be established in the buildings, by the lake etc.

Environmental Health had set out appropriate restrictions needed before any licence could be permitted, relating to the specific site, noise limitation etc., but these were not referenced in the application.

The permitted development related to seven events per annum; the licence application referred to nine events.

The second member of the public referred to works which had been carried out at Old Hall Farm. Following planning consent for enclosure of a barn works had been done to create a drive and hardstanding within the Conservation Area seemingly without any planning consents. There was also an issue regarding rights of way across the stackyard.

The Clerk advised that though the Council might wish to comment on the planning implications of any works, issues of rights of way etc. Were civil matters between the landowners/ residents concerned.

5/14 PCSO Ian Blythe was present on behalf of Staffordshire Police, and presented a report on recent police activity in the area. During the previous four week period there had been three recorded crimes, all thefts (a tree, a skip and a wheely bin) and one incidence of anti-social behaviour (a neighbour dispute). Generally the area benefitted from a low level of criminality.

Following previous burglaries in the area advice had been published in the parish magazine with a leaflet drop to the affected area giving advice on crime prevention.

From a policing perspective there seemed to be two main areas of concern in the village: parking at the school, and traffic speeds on the A531. The police had acted by giving advice on-site regarding dangerous parking, and enforcement through fixed penalty notices was an option they were willing to pursue. On speeding interactive signs, the speed van and visits by officers were all being used. This would be supported by the Community Speed Watch Scheme.

Members commented that there had been a noticeable police presence in recent months, which was appreciated. PCSO Blythe was thanked for attending.

6/14 The Vice-Chairman reported that the Parish Council had been invited to participate in a Safety Advisory meeting relating to the music event at Betley Court Farm to be held on 4th February. He anticipated that he would be attending along with the Chairman.

[There being no substantive discussion of this matter Cllr Speed was not required to withdraw from the meeting]

He had also attended a public question and answer session held by United Utilities regarding the proposed works in connection with the sewage works.

7/14 The Clerk advised members of the recent death of Mr Peter Nurse, who had served as a member of the Parish Council in the 1970s.

8/14 Although the Borough Councillor was absent he had advised the Clerk on a number of matters:

There were proposals to reform the structure of the Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) and to create a Betley, Keele & Madeley LAP.

The Borough Council had not yet acted on the matter of enforcement at Buddleigh Farm, and he suggested that the Parish Council might wish to press the Borough Council to address the issue.

The Borough Council had also received a licence application in respect of Buddleigh Farm for music and the sale of alcohol. Although the Parish Council was not a consultee on such matters it might wish to express a view to the Borough Council.

Activity at Doddlespool Hall Farm was much reduced, but continuing. He suggested that the Parish Council might wish to press the following as appropriate:

- Borough Council re planning issues;
- County Council re traffic hazards;
- Environment Agency re licensing controls.

The Borough Council was of a view that planning permission was required for the formation of a roadway at Old Hall Farm.

9/14 The Clerk advised members that the following matters had been dealt with under the Council's provisions for Urgent Business since the previous meeting:

Following the supply of an appropriate payee identity the payment for Community Speed Watch equipment had been processed;

An invoice from mh-p internet for website hosting and maintenance had been processed.

These matters had been approved by, and cheques signed by, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The Clerk had acted as third signatory.

10/14 The Clerk advised that no planning decision notices had been received since the last meeting.

11/14 The Clerk invited members to consider the various planning matters tabled and referred to previously in the meeting.

RESOLVED a) that the Borough Council be pressed to proceed with appropriate enforcement action in relation to the use of land at Buddleigh Farm as a wedding venue;
b) that the Clerk be asked to press the appropriate authorities for action in relation to the works at Doddlespool Hall Farm, and their impact on the highway;

c) that the Borough Councillor be advised that the Parish Council considers that a “call-in” of any application in respect of the roadway formed at Old Hall Farm would be appropriate in view of local concerns, and the proximity of the development to listed structures which may have been compromised by the construction of the roadway.

12/14 Members also considered a comment received from a member of the public expressing concern at the appearance of advertising signs on the roadside. It appeared that the signs concerned had been placed on highways land, and were therefore subject to control by the County Council (as highways authority). It also appeared that standard custom and practice was to permit For Sale/ To Let signs at such locations.

13/14 Members were invited to consider the Clerk’s Report on setting a Budget and Precept for 2014-2015. In considering the budget members expressed concern regarding the condition of fencing at Laudy Croft and suggested that provision should be made for immediate repair works. The Clerk advised that making such provision was in order as an appropriate agenda item was included in the published agenda.

RESOLVED a) that Cllr Hales be authorised to approve any necessary works to be carried out by the Council’s usual contractor(s);
b) that a maximum budget of £300 be allocated for such works;
c) that the Clerk, having consulted with the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman, be authorised to process any necessary payment.

14/14 Members considered the Clerk’s Report on setting a Budget and Precept for 2014-2015.

RESOLVED a) that the Draft Budget be approved;
b) that the Precept be set in the sum of £9,735 to permit a Band D parish precept of £17.26, unchanged from 2013-2014;
c) that the Clerk be authorised to make any necessary adjustments in the budget and or precept figure in the event of any further changes in the Tax Base or grants payable by the Borough Council.

[Cllr Thomas joined the meeting at this point]

15/14 Members considered potential future use of the Laudy Croft site. The Clerk reported that he had made initial contact with the Borough Council, which would be carrying out an

initial desk study to examine what investigative works would be appropriate. A small number of public comments had been received, which seemed generally supportive of the Parish Council's initial aspiration that the site should be made available as informal open space.

RESOLVED that the Clerk continue to progress the matter with the Borough Council.

16/14 Members considered matters relating to the collapsed wall at the rear of Main Road. Cllr Hales advised that discussions were underway with the contractors to finalise details of contract terms, and that work could then be started.

17/14 Members considered initiatives being undertaken or considered by the Parish Council.

18/14 Signage. Cllr Head requested that the item be deferred to allow further consideration.
RESOLVED that the matter be considered at the March meeting.

19/14 East Lawns Benches. Cllr Hales advised that he had obtained prices for facing the existing benches.

RESOLVED that the necessary works be approved, subject to a maximum budget of £200 (net of VAT).

20/14 East Lawns Grounds Maintenance. The Clerk advised that he had made contact with an appropriate officer of Aspire Housing.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be asked to progress the matter.

21/14 Dog fouling. A further request for signage having been received from the area of the Chapel, The Butts it was agreed that Cllrs Hales would supply and install.

22/14 The Clerk advised members that the Borough Council would be holding a meeting on 4th February in relation to licensing of the Music Event at Betley Court Farm to which the Parish Council had been invited. It was anticipated that the Parish Council would be represented by the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman.

[There being no substantive discussion there was no requirement for Cllr Speed to retire from the meeting.]

23/14 Cllr Burton had advised the Clerk that there had been no progress on the Community Footpaths Initiative.

24/14 Members considered progress on the Community Speed Watch Scheme. The speed gun and other equipment had now been received and training had also been completed.

25/14 Members considered area issues raised by members.

RESOLVED a) that the Clerk be asked to report the problems created by HGVs using Pigeon House Lane and urge the County Council to provide appropriate signage;

b) that further representations be made regarding the flooding on the A531 at Doddlespool;

c) that the Clerk report concerns regarding the hazard for traffic emerging onto the A531 from Post Office Lane to the County Council.

26/14 Members considered other highways issues, including the provision and stocking of grit bins.

RESOLVED a) that the letter from Staffordshire County Council be received;

b) that the representations from Cllr Becket and a local resident regarding the provision of grit bins in the East Lawns area be noted;

c) that the County Council be advised that the Parish Council takes the following view of gritting arrangements:

i) that the gritting programme should be retained, with an extension to include Bowhill Lane / Church Lane in the area of the school;

ii) that existing grit bins should be restocked as necessary, including that provided at the Village Hall car park;

iii) that the Parish Council does not feel that formal participation in 'Icebusters' to be appropriate, and will continue to provide its own grit/salt as appropriate within the community, but would ask the County Council to stock the 'orphan' grit bin in the car park off East Lawns for use by the Parish Council/ local residents.

27/14 The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting.

28/14 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

29/14 **RESOLVED** a) that the following payments made since the last meeting be noted:

Staffordshire County Ccl	Speedwatch equipment	£ 949.20	1121
mh-p internet ltd	website	£ 684.00	1125

b) that the Council authorises payment of the following:

DT Askey	Memorial Garden	£ 100.00	1126
Royal British Legion	Wreath	£ 18.50	1127
G Griffiths	Salary & expenses	£1,151.09	1128

c) that the Financial Statement be received;

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

30/14 Members thanked Cllr Hales for arranging for the removal of the Christmas Tree. Cllr Hales thanked others, including residents, who had assisted..

31/14 Members considered Council communication, and matters to be included in the next issue of the Parish Magazine.

32/14 Members considered matters for future Agenda.

33/14 Date of next meeting: Thursday 27th February 2014.