

# BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 2015

14/15 PRESENT:

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Steven Ball, Mandy Berrisford, Karen Burton (from min.22), Seb Daly and Chris Watkin.

15/15 IN ATTENDANCE:

Borough Cllr Becket.  
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

16/15 Apologies for absence was received from Cllrs Hales (work), Harrison (work), Kerr (family), Speed (health) and Thomas (holiday).

17/15 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Cllr Berrisford declared a personal interest in planning application 14/00903 through friendship with the applicant.

18/15 **RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 27th November 2014 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

19/15 **RESOLVED that, subject to the addition of “from min.6” following the name of Cllr Burton in those in attendance, the minutes of the meeting of 8th January 2015 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

20/15 There were no members of the public present to engage in public participation.

21/15 The Chairman advised that matters which had been raised with him since the last meeting related to correspondence, Laudy Croft and Doddlespool would be dealt with as agenda items.

[Cllr Burton joined the meeting at this point]

22/15 Neither the Vice-Chairman nor the Clerk had anything to report at this point.

23/15 Borough Cllr Becket presented his report to members on the following matters.

Bus services. There was a potential threat to the 85 service as First had registered a competing service between Madeley and Newcastle. However there did not appear anything which could be done at present to address the issue.

Doddlespool. Vehicle movements had been significantly reduced; there was still some outstanding landscaping works so some further movements were inevitable.

Borough Council. There was to be a 25% reduction in the Concurrent Functions Grant, which was not in accordance with the views of the Panel which had recommended retaining the previous arrangement for a year. The recent planning appeal at Baldwins Gate had highlighted the Borough's lack of a five year housing supply. This was likely to result in widespread applications on unallocated sites, though Betley would be protected by its Green Belt status.

Stoke Hospital A&E. Cllr Becket, with other councillors, had recently met the Chief Executive of the Hospital Trust to discuss the A&E department which had been ranked the worst in the country on waiting times. There were clear structural and organisational problems in the local health service.

24/15 It was noted that a reply was still awaited regarding use of the Reading Room for the police surgery. Cllr Berrisford reported that she had attended the recent meeting of the Conservation Advisory Working Group which had considered the Betley Court Farm application. There was general support for the concept but it was suggested that the recesses within the brickwork should be retained.

25/15 The Clerk advised members that, since the last meeting and in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, he had authorised investigatory works at Laudy Croft to be undertaken by the Council's chosen contractor Wardell Armstrong in accordance with the Council's policy on urgent business.

26/15 Members considered the following planning application.

**14/00903/FUL Alterations to dwelling to include orangery, site opposite 1 Church Villas, The Butts, Betley.**

**RESOLVED that the Council has no objection.**

27/15 The Clerk reported on the following planning decision notices received:

14/00814 & 969 Beech Wood, Main Road, Betley – PERMITTED

14/00843 Betley Court Farm – WITHDRAWN

28/15 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman had advised members by e-mail on the investigatory work carried out at Laudy Croft by Wardell Armstrong. Appropriate test pits had been dug and chemical analysis of sampling was underway.

The Clerk advised members of an enquiry from a local resident regarding potentially using Laudy Croft as grazing land.

**RESOLVED that the nature of the site was such that it was unsuitable for grazing and that the Parish Council's intention that the site be open to community use would also make grazing inappropriate.**

29/15 The Clerk tabled a report on budget and precept options for 2015-16 and members were invited to set a budget and precept.

**RESOLVED a) that the Budget as set out by the Clerk be approved, subject to increasing the Amenity Contingency line from £1,000 to £1,500 (to permit potential further works to the Memorial Garden) to be balanced by increasing the provision for the use of balances from £1,728 to £2,228;**

**b) that an unchanged precept of £9,735 be raised for 2015-16.**

30/15 It was noted that the beds at the junction of Main Road with East Lawns had been cleared by Aspire's contractors but that further information regarding tree works and replanting was still awaited.

31/15 Cllr Burton advised members that Staffordshire County Council was happy for the sum allocated under the Community Footpaths Initiative to be earmarked for future use to provide access to the Laudy Croft site when public access was restored.

32/15 Members noted that the Community Speed Watch scheme had been scaled down during the darker winter months.

33/15 Area issues raised by members were considered. There were no matters requiring decision.

34/15 Members considered highways issues. The Clerk noted the continuing difficulty in progressing matters with the County Councillor and Highways officers.

**RESOLVED** a) that the proposed letter to the MP regarding flooding at Doddlespool be now sent;  
b) that the Council's usual contractor be engaged to carry out pavement clearing works on the A531 between Betley and Balterley within the outstanding highways works budget.

35/15 The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting. There were no matters requiring decision.

The Chairman tabled a letter received from a resident of East Lawns regarding a damaged bench and potholes.

**RESOLVED** that the matters be reported to Aspire Housing and the County Council.

36/15 Members considered an application for financial support under the Community Chest scheme toward the cost of providing a skate ramp at the Village Hall.

**RESOLVED** that the application be declined as it was felt to be premature at this stage.

37/15 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

38/15 **RESOLVED** a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:

|             |                           |          |      |
|-------------|---------------------------|----------|------|
| DT Askey    | Meml Garden (maintenance) | £ 135.00 | 1171 |
| G Griffiths | Salary/expenses           | £ 781.65 | 1172 |

b) that the Financial Statement be received;  
c) that the Bank Statements be noted, and the reconciliation verified and be signed by the Chairman.

39/15 Members considered any necessary works related to the Memorial Garden. The Clerk advised that three invitations to tender had been issued for maintenance in 2015. At the suggestion of a member a fourth contractors was identified and would be invited to tender. There was a view that a general refurbishment and enhancement was due. Thanks were extended to local residents Phil Jenkinson and Mark Morris for their assistance in dismantling the Christmas Tree.

40/15 Members considered Council communication, and matters to be included in the next issue of the Parish Magazine.

41/15 Members considered matters for future Agenda.

42/15 Date of next meeting: Thursday 26th February 2015.