

# BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on 28th July 2011

### PRESENT

Councillors Robert Bettley-Smith, Mandy Berrisford, Dave Hales, Richard Head and Chris Watkin.

### IN ATTENDANCE

County Cllr Frank Chapman  
One member of the public.  
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

189/11 Apologies for absence were received and accepted as valid reasons for absence under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 from Cllrs Ball (work), Burton (holiday), Daly (family bereavement), Harrison (family commitment), Speed (funeral attendance) and Thomas (holiday).

An apology for absence had been received from Borough Councillor Becket who was on holiday.

190/11 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Cllr Berrisford declared a prejudicial interest in respect of the item relating to the Cricket Club in view of her own, and family members', past and continuing involvement.

191/11 Members considered the co-option of a member to fill the remaining vacancy for the Balterley Ward. The Clerk advised members that one expression of interest had been received.

**RESOLVED that Hayley Morris of Newcastle Road, Balterley be co-opted to serve as a councillor for the Balterley Ward (term of office to expire in May 2015).**

The Chairman advised members that the necessary declaration of acceptance of office had been signed by Cllr Morris and the Clerk, and welcomed Cllr Morris to the Council.

192/11 **RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 23rd June 2011 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

193/11 There were no members of the public present to engage in public participation.

194/11 The Chairman presented his report on activities since the last meeting. He had attended a meeting of the Rural Runabout. It was operating in a satisfactory manner and was covering its costs. He had received notice of a meeting of the Newcastle Borough

Standards Committee; unfortunately it had again been delivered after the date of the meeting.

195/11 County Councillor Chapman presented his report to the Council referring to the current boundary review of County Council divisions, which did not propose any alteration to the Newcastle Rural division, and to the pressures on the budget to support bus services in the county which were not commercially viable. It was important that people should use such services where practical in order to secure their future.

196/11 In the absence of the member who was leading on the issue, discussion of a possible community speed watch scheme was deferred to the next meeting.

197/11 **RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the next item under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Section 100A (Schedule 12A Part I (8,9 & 12)) of the Local Government Act 1972, in that it relates to potential contractual arrangements for the supply of goods or services, and/or potential legal proceedings by or against the authority.

198/11 Members considered draft amendments prepared by the Chairman relating to the proposed agreement between the Parish Council and Newcastle Borough Council in respect of future use of the Laudy Croft site, Common Lane, Betley.

**RESOLVED** a) that clarification be sought regarding the meaning and significance of Paragraph 9 of the suggested agreement;  
b) that the draft amendments be agreed, and be submitted by the Clerk to the Borough Council for comment;  
c) that the matter be considered for final decision at the September meeting;  
d) that consideration of potential future uses for the Laudy Croft site be tabled for discussion at the September meeting.

199/11 **RESOLVED** that the press and public be readmitted.

(Cllr Berrisford left the meeting at this point)

200/11 The Clerk reported that no further response had been received from the Cricket Club with regard to the Management Committee Report to the 2010 Annual Meeting.

**RESOLVED** a) that the Parish Council expresses disappointment at the failure of the representatives of the Cricket Club to respond in order to seek proper closure in this matter;  
b) that the Parish Council is pleased to note that the Cricket Club has acknowledged that the references to the Parish Council in the report of the Management Committee to the Club's Annual Meeting were in error, and that there was no suggestion of any impropriety on the part of the Parish Council;  
c) that the Clerk write to the Cricket Club indicating that the Parish Council now wished to draw this matter to a close, and hoped that the

**Council and the Cricket Club could now work together for the benefit of the wider community.**

(Cllr Berrisford rejoined the meeting)

201/11 The Council considered the following planning application:

**11/00303/FUL Two storey side and rear extensions and first floor front and side balcony, Grindley Cottage, Church Lane, Betley**

**RESOLVED That the Parish Council supports the application, subject to the planning authority satisfying itself that the application is consistent with Local Plan Policy H.18.**

202/11 The Council considered the following planning application:

**11/00345/FUL Alterations to existing garage and stores to form games room and gym and link to main dwelling. Two storey rear extension, first floor extension, single storey front extensions, balcony and orangery, Doddlespool Farm, Main Road, Balterley**

**RESOLVED That whilst not objecting to the proposal the Parish Council has some concerns that the proposal will detract visually from an important and prominent building, and that the planning authority should satisfy itself that the application is consistent with Local Plan Policy H.18 (particularly clauses ii) and iii)). The Parish Council would ask that materials should be matched as closely as possible to the existing, and be appropriate.**

203/11 The Council considered the following planning application:

**11/00365/FUL & LBC Conversion of farm buildings to three residential units, Ravenshall Farm, Main Road, Wrinehill**

**RESOLVED That the Parish Council supports the application.**

204/11 There were no other planning matters to report.

205/11 The Clerk advised members of the current position regarding the community website, and that nearly a hundred pages had now been uploaded to the site.

**RESOLVED that the Clerk be asked to arrange for the website to 'go live' and that members be asked to check the site to identify any necessary corrections.**

206/11 Members considered whether they wished to nominate a representative to the Village Hall Committee in light of the comments made by the Committee's Chairman regarding the commitment expected of committee members.

**RESOLVED that the Clerk write to the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee indicating that the Parish Council is prepared to nominate a member in a representative capacity, including responsibility to act as a Trustee of the Village Hall, but that in view of other responsibilities falling on members cannot be**

**expected necessarily to take on further obligations in respect of the running of the Village Hall.**

207/11 Members considered progress on the issue of future maintenance of Betley Old Churchyard, and noted that the question of whether or not additional fencing would be required prior to the transfer of maintenance responsibilities appeared to have been resolved. It was therefore possible that the formal notice asking the Parish Council to accept responsibility might be issued shortly, and it was important that the Council was in a position to respond within the necessary time-scale, to avoid future liability.

**RESOLVED that the Clerk write to the Parochial Church Council indicating that, in the absence of a scheduled August meeting, the Council would be unable to deal with any notice in respect of this matter served between 28th July and 8th September, but would be happy to take the matter at its next scheduled meeting of 22nd September.**

208/11 Members considered progress on potential initiatives to be undertaken by the Parish Council.

209/11 Following the successful and appreciated cutting back on vegetation encroaching onto the pavement in Wrinehill it was agreed that the next priority should be pavements in Balterley, between the entrance to the 30mph sign to Doddlespool Hall.

**RESOLVED a) that the Clerk seek quotes as appropriate for the work concerned from the Council's normal contractor, and investigate the possibility of the work being done by the County Council's highways gang;**

**b) that the Clerk be authorised to commission work as necessary up to the remaining budget allocated by the County Council.**

210/11 Members noted that consultation with local residents regarding lighting on Common Lane was in progress.

211/11 It was agreed that improvements to the appearance of the grassed areas at the junction of East Lawns/ Main Road, to include enhance maintenance and/or the provision of a bench, could not be considered without clarification of the land ownership question.

**RESOLVED that the Clerk be asked to establish land ownership.**

212/11 Members considered other possible initiatives.

**RESOLVED that the following be considered at the September meeting:**

**a) to mount plaques on the benches provided by the Parish**

**Council;**

**b) treatment of epicormal growth obscuring sightlines at the Balterley bus stop;**

**c) gateway treatment signage.**

213/11 The Council considered area issues raised by members. There were no items requiring decision, but it was noted that appreciation had been expressed by local residents regarding the bench at Balterley and the clearing of the pavement in Wrinehill.

214/11 It was noted that the 'Church Lane' streetsign recently installed at the Memorial Garden had been repositioned to a more satisfactory location.

215/11 The Clerk advised members of correspondence received since the date of the last meeting.

**RESOLVED** a) that information regarding the 'Staffordshire Cares' advisory service be included in the Parish News;  
b) that in respect of the Newcastle Borough 'Joining Big Society Group' the Parish Council indicates a keen interest, and has a suitable member willing to be involved, subject to further information on the role and the procedure for co-option.

216/11 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

217/11 **RESOLVED** a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:

St Margaret's PCC	churchyard maintenance	£ 500.00	948
DT Askey	memorial garden	£ 135.00	949
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M Morris	Balterley bench – Provision of slab	£ 150.00	877
TW Heler	highways works	£ 672.00	878
G Griffiths	Clerk's salary & exps	£ 681.14	879
Audit Commission	audit fee	£ 162.00	880

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

218/11 Members of the Working Group advised that no maintenance work was required at Laudy Croft.

219/11 The Clerk advised members that all necessary paperwork for the water supply to the Memorial Garden had now been resubmitted, and that he was awaiting a date for the required inspection, and subsequent connection from Severn Trent Water.

220/11 In considering potential items for the Agenda of the September meeting Cllr Head advised members that he was progressing the preparations for a Review of the Parish Plan.

221/11 Date of next meeting: Thursday 22nd September.