

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

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 25th July 2013**

### **PRESENT:**

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Steven Ball, Seb Daly (from min.240), Frank Speed, Jo Thomas and Chris Watkin (from min.240).

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Six members of the public.  
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

237/13 Apologies for absence was received from Cllrs Berrisford, Burton, Hales, Harrison, Head and Kerr.

238/13 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Cllr Bettley-Smith declared a prejudicial interest in Items 11 (Collapsed wall, rear of Main Road, Betley) and 20b (Community Chest application) as a Director of Betley Heritage Ltd.

Cllr Speed declared a prejudicial interests in Item 10 (August Music Event) as landowner of the event site.

Cllr Thomas declared a personal interest in Items 11 & 20b (Collapsed wall, rear of Main Road, Betley) as a resident.

239/13 **RESOLVED that, subject to the correction of minor typing errors in Minute 216 (Bus for Bu) and Minute 227 (by insertion of spacing), the minutes of the meeting of 27th June 2013 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

[Cllr Watkin joined the meeting at this point]

240/13 The Chairman outlined the procedure for public participation, and the meeting was then adjourned to allow such participation.

Four members of the public present indicated that they wished to comment on planning issues at Buddleigh Farm, making the following points:

- Events were lasting longer than the four days indicated in the original submission
- Events were taking place partly within the domestic curtilage, which placed them outside permitted development
- Marshalling of the gate was not occurring as required
- Materials were being left on site between events contrary to the original submission
- The Licence to carry out weddings related to the domestic curtilage but there was no planning consent for such a use
- Excessive noise from the three events which had taken place so far.

[Cllr Daly joined the meeting at this point]

A member of the public also expressed concern regarding earthmoving activities and removal of soil off-site in the Doddlespool area, which had given rise to problems of noise, traffic movements and depositing of mud onto the highway.

241/13 The Chairman reported on activities undertaken since the last meeting:

Highways Issues. He had kept members up to date regarding his exchanges with the Highways Department regarding work necessary in the area.

Members were also advised of the induction of the new Vicar, which was to take place on 11th September and at which the Parish Council would be represented.

242/13 The Clerk advised members that Borough Cllr Becket had been in touch to report that the Borough Council was investigating the planning issues at Buddleigh Farm.

243/13 The Clerk advised members of the letter he had sent to Cllr Loades, copied to the Highways Liaison Officer, outlining the Parish Council's concerns regarding outstanding highways issues.

244/13 The Clerk advised members of matters dealt with under the Council's provisions for Urgent Business. He had received a request from the Show Committee asking for permission to erect a banner on the Memorial Garden. Following appropriate consultation, and as the application was in line with Council policy, permission had been granted.

245/13 The Clerk advised members that there were no planning applications to hand.

246/13 The Clerk advised members of the following planning Decision Notice.

13/00441 Extensions, Field House, Main Road, Betley – PERMITTED.

247/13 The Clerk advised members that he had contacted the Borough Council and provided details of events which had been reported as taking place at Buddleigh Farm. Members were invited to consider what further actions might be appropriate at this stage.

**RESOLVED** a) that the Local Planning Authority be urged to investigate activities at Buddleigh Farm, as the Parish Council has significant evidence of potential breaches in that activities are not consistent with the Certificate of Lawful Development, and remains concerned at the road traffic safety implications of the access to the A531.

Members considered the issue of the activity at Doddlespool Farm relating to removal of soil.

[Cllrs Daly & Speed declared personal interests through their association with the landowner]

**RESOLVED** a) that the hazard caused by mud on the roads be reported to the highways authority;  
b) that, in light of concerns expressed by members of the public, the Borough Council be asked to ensure that the activities are lawful.

Members considered a request from the Borough Council to switch to notification of planning applications solely by electronic means.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council does not have the facilities to rely solely on electronic notification, but would welcome initial advice electronically to be followed by hard copy.

248/13 It having been agreed that the music event planned for August should remain an agenda item the matter was placed before members.

[As there was likely to be substantive discussion members who had previously declared prejudicial interests (Cllrs Daly & Speed) withdrew from the meeting during this item]

Members considered information received that camping facilities were to be provided on a site at Church Lane, despite assurances previously given that there would be no on-site camping. The promoter, who was present, was asked to clarify the issue. He stated that there would be limited on-site camping for security and logistical staff, but not for concertgoers. The offer of camping facilities on Church Lane was an independent initiative by a local landowner outwith his control.

**RESOLVED that the Parish Council contact the Borough Council as a matter of urgency drawing the matter to their attention, asking that all necessary licensing requirements be met, and that they ensure that no highway safety hazard be created on an unlit country lane in the hours of darkness.**

249/13 Members were advised that no significant developments had occurred relating to the collapse of a wall to the rear of Main Road, Betley since the previous meeting.

250/13 Members considered initiatives being undertaken or considered by the Parish Council.

251/13 Clearance of pavements and gullies. The Clerk advised that a contract for pavement clearing works on the B5500 had now been let to the Council's contractor. There remained a difficulty in securing work on the blocked gullies on the A531 and elsewhere by the County Council.

252/13 Signage. Cllr Loades had been advised of the Council's difficulties in obtaining information from the County Council.

253/13 Wilderness Bus Shelter. The Clerk advised that two quotations for repair work had been received.

**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 that it is considered to be in the public interest to exclude.**

254/13 Members considered the two quotations received.

**RESOLVED that the quotation in the sum of £250 from M Morris be approved.**

255/13 **RESOLVED that the press and public be readmitted.**

256/13 East Lawns Bu Shelter. It was noted that some hedgecutting had taken place but it was not clear whether this was sufficient to address the problem.

257/13 East Lawns/ Main Road grounds maintenance. The Clerk reported that Cllr Wemyss had agreed to arrange a site meeting involving Aspire and parish councillors to discuss the issue.

258/13 Lakeside. Members considered suggested improvements to fencing and benches in the area. It was felt that fencing was the responsibility of Aspire, but that the Parish Council might appropriately contribute toward the funding of work to enhance or replace benches.

**RESOLVED that the Parish Council would, in principle, be prepared to contribute toward the cost of replacement benches at this location.**

259/13 Dog fouling signage. Signage had been installed as agreed.

260/13 Discussion of the Community Footpaths Initiative was deferred to the next meeting.

261/13 Members considered progress on a Community Speed Watch Scheme. The county co-ordinator was in the process of arranging training days, and suitable speed assessment points would need to be identified.

Attempts were being made to arrange the necessary training for the scheme to progress.

262/13 Members considered schemes which could potentially benefit from the County Councillor's Community Grant Fund.

263/13 Members considered area issues raised by members.

[Cllrs Speed and Daly declared prejudicial interests in this item insofar as it related to signage in the area of Betley Court Farm and withdrew from the meeting during that discussion]

**RESOLVED a) that the Borough Council be asked to provide advice to the owner of the premises on what signage is appropriate within a Conservation Area, and to the Parish Council on the more general issue of signage across the Conservation Area;**

**b) that consideration of traffic speeds on Checkley Lane be considered at the next meeting;**

**c) that the Clerk be asked to arrange for strimming around the Church Lane bench.**

264/13 In considering other highway matters the condition of the footway between The Butts and the Vuillage Hall was again raised as a concern. The Clerk would refer the matter once again to the highway authority.

265/13 The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting.

**RESOLVED a) that in regard to the Community Infrastructure Levy the Council feels that any levy raised from the rural area should not be siphoned away to more urban areas;**

**b) that consideration of VAST (Support and Advice for Staffordshire) be tabled at the next meeting.**

266/13 Members considered an application from the Betley Heritage Limited.

[Cllr Bettley-Smith declared a prejudicial interest in this matter as a Director of the company and withdrew during its consideration]

**RESOLVED that a sum of up to £250 be provided to support the set-up costs of Betley Heritage Ltd subject to appropriate proof of expenditure being supplied, under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.**

267/13 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

268/13 **RESOLVED a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:**

|          |                         |          |      |
|----------|-------------------------|----------|------|
| DT Askey | Meml Garden maintenance | £ 135.00 | 1102 |
|----------|-------------------------|----------|------|

G Griffiths                      Salary & expenses                      £ 791.66                      1103

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

269/13 Members of the Laudy Croft Working Group advised that ragwort on the site required attention.

**RESOLVED** that the Council's regular contractor be engaged to carry out the necessary work.

270/13 Members considered Council communication, and matters to be included in the next issue of the Parish Magazine.

271/13 Members considered matters for future Agenda.

272/13 Date of next meeting: Thursday 26th September 2013.

273/13 **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.

274/13 The Clerk advised that no further communication had been received from the Borough Council regarding land at Laudy Croft.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council should now engage with the Borough Council in exploring options for investigation works on Laudy Croft.