

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2014

PRESENT:

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Steven Ball, Mandy Berrisford, Seb Daly, Frank Speed and Chris Watkin.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Borough Cllr Becket.
Two representatives of United Utilities.
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

204/14 Apologies for absence was received from Cllrs Burton (holiday), Hales (work), Harrison, Head (family), Kerr (family) and Thomas (holiday).

RESOLVED that the apologies be received and accepted as valid reasons for absence under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

205/14 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Cllr Bettley-Smith declared a personal interest in Item 11 (Collapsed wall, rear of Main Road) as a Director of Betley Heritage Ltd. All members (except Cllr Speed) declared a personal interest in Item 15 (Public Entertainment Licence, Betley Court Farm) through friendship with the applicant. Cllr Speed declared a prejudicial interest in the same matter as the applicant.

206/14 **RESOLVED that, subject to the amendment of '24th September' to '24th July' in Minute 203, the minutes of the meeting of 26th June 2014 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

207/14 There were no members of the public present to engage in public participation. The representatives of United Utilities provided an update on works to date. Sections of the pipeline were now in place, the compound had been established and the majority of the required aggregate had been delivered. Over the next month it was anticipated there would be two daily deliveries of cement to the site along Common Lane. The Chairman referred to the aggregates which had been used to provide a temporary surface to the green lane off Common Lane in connection with the works, and asked whether it could be used to assist in the surfacing of Common Lane after works were completed. The representative of UU indicated that the company would seek to co-operate.

208/14 The Chairman reported to members on matters dealt with since the last meeting. He had received a letter from the Reading Room officers expressing appreciation of the Parish Council's support in arranging funding for the relocation of the defibrillator. The Vice-Chairman referred to the recent meeting of the Safety Advisory Group which would be dealt with later in the meeting. He had also responded to members of the public on various matters which had been raised with him.

209/14 Borough Councillor Becket presented his report to members.

Planning. There was one planning application outstanding regarding Buddleigh, relating to the storage of the marquee. Environmental Health seemed to have resolved issues relating to noise and it was unlikely that enforcement action would be appropriate.

The planning authority had asked for a planning application to regularise the formation of a trackway at Old Hall Farm, but the owner had declined to submit. An expediency report was being prepared, which would shape the planning authority's response.

The issues at Doddlespool had been considered by the Planning Committee on 15th July, and an application had been requested by 31st July relating to the construction of the pond and roadway, and the export of topsoil. The likely outcome would be the grant of approval with conditions. Environmental Health were monitoring the situation but did not consider that there was an environmental health hazard. The Environment Agency continued to be reluctant to act despite concern expressed regarding existing consents being exceeded.

210/14 Cllr Ball reported on his attendance at a meeting of the Betley Trust at which no grants had been approved. Cllr Berrisford reported that she had been unable to attend the most recent meeting of the Conservation Area Working Group, which had considered the works at Tudor House and raised no objection.

211/14 The Clerk advised members that one matter had been dealt with under the Council's provisions for Urgent Business since the previous meeting. After consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman he had granted permission to the Horticultural Society to display a banner promoting the Betley Show on the Memorial Garden, in accordance with past practice.

212/14 Members considered the following planning application.

14/00431/FUL Two storey side extension/single storey rear extension, Fields View, Newcastle Road, Balterley

RESOLVED that the Council supports the application

213/14 Members considered the following planning application.

14/00433/FUL Ground floor rear extension, garage extension and roof lights to rear elevation, Windrush, Bowhill Lane, Betley

RESOLVED that the Council supports the application

214/14 Members considered the following planning application.

14/00489/FUL Demolition of part of existing garage, erection of a single storey rear extension and detached single garage and new splay to Checkley Lane, Langholm, Checkley Lane, Wrinehill

RESOLVED that the Council has no objection

215/14 Members considered current planning issues including the condition of the site at the former Blue Bell, Wrinehill; a planning appeal relating to Roosters Nursery, Den Lane; activities at Doddlespool Farm; and a pre-application consultation regarding a wind turbine on land

216/14 **RESOLVED** a) that the Council supports the view that a planning application would be appropriate in relation to the formation of a trackway at Old Hall Farm;
b) that the Clerk write to the Environment Agency prompting them to take appropriate action in relation to activities at Doddlespool Farm.

217/14 Members considered potential future use of the Laudy Croft site. The Vice-Chairman reported on contacts with the appropriate officer at Newcastle Borough Council. Cllr Becket kindly agreed to assist in liaising as necessary with the Borough Council.

218/14 Members were advised that building work to restore the collapsed wall at the rear of Main Road was expected to commence on 4th August. Discussions regarding the protection of trees on the site were progressing in a satisfactory fashion.

219/14 Members considered a consultation on the timing of Borough Council elections.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council support the re-election of Borough Councillors by halves, with elections in alternate years.

220/14 Members considered initiatives being undertaken or considered by the Parish Council. It was noted that the cutting back of the verges at the junction of Main Road with East Lawns had been carried out by Aspire Housing, and to a high standard.

221/14 Members considered the matter of the Premises Licence for the music event at Betley Court Farm. The Vice-Chairman advised that he had attended the most recent meeting of the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) at which it had been confirmed that representatives of the Parish Council would be allowed site access and would be permitted to attend morning briefings.

A member asked about off-site controls within the village itself. The Vice-Chairman advised that there would be stewarding off-site, and also an appropriate police presence in the village.

[Having declared a prejudicial interest Cllr Speed withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the above matter]

222/14 There was nothing further to report regarding planned work under the Community Footpaths Initiative.

223/14 Members noted that the Community Speed Watch equipment was now being satisfactorily deployed on the A531 on a regular basis and the scheme seemed to be working well. There appeared to be an issue with early morning speeding and police visits had confirmed that this was the case. The cost of signage, and the possibility of deploying two rather than four signs, had been investigated with the County Council, but there was little saving to be made by reducing the number of signs.

RESOLVED that the Council reaffirm its decision to proceed with the installation of signage, as agreed, with four signs, up to a maximum budget of £500.

224/14 Area issues raised by members were considered.

RESOLVED a) that the satisfactory repair works on Post Office Lane and the project of resurfacing by Cheshire East of the A531 immediately to the north of the county boundary, be noted;

Clerk be asked to write to the occupier regarding a dead tree on Church Lane;

b) that Aspire Housing be asked to address the presence of a bees nest in the tree adjoining 13 East Lawns;

c) that the Council's usual contractor be engaged to carry out the following works:

- 1) removal of epicormal growth from the verge trees at The Wilderness;
2) to clear the pavement between The Butts and Betley Court Farm;
3) to arrange appropriate work to ragwort on Laudy Croft.
c) that works to secure the site of the former Blue Bell be noted.

225/14 Members considered highways issues. It was noted that the Neighbourhood Gang would be spending four days in the area from 6th August. It was agreed that they should be asked to address the following issues:

Clearing of pavement between Betley and Balterley;
Epicormic growth obstructing sightlines for bus passengers at Balterley;
Obstruction of signage at various locations: Den Lane, Church Lane, Winehill, Doddlespool.

226/14 The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting. There were no matters requiring decision.

227/14 Members considered a request for financial assistance from the Betley Mums & Tots Group.

RESOLVED that a grant, under Section 137 of the Local Government Act, of £300 be awarded to be funded from the budget line for support to local organisations and by virement from the contingency budget.

228/14 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

229/14 **RESOLVED** a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:

Mh-p internet	Website hosting	£ 72.00	1145
G Griffiths	Salary/expenses	£ 428.63	1146
DT Askey	Memorial Garden	£ 270.00	1147

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

230/14 Members considered if any works were required at Laudy Croft. It was noted that a significant amount of Ragwort was present.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to arrange for appropriate works to be carried out by the Council's normal contractor.

231/14 Members considered Council communication, and matters to be included in the next issue of the Parish Magazine.

232/14 Members considered matters for future Agenda.

233/14 Date of next meeting: Thursday 25th September 2014