

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2015

190/15 PRESENT:

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Mandy Berrisford, Seb Daly, Graham Ecclestone, Dave Hales, Mark Morris, Jo Thomas, Terry Townsend and Chris Watkin.

191/15 IN ATTENDANCE:

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

192/15 Apologies for absence was received from Cllrs Head (holiday) and Speed (family commitment). An apology for absence had also been received from County Cllr Loades (clash of meetings).

193/15 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Cllr Berrisford declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 (planning application 15/00485; land at Fields Farm) as an acquaintance of the landowner.

All members declared a personal interest in Item 12 (Licencing Betley Court Farm) through their acquaintanceship with the applicants.

194/15 **RESOLVED that, subject to the correction of Minutes 174 (by the substitution of ‘possibility’ for ‘p POSSIBILITY’) and 189 (by the correction of the date of the next meeting to read 23rd July 2015) the minutes of the meeting of 25th June 2015 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

195/15 The Chairman outlined the procedure for public participation and the meeting was then adjourned.

196/15 Several members of the public wished to contribute.

The first member of the public advised that he was the applicant in respect of application 15/00504 (Sulby, Den Lane, Wrinehill) and wished to point out that the only changes from the scheme previously approved were the provision of an external chimney and minor alterations to the porch.

The second member of the public advised that he had been in contact with the Clerk and Chairman to express concern at the lengthy process before minutes of the council meetings were available to the public on the website. He felt this prevented residents from commenting on business transacted. He outlined an alternative approach which could allow draft minutes to be published on a shorter timescale.

The Clerk responded, pointing out that the matter had been discussed at the June meeting, and that in view of the practical and legal issues involved the Council had decided to maintain its current approach which was in line with general practice. It was also pointed out that any resident who wanted feedback from any public meeting could approach the Clerk, the Chairman, or any councillor who had been present.

The member of the public pointed out that councillors' telephone numbers were not publicised on the website. Members would consider whether this practice should be changed.

The third member of the public wished to raise issues relating to Licencing at Betley Court Farm. He noted that the conditions of the licence required the siting of any marquees to be agreed in consultation with environmental health, ward councillors, the Parish Council Chairman and such other persons as felt appropriate by the local authority. He wished to know whether the Parish Council had been involved and what view it had taken.

The Chairman responded by pointing out that the Parish Council had as yet not had an opportunity to consider its view. Along with the Vice-Chairman he had attended a site meeting on Monday along with three local residents and Environmental Health. There had been discussion regarding the siting of the marquee for the Young Farmers Club ball and there had been general agreement that the positioning was appropriate. Quite draconian conditions had, he understood, been applied with noise limiting equipment to be provided and he was hopeful that this would prove effective.

The member of the public asked whether this siting had now been approved for future events and whether alternative sites had been investigated.

The Chairman replied that he believed it to be a one-off decision relating solely to the special circumstances of the YFC Ball and that no conclusions had been reached in respect of future events.

The member of the public stated that in his opinion the Environmental Health Officer took a different view and that future events would take place at the location previously used for weddings.

The Chairman repeated his view that he would expect there to be further consultation on future events.

The member of the public noted that at the meeting of 28th May the Chairman had allowed a member of the public to address the Council on the matter of the Betley Court Licence. In light of the contentious nature of past events would it not have been better to involve the community more widely?

The Chairman pointed out that the Council's policy was to allow public participation to cover a wide range of concerns, and required no advance notice of matters to be raised. It was therefore impossible for the Council to know in advance what matters members of the public might choose to raise.

As a final question the member of the public asked whether the Parish Council was content with the Borough Council's decision to limit the Licence to five events, located in a marquee, and restricted to 450 attendees?

The Chairman pointed out that the Council had not yet had an opportunity to take a view.

The second member of the public stated that he understood that the noise limiting equipment referred to would be limited in effect as it would not be able to switch off excessive noise. He was, however, reasonably happy with the siting for the YFC event, but would be concerned by some alternative sitings. He felt that the potential for disruption remained.

197/15 Members considered the vacancy for a single one member in the Balterley Ward. Llr Watkin was thanked for his work in preparing and delivering a leaflet within Balterley, advising residents of the vacancy and inviting expressions of interest.

The Clerk advised that one expression of interest had been received, from Mr Ian Walton, and the Clerk read out the e-mail received outlining Mr Walton's experience and interests.

RESOLVED that Ian Walton of Beehive Cottage, Back Lane, Balterley be co-opted to serve as a member for the Balterley Ward of the Council for the current term of the Council (i.e. to May 2019).

198/15 The Chairman presented his report on matters since the last meeting. Along with the Vice-Chairman he had attended the recent site meeting regarding the Betley Court Licence, to which reference had already been made, and which would be discussed as a further agenda item.

199/15 The Clerk reported on three matters.

He had received an application from the Show Committee requesting permission to place an advertisement on the Memorial Garden. As this was in line with Council policy he had granted permission.

[Cllrs Daly, Hales, Morris and Watkin declared personal interests in this matter through their involvement with the Show Committee]

He had received further representations from a member of the public regarding the publication of minutes, as had been referred to during public consultation. He again advised members of the potential practical and legal difficulties in adopting the approach suggested by the member of the public. Members were also invited to consider whether telephone numbers should be included on the website.

RESOLVED that members be invited to consider whether they wished telephone contact details to be included on the website and that the question of how the Council's proceedings could be more effectively conveyed to the public be considered further at the September meeting.

The Clerk advised that at the June meeting a member of the public had raised a question regarding the behaviour of a borough councillor at the meeting of the Licensing Committee. On the basis of the information supplied both the Clerk and County Cllr Loades had expressed a view that such behaviour might be considered unwise. In the light of further information received since then the Clerk had been reassured that the borough councillor had made it clear that she was relaying the opinions of a resident who had been unable to attend the meeting without necessarily endorsing that view. In view of that the Clerk wished to make it clear that he no longer considered the councillor's behaviour to have been in any way inappropriate.

200/15 In the absence of County Cllr Loades the Clerk advised that Cllr Loades would welcome any observations regarding proposed changes to the travelling and mobile library services which were under review. Having considered a summary of the proposed services in the area members did not feel it was necessary to comment.

201/15 There was no Borough Councillor report.

202/15 Members reported on outside bodies.

Conservation Advisory Working Group. A meeting was scheduled for 28^h July. There was currently no scheduled business affecting the parish

Locality Action Partnership. The annual meeting had taken place on Monday. The Police had now published details of forthcoming surgeries as requested.

203/15 The Clerk advised members that, since the last meeting, there had been no urgent business requiring action.

204/15 Members considered the following planning application:

15/00485/FUL Variation of conditions 2 & 9 of 14/00636/FUL Wind turbine, Fields Farm, Church Lane, Betley for Lepower 1 Ltd

RESOLVED that the Council has no objection.

205/15 Members considered the following planning application:

15/00504/FUL Alterations to plan and elevations previously approved in 2007, Sulby, Den Lane, Wrinehill for Sulby Properties Ltd

RESOLVED that the Council has no objection.

206/15 Members considered the following planning application:

15/00521/FUL Variation of Condition 3 of permission 14/00610 land at Doddlespool, Main Road, Betley (to extend time limit to December 2019).

RESOLVED that the Parish Council objects to the application in view of:

- a) the hazard created by increased heavy vehicle movements onto a section of road known to be dangerous particularly under wet conditions;**
- b) the adverse impact on the residential amenity of nearby residents.**

If the Local Planning Authority is however minded to grant the variation then it must satisfy itself that the removal of topsoil as proposed is essential, and must impose appropriate conditions to ensure highway safety and to minimise any adverse impact on local residents.

207/15 Members considered the following planning application:

15/00567/FUL Two storey side extension, Yew Tree Cottage, Deans Lane, Balterley.

RESOLVED that the Council has no objection.

208/15 The Clerk advised members that both the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and the National Wildflower Centre had indicated a willingness to assist and advise on the development of Laudy Croft as public open space of ecological value. He would seek to arrange an appropriate site visit to discuss options for the site.

209/15 Members considered the recent Premises Licence application relating to Betley Court Farm.

[Cllr Daly declared an interest in this matter as the Licence included reference to the Show and Bonfire. As an officer of the Show Committee he sought advice from the Clerk as to whether his interest was personal or prejudicial. The Clerk indicated that a final decision was a matter for the councillor concerned but, as Cllr Daly stood to gain no financial advantage/ disadvantage from the matter and the Parish Council had no role in determining the application he felt that declaration of a personal interest would be adequate. Cllr Daly then declared his interest to be personal.]

The Chairman advised members that, in granting the licence, the Borough Council had imposed a condition requiring consultation with the Chairman of the Parish Council on the siting of marquees. This condition had been imposed without consultation with the Parish

Council in general or the Chairman specifically and the view of the Parish Council was therefore sought.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council accepts the decision of the Borough Council and endorses the actions of the Chairman (and Vice-Chairman as appropriate) in meeting the terms of the condition.

210/15 The Clerk advised that the proposals for tree works at Main Road/ East Lawns by Aspire Housing were currently being reviewed by the Borough Council. It was noted that grass cutting had recently been synchronised between Aspire and the County Council creating a better impression.

211/15 Progress on the Community Speed Watch Scheme was reviewed. Concern was expressed that little monitoring had been carried out recently and that activity was still largely dependent on a nucleus of parish councillors.

212/15 Area issues raised by members were considered. Particular concern was expressed regarding the dangerous nature of Bowhill Lane/ Church Lane for children walking to school and it was felt that action was needed prior to the start of the autumn term.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council seek an urgent site meeting with the new Highways Liaison Officer at Staffordshire Highways to seek potential solutions to this issue.

213/15 Members considered highways issues. A concern had been raised with a member that there was a particular danger to children in Common Lane given the lack of any footway.

RESOLVED that this matter be added to the agenda of any site meeting arranged under Minute 212.

214/15 The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting. There were no matters requiring decision.

215/15 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

216/15 **RESOLVED a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:**

St Margaret's PCC	Burial Ground maintenance	£ 500.00	1189
P Brooks & Son	Meml Gdn maintenance	£ 300.00	1190
G Griffiths	Salary/expenses	£ 388.19	1191

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

217/15 Members considered any necessary works at Laudy Croft. No immediate works were required.

218/15 Members considered any necessary works at the Memorial Garden.

**RESOLVED a) that the question of winter bedding be considered at the September meeting;
b) that a combination padlock be obtained for the water supply box;
c) that the water hose be regained from the contractor.**

219/15 Date of next meeting: Thursday 24th September 2015.