

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

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2009**

### PRESENT

Cllrs Steven Ball, Johanne Cameron, Sebastian Daly, David Hales, Simon Harrison, Richard Head, Mark Morris (from min.161), John Price, Frank Speed (from min.157) and Chris Watkin.

In the absence of the Chairman the Vice-Chairman (Cllr Head) took the chair.

### IN ATTENDANCE

County Councillor Frank Chapman  
Borough Councillor David Becket (from min.162)  
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk)

152/09 Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Berrisford and Bettley-Smith. An apology for likely late arrival had also been received from Borough Councillor Becket who was attending another meeting.

153/09 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items. There were no interests declared.

154/09 **RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 28th May 2009 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

155/09 There were no members of the public present for public participation.

156/09 The Clerk reported on the following matters:

Council records. The Clerk reported that he had collected a number of items from Cllr Price, some of which should be retained and some of which could be disposed of; he would bring further details to a future meeting.

157/09 County Councillor Chapman reported that he had attended an Induction Event which had included an outline of the new structural arrangements within the highways department, which was intended to be more customer focussed. He also reported on changes to the Local Initiative Fund. A member expressed concern that during recent surface dressing work on the A531 the pavements had not been swept clear of chippings, leading to a hazard for pedestrians. Cllr Chapman confirmed that the Clerk had notified him of this, and that the Highways Department had been asked to address the issue.

[Cllr Speed joined the meeting during this item]

158/09 There were no planning applications scheduled to be considered at the meeting.

159/09 The Council received a Decision Notice in respect of the following planning application:

08/00781/FUL Second floor extension, new front porch, detached garage, alterations to vehicular access and new boundary wall, Stone House, New Road, Wrinehill – PERMITTED

160/09 The Clerk reported that two planning applications had been received in the previous 36 hours.

**RESOLVED that the Council hold a special meeting on 9th July to consider the two applications, and any other appropriate business.**

161/09 The Website Working Group reported that it had met successfully and exchanged views on the development of a draft specification for a website, which was circulated to members. A member sought an assurance that the website specification was Disability Discrimination Act-compliant; members of the Working Group indicated they believed this to be the case.

**RESOLVED that the Working Group be authorised to progress the specification as outlined, subject to a maximum budget of £100.**

[Cllr Morris joined the meeting during consideration of this item]

162/09 Members considered the issue of informal open space raised at the Annual Parish Meeting; the desirability of providing a space which could be used by older teenagers, perhaps with the provision of full-size football goalposts; and difficulties created when youngsters used the Football Club facilities.

Cllr Speed (who declared a personal interest as the owner of the land in question) explained to members that he farmed the land under a Higher Level Stewardship Scheme and that it was therefore available for public access. He had no objection to any reasonable informal use, and the land was available for public access and use including ball games.

Members noted that an area for such informal use had been identified as a community need under the Parish Plan, and thanked Cllr Speed for his explanation of the status of the land.

**RESOLVED that the Council notes that the landowner has no objection to the informal use of the land, and permits public access including ball games.**

[ Borough Councillor Becket joined the meeting during this item ]

163/09 The Memorial Garden Working Group placed a specification for the repaving of the Garden before members.

**RESOLVED that, subject to the addition of the two items below, the specification be approved, and the Clerk be instructed to seek tenders for the work from appropriate potential contractors.**

**[ 1. That the specification include a requirement for slabs to be cut as necessary to avoid large cement joints;**

**2. That contractors be asked to indicate the timescale within which they would anticipate commencing work, and the length of contract on-site. ]**

164/09 Members considered a template for Forward Business prepared by the Clerk.

**RESOLVED that the following Forward Plan be approved:**

**July 23rd : Draft of Autumn Parish Council News  
Remembrance Sunday arrangements**

**August : no scheduled meeting**

**Sept 24th : Approval of Parish Council News**

**Review of Standing Orders**  
**Oct 22nd :** Christmas arrangements  
**Nov 26th :** Review of Maintenance Contract – Memorial Garden  
**December :** no scheduled meeting  
**Jan 28th :** Setting of budget and precept  
**Monitoring of Refuse Collection & Recycling**  
**Feb 25th :** Arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting  
**Draft of Spring Parish Council News**  
**March 25th :** Nil at present  
**April 22nd :** Approval of Spring Parish Council News  
**May 27th :** Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

165/09 Members discussed the forthcoming changes to recycling arrangements, and expressed concern at potential problems particularly the possibility of bags blowing around the village. Cllr Becket responded, indicating that in other areas which used the system there had been no feedback of a significant problem. The concerns of councillors were noted, and it was felt important to monitor the impact of the new approach.

**RESOLVED that the position be reviewed at the January 2010 meeting.**

166/09 Members considered the issue of the way in which the police communicated with the Council and the wider community.

**RESOLVED that the Clerk be asked to arrange for a police attendance at an early meeting to allow a broad discussion regarding the police attitude to the Parish Council, community liaison generally, surgeries and Neighbourhood Watch/ OWL.**

167/09 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due and the Financial Statement to date.

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

<b>DT Askey</b>	<b>Meml Gdn maintenance</b>	<b>£135.00</b>	<b>747</b>
<b>Npower Ltd</b>	<b>Christmas lighting</b>	<b>£141.27</b>	<b>748</b>
<b>G Griffiths</b>	<b>Salary &amp; Expenses</b>	<b>£725.17</b>	<b>749</b>
<b>Betley Village Hall</b>	<b>Hall hire</b>	<b>£ 36.50</b>	<b>750</b>
<b>St Margaret's Parochial</b>			
	<b>Church Council Churchyard maint.</b>	<b>£500.00</b>	<b>836</b>

**b) that the Financial Statement be received.**

168/09 Members considered a request from Newcastle Borough Council to make payments to the Parish Council by BACS direct transfer.

**RESOLVED that the Parish Council accede to the Borough Council's request.**

169/09 Members considered maintenance work at Laudy Croft. The Clerk reported that spraying of docks had been carried out in accordance with the Council's instructions, and thanked Cllr Price for his assistance in replacing damaged signs on the site.

170/09 Members considered issues relating to communication. It was agreed that content for the Autumn 2009 Parish Council News should be considered at the July 9th meeting.

171/09 Members reviewed the condition of the Memorial Garden and noted with appreciation the quality of the work carried out by the Council's maintenance contractor (Mr DT Askey).

172/09 Members considered area issues raised by members.

Betley. Concern was expressed over the way chippings on the pavement during recent highway resurfacing work had created a hazard for pedestrians. Several members and the Clerk had drawn attempted to draw this to the attention of the highways department and/or the contractors. In particular it was noted that phone calls to the contact number advertised had gone unanswered.

It was reported that a planning notice had been posted on Bowhill Lane, but could not be read because of its position on the gate. It was also noted that works at Buddleigh appeared to be forming a possible access driveway directly from the A531.

**RESOLVED that the Clerk be asked to raise these two issues with the Planning Authority.**

173/09 The Clerk submitted details of correspondence received since the last meeting. There were no items requiring decision.

174/09 Members considered future agenda items.

**RESOLVED that the maintenance of epicormic growth on the roadside trees at The Wilderness be considered at the 9th July meeting, and the issue of Affordable Housing be considered at the 23rd July meeting.**