

# BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June 2011

### PRESENT

Councillors Robert Bettley-Smith, Steven Ball, Mandy Berrisford, Seb Daly, David Hales, Simon Harrison, Richard Head (from min.182), Jo Thomas and Chris Watkin.

### IN ATTENDANCE

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

162/11 Apologies for absence were received and accepted as valid reasons for absence under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 from Cllrs Burton (prior engagement) and Speed (work). An apology for likely late arrival due to work commitments was received and accepted under Section 85 from Cllr Head. An apology for absence had been received from County Cllr Chapman who was attending another meeting.

163/11 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.

Cllr Daly declared a prejudicial interest in planning application 11/314 (Fields Farm) as the applicant was a client.

Cllr Berrisford declared a personal interest in planning application 11/314 (Fields Farm) as the applicants were friends.

164/11 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of 26th May 2011 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman, subject to the correction of Minute 129/11 to read 'Thomas' in place of 'Cameron', and the addition of 'Cllr Thomas left the meeting at this point' after Minute 145/11.

165/11 **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.

(Cllr Hales joined the meeting at this point)

166/11 The Chairman reported to members on the meeting held recently with officers from the Borough Council to discuss planning and environmental health issues relating to the Laudy Croft site, Common Lane. The Parish Council had been represented by

himself, the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Berrisford and the Clerk; the Borough Council by the Contaminated Land Officer, the Heads of the Environmental Health and Planning Divisions, and the Borough Solicitor. The Borough Council had requested that the Parish Council enter into a planning obligation relating to the future of the site, but had conceded that some of the provisions of the draft agreement could be revised in line with comments made by the Parish Council's representatives. A revised draft agreement, reflecting these changes, would be prepared by the Chairman for consideration at the Parish Council's July meeting.

The Borough Council had now carried out a Stage 1 Assessment of the site in respect of the hazards posed by potential contamination, and had indicated that the scope, and thus the cost, of a Stage 2 assessment would be dependent on the end use planned.

**RESOLVED that the July meeting of the Parish Council be asked to agree a draft planning obligation agreement to be entered into with the Borough Council, and to consider a way forward for the site in more general terms.**

167/11 The meeting was reopened to the public.

168/11 The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow public participation.

The first member of the public present indicated that she was interested in applying for co-option to fill the current vacancy in the Balterley ward and was in attendance in order to gain an understanding of the Council's work.

The second member of the public was an agent acting for the owners of the Blue Bell site, and was present in order to provide an update regarding the site. As members would be aware hoardings had been erected in order to secure the site and the Parish Council's views had been helpful in securing this work. The Borough Council was still generally negative in its attitude to redevelopment of the site, and seemed to be most sympathetic to a single residential dwelling on the site. The developer's current thinking was along the lines of eight 2bedroomed cottages, with a ground floor apartment with duplex apartment above as a feature on the corner of the site. It was anticipated that two units would be offered as affordable housing through a registered social landlord. Members asked questions of the representative, who confirmed that earlier plans for a development limited to older residents had now been dropped.

The developer would be interested in holding an information event to outline its plans and to seek support from the local community, and the representative asked whether the Parish Council could assist. The chairman responded that the Council could assist in advertising such an event, but could not directly promote or assist as this could potentially call the Council's impartiality into question.

169/11 The Chairman presented his report on activities since the last meeting. With the Vice-Chairman he had attended a meeting in Stafford with the County Council's cabinet member for highways. They had been assured that the proposed reduction in funding for socially-necessary bus services would not impact on Service 85 which had a relatively low level of subsidy per passenger journey. He had dealt with various items of correspondence, including speeding on the A531, and the Village Hall. He anticipated attending a meeting of the Rural Runabout scheme on 8th July.

170/11 The Clerk reported on correspondence with the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee regarding the role expected of any nominee to the committee.

**RESOLVED that the Council should determine at its July meeting whether it wished to make a nomination to the Village Hall Committee.**

171/11 Members considered the following planning application.

**11/00314/FUL Construction of a slurry lagoon, Fields Farm, Church Lane, Betley**

**RESOLVED That the Parish Council recognises that the facility is required to meet appropriate legislation, but wishes to express potential environmental and engineering concerns in the following terms:**

**a) the Parish Council would ask the Local Planning Authority to assure itself that the scheme as proposed poses no threat to nearby watercourses etc;**

**b) the Parish Council feels that the LPA needs to ensure that the proposed clay lining is sufficiently robust to protect the integrity of the lagoon when in use, and sufficiently robust to withstand damage which may arise during normal use.**

(Cllr Daly withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the above application)

172/11 Members considered the following planning application.

**11/00158/FUL Construction of a covered yard, Home Farm, Back Lane, Balterley**  
**RESOLVED That the Parish Council has no objection**

173/11 The Clerk advised that no planning decision notices had been received.

174/11 The Clerk advised that the Borough Council was now adopting the Register of Locally Important Buildings as a Supplementary Planning Document, and was also starting a review of the Register.

**RESOLVED that members advise any comments regarding additions, deletions or amendments to the Clerk, to be considered at the July meeting.**

175/11 The Clerk updated members on the current situation regarding the community website, and indicated that the majority of sections were either complete or ready for transmission to the webmaster. Every effort would be made to have the website live by the July meeting.

176/11 The Clerk advised members that the contract to cut back overgrown pavements in Wrinehill had been let, in accordance with minute 150/11 of the May meeting. The contractor was currently unavailable, but hoped to carry out the work week commencing 4th July. The Clerk had been asked by the contractor whether the Council would wish the regular cutting back of epicormal growth at the Wilderness to be carried out at the same time.

**RESOLVED that the contractor be asked to carry out the works at the Wilderness at the same time, in accordance with previous instructions and at a similar price.**

177/11 The Clerk advised that he had received two tender prices for the repair works at the Village Hall bus shelter in the sums of £350 and £878.90 (net of VAT). In accordance

with minute 151/11 he had therefore awarded the contract to M Morris of Betley in the sum of £350. The work had now been completed.

178/11 The Clerk submitted a report setting out the various tender specifications and prices offered by different suppliers to upgrade the Christmas Tree lighting, and to move to a more reliable and energy-efficient provision. There was a significant difference in pricing, particularly between the use of individual bulbs against strips of integral lights.

**RESOLVED that the tender referred to as Tender A (I) in the Clerk's Report be accepted for the provision of 200 LED golfball lights on 100m of cable in the sum of £696 (+VAT).**

The Clerk advised that the successful tenderer was Lampholder 2000 Ltd of Northampton, a company with whom the Council had dealt satisfactorily in the past.

179/11 The Clerk advised that he was still awaiting a definitive response from Aspire Housing regarding maintenance of the land at the junction of East Lawns with Main Road, but it was noted that some maintenance work appeared to have taken place since the Parish Council had raised the matter.

180/11 The Council considered area issues raised by members.

It was noted that recently installed signage at Checkley Lane had mis-spelt Balterley; the Clerk would draw this to the attention of Staffordshire Highways.

Members noted that a new Church Lane streetsign had been installed at the junction with Main Road and that the Parish Council had not been consulted. There were concerns that the positioning of the sign might create a visibility hazard.

**RESOLVED that the matter be considered further at the July meeting.**

181/11 The Chairman and Clerk submitted correspondence received since the last meeting.

A letter had been received from the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee regarding the condition of the bus shelter, possible help toward provision of a bench, and the lack of a Parish Council nomination to the Village Hall Committee. It was noted that the shelter had now been repaired and that the Council would need to give further consideration to nominating to the Committee. A letter from a member of the public had raised the possibility of a community speed watch scheme in the village.

**RESOLVED that the Village Hall Committee be advised that an application under the Community Chest scheme might be the most appropriate source of funding for a bench.**

(Cllr Head joined the meeting at this point)

182/11 The Council was informed that after lengthy discussions between different departments of the Borough Council it had now been agreed that fencing would not now be required as a condition of the Borough taking over maintenance responsibilities for Betley Old Churchyard. It was therefore likely that the PCC would shortly be in a position to proceed with formal notice of abandonment and transfer of maintenance responsibilities.

**RESOLVED that the matter be considered further at the July meeting.**

183/11 Members considered whether a Review of the Parish Plan would be appropriate.

**RESOLVED that Cllr Head would lead in developing a review of the existing Parish Plan.**

184/11 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

185/11 **RESOLVED a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:**

<b>M Morris</b>	<b>repairs to bus shelter</b>	<b>£ 350.00</b>	<b>946</b>
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**b) that the Financial Statement be received;**  
**c) that the Bank Statements be noted, and the reconciliation verified.**

186/11 Members considered any maintenance works necessary at Laudy Croft. It was noted that spot treatment of weeds had been carried out and that no further works were currently required.

187/11 Members of the Memorial Garden Working Group reported that summer bedding had been provided but was of a lower than hoped for standard as drought hardy plants had been used in view of the uncertainty regarding watering arrangements. The Clerk reported that he had obtained a new quotation for connection work from Severn Trent Water, but that there was a potential difficulty as the on-site pipe trench had been back-filled, and the water company required access to ensure compliance with their standards.

**RESOLVED a) that the Clerk be authorised to seek the co-operation of the Council's contractor in securing an arrangement satisfactory to the water company;**  
**b) that the Council authorises payment of the following:**

<b>Severn Trent Water water connection costs</b>	<b>£ 985.07</b>	<b>947</b>
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188/11 Date of next meeting Thursday 28th July 2011.