

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2013

PRESENT:

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Mandy Berrisford, Seb Daly, Dave Hales, Richard Head, Frank Speed and Chris Watkin.

IN ATTENDANCE:

County Cllr David Loades.
Borough Cllr David Becket.
One member of the public.
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

194/13 Apologies for absence was received from Cllrs Burton (work), Harrison (work) and Head (work).

195/13 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Cllr Bettley-Smith declared a prejudicial interest in Item 20b (Community Chest application) as a Director of Betley Heritage Ltd.

Cllrs Daly, Hales & Speed declared prejudicial interests in Item 11 (August Music Event).

[Cllr Thomas joined the meeting at this point]

Cllrs Bettley-Smith, Hales & Thomas declared personal interests in Item 12 (Collapsed wall, rear of Main Road, Betley).

196/13 The Chairman welcomed Cllr David Loades, the area's newly elected county councillor, to his first meeting of the Parish Councillor.

197/13 **RESOLVED that, subject to the correction of minor typing errors in Minute 185 (Checkley for Checkle, and Doddlespool for Doddelespool), the minutes of the meeting of 23rd May 2013 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

198/13 The Chairman outlined the procedure for public participation, and the meeting was then adjourned to allow such participation.

The member of the public present indicated that he was present to provide any information regarding the August music event required by members. There were no questions raised at this point.

199/13 The Chairman reported on activities undertaken since the last meeting:

Rural Runabout. He had attended a management meeting on 14th June where the main item was consideration of the purchase of a new minibus, for which funding was in place.

Betley Heritage Ltd. The company had now been formed and had met.

Dog fouling. A letter had been received regarding this matter.

Gully Clearing. Members had been kept informed of the issue through an exchange of e-mails.

Common Lane Flytipping. Potential evidence had been passed to the Borough Council and it was now believed that prosecution was being considered.

200/13 In presenting his report County Cllr Loades introduced himself to members and explained his background. He was aware that highways and traffic matters were a big issue for all local parishes, and he would seek the Council's views on their top five issues. On speeding he had asked the police to carry out spot checks over the next eight weeks.

Since his election he had been appointed to the Health Scrutiny Committee (as Vice Chairman), County Planning, and the Parent Panel dealing with issues of fostering etc.

He advised members of a consultation on charging for school transport which was currently underway.

He reminded members of his £10,000 Community Grant Fund which was available for projects across his county division. He wished to target projects benefiting the elderly and the young, but all projects were eligible.

201/13 Borough Cllr Becket presented his report to members. He referred to the works which had involved the removal of earth from fields in the Doddlespool area. The activity appeared to be legal, subject to certain conditions. Concern had been expressed regarding the deposit of soil onto adjacent roads; this had been taken up with the contractors and the Borough Council had carried out some cleaning works, which would be recharged.

Cllr Becket referred to the proposed 'Party on the Farm' which had been advertised. He had raised a number of issues of concern with the Borough Council, and informal advice had been given to the promoters. As the entertainment licence application had been for a temporary licence restricted to 500 attendees the Borough's powers were very limited, but he understood that the event was now unlikely to take place.

202/13 The Clerk advised members of matters dealt with under the Council's provisions for Urgent Business. At the request of a member he had provided all members with information regarding the legal background to the proposed 'Party on the Farm' event. In the light of Cllr Becket's advice that the event was now unlikely to take place there was no further discussion.

203/13 Members considered a paper prepared by the Clerk relating to apologies for absence and the appropriate use of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED that the Clerk's paper be received, and that the following policy be approved:

a) that members who are unable to attend a particular meeting should whenever possible notify the Clerk in advance of the meeting. If unable to notify the Clerk then the Chairman should be notified;

b) members may wish to provide a reason for absence, but this is not a requirement;

c) that such apologies will be received at the meeting, and minuted without any consideration of 'merit';

d) that the use of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 should be restricted to circumstances where a member is likely to be absent from a series of meetings, with the possibility of a six month absence. An application under Section 85 should be made in writing to the Clerk and/or the Chairman and must set out the reason for absence.

204/13 As the papers were currently not to hand, it was **RESOLVED that consideration of planning application 13/00441 be deferred to later in the meeting.**

205/13 The Clerk advised members that no planning Decision Notices had been received.

206/13 The Clerk advised members that he had contacted the Borough Council asking whether any features arising from the Portstewart Case (relating to failure to complete a planning consent) could be used to address the untidy site of the former Wrinehill Garage site. No response had been received to date.

Cllr Becket advised that he felt it was unlikely that anything could be done, but that he would contact Planning, Environmental Health and Environmental Enforcement regarding the matter.

The Clerk advised members that he had notified the Borough Council of the event which had taken place under the lawful development provision at Buddleigh Farm. Members noted activities which had taken place since.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council continue to monitor activities on the site and that the outcome be forwarded to the local planning authority.

207/13 Members considered the following planning application:

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

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objection to the proposed works in principle but would ask the Local Planning Authority to satisfy itself that:

a) the scale of the extension is not excessive in relation to the size of the existing property;

b) the proposed extensions will not adversely impact on the setting, character or amenity of neighbouring properties and meets the requirements of Local Plan Policy H.18.

208/13 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 no substantive discussion members who had previously declared prejudicial interests were not required to withdraw from the meeting.

209/13 Members considered developments relating to the collapse of a wall to the rear of Main Road, Betley. Two meetings of Betley Heritage Trust Ltd had taken place.

210/13 Members considered initiatives being undertaken or considered by the Parish Council.

211/13 **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 that it is considered to be in the public interest to exclude.**

212/13 Clearance of pavements and gullies. The Clerk advised members of the tender price obtained for pavement clearing works on the B5500, Balterley.

RESOLVED that the tender of TW Heler & Son in the sum of £1,000 be accepted.

213/13 Members also considered whether works were required on Main Road, Betley in the area of The Wilderness.

RESOLVED a) that the Council's normal contractors, TW Heler & Sons, be engaged to cut back epicormal growth in the area of The Wilderness;

b) that Staffordshire County Council be asked to carry out improvement works to the footway between The Butts and the Village Hall.

214/13 Members noted vandalism damage to the bus shelter at The Wilderness. As the shelter was the property of the Parish Council, and delay in its repair was likely to lead to further deterioration it was

RESOLVED that quotations for the necessary works be sought and that the Clerk be granted delegated power to commission such work up to a budget figure of £250.

215/13 **RESOLVED that the press and public be readmitted.**

216/13 East Lawns Bu Shelter. The Clerk reported that he had received no response from the County Council regarding possible hedge cutting to improve visibility.

217/13 East Lawns/ Main Road grounds maintenance. Members noted the variable standard of maintenance work between the area owned by the Borough Council and that owned by Aspire Housing.

RESOLVED that Cllr Wemyss be approached for assistance on this matter.

218/13 Dog fouling signage. A member reported that a request had been received for signage in the East Lawns/ Lakeside area. Further signs were available and arrangements would be made to supply and fit in appropriate locations.

219/13 Discussion of the Community Footpaths Initiative was deferred to the next meeting.

220/13 Members considered the Council's potential role in a Community Speed Watch Scheme. Attempts were being made to arrange the necessary training for the scheme to progress.

221/13 The Clerk advised members that photographs supplied by a local resident had now been added to the Gallery section of the website. Further suitable views of the area and significant buildings and features would be welcome.

222/13 Members considered area issues raised by members.

RESOLVED that a member would attend the next Police Surgery in order to raise the issue of increased anti-social behaviour.

223/13 In considering other highway matters a member noted that parking around the school appeared to have improved since advice was issued by the local police regarding the matter.

224/13 The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting, which included an invitation to comment on the Newsletter produced by the SPCA and partner organisations.

RESOLVED that the Council feels that in its present form and content the Newsletter should be discontinued.

225/13 The Clerk advised members that two applications had been received under the Community Chest scheme.

226/13 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 a) that the application be declined at this stage;

b) that the applicants be asked to provide a clarification of how their proposal meets the requirements of the Community Chest;

c) that the applicants be advised that a more appropriate route might be to seek direct funding from the Parish Council;

d) that if the applicant wishes to resubmit, or make a direct application it would be useful if it could be represented by another Director of the company.

227/13 Members considered an application from Betley Village Hall.

[Cllr Thomas declared a prejudicial interest in this matter as a Trustee of the Village Hall and withdrew during its consideration]

RESOLVED that a grant of £250 be recommended at this stage, with the possibility of further funding being reviewed later in the year in light of other applications.

228/13 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

229/13 **RESOLVED** a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:

DT Askey	Meml Garden maintenance	£ 135.00	1101
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b) that the Financial Statement be received;

c) that the Bank Statements be noted, and the reconciliation verified and be signed by the Chairman.

230/13 Members of the Laudy Croft Working Group advised that no maintenance work was currently required, but that an inspection should be planned.

231/13 Members considered preliminary arrangements for the switching on of the Christmas Lights. Because of another event scheduled for the usual date it was

RESOLVED that the switching on of the Christmas Lights be scheduled for 22nd November, subject to the tree being in place for that date.

232/13 Members considered Council communication, and matters to be included in the next issue of the Parish Magazine.

233/13 Members considered matters for future Agenda.

234/13 Date of next meeting: Thursday 25th July 2013.

235/13 **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.**

236/13 The Clerk advised that no further communication had been received from the Borough Council regarding land at Laudy Croft.