

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2014

PRESENT:

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Mandy Berrisford, Seb Daly, Dave Hales, Richard Head (from min.178) and Chris Watkin.

IN ATTENDANCE:

County Cllr Loades (from min.193).
Borough Cllr Becket.
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

173/14 Apologies for absence was received from Cllrs Ball, Kerr and Thomas (family reasons), and Cllrs Burton, Harrison and Speed (work reasons).

174/14 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Cllr Bettley-Smith declared a personal interest in Item 7 (planning application, Tudor House) as the owner of the adjacent property, and in Item 11 (Collapsed wall, rear of Main Road) as a Director of Betley Heritage Ltd. All members declared a personal interest in Item 15 (Public Entertainment Licence, Betley Court Farm) through friendship with the applicant.

175/14 **RESOLVED that, subject to the amendment of ‘tumbler’ to ‘tumblr’ in Minute 160, the minutes of the meeting of 22nd May 2014 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

176/14 There were no members of the public present to engage in public participation.

177/14 The Chairman reported to members on matters dealt with since the last meeting. He had received various items of correspondence relating to gates and other issues relating to works off Common Lane. Neither he nor the Vice-Chairman would be available for the next scheduled meeting of the Betley Court Farm Licence Safety Advisory Group; the Clerk would attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

[Cllr Head joined the meeting at this point]

178/14 The Vice-Chairman reported that along with the Chairman and Clerk he had met with a representative of Aspire Housing to discuss landscaping at Main Road/ East Lawns.

179/14 Borough Councillor Becket presented his report to members.

Planning. He was now a member of the Planning Committee. As a result he would be unable to take a view on applications in advance of the committee meeting as this would constitute fettering his discretion, and would debar his participation in decision making. Enforcement was not in a good state, and he was anticipating three reports in the next few weeks relating to issues at Doddlespool, Buddleigh and Old Hall Farm.

Doddlespool. Work had recommenced and it appeared that a further Environmental Agency exemption had been granted. It was his view that this was inappropriate and he was pursuing the matter with all relevant regulatory authorities:

Environment Agency
Newcastle Borough Council (Planning & Environmental Health)
Staffordshire County Council (Planning, Footpaths & Highways).

180/14 The Clerk advised members that no matters had been dealt with under the Council's provisions for Urgent Business since the previous meeting.

181/14 Members considered the following planning application.

14/00355/FUL and /00356/LBC Retention of works to gable end, Tudor House, Main Road, Betley

RESOLVED a) That the Parish Council is of the view that the gable end should be restored to its original condition.

b) That the Parish Council recognises there is a technical issue whether the treatment is appropriate in this area, on a Grade II Listed Building, within the Betley Conservation Area, and within a significant location within the Conservation Area.

c) The Local Planning Authority should seek the views of English Heritage as to whether such a treatment is appropriate on the Listed Building or whether it should be restored to its original appearance.

182/14 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

183/14 **RESOLVED that the Council's concern regarding security of the Blue Bell site be conveyed as appropriate.**

184/14 **RESOLVED that the Council engage with the Planning Appeal at Roosters Nursery, reiterating its support for the application.**

185/14 **RESOLVED a) that the Parish Council expresses its serious concern regarding activities at Doddlespool Farm;**

b) that the Clerk write to the Borough Council and the Environment Agency expressing the Council's serious concern and asking for urgent and appropriate action;

c) that the Clerk write to the local M.P. seeking his support in lobbying the Environment Agency on this matter.

186/14 Members considered potential future use of the Laudy Croft site. There had been further discussions with a representative of the Borough Council's Environmental Health Department, and it was hoped that a site visit could be arranged.

187/14 Members were advised that building work was expected to commence in 4-6 weeks. There remained issues relating to the protection of trees on the site, but it was hoped that a resolution could be achieved.

188/14 The Clerk advised that consultation on the timing of Borough Council elections had yet to commence, and that it could therefore be considered at the July meeting.

189/14 Members considered initiatives being undertaken or considered by the Parish Council. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk had attended a site meeting with a representative of Aspire Housing to discuss landscaping at the junction of Main Road with East Lawns. An outline of proposed works was placed before members. This provided for:

- a) removal of inappropriate or diseased trees;
- b) replanting of the shrub beds;
- c) edging of the lawned areas.

Aspire was also happy to see the existing bench replaced by a pair of replacement benches if the Parish Council wished to arrange provision. The Clerk advised that a member of the public had indicated a wish to provide a memorial bench within the village.

Aspire had asked the Parish Council to consider the proposals and what support it might be willing to provide.

RESOLVED a) that the Parish Council endorses the general programme as outlined, and would particularly welcome the provision of a Copper Beech as a replacement tree;

b) that the Parish Council would be happy to provide funding up to £300 for trees and £200 for shrubs;

c) that the Parish Council would wish to see two benches provided and would be prepared – at this point – to fund one bench and any necessary groundworks.

190/14 Members considered the matter of the Premises Licence for the music event at Betley Court Farm. The Safety Advisory Group (SAG) had addressed the issues raised by the Parish Council. There remained an outstanding issue of establishing what use, if any, would be made of Common Lane. Due to the unavailability of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the Clerk would represent the Parish Council at the next meeting of the SAG.

191/14 There was nothing further to report regarding planned work under the Community Footpaths Initiative.

192/14 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. Quotations had been sought for the provision of appropriate signage but only an indicative figure had been supplied at present. There was some concern at the level of cost indicated (c.£450) and it was explained that this was largely because the County Council insisted on installation by its own contractors and there was no option of engaging a local contractor and seeking a cheaper price.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be granted delegated authority to proceed with the installation of signage, as agreed, up to a maximum budget of £500.

193/14 Area issues raised by members were considered.

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

b) that the Clerk's regular contractor be asked to carry out cutting of epicormal growth and pavement clearing in the area of The Wilderness prior to the Betley Show;

c) that efforts be made to secure the site of the former Blue Bell by the appropriate authorities.

[County Cllr Loades joined the meeting during the above item]

194/14 Members considered highways issues, assisted by Cllr Loades. Members were advised that a programme of x-raying gullies had been carried out and that Cllr Loades anticipated receiving a report within a week. A new drainage contractor was being appointed and an improved service was anticipated.

Seven spot checks on speeding were scheduled for the next five weeks, which would provide baseline data on traffic volume, speed, weight etc. He hoped to progress the issue of securing a 20mph speed limit in the area of the school.

195/14 Cllr Loades presented his report on other county issues. There were proposals to review the library service, but there were no closures planned. The impact on health services of changes at Stafford Hospital were under review, and he would be grateful for any feedback. He commended the work of Cllr Becket on the issues at Doddlespool.

196/14 The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting. There were no matters requiring decision.

197/14 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

198/14 **RESOLVED** a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:

DT Askey	Meml Garden	£ 320.00	1142
Mh-p internet	Website	£ 19.18	1143
G Griffiths	Salary/expenses	£ 389.33	1144

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

199/14 Members noted that no works were required at Laudy Croft.

200/14 Members considered works required at the Memorial Garden. The Clerk advised that he understood that the tree trimming works had been completed as requested. The Clerk also advised members that the commemorative plaque for the WI tree was in the possession of a WI member. The Council considered whether it would be appropriate to assist with its replacement.

RESOLVED a) that the Parish Council will assist with funding a replacement post for the plaque to a maximum budget of £50;

b) that Cllrs Hales & Watkin be authorised to arrange any necessary works.

201/14 Members considered Council communication, and matters to be included in the next issue of the Parish Magazine.

202/14 Members considered matters for future Agenda.

203/14 Date of next meeting: Thursday 24th September 2014