

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June 2016

210/16 PRESENT:

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Mandy Berrisford, Seb Daly, Richard Head, Frank Speed, Jo Thomas, Terry Townsend and Chris Watkin.

211/16 IN ATTENDANCE:

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

212/16 Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ecclestone (holiday), Hales (holiday), Morris (work) and Walton (housemove). Cllr Daly indicated that he might need to leave during the meeting as he was on-call.

213/16 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

A prejudicial interest was declared in respect of the item relating to licensing at Betley Court Farm by Cllrs Speed (as the landowner) and Watkin (in negotiation with the promoter). All members declared a personal interest in the same matter through their connections to Cllr Speed and his family.

214/16 **RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 26th May 2016 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

215/16 The Council reviewed the appointment of representatives to serve on outside bodies and internal groups carried out at the May meeting, and any members not present at that meeting were invited to make any observations. The Council's representative on the Children & Learning Partnership questioned whether the body still required Parish Council representation as she had received no notification of meetings.

RESOLVED that the position stand vacant, and that the Clerk be asked to establish the current position.

216/16 The Chairman outlined the procedure for public participation and the meeting was then adjourned.

217/16 Three members of the public wished to contribute.

The first member of the public wished to explain the background to the application to vary the public entertainment licence and emphasised that two changes were proposed:

to resite the stage;

to add an extra (fourth) night as a one-off in 2016 only.

The second member of the public also acted for the holders of the licence. He explained that they had gained a very late opportunity to secure a very well-known artiste and were seeking a time-limited licence for the single extra night. The relocation of the stage was

intended to reduce noise impact on the village but would be reviewed after the event. It was appreciated that the Parish Council was not a statutory consultee, but he considered it to be a key partner in securing a successful event.

The third member of the public wished to draw to the attention of members an issue which might arise at a future meeting.

[Cllr Daly left the meeting at this point]

Whilst on holiday he had been advised that a trackway across his land, over which a neighbour had a right of access, was being surfaced and he returned from holiday to find that the work - which he described briefly - had been completed. He believed such works required planning permission, a view confirmed by the Borough Council. However, as the works had been carried out without the consent of the landowner it was by no means clear how the matter would be progressed.

218/16 The Chairman reported on activity since the last meeting. He reported that the Rural Transport Scheme was proceeding satisfactorily but a redrafting of Memoranda and Articles of Association was being undertaken. There was a wish to have parishes represented on the management committee, but this might not necessarily involve councillors. On Friday he had visited the school to present individually the commemorative books to mark the 90th birthday of HM The Queen, which had been very well received. He had been in London on the day of the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meeting but the Parish Council had been represented by the Vice-Chairman.

219/16 The Clerk advised that the planning meeting with relevant Borough Council officers had now been arranged for 21st July. Internal Audit had been completed and was satisfactory.

220/16 There were no reports from County or Borough Councillors.

221/16 Cllr Head advised members that the Village Hall now had wi-fi access; some disruption was expected over the summer during refurbishment works but it was anticipated that all bookings would be met.

222/16 In the absence of Cllr Daly it was agreed that consideration of Agenda Item 7 (Betley Court Farm Licensing) be deferred to later in the meeting.

223/16 The Clerk notified members that no matters had been dealt with as urgent business since the last meeting.

224/16 There was no further information to hand on the current position regarding works to extend the burial ground however it was agreed that the matter should be retained on the agenda as a contingent item.

225/16 Members considered the following planning application:

16/00450/FUL Proposed house and garage, land adjacent to Old Farm, Main Road, Betley.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objection.

226/16 Members noted the issue relating to the surfacing of a trackway at Old Hall Farm, which had been raised during public participation. At this stage it was felt that it would be

inappropriate for the Parish Council to be involved as it would be a consultee on any consequent planning application.

227/16 Cllr Head reported on progress on the development of a Neighbourhood Plan, including the launch of a website for the Neighbourhood Plan at www.bbwwplan.org. The Clerk tabled draft terms of reference for the Working Group and a draft formal letter to the Borough Council seeking designation as a Neighbourhood Plan Area.

RESOLVED a) that the Parish Council formally records its commitment to supporting a Neighbourhood Plan;
b) that the letter seeking designation be approved;
c) that the Terms of Reference for the Steering Group be approved.

[Cllr Daly rejoined the meeting at this point]

228/16 The Vice-Chairman presented his report on activities since the last meeting. He had attended the Safety Advisory Group relating to licensing at Betley Court Farm. He had also attended a meeting of school governors. Formal approval had now been given to 'Firm Federation' with another school, and the roll had now increased to a more sustainable 106.

229/16 Members considered issues relating to licensing at Betley Court Farm.

[Cllrs Speed and Watkin withdrew during consideration of this item]

RESOLVED That the Council supports the proposed relocation of the stage as it seems likely that this would reduce sound impact on the village.

That in respect of the proposed additional night the Council wishes to make the following observations:

The Council welcomes what is proposed by the event organisers in terms of traffic management (by reducing conflicting movements on the A531), believes that this will lead to an improvement and therefore supports what is proposed;

The Council would wish to see signage (in advance of the event) at two locations on the A525/A531 - at Keele Bank and Gorsty Hill - making clear the likelihood of delays during the four days of the event and advising the use of alternative routes in order to reduce the volume of through traffic;

In respect of potential noise issues the Council intends to express its concerns through its membership of the Safety Advisory Group.

230/16 **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 legal liability on the part of the Council and that it is considered to be in the public interest to exclude.

231/16 The Clerk advised members of the response of the Council's insurers to the proposed reopening of the Laudy Croft site which confirmed that the Council's policy would cover public access as proposed. Members were invited to consider treatment of the wildlife area and the form of fencing to be used.

RESOLVED a) that the scheme continue as planned;
b) that appropriate signage be provided to discourage public access to the wildlife area;
c) that softwood fencing/ gating be provided.

232/16 Members reviewed the events held to mark the 90th birthday of HM The Queen. The events had taken place as planned, and had been greatly enjoyed, but attendance had been low. The event had therefore failed to break-even on the day, but was within the budget approved by the Council.

233/16 Following comments made by Cllr Loades at the Annual Electors' Meeting, it was understood that works to address the condition of pavements in the village and options for works on Church Lane/ Bowhill Lane were under active consideration, with progress expected by late July.

Members referred to continuing difficulties in Bowhill Lane/ Church Lane which the Clerk would draw to the attention of the relevant authorities.

234/16 Members reviewed the Community Speed Watch Scheme and the temporary speed sensor signage. It was clear that the latter was operating very successfully and was effective in reducing traffic speeds within the village. Cllr Townsend updated members on progress in securing grant funding toward the cost of obtaining portable signage for the exclusive use of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED that the Council endorses the acquisition of a portable speed sensors subject to the agreed contribution of £1,500 via the County Councillor with the Parish Council funding the balance of approximately £900 from balances.

235/16 Area issues raised by members were considered.

RESOLVED that the following matters be drawn to the attention of the relevant authorities:

**The poor state of Back Lane, Balterley;
Manhole covers lifting and damage to the road surface, Main Road
(southern end of The Wilderness);
Grids blocked, Main Road and Church Lane.**

The Clerk was also asked to investigate whether permission was required before installing wicket gates on a public footpath.

236/16 Members considered any necessary highways works.

RESOLVED that the Council's regular contractor be engaged to deal with epicormic growth on trees adjacent to the road at The Wilderness and to carry out a pavement sweep prior to the date of the Betley Show.

237/16 The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting. There were no matters requiring decision.

238/16 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

239/16 **RESOLVED a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:**

L Rimmer	Meml Gdn - maintenance	£ 860.00	1236
TA Dunlop	Audit	£ 30.00	1237
G Griffiths	Salary & Expenses	£ 412.43	1238
J Thomas	HM The Queen		
	Birthday Event	£1,010.86	1239
Mh-p internet	Website hosting	£ 19.18	1240

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

240/16 Members considered any necessary works at the Memorial Gardens and whether the offer of permanent loan of a flagpole should be accepted.

RESOLVED that the offer be accepted and that a policy for flagflying be considered at the July meeting.

The Clerk advised members of a request from the Show Committee to display advertising for the Show on the Memorial Garden. As this was in line with Council policy and past practice it was **RESOLVED that the request be granted.**

241/16 Members considered matters relating to council communication.

242/16 Date of next meeting: Thursday 28th July 2016.