

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

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 28th June 2018**

166/18 PRESENT:

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

167/18 IN ATTENDANCE:

Borough Cllrs G & S White.

Two members of the public.

Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

168/18 Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Head (family), Reah (work) and Speed (another engagement).

169/18 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Cllrs Daly, Head and Speed each declared a prejudicial interest in Item 8 (planning application - Den Lane) through their close association with the applicant.

Cllr Walton declared a prejudicial interest in Item 10 (other planning matters) insofar as it might relate to Betley Court as he was a close neighbour.

Cllr Head declared a personal interest in Item 10 (other planning matters) insofar as it might relate to Betley Court as he was a former tenant.

Cllrs Bettley-Smith, Berrisford, Hales, Walton and Watkin each declared a personal interest in Item 8 through their acquaintance with the applicant.

170/18 **RESOLVED** that, subject to the corrections listed below, the minutes of the meetings of 24<sup>th</sup> May be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

- 1. by adding the words “and the Neighbourhood Plan” to the end of Min.133;**
- 2. by correcting the date of the meeting to read “24<sup>th</sup> May 2018”;**
- 3. by adding “(from min.134)” in min.124 in respect of Cllrs Hales and Reah;**
- 4. by substituting the word “time” for “yime” in min.144;**
- 5. by adding the note “[Cllr Daly left the meeting]” between min.143 and min.144.**

171/18 The Chairman outlined the procedure for public participation, and the meeting was adjourned to allow the public to speak.

One member of the public wished to speak, the applicant in relation to planning application 18/00376/OUT.

He felt there were very few homes in the area in a price range suitable for young people trying to get onto the housing ladder. He had made previous enquiries regarding the possibility of housing on the site but had been told by the planning authority that the site was considered to be unsustainable due to the narrowness of the lane and its distance from village amenities, but that an application might be considered.

He had submitted an outline application at this stage on cost grounds but the intention was to provide six houses on a shared ownership basis, retaining a 51% interest. His intention was to retain control of the properties and though his initial aim was to assist local young people he

would also consider their use for downsizing by older local residents. He would be willing to enter into any appropriate legal obligations to secure the properties in the long term.

[Cllr Bullock declared a prejudicial interest in Item 8 (planning application - Den Lane) as he had a family member who had expressed an interest in securing property locally]

172/18 The Chairman advised that, having been on holiday, he had nothing to report on matters dealt with since the previous meeting.

173/18 The Vice-Chairman had nothing to report.

174/18 The Clerk advised members that he had prepared the necessary letter to close the Council's interest-bearing account (which was incurring more in charges than it was earning in interest) and invited members to sign accordingly.

The Clerk advised that he had received a letter from a visitor to the parish who, having read the most recent parish magazine, was disappointed that no mention had been made of the floral decorations at The Crown, though other local displays had been specifically mentioned.

This had been an oversight in preparing copy for the magazine. The excellent hanging baskets at The Crown were not mentioned and they should have been. It was felt important that this should be recorded in the minutes and included in the next available parish magazine.

175/18 It was noted that County Cllr Northcott had presented an apology for the meeting.

176/18 Borough Cllr Gary White presented a report to members. He and his ward colleague, Cllr Simon White, divided their role by subject area in order to be more efficient. Cllr Gary White covered planning, operations, streetscene and outside bodies; Cllr Simon White covered public protection, licensing and community matters.

He then updated councillors on the following matters:

Castle House. The Borough Council was now expecting to move in from 11<sup>th</sup> July, with the Council meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> July to be held there.

East Lawns. He had taken up a number of issues with Aspire, including grass cutting, parking and damage to verges, though progress was very limited. The Chairman outlined the Parish Council's attempts in particular to address the landscaping issue. Cllr White offered to assist with discussions with Aspire and the County Council, an offer which was welcomed by members.

Speeding. Though primarily a County matter he was aware of speeding issues on the A531. Members advised him that the speed monitoring equipment had shown just how serious this was, with the majority of vehicles in the evening exceeding the 30mph limit, often significantly.

Members thanked Cllr White for his attendance and report, and thanked both councillors for their contribution to date.

177/18 The Council's representatives on outside bodies presented their reports. Cllr Daly advised that there was nothing of significance to report from the most recent meeting of school governors. Cllr Hales had been unable to attend the most recent meeting of the Betley Trust. Cllr Head advised members that the Village Hall had suffered a break-in causing significant damage within the building at a cost of around £4-5,000. This was largely the result of damage as there was little of value to be taken. The Cricket Club and Sports Pavilion had suffered break-ins on the same night. The Chairman advised that he had written on behalf of the Council offering its support for the Village Hall play facility development.

178/18 The Clerk advised that no urgent business had been conducted since the last meeting of the Council.

179/18 Members considered the Annual Governance Statement for 2017-18 for submission to internal and external audit.

**RESOLVED that the Annual Governance Statement for 2017-18 be approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.**

180/18 Members considered the Annual Accounting Statement for 2017-18 for submission to internal and external audit.

**RESOLVED that the Annual Accounting Statement for 2017-18 be approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.**

181/18 Members considered the following planning application.

[Cllrs Bullock, Daly, Head and Speed having declared a prejudicial interest in this matter withdrew from the meeting during its consideration.]

**18/00376/OUT Six shared ownership dwellings, Den Lane, Wrinehill.**

**RESOLVED As an outline application with no guarantee that the objectives of the scheme will be achieved the Council has to object to the application.**

**However the Parish Council may look favourably on a full application given the identified local need for this type of scheme and that planning conditions and legal obligations including Section 106 agreements can be imposed by the Local Planning Authority so that the objectives of the scheme are achieved.**

182/18 Members noted that the recent planning application in respect of Betley Court had been withdrawn, and that a revised application was under preparation.

183/18 Members noted a letter received drawing attention to highway safety issues at the junction of Den Lane with the A531. In the absence of the County Councillor, who was aware of the issue, further discussion was deferred to the July meeting.

184/18 Members considered an updated Risk Management Policy circulated by the Clerk.

**RESOLVED That the revised Policy be adopted with immediate effect.**

185/18 Members considered the provision of a war memorial feature on the Memorial Garden linked to highlighting the Window within the Church. The Chairman had arranged to meet with a representative of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) to discuss the proposal in relation to the Memorial Garden. The Clerk was able to confirm that the CWGC had no objection to a headstone of their general pattern to be used as long as it was not “passing off” as a war grave.

**RESOLVED:**

- a) that the Chairman, Clerk and such other members are available attend the site meeting;
- b) that the headstone be mounted on a plinth and located toward the rear of the Garden;
- c) that, subject to agreement at the site meeting, the plinth be of Staffordshire brick;
- d) that the wording to be engraved on the headstone be discussed at the site meeting and decided upon at the July meeting;
- e) that ownership of and responsibility for the headstone and plinth should lie with the Parish Council as landowner.

186/18 The Clerk advised that there was nothing further to report on the Joint Local Plan at this point.

187/18 It was noted that the planned June meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group had been postponed to 5<sup>th</sup> July because of the volume of apologies. There was a need to clarify the precise role required of the consultants and exactly what work was required of them.

188/18 The Chairman advised that a group of 10 Agny residents were now expected to attend the Betley Show.

189/18 Members considered the Council's property and assets.

It was noted that the wall on the Memorial Garden facing Church Lane/ Bowhill Lane was crumbling and remedial work was urgently required.

**RESOLVED that Cllr Hales be authorised to arrange necessary work up to a budget of £200.**

The community orchard at Sandy Croft had suffered badly during the prolonged dry spell and Cllrs Head and Speed were thanked for their efforts in watering the trees. Arrangements were made for further watering.

Cllr Berrisford outlined the options for the use of willow hurdles to create an informal fence between the community orchard and the main part of Sandy Croft.

**RESOLVED that the principle of a willow fence/ maze be approved and that details be considered further at the July meeting.**

190/18 Members considered the state of epicormal growth on the verge trees at The Wilderness.

**RESOLVED that, in accordance with past practice, the Council's usual contractor be engaged to carry out the customary works adjacent to The Wilderness.**

191/18 Cllr Head reported that reviewing the speed monitoring unit had revealed significant speeding in the evenings, with over half of vehicles exceeding the limit and with speeds of up to 50mph being observed. It was felt that it would be very useful to download data in order to provide substantive evidence for police action.

192/18 Members considered area issues raised by members. There were no matters requiring decision.

193/18 The Clerk tabled correspondence received. There were no matters requiring decision.

194/18 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

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

L Rimmer	Meml Garden & Bulbs	£ 900.00	1401
G Griffiths	Salary/exps	£ 424.56	1402
G Griffiths	Salary/exps (Neigh Plan)	£ 132.47	1403

**c) that the Financial Statement be received;**

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

195/18 Members considered issues relating to council communication.

196/18 Date of the next meeting: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018.