

# BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on 24th March 2016

### 75/16 PRESENT:

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Seb Daly, Graham Ecclestone, Dave Hales, Richard Head, Mark Morris, Jo Thomas (from min.80), Terry Townsend, Ian Walton and Chris Watkin.

### 76/16 IN ATTENDANCE:

County Cllr Loades (from min.82).

Two members of the public.

Mr Nicholl (Newcastle BC).

Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

77/16 An apology for absence was received from Cllr Speed (health). An apology had also been received from Borough Cllr Frankish.

78/16 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Personal interests were declared in respect of the Burial Ground by Cllrs Bettley-Smith (church member), Walton (church member and husband of a Church Warden) and Daly (property overlooking the site).

79/16 **RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 25th February 2016 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

[Cllr Thomas joined the meeting at this point]

80/16 The Chairman outlined the procedure for public participation and the meeting was then adjourned.

81/16 Two members of the public wished to contribute.

The first member of the public wished to comment on a planning application relating to wedding ceremonies at Buddleigh Farm. He advised members of local concern at endless disturbance from noise during wedding receptions at the location and the absence of any noise mitigation.

The Chairman indicated that the Parish Council had only just been informed of the application and that it had not been possible to include it in the agenda of the current meeting. The Council would need to consider how it would handle the application, but that his view was that a special meeting would be appropriate, to be held - if possible - on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April to consider the application and it would be helpful if public comments could be made at that meeting.

The second member of the public shared the concerns expressed but felt that the suggested course of action was appropriate.

The first member of the public also commented briefly on planning application 16/00132 (proposed agricultural building, land west of The Old Hall Farm) and felt that the agricultural justification was weak.

82/16 The Chairman invited Mr Nicholl of the Borough Council to make a presentation to the Parish Council on the planned changes to the recycling arrangements.

Mr Nicholl outlined the following features of the new arrangements:

- \* the system was simpler, but high quality;
- \* there would be a reduction in cost to residents;
- \* it was intended to reach a 55% recycling rate by 2020;
- \* four separate streams of materials would be recycled;
- \* there would be a weekly collection for recyclables and food waste; garden waste and non-recyclables would be collected in alternate weeks;
- \* there would be six containers as follows:
  - Red box - metal and plastic bottles
  - Green box - glass and cardboard
  - Blue box - paper, small appliances, batteries, textiles
  - Caddy - food waste
  - Bin - garden waste
  - Bin - non-recyclables
- \* collection dates may change - details will be supplied in June, with the scheme commencing in July.

[Cllr Loades joined the meeting during the above item]

83/16 The Chairman advised that he had nothing on which to report at this point.

84/16 The Vice-Chairman reported that since the last meeting he had attended a meeting of the Parish Plan Working Group and, with the Clerk, had met two potential contractors on site to discuss rabbit control on Laudy Croft.

85/16 The Clerk advised that he had been asked whether the scheduled date of the June meeting (June 23<sup>rd</sup>) would be retained, given that the EU Referendum was to be held on the same date.

**RESOLVED that since the meeting would be held in the Committee Room and the Polling Station would be in the Main Hall, with separate means of access, and as no difficulty had arisen on previous occasions the date of the June meeting would remain as the 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

The Clerk thanked Cllr Hales and other members who had assisted in the repair and re-erection of the notice board at Wrinehill.

86/16 County Cllr Loades presented his report on the following matters.

Parish Plan. Cllr Loades outlined the current position regarding the Core Strategy and the way in which a Neighbourhood Plan could feed into the Local Plan process. As an example of an effective Neighbourhood Plan he drew attention to the Lichfield Plan, which had cost some £7,800. The Staffordshire Observatory was able to prepare documentation on the parish profile with statistical information. Cllr Head indicated that the Working Group was thinking in terms of two strands - one relating to the emerging Local Plan through a Neighbourhood Plan with the other concentrating on smaller local issues which could be addressed directly.

Highways. Cllr Loades had no update on the issues relating to pavement conditions and Church Lane. The evidence base was complete and proposals would be brought forward. The Lengthsman Agreement, by which the County Council provided funding for work

commissioned by Parish Councils, would end in March 2017 but would continue in financial year 2016-17. It was likely that any successor scheme would be under the control of the County Councillor.

Council Tax. The Borough Council and the Fire & Rescue Service had each increased their element of the Council Tax by 1.99% but this had been rounded up to 2% on the material sent to residents.

Speed Sensors. A sum of £1,500 was available to support a local scheme for speed sensors but would be subject to evidence of local initiatives to support speed control such as an effective local Community Speed Watch Scheme.

Planning. Cllr Loades indicated that the Borough was well short of being able to substantiate a 5 year housing supply.

Cllr Loades was thanked for his comprehensive report.

87/16 Cllr Head advised members that the Village Hall Committee was hopeful of securing the necessary funding for Phase 6 of the improvement scheme.

88/16 A representatives of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) was present and was invited to update members on the current position regarding works to extend the burial ground. He explained that three quotations had now been received for the proposed works and these were shared with members. Cllr Loades indicated that the Borough Council would be prepared to consider providing financial support, but that the amount was uncertain (and might be nil) and that consideration would have to be deferred until after the May elections.

The Chairman emphasised that the responsibility for developing the scheme and selecting contractors lay with the PCC and that the Parish Council was simply one of the potential funding sources. The Clerk also explained that both the Parish Council and the Borough Council were “burial authorities” under the relevant legislation and were therefore permitted to provide funding.

**RESOLVED that the Parish Council undertake to fund 50% of the total cost of the scheme up to a maximum of £2,000 subject to completion of the full scheme.**

89/16 The Clerk advised members that no urgent business had been dealt with since the last meeting.

90/16 Members considered the following planning application:

**16/00132/FUL Proposed portal frame agricultural building, land west of The Old Hall Farm, Main Road, Betley.**

**RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objection in principle but at the present level of intensity of use and the current farming system there does not appear to be a justification for the development and that the Local Planning Authority will therefore need to satisfy itself that the development of the business would justify the proposal.**

91/16 Members considered the following planning application:

**16/00036/FUL Single storey side/rear extension and new rear bay window and repositioning of front garden wall, The Willows, 14 Chamberlain Court, Betley.**

**RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objection to the application.**

92/16 Members considered the following planning application:

**16/00203/LBC Installation of replacement doors, Black Horse Cottage, Main Road, Betley.**

**RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objection to the application.**

93/16 The Clerk advised members that he had received notice the previous day of planning application 16/00185/COU - Use of premises at Buddleigh for up to nine wedding ceremonies per annum, and invited members to consider how they wished to deal with the matter.

**RESOLVED that a special meeting be arranged (on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April if possible) to deal with the application.**

94/16 The Clerk advised members that the application for residential development at the site of the former Blue Bell Inn had been permitted.

**RESOLVED that the Parish Council asks a representative of the planning department to attend an early meeting of the Council, and that the Clerk be asked to seek further information on the following matters:**

**What would be the fate of the commuted sum to be provided by the developer?**

**Could the requirement for “affordable housing” be directed toward lower-cost housing rather than social housing?**

95/16 The Clerk and Vice-Chairman reported on their site meetings with potential contractors to carry out rabbit control at Laudy Croft.

**RESOLVED a) that rabbit eradication be carried out by means of ferreting, with all burrows then being backfilled;**

**b) that the contract be awarded to Hobbs Wildlife Services on terms to be agreed by the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman, within the agreed budget.**

96/16 Members considered issues relating to parking in the Rodger Avenue area. It was recognised that inconsiderate parking was a nuisance, but there did not appear to be any action that could be taken by the Parish Council which would address the issue.

**RESOLVED that the local police be notified of possible obstruction and the difficulty of access for emergency vehicles.**

97/16 Cllr Head reported on progress on the review of the Local Plan. As already indicated the Working Group intended to develop two strands dealing with both the fundamental planning issues facing the parish (i.e. a Neighbourhood Plan which could influence the emerging Local Plan) and by identifying smaller, local issues on which quicker progress might be possible.

98/16 Cllr Thomas outlined planned events to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of H.M. The Queen.

On the afternoon of 12<sup>th</sup> June a 1920s-themed Garden Party would be held, based on the Village Hall and with various attractions including live coverage of events in London. The event would be free of charge but would need to be ticketed for capacity issues. There would also be an indoor Afternoon Tea, restricted to 40 tickets at around £5 each. It was felt this would appeal to residents who did not want to take part in an outdoor event. In the evening there would be a swing party; there would be a bar, but no food.

The beacon lighting would take place as planned in April as part of the national chain.

A discussion took place on providing a memento of the event to local children.

[Cllr Daly declared a personal interest in this matter as a parent of a child who might receive such a memento.]

**RESOLVED** a) that Cllr Thomas be asked to investigate options for a potential memento;

b) that a budget figure of £550 be fixed at this point.

99/16 The Clerk advised members that no further decisions were required in respect of the Annual Parish Meeting.

100/16 In view of the late hour, and the volume of business still outstanding, it was suggested that the meeting should be adjourned. It was agreed that two matters should be dealt with prior to adjournment.

101/16 Cllr Townsend updated members on the matter of Speed Sensors for the village. The North Staffs Safer Roads Group organised a Village Rota which supplied portable speed sensor signs to fixed village locations on a regular basis for six week periods three times each year. A representative had agreed to visit the area and to identify two appropriate sites for the necessary posts. This provision would be independent of any decision on purchasing the Council's own fixed signage.

**RESOLVED** a) that Cllr Townsend be thanked for his initiative and be authorised to meet with the representative to agree the fixed sites for the temporary speed sensors;

b) that the Parish Council approves in principle the purchase of its own permanent speed sensor signage.

102/16 The Clerk asked members to authorise payment of two accounts.

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

G Griffiths	Salary/expenses	£ 613.29	1223
J Harding & Son Ltd	Pavement clearing	£1,344.00	1224

103/16 **RESOLVED** a) that a Special Meeting be held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April (or such other date as may be fixed by the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and members) to consider planning application 16/00185/COU and such other business as may be appropriate;

b) that this meeting stand adjourned to be resumed at the close of the Special Meeting referred to in a) above.