

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th March 2019

74/19 PRESENT:

Cllrs Seb Daly, Mandy Berrisford, Neil Bullock, Dave Hales (from min.80), Richard Head, Tony Reah, Terry Townsend (from min.80), Ian Walton and Chris Watkin.

75/19 IN ATTENDANCE:

Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

76/19 In the absence of the Chairman the Vice-Chairman (Cllr Daly) took the chair.

77/19 Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Bettley-Smith (holiday) and Ecclestone (family). Apologies had also been received from Borough Cllrs White and County Cllr Northcott.

78/19 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

There were no interests declared at this point.

79/19 **RESOLVED** that subject to the corrections set out below the minutes of the meeting of 28th February be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

CORRECTIONS: Min. 40/19 - "Betlwy" to read "Betley" and "ouit" to read "out";

Min. 41/19 - "apperoved" to read "approved";

Min. 43/19 - "incvitation" to read "invitation".

[Cllrs Hales and Townsend joined the meeting at this point.]

80/19 **RESOLVED** that subject to the corrections set out below the minutes of the meeting of 14th March be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

CORRECTIONS: Min. 63/19 - "issyue" to read "issue";

Min. 69/19 - the words "was 29th June" be inserted between "As the closing date" and "it was RESOLVED...".

81/19 There were no members of the public present to engage in public participation.

82/19 The Chairman had circulated an e-mail setting out actions since the last meeting, chiefly relating to road safety issues which would be considered later in the meeting.

83/19 Neither the Vice-Chairman nor the Clerk had anything to report that wasn't otherwise covered by the agenda.

84/19 The County Cllr had also made observations on road safety issues by e-mail.

85/19 The Borough Cllrs had met with the Chief Executive of the Borough Council and had been briefed by the Chairman on local concerns in advance of that meeting.

86/19 The Council's representatives on outside bodies presented their reports.

Cllr Reah advised that he would be attending a meeting of the LAP on Tuesday 2nd April. After discussion it was agreed that he would ask the police representative at the meeting if PCSO attendance could be arranged to control inappropriate parking at the school at dropping-off and picking-up times.

87/19 The Clerk advised that no items had been dealt with as urgent business since the last meeting of the Council.

88/19 The Clerk advised that no planning applications had been received.

89/19 The Clerk advised that planning application 18/00998 for a residential dwelling at Old Hall Farm had been refused. This was in accordance with the view expressed by the Parish Council.

90/19 There were no other current planning matters requiring decision.

91/19 There were no issues relating to HS2 to be considered. No further reports had been received regarding inappropriate use of Den Lane by vehicles accessing the work compound at Blakenhall.

92/19 Cllr Head provided an update on the Neighbourhood Plan. The Working Group was still refining the Draft Neighbourhood Plan with a view to consultation in the summer. The Group felt it would be helpful if the Parish Council could provide a brief update within its Parish Magazine report.

93/19 Members considered issues relating to Council property and assets. The Clerk sought guidance on when summer bedding would be required.

A member reported that at the AGM of the bonfire committee a member of the public had suggested that a flagpole would be a worthwhile feature for the Memorial Garden. Members felt that without the removal of the cedar tree it would be difficult to site such a feature but that the idea was worthy of consideration. Members also considered the development of a wildflower meadow at Sandy Croft.

RESOLVED a) that the next meeting give further consideration to the question of a flagpole on the Memorial Garden;

b) that the Chairman be asked to progress the application to the Borough Council to remove or significantly reduce the Cedar tree;

c) that Cllrs Berrisford and Hales be authorised to proceed with the purchase of wildflower seed for Sandy Croft within a budget of £150 from the Sandy Croft earmarked reserve.

94/19 Area issues raised by members were considered. There were no matters requiring decision, however the following matters were noted:

The caravan which had been dumped at Post Office Lane had been quickly removed after being reported;

The significant flooding on Back Lane was noted. Cllr Watkin would report.

The Council had been assured that gulley and grid clearing work was to be carried out with a programmed date of 26th July 2019.

95/19 Members considered highways issues. There was general approval of the “siding out” work carried out by the Council’s contractor between Betley and Wrinehill and it was:

RESOLVED that the contractor be engaged on similar terms to carry out works between Betley and Balterley as previously agreed.

96/19 Members considered issues relating to speed monitoring. Cllr Townsend had secured funding for a further speed monitoring device and an application had been submitted for funding a further device. This would - if successful - result in five being available, which was felt to be appropriate. There was a small funding shortfall which could be met from the reserve held from previous successful grant applications.

RESOLVED that Cllr Townsend be thanked for his efforts in pursuing these grant opportunities and in operating the devices.

97/19 Members considered the possibility of making a grant application to fund hedgecutting and tree pruning works at a location in the parish. Although members understood the motivation behind such an application it was felt that as the site was in private ownership the initial responsibility lay with the landowner and that public funding facilitated by the Parish Council could be seen as setting a precedent. In addition members were aware that a police investigation was underway in relation to a fatal accident and that it would be inappropriate to take a position until that investigation and any related action was completed.

RESOLVED that no further action be taken at this point.

98/19 Members considered general highway safety issues in the area. Although various parties had become involved and different suggestions had been made for possible courses of action it was felt that a substantive

discussion was required at the appropriate time involving all relevant bodies: the highways authority, police, Parish Council, M.P. and Borough and County Councillors. Given the complex issues involved and the current police investigation it was felt inappropriate to act at this stage.

RESOLVED a) that the Parish Council will, at an appropriate time, engage with all relevant bodies to develop a comprehensive scheme for highway safety works in the parish;
b) that, in the meantime, the Parish Council will gather appropriate data to address the issue;
c) that, as appropriate, the Annual Electors' Meeting will be used to gauge public feeling on the matter.

99/19 It was reported that a Community Speed Watch session had taken place the previous day with ten or eleven speeding vehicles being noted.

100/19 The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting. There were no matters requiring decision.

101/19 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date. Cllr Daly advised that the payment for the school's "parking buddies" made out at the last meeting by cheque to Betley School (1442) needed to be payable to Staffordshire County Council. A replacement cheque (1447) could be made out with the original cheque (1442) cancelled.

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

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| J Harding & Son Ltd | Highways | £1,050.00 | 1443 |
| G Griffiths | Salary/expenses | £1,115.85 | 1444 |
| D Griffiths | Sandy Croft works | £ 250.00 | 1445 |
| Betley Village Hall Cttee | Hall hire | £ 160.00 | 1446 |
| Staffordshire County Ccl | Donation (school) | £ 269.88 | 1447 |

c) that the Financial Statement be received;

d) that the Bank Statement, having been inspected by the Chairman be noted and the reconciliation verified and be signed by the Chairman.

102/19 Members considered issues relating to council communication.

103/19 Date of special meeting: Thursday 14th March 2019; next scheduled meeting: Thursday 25th April 2019.