

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th March 2011

PRESENT

Councillors Robert Bettley-Smith, Steven Ball, Seb Daly, David Hales, Simon Harrison, Johanne Thomas and Chris Watkin.

IN ATTENDANCE

County Cllr Chapman
Borough Cllr Becket
Sgt Moores (Staffordshire Police)
One member of the public

61/11 Apologies for absence were received and accepted as valid reasons for absence under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 from Cllrs Head (family commitment), Morris (work), Price (illness) and Speed (work).

62/11 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items. No declarations were made by members at this point. The Clerk declared a personal interest in planning application 11/00100/FUL (Bowhill Farm) as members of the applicant's family were clients of the Clerk's wife's place of employment.

63/11 **RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 24th February 2011 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

64/11 The meeting adjourned to allow public participation.

Sgt Moores indicated that the police had been asked to attend following two recent traffic incidents where vehicles had struck boundary walls, with significant damage to the relevant property in one case. In both incidents serious injury or fatality might have occurred under different circumstances e.g. had pedestrians been passing at the time. Unfortunately the most appropriate officers were unavailable, and he had deputised at short notice and was therefore unable to provide much information, but would listen to concerns and examine what could be done to address the issues raised.

Members expressed concern about the two incidents and excessive speeds by HGVs early on weekday mornings.

County Cllr Chapman indicated that speed monitoring had taken place in mid-January and that the results were by no means unusual. Some renovation of the gateway features at Wrinehill were planned, but the authority was no longer providing road surface markings as these were expensive to install and maintain.

Members commented that a great deal of attention was paid to sites where fatal accidents took place, but that more weight should be given to potentially fatal incidents.

Sgt Moores raised the issue of a possible Community Speed Watch Scheme, but accepted that there could be problems in recruiting and retaining volunteers. Cllr Chapman asked whether the Parish Council supported the County's proposed works at Wrinehill: to refresh the road lining, increase the number of dragon's teeth markings from four to eight, and to improve the signage at Checkley Lane.

Cllr Becket suggested a possible source for the early HGV traffic, and that it might be possible to approach the company involved highlighting the issue.

65/11 The meeting resumed to consider the issues raised, and to provide an opportunity for County Cllr Chapman to present his report before leaving for another meeting.

66/11 **RESOLVED** a) that the matter of a Community Speed Watch Scheme be placed on the agenda of the June meeting;
b) that the Parish Council expresses its unanimous support for the proposed works at Wrinehill;
c) that, subject to Cllr Becket being able to identify an appropriate recipient, the Clerk be authorised to write on behalf of the Parish Council, expressing its concern at the speed of early morning HGV traffic through the village.

67/11 County Cllr Chapman presented his report to the meeting. As a member of the Police Authority he had been allocated specific responsibility for policing in the Newcastle Borough area. However the Authority was to be wound up from May 2012 under the provisions of the Police Reform Bill, and the introduction of directly-elected Police and Crime Commissioners. He also indicated that county councillors were now being asked to prioritise highways issues within their divisions, but that this created particular difficulties for members in large rural divisions.

68/11 The meeting adjourned to allow further public participation.

A representative of the owners of the Blue Bell site offered an update on the current situation. The property had been marketed, and had been viewed by a number of parties. Interest had been expressed, but no serious offers had been submitted. Informal discussion with the Borough Council suggested that the site's non-viability as a public house had been established following the submission of a marketing report. The owners intended to move toward the submission of a planning application, and continued to wish to involve the Parish Council in developing a scheme. The PC's concerns regarding a specialist development for older people had been noted, and a mixed development which included affordable housing was a possibility. It was anticipated that a planning application would be submitted within the next six months.

69/11 The meeting resumed.

70/11 The Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting of the Rural Transport Scheme.

71/11 The Clerk advised members that BT was investigating the possible removal of the disused phonebox in Betley, and would be consulting the Parish Council for comment. It was agreed that the issue should be considered at the next meeting.

72/11 Cllr Becket in presenting his report advised that the Borough Council was seeking to discuss the condition of the two gateway sites at Wrinehill (the Blue Bell and the former garage site) with the relevant owners, but was finding difficulty in identifying the owners of the latter.

73/11 The Clerk briefed members on his attendance at the meeting of the Madeley Locality Action Partnership.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council maintains its current approach of being represented at the LAP by the Clerk and/or a member as available, and that the Clerk be granted payment and expenses for such attendance.

74/11 The Clerk advised that no response had been received to date from the Cricket Club.

75/11 Members considered the following planning application:

11/00089/FUL Relocation of garden wall, with new guarding and paving, Ivydene, Main Road, Betley

RESOLVED That the Parish Council has no objection to the application.

76/11 Members considered the following planning application:

11/00100/FUL Agricultural Worker's Dwelling, Bow Hill Farm, Bowhill Lane, Betley

RESOLVED That the Parish Council is broadly supportive of this application, having considered the stocking and cropping, on the basis of the needs of a viable agricultural business. If planning permission is granted the Parish Council is very firmly of the opinion that the dwelling should be subject to an agricultural occupancy condition and also be subject to a binding agreement on the part of the applicant that the proposed dwelling will not be sold off separately from the agricultural land buildings in the future.

The Parish Council wishes to draw to the attention of the Planning Authority the fact that a similar sized house is currently for sale in Ladygates (within 0.4 miles of the application site); therefore, in considering the application, the Borough Council needs to be satisfied that this house cannot meet the requirements of the business.

77/11 The Clerk reported receipt of the following planning Decision Notice:

10/00606/FUL New field entrance, land south of Checkley Lane, Wrinehill – REFUSED

78/11 Members considered progress on the community website and identified a need to make progress before the next meeting. It was agreed that a demonstration version needed to be available for the Annual Parish Meeting in May.

79/11 Cllr Thomas provided an update on progress regarding a village event to mark the Royal Wedding on 29th April. A procession, led by a marching jazz band, would process from East Lawns gathering at 3.15 and setting off at 3.30 to the Village Hall, where a children's party for 100 would take place from 4 till 6. This would be followed in the evening by a barbecue and bar event for adults, catering for 200. There would be no charge for either event, but admission would be by ticket only, to be distributed through the school, the post office and local organisations. The events were being organised by an independent ad-hoc grouping of local residents, but the assistance of members of the Parish Council in stewarding would be appreciated.

80/11 The Clerk advised that he had now received details of the areas in which pavement clearing was necessary, and would be preparing tender documents to obtain quotes for the work.

81/11 Membrs noted the timetable for the Parish Council Election to be held on 5th May, if necessary.

82/11 Members considered arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting.

RESOLVED that the Annual Parish Meeting be held on Thursday 19th May 2011, with similar arrangements to recent years.

83/11 The Chairman and Clerk presented members with correspondence received since the last meeting.

RESOLVED a) that the request by St Margaret's Church to erect a cross on the Memorial Garden be granted, as the necessary conditions relating to public liability cover and risk assessment had been met;

b) that the Clerk, and any interested member, be authorised to attend the forthcoming Borough Council event on making OS mapping resources available.

84/11 Cllr Hales reported that the new bench had now been installed at Church Lane, Betley, and had been warmly welcomed by residents.

RESOLVED that the Council expresses its thanks to members who had carried out the necessary installation works.

85/11 Members considered the installation of the new bench at Balterley.

RESOLVED a) that Cllrs Ball and Hales be authorised to arrange the necessary work to install the bench;

b) that the location of the bench be fixed after consultation by the ward members with residents.

86/11 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:

G Griffiths	salary & expenses	£908.56	936
Staffs Parish Councils Assocn	membership subn.	£332.00	937
NPOWER Ltd	electricity supply	£164.56	938
Doddington Park Furniture	supply of bench	£360.00	939

b) that, in the absence of three signatory members at the meeting the Clerk be authorised to sign cheques 937-939, and to obtain a third signature for cheque 936;

c) that the number of member signatories be increased from May 2011 to minimise the risk of there being insufficient member signatories at future meetings;

d) that the Financial Statement be received;

e) that the Bank Statements be noted, and the reconciliation verified.

87/11 Members considered the exclusion of press and public during consideration of the item relating to correspondence from the Borough Council relating to land at Common Lane, Betley.

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 (8, 9 & 12)) of the Local Government Act 1972, in that it relates to expenditure proposed to be incurred which may be subject to tendering; terms for a contract for the supply of goods or services; and possible legal advice which may be sought.

88/11 Members considered a letter received from Newcastle Borough Council, relating to land at Common Lane, Betley.

RESOLVED that a meeting be sought with the Borough Council, to be attended by the Chairman, the Clerk and any other member wishing to attend, to discuss this matter.

89/11 **RESOLVED that the press and public be readmitted to the meeting.**

90/11 Members considered material for the next issue of the church magazine.

RESOLVED that the following items be featured: Annual Parish Meeting, speeding and police presence, the Madeley Centre

91/11 Date of next meeting – Thursday 28th April 2011.