

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2010

PRESENT

Councillors Robert Bettley-Smith, Steven Ball, Mandy Berrisford, Seb Daly, Dave Hales, Simon Harrison (from min.285), Richard Head, John Price and Chris Watkin.

IN ATTENDANCE

County Councillor Frank Chapman; Borough Councillor David Becket Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk)

283/10 Apologies for absence were received and accepted as valid reasons for absence under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 from Cllrs Morris (illness), Speed (work) and Thomas (other community commitment).

284/10 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Cllr Berrisford declared a prejudicial interest in the matter relating to the Cricket Club in view of the past involvement of herself and immediate family members in the Club, and continuing issues regarding that involvement. Cllr Bettley-Smith declared a personal interest in the same matter as an ordinary member. Cllrs Daly, Hales, Head and Price declared personal interests in the same matter as former members.

285/10 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meetings of 28th October and 11th November 2010 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

(Cllr Harrison joined the meeting during the above item)

286/10 There were no members of the public present to engage in public participation.

287/10 The Chairman presented a summary of his activities since the last meeting. He had attended the Remembrance Sunday service and laid a wreath on behalf of the Council and community. Other members had also attended, including the Vice-Chairman. He was due to attend a meeting of the Rural Runabout scheme the following day.

288/10 The Clerk invited members to consider the Council's response to a letter from a resident of Wrinehill expressing concern about the state of sites in the area (former Wrinehill Garage and Blue Bell) and other local issues, and outlined a possible response.

RESOLVED that the Clerk respond as indicated, and enclosing a copy of the Council's paper regarding the future of the Blue Bell site.

289/10 The Clerk advised members of the response of the Borough Council's Monitoring Officer to the issue raised by a member of the public at a recent meeting suggesting that all members of the Parish Council might be subject to a prejudicial interest in applications from the proprietors of the Hand & Trumpet in view of the provision of a noticeboard for the use of the Council. The Monitoring Officer had advised that no prejudicial interest arose; such an interest could only arise if an individual member had an interest which was not shared by residents of the parish generally. There were no circumstances under which the Council as a corporate body could be subject to a prejudicial interest.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council:

a) notes the advice provided by the Monitoring Officer and thanks the Clerk for his diligence and efficiency in the matter;

b) records that it is unfortunate that the Council's correct and appropriate approach, following an intervention by a member of the public, prevented the Council commenting on the relevant planning application.

290/10 Borough Councillor Becket reported on the following issues:

Blue Bell. The Borough Council was in a similar position to the Parish Council, in that its powers were restricted; for example the Streetscene staff were not allowed to enter private land to clear litter, but he would continue to press for whatever action was possible.

currently had a number of grant schemes, some of which only offered small sums. Consideration was being given to a single grants route but no decisions had been made.

Lighting. The replacement lamp fitting for the light at the entrance to the churchyard on The Butts was on order; there had been some delay owing to the need to secure a specialist appropriate design, at a cost of approximately £400.

Planning, Churchyard. He had been in discussion with the planning department regarding the proposed railings at the Churchyard. The application was likely to go to committee in December.

291/10 The Clerk reported on tenders received for works to install a water supply at the Memorial Garden, and advised that only one tender price had been received.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be asked to seek further tender prices.

(County Cllr Chapman joined the meeting at this point)

292/10 Members considered their response to discussions at the AGM of the Cricket Club, with reference to a grant said to have been provided to the Club by the Parish Council. Concern was expressed that there remained confusion regarding the report presented by the Cricket Club's Management Committee, which referred to the Parish Council in error when the grant-making body involved had been the Betley Trust, and that an impression could be created that the Parish Council had behaved inappropriately.

RESOLVED a) that the Clerk write to the Cricket Club setting out the details of the Community Chest Grant made on the recommendation of the Parish Council, the amount granted and the purpose for which it was made, and that confirmation be sought that the money was spent in accordance with the terms of the grant;

b) that the Council notes that an assurance was given at the Cricket Club AGM that the Club would circulate all members pointing out the error in the Management Committee Report (in referring to the Parish Council when the relevant grant was in fact from the Betley Trust), and seeks confirmation that this has now been done;

c) that the Parish Council was not involved in any way with the grant referred to in the Report to the AGM, and requires that the comments inferring the Parish Council's maladministration be formally withdrawn.

293/10 County Cllr Chapman presented his report to members, referring to the following issue.

School Warning Lights. The advanced warning lights had not been restored to his severe disappointment, as he understood at least five reports had been made.

A member drew to Cllr Chapman's attentions the difficulties which had arisen in adequately briefing the Neighbourhood Highways Gang to ensure that appropriate work. It was hoped that with better advanced notification of the dates they would be in attendance a more effective work programme could be achieved. A member also drew Cllr Chapman's attention to signs placed on the pavement in the Balterley area.

294/10 Members considered whether the Parish Council should seek to be involved in the Madeley Local Area Partnership (which also covered the Betley, Balterley and Winehill area).

RESOLVED that Cllr Berrisford and the Clerk be appointed to attend the next meeting of the LAP (February 2011) and to report back to the Council.

295/10 The Clerk reported that there were no planning applications to hand requiring comment, nor had any decision notices been received since the previous meeting.

296/10 Members considered progress on the development of a community website. The Council's contractor had indicated that text for the various sections was now required, along with three photographs for the site's masthead.

RESOLVED that the Website Working Group meet on 2nd and 9th December in order to allocate the preparation of text, and then to review that text for approval.

297/10 The Council considered area issues raised by members. There were no items requiring further action.

298/10 The Clerk submitted details of correspondence received since the last meeting. There were no items requiring decision.

299/10 Members considered the following issues referred from previous meetings:

Church Lane Bench. The bench would be installed when members were available to carry out the work.

Bench at Balterley. The Clerk had received a draft legal agreement from the County Council, setting out the terms under which the Parish Council could install a bench.

RESOLVED that the Chairman review the draft agreement and report to the February meeting of the Council.

Bus Shelters. The Clerk reported that a tender price in the sum of £476 +VAT had been received from the contractor recommended by the appropriate County Council department.

RESOLVED that the tender be accepted; that the Clerk make necessary arrangements to have the work carried out, and arrange payment as required; and that the nature of the work and its cost be explained in the Parish Magazine, with an appeal for the public to report any instances of vandalism.

300/10 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank statements to date.

301/10 **RESOLVED a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:**

Royal British Legion			
Poppy Appeal	remembrance wreath	£ 18.00	925
G Griffiths	salary & expenses	£496.35	926
F Speed	bedding plants (meml garden)	£291.40	927
Lampholder 2000 Ltd	christmas lighting	£123.38	928
D Hales	materials for Laudy Croft	£ 46.27	929

b) that the Financial Statement be received;

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

302/10 Members of the Laudy Croft Working Group reported that no actions were required.

303/10 Members considered material appropriate for the next issue of the Parish Magazine.

304/10 At the request of the Clerk members considered whether the maintenance contract for the Memorial Garden should be extended or retendered. Members indicated that they were minded to extend the current contract, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to discuss terms for a contract extension with the contractor.

305/10 Date of next meeting Thursday 27th January 2011.