

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2013

PRESENT:

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Karen Burton, Seb Daly, Dave Hales (from min.368), Hayley Kerr, Frank Speed and Chris Watkin.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Borough Cllr Becket
One member of the public.
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

360/13 Apologies for absence was received from Cllrs Ball, Berrisford, Head and Thomas.
An apology for absence had also been received from Borough Cllr Becket.

361/13 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Cllr Speed declared a prejudicial interest in Item 13 (Licence Review, August Music Event) as the landowner. All members present declared personal interests in Item 13 (Licence Review, August Music Event) through friendship with the landowner of the event site.

Cllr Bettley-Smith declared a personal interest in Item 11 (Wall, rear of Main Road) as a Director of Betley Heritage Ltd. Cllr Speed declared a personal interest in Item 9 (planning issues, Doddlespool Hall area) as an acquaintance of the owner.

362/13 **RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 24th October 2013 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

363/13 There were no members of the public present to engage in public participation.

364/13 The Chairman reported on activities undertaken since the last meeting:

He had attended a meeting with representatives of the Borough Council regarding the licensing of the music event (Item 13). The event to mark the switching on of the Christmas lights had been a success, but some minor issues had emerged regarding the arrangements made.

**RESOLVED a) that for the December 2014 event the number of bags of sweets be increased to 100, with a unit price of up to 75p (budget £75);
b) that arrangements be made to provide marshalling – possibly in costume – for those present to travel safely from the Memorial Garden to the Village Hall.**

365/13 The Vice-Chairman had nothing further to report.

366/13 Although the County Councillor was absent he had e-mailed the Parish Council with an update regarding action regarding earthmoving activities at Doddlespool Hall.

367/13 The Borough Councillor, in apologising for his unavoidable absence from the meeting, had indicated that he too had been pressing the appropriate authorities on the same issue.

[Cllr Hales joined the meeting at this point]

368/13 The Clerk advised members that no matters had been dealt with under the Council's provisions for Urgent Business since the previous meeting.

369/13 The Clerk advised that no planning decision notices had been received, but that he had prepared a summary of planning decisions for 2013 which showed that, in general, decisions of the planning authority had been in line with the views expressed by the Parish Council, and that concerns raised by the Parish Council had been addressed in the consideration of applications and/or in conditions imposed where appropriate.

370/13 The Clerk updated members on information received from County Cllr Loades and Borough Cllr Becket regarding the earth moving activities in the area of Doddlespool Hall.

RESOLVED a) that the actions taken by the County and Borough Councillors be noted and endorsed;

b) that the Clerk be authorised to take any necessary steps to support Borough Councillor Becket's efforts to secure the use by the County Council of Section 149 of the Highways Act to secure the removal of materials deposited on the highway.

371/13 Further to Minute 369 a member with internet access available at the meeting advised that a decision notice had now been published regarding planning application 13/00761 (Garage, Brassington Terrace, Den Lane), and that the application had been refused despite the Parish Council's comment that there were very special circumstances to permit such a development. It was also noted that there was an application out to consultation on application 13/00799 Langholm, Checkley Lane.

RESOLVED that consideration of application 13/00799, and the Council's response to the decision on 13/00761, be deferred to a later point in the meeting to allow details to be obtained.

372/13 Members considered matters relating to the collapsed wall at the rear of Main Road. The Chairman advised that funding had now been secured from the County Council (£7,500), the Borough Council (£1,282) and local householders (£1,200) leaving a shortfall of approximately £1,000 and work was to be put in hand.

373/13 Members considered potential future use of the Laudy Croft site.

RESOLVED a) that the Parish Council would wish to bring Laudy Croft into some form of beneficial use;

b) that – as an initial set of potential uses – the Council would consider using the upper end for growing Norway Spruce or other appropriate trees; the middle of the site as an area of informal open space; and the lower part as a location for goalposts for informal use;

c) that there would be no proposal to provide car parking on site and that access would be on foot;

d) that two members and the Clerk be authorised to meet with officers of the Borough Council to discuss further appropriate actions.

374/13 Details having been obtained members considered planning applications 13/00761 and 00799.

RESOLVED that, in view of its modest impact, consideration of planning application 13/00799 (Extensions and garage, Langholm, Checkley Lane, Wrinehill) be considered immediately.

375/13 **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council has no objection.

376/13 Members considered the decision to refuse application 13/00761.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council express its disappointment at the decision in view of the potentially adverse impact on an important local business.

377/13 Members noted the current situation regarding activities on land adjoining Buddleigh Farm which was the subject of a request from the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for an appropriate planning application to regularise the position. If such an application was received then the Parish Council would be consulted in the normal fashion; if an application was not submitted then the LPA would need to consider the appropriateness of enforcement action.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would urge the LPA to take enforcement action in the event that an appropriate planning application was not received, and that the Clerk be authorised to take any necessary steps to convey that view to the LPA when appropriate.

378/13 Members considered initiatives being undertaken or considered by the Parish Council.

379/13 Grounds maintenance, Main Road/East Lawns. The Clerk reported on the continuing non-responsiveness of Aspire on this matter. He would continue to attempt to raise the issue.

380/13 Signage.

RESOLVED that the matter be considered at the next meeting.

381/13 Dog fouling. A further request for signage having been received from the area of the Chapel, The Butts it was agreed that Cllrs Hales would supply and install.

382/13 The Chairman reported on a meeting with representatives of the Borough Council in relation to the Music Event at Betley Court Farm. It had proved a very useful meeting and it was clear that the Borough Council officers were already addressing the substantive issues raised by the Parish Council. The Borough Council had been made aware of the issues which the Parish Council felt needed to be taken into account in discussion with the licence holder(s).

RESOLVED a) that the Parish Council's submission to the Borough Council be formally redesignated from being a request for a licence review to being a schedule of points to be taken into account in discussions with the licence holder;

b) that the Parish Council agrees to participate in a joint meeting with the Borough Council, the Police (and Fire Authority if appropriate) to discuss the Licence, to be facilitated by the Borough Council.

383/13 Cllr Burton advised that progress on the Community Footpaths Initiative had been delayed as it had become clear that a relevant piece of land was not in the ownership previously believed to be the case.

384/13 Members considered progress on the Community Speed Watch Scheme. Training had now been completed and it was anticipated that the scheme would commence, weather permitting, in January.

385/13 Members considered area issues raised by members. There were no matters requiring decision.

386/13 The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting.

387/13 Members considered a request for funding from the Betley Senior Citizens Club.

RESOLVED that a grant of £200 be made.

388/13 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date. Although an invoice had been received for the supply of Community Speed Watch Scheme equipment no payee was identified and payment could not therefore be made at this point.

389/13 **RESOLVED a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:**

DT Askey	Memorial Garden	£ 100.00	1116
Severn Trent Water	Memorial Garden	£ 19.43	1117
G Griffiths	Salary & expenses	£ 425.29	1118
Betley Senior Citizens	Grant	£ 200.00	1119
FA Speed	Plants for Memorial Garden	£ 850.84	1120
DT Askey	Memorial Garden	£ 125.00	1122
St Margaret's PCC (Reading Room)	hall hire	£ 15.75	1123

b) that the Clerk be authorised to arrange payment of the following when a payee is identified:

Community Speed Watch

Equipment	Speedwatch	£ 949.20	1121
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c) that the Financial Statement be received;

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

390/13 Members were invited to give preliminary consideration to the preparation of a Budget and Precept for 2014-2015.

RESOLVED that, in principle, the Budget for 2014-2015 be prepared with the intention of maintaining the precept per household at the same level as in the current year and that the Clerk be instructed to draft the Budget on that basis.

391/13 Members considered the contribution of the Audley Rotary Club to the recent event to switch on the Christmas lights.

RESOLVED that a donation of £50 be made in recognition of the Rotary Club providing the Float for the event and that payment be authorised as follows:

Audley Rotary Club	Memorial Garden event	£ 50.00	1124
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392/13 Members of the Laudy Croft Working Group advised that no work was currently required.

393/13 Members considered Council communication, and matters to be included in the next two issues of the Parish Magazine.

394/13 Members considered matters for future Agenda.

395/13 Date of next meeting: Thursday 30th January 2014.