

# **BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2014**

### PRESENT:

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Steven Ball, Mandy Berrisford, Karen Burton (from min.307), Dave Hales, Jo Thomas (to minute 310) and Chris Watkin.

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Borough Cllr Becket.  
Two members of the public.  
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

301/14 Apologies for absence was received from Cllrs Daly (family), Head (work), Kerr (family) and Speed (family). An apology for likely late arrival had been received from Cllr Burton.

302/14 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Cllr Bettley-Smith declared a prejudicial interest in planning application 14/00814 (Beech Wood) as the applicant. All other members declared a personal interest in the same item through their acquaintance with the applicant. All members also declared a personal interest in planning application 14/00843 (Betley Court Farm) through their acquaintance with the applicant.

303/14 **RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 30th October 2014 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

304/14 The Chairman explained the procedure for members of the public present to engage in public participation.

A member of the public outlined the background to planning application 14/00843 (Betley Court Farm) which had been the subject of lengthy discussion with the Borough Council.

305/14 The Chairman presented his report on business conducted since the last meeting of the Council. He had corresponded with United Utilities with regard to the unfortunate incident where a dog had been killed by an UU vehicle at Betley Court Farm. Their response indicated that appropriate procedures were in place and had been followed and that the incident was an unavoidable accident. The Rural Transport Scheme continued to operate satisfactorily and was covering its costs in a sustainable manner.

306/14 The Clerk advised members that he would need to begin work on the Council's budget and precept in advance of the next scheduled meeting, and would therefore appreciate guidance on the level of precept members would wish to seek.

**RESOLVED that the Council would aim to set a precept which would allow for an unchanged precept for individual householders, and that the Clerk should prepare the budget to allow such a precept to be set.**

307/14 Borough Cllr Becket presented his report which included the following matters:

Planning. Doddlespool. The application for the land excavations etc had been approved but subject to more planning conditions than was normally the case, notably on the import and export of materials and time limits on the works. He was appreciative of the work of Cllr Loades and Staffordshire County Council on this matter. Unfortunately a considerable quantity of furniture had been deposited on site in the past couple of days. Both the Borough and County Councils had indicated to the landowner that this was unacceptable and that legal action would follow if the situation was not resolved.

Wind Turbine. The application had been approved subject to a number of conditions including the route to be used for access to the site, and placing the responsibility for noise monitoring on the site owners.

[Cllr Burton joined the meeting at this point]

Grindley Cottage. The application for a new dwelling had been refused.

Elections Review. The Borough Council had opted for all-out elections in the future, but had been instructed by the Electoral Commission that it should also review the size of the Council and ward boundaries.

2015 Elections. Cllr Becket indicated that he was unlikely to contest the May election, when his current term of office would end.

308/14 Cllr Thomas reported on her attendance at the LAP (Locality Action Partnership). One issue which had arisen was the funding of police surgeries and it was agreed that Cllr Thomas would approach the Reading Room Committee with a view to their providing free use of their facility.

309/14 Members considered the following planning application.

[Cllr Bettley-Smith, having declared a prejudicial interest, withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item. In the absence of the Vice-Chairman members were invited to elect a Chairman to deal with this item. It was **RESOLVED** that **Cllr Ball be appointed as Chairman for this item.** Cllr Burton declared a personal interest in this item through acquaintance with the applicant.]

**14/00814/FUL and 14/00969/LBC Four-bay car barn and replacement gates with brick pillars, Beech Wood, Main Road, Betley.**

**RESOLVED** a) that the Council has no objection to the application;  
b) that the Clerk be asked to indicate to the Borough Council that the applicant is the Chairman of the Parish Council, declared a prejudicial interest in the matter, and took no part in dealing with this matter at the meeting. Members made every effort to be impartial and to deal with this application on its merits and no differently from any other application. All members present declared a personal interest through friendship/ acquaintance with the applicant.

[Cllr Bettley-Smith rejoined the meeting and reassumed the Chair.]

310/14 As Cllr Thomas had to leave for another commitment members considered the arrangements for the switching-on of the Christmas Tree lights. The details of timing and stewarding were discussed and resolved.

[Cllr Thomas left the meeting at this point]

311/14 The Clerk confirmed the planning decisions already reported by Cllr Becket in respect of Doddlespool, the Wind Turbine and Grindley Cottage. It was noted that the grounds for refusal in respect of the Grindley Cottage application were significant, and in line with the representations of the Borough Council.

312/14 The Clerk advised members that a planning application (14/00843) had been received for the conversion of an agricultural building to a holiday let at Betley Court Farm, Main Road, Betley. Members were asked to consider whether, in accordance with the Council's policy on urgent business, they wished to deal with the application immediately or call a special meeting.

**RESOLVED that the application be considered at this meeting.**

Cllr Burton declared a personal interest in this item through acquaintance with the applicant.]

313/14 Members considered the following planning application.

**14/00843/FUL Change of use of disused workshop building to holiday lets and associated car parking, Betley Court Farm, Main Road, Betley.**

**RESOLVED that the Council has no objection to what is proposed as a redundant agricultural building will be brought into appropriate alternative use. The Council would ask the Local Planning Authority to ensure that the Yew (incorrectly shown as a Pine on the submitted papers), mature Sycamore and Holly to the north-west of the building should be adequately protected.**

314/14 Members considered the appropriate next steps on potential future use of the Laudy Croft site. Since this required the Council to consider engaging contractors to advise on appropriate investigative works on-site it was **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) of the Local Government Act 1972 in that it relates to potential contractual arrangements for the supply of goods and services and that it is considered to be in the public interest to exclude.**

315/14 Members considered a report by the Clerk regarding a programme for investigation of the Laudy Croft set out by a reputable company which enjoyed the confidence of the local authority.

**RESOLVED a) that, under advice from the Clerk, and in light of the particular circumstances of the work required, the need to ensure that any investigation met the standards required by the Borough Council, and that the costs indicated were broadly in line with that previously indicated as reasonable, the Council's Financial Regulations be suspended to allow a contract to be entered into without seeking alternative quotations;**

**b) that the proposal from Wardell Armstrong dated 20th November 2014 in the sum of £2,200 (+ VAT) be accepted;**

**c) that in advance of any works on-site residents of Common Lane be advised of the nature of such work.**

316/14 Members considered the maintenance of the Council's noticeboard. The Clerk advised that he had received a quotation for inspection and maintenance work to be carried out at an hourly rate.

**RESOLVED that the quotation from Phil Rimmer be accepted on the terms outlined.**

317/14 Cllr Burton advised members that there was no progress to report under the Community Footpaths Initiative.

318/14 Members noted that the speed monitoring van had now secured permission to use a further site within the 30mph zone, and that early visits had taken place in response to data collected under the Community Speed Watch scheme.

319/14 Area issues raised by members were considered. There were no matters requiring decision.

320/14 Members considered highways issues. Members remained frustrated by the lack of action over flooding in the Doddlespool area.

321/14 The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting. There were no matters requiring decision.

322/14 The Clerk advised that he had now received details of income received and expenditure by Betley & District Heritage in respect of the collapsed wall at the rear of Main Road. In accordance with the previous resolution of the Council a grant of £1,001.00 would be appropriate.

**RESOLVED that a grant of £1,001.00 be provided, subject to the Council being reimbursed should any further funding sources be identified.**

323/14 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

324/14 **RESOLVED a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:**

<b>Lampholder 2000 Ltd</b>	<b>Meml Gdn (lighting)</b>	<b>£ 177.00</b>	<b>1162</b>
<b>Royal British Legion</b>			
<b>Poppy Appeal</b>	<b>Donation (wreath)</b>	<b>£ 18.50</b>	<b>1163</b>
<b>Betley &amp; District Heritage Ltd</b>	<b>Grant</b>	<b>£1,001.00</b>	<b>1164</b>
<b>G Griffiths</b>	<b>Salary/expenses</b>	<b>£ 400.45</b>	<b>1165</b>
<b>FA Speed</b>	<b>Meml Gdn (plants)</b>	<b>£ 816.00</b>	<b>1166</b>
<b>J Thomas</b>	<b>Christmas lights event</b>	<b>£ 82.60</b>	<b>1167</b>
<b>Audley Rotary</b>	<b>Christmas lights event</b>	<b>£ 50.00</b>	<b>1168</b>

**b) that the Financial Statement be received;**

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

325/14 Members considered Council communication, and matters to be included in the next issue of the Parish Magazine.

326/14 Members considered matters for future Agenda.

327/14 Date of next meeting: Thursday 22nd January 2015