

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2015

300/15 PRESENT:

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Graham Ecclestone, Dave Hales, Richard Head, Mark Morris, Jo Thomas (from min.310), Terry Townsend, Ian Walton and Chris Watkin.

301/15 IN ATTENDANCE:

Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

302/15 Apologies for absence was received from Cllrs Daly and Speed. An apology for late arrival had been received from Cllr Thomas.

303/15 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

There were no declarations of interest at this point.

304/15 **RESOLVED** that, subject to the correction of a typing error in Minute 291 (by the deletion of the words “e had been assured that work would be carried out within the next two weeks” which had been carried forward in error from a previous set of minutes) and the correction of Minute 299 to read that the date of the next meeting would be Thursday 26th November 2015, the minutes of the meeting of 22nd October 2015 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

305/15 There were no members of the public present to engage in public participation.

306/15 The Vice-Chairman advised that concern had been expressed regarding some hydrant covers being inaccessible.

RESOLVED that the Clerk advise the Chief Fire Officer that on the basis of information received from a member of the public the Parish Council suspects that some fire hydrants cannot be accessed and that the CFO be asked to ensure that all are fit for use.

307/15 The Clerk invited members to give initial guidance on the terms within which the Budget and Precept Requirement for 2016-17 should be framed.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be asked to prepare the Budget and Precept Requirement for 2016-17 on the following principles:

- a) that the Council Tax precept payable should be held at existing levels i.e. a 0% increase;
- b) that the Council should seek to use a proportion of the Council’s balances to the benefit of the community.

308/15 No reports had been received from the County or Borough Councillors.

309/15 Cllr Head advised that the Christmas Event involving the switch-on of the Memorial Garden tree lights and events at the Village Hall had been widely advertised and all necessary arrangements were in place.

There was some discussion of the timing of the event which was felt to be too early by some villagers. However it was pointed out that timing was also affected by availability of the Village Hall, delivery of the tree to the Memorial Garden and the feeling of other residents that they enjoyed having the lights on the Green at an early date.

RESOLVED that consideration of the 2016 event be tabled at the meeting of July 2016.

[Cllr Thomas joined the meeting at this point]

310/15 The Clerk advised members that, since the last meeting, there had been no urgent business requiring action.

311/15 Members considered the following planning application:

15/00949/FUL Partial demolition and rebuilding of existing detached farmhouse and erection of detached garage, The Elms Farm, Newcastle Road, Balterley.

RESOLVED that the Council has no objection to the development proposed and the plans submitted. However, the Parish Council is concerned that some works appear to have commenced and do not appear to be in accordance with the plans submitted.

312/15 The Clerk advised members that no planning decision notices had been received.

313/15 The Clerk advised members that two planning applications had been received since the despatch of agenda for the meeting, and that a decision was required on how to deal with them.

RESOLVED that, in view of the significance of the two applications, a special meeting should be scheduled for Thursday 10th December at which the applications could be considered.

314/15 The Clerk advised members that following the request from the last meeting he had investigated whether the positioning of additional BT facilities within the Conservation Area was subject to planning control and/or control by the highways authority on grounds of obstruction. The position was that planning permission was not required, nor was advance agreement with highways. However if equipment was installed which was felt to obstruct the highway (including footways) then a highways inspector could require resiting following inspection.

315/15 Members considered the ongoing issues at Doddlespool. It was agreed that since the regulatory powers lay with the Borough Council, County Council and Environment Agency it would be inappropriate for the Parish Council to be directly involved and that residents should address concerns via their elected representatives.

RESOLVED a) that the Parish Council reiterate its concerns that the appropriate regulatory bodies should take all appropriate action;

b) that the Chairman, on behalf of the Council, write to the local MP expressing concern at the apparent failure of the Environment Agency to intervene in the matter.

316/15 Members reviewed progress on first phase works to bring the Laudy Croft site back into community use. The Clerk informed members that Invitation to Tender had been issued for the Phase One works approved at the last meeting and that tenders would be submitted to the January meeting.

317/15 Members considered a review of the Parish Plan.

RESOLVED a) that the Review of the Parish Plan should be conducted by a Working Group to include both councillors and other residents;
b) that such a Working Group should normally meet monthly;
c) that, subject to diary, an initial meeting to form such a Working Group be held on Tuesday 12th January.

318/15 Members considered the Parish Council's representation on the Betley Trust.

RESOLVED a) that Cllr Hales be appointed as the Council's representative on the Betley Trust;
b) that former councillor Ball be thanked for his work on behalf of the Council on the Trust.

319/15 In the absence of Cllr Loades it was not possible to follow up the highways issues related to the condition of pavements within the parish and pedestrian safety in Church Lane/ Bowhill Lane.

320/15 The Clerk advised that he had received no further communication from Aspire Housing regarding the tree works at Main Road/East Lawns.

321/15 Area issues raised by members were considered.

Balterley. Cllr Townsend advised that the new streetsign for Post Office Lane had now been installed along with a new 7.5tonne weight limit sign. He was congratulated on his success in securing these works.

Betley. Concern was expressed that Church Lane, approaching Cooksgate, was now subject to flooding, possibly following works in adjacent fields. The Clerk would report this to the County Council.

322/15 The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting. There were no matters requiring decision.

323/15 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

324/15 **RESOLVED** a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:

G Griffiths	Salary/expenses	£ 583.28	1204
T Townsend	Repair of noticeboard (materials)	£ 22.32	1205
TW Heler & Son	Laudy Croft grasscutting	£ 72.00	1206
Royal British Legion	Donation (poppy wreath)	£ 18.50	1207
G Griffiths	Expenses	£ 20.33	1208
Audley Rotary Club	Donation (Christmas event)	£ 50.00	1209

b) that the Financial Statement be received;
c) that the Bank Statements be noted, and the reconciliation verified and be signed by the Chairman.

325/15 Members considered any necessary works at Laudy Croft. No immediate works were required.

326/15 Members considered a draft Invitation to Tender for annual maintenance of the Memorial Garden which had been drawn up Cllrs Bettley-Smith, Daly and Watkin and then refined by the Clerk.

RESOLVED a) that the Invitation to Tender be approved;
B) that the range of potential contractors as identified at the meeting be invited to tender along with any other local companies which could be identified as appropriate.

327/15 Members considered the provision of winter bedding at the Memorial Garden.

RESOLVED that the Memorial Garden Working Group be given delegated authority to arrange the removal of spent bedding and the supply and planting of winter bedding within a budget of £300.

328/15 **RESOLVED** that a special meeting to consider planning applications to hand, together with the 2016-17 Budget and Precept, be held on Thursday 10th December and that the next scheduled meeting be held on Thursday 28th January 2016.