

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th October 2010

PRESENT

Councillors Richard Head, Steven Ball, Mandy Berrisford, Seb Daly, Dave Hales (from min.247), John Price, Jo Thomas and Chris Watkin.

IN ATTENDANCE

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

242/10 Apologies for absence were received and accepted as valid reasons for absence under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 from Cllrs Betley-Smith (holiday), Harrison (holiday) and Speed (other community commitment).

243/10 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Cllr Berrisford declared a prejudicial interest in the matter relating to the Cricket Club as she had been an Officer of the Club. Cllrs Daly, Head and Price declared personal interests in the same matter as former members.

244/10 **RESOLVED** that, subject to the correction of the date '31st October' to read '30th September' in min.231/10, the minutes of the meeting of 23rd September 2010 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

245/10 No members of the public present wished to engage in public participation.

246/10 The Chairman had e-mailed to members a summary of his activities since the last meeting, a copy of which was placed before the meeting. With other members he had reviewed the need for new or repairs to existing grit bins. It was agreed that the Parish Council's views would be collated for the next meeting. Cllr Price expressed his appreciation of the good wishes received from members on his wife and himself recently celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

247/10 The Clerk placed before members a report summarising the recent meeting of the Borough Standards Committee, and the possible implications for members.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be asked to provide members with an opportunity to review their Register of Interests entries.

[Cllr Hales joined the meeting during this item]

248/10 County Councillor Chapman reported on the following issues:

Grant Funding. The Community Fund was likely to continue; he had also provided the Clerk with details of potential Big Lottery funding for village halls. This information would be forwarded to the Village Hall Committee.

249/10 Borough Councillor Becket reported on the following issues:

Grant Funding. The Borough Council 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.

Financial Outlook. The Comprehensive Spending Review had not turned out as badly as anticipated for the Borough Council, as significant costs had already been taken out of the Council's budget. A further saving of 10% was planned for next year, against a broad indication of 7.5% under the CSR.

Website. Members were given details of a new website which Cllr Becket would be using to make available further information.

Wrinehill Issues. He was aware of the concerns regarding the appearance of sites at Wrinehill, and would be making further efforts to secure improvements, though the Borough Council's powers were very limited.

250/10 It was agreed to review the new refuse and recycling arrangements at this point. Two areas of concern were raised by members:

The non-collection of garden waste from the centre of the village on a recent occasion. Cllr Becket explained this was the result of human error, and a failure in communication between two vehicles. Staff had accepted responsibility for the error, which should not recur.

The early collection times, particularly for cardboard which could be damaged overnight. Cllr Becket responded by pointing out that the early start was necessary to allow work to be completed at a reasonable hour. It was most efficient to start in outlying districts and to work inwards, which meant that Betley was one of the earliest areas to be collected. This point was accepted by members.

Reviewing progress generally Cllr Becket pointed out that when he had taken over responsibility the recycling rate for the Borough was 16%; last year it had reached 30%; this year it was expected to be over 50% for the full year, and was currently running at 57%. In addition costs had been cut by £150,000 pa even though tonnages had increased.

Members expressed general satisfaction with the service provided.

251/10 Members considered a report from the Clerk referring to a document issued by the committee of the Cricket Club making reference to a grant said to have been provided to the Club by the Parish Council. The Clerk advised members that there had been no recent grant application to the Parish Council, but that in 2008 the Cricket Club had applied for a grant under the Community Chest scheme (i.e. funded by the Borough Council), which had been supported by the Parish Council.

(Cllr Hales declared a personal interest in this matter as a member of the Cricket Club)

RESOLVED that the Chairman be authorised to represent the Parish Council at the Cricket Club AGM and to seek clarification regarding the statements made, to establish details of the grant referred to by the Cricket Club, and to state that no grant had been made in 2009-10.

252/10 Members considered arrangements for the events to mark the switching-on of the Christmas Lights. It was confirmed that arrangements were in hand to facilitate community singing; that Father Christmas would be attending; and that members would be able to arrange the installation of lighting, and the provision of amplification equipment.

253/10 Members considered the possibility of providing additional dog faeces bins in the area.

(Cllr Thomas declared a personal interest as a dog owner)

RESOLVED a) that the Borough Council be advised that the Parish Council considers that additional bins could usefully be provided on Main Road (in the general area of the veterinary surgery) and at the lower end of Common Lane;

b) that the Parish Magazine be used to advise residents that wrapped faeces may be deposited in general litter bins, and that supplies of faeces bags can be obtained from the veterinary surgery.

(Cllr Daly declared a personal interest as proprietor of the surgery)

254/10 Members considered the operation of the OWL community watch scheme. Concern was expressed that following the retirement of the officer responsible the service had deteriorated, with little material of local relevance. The effect was that those signed up to the scheme tended to delete messages unread as they were so rarely relevant.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write to Staffordshire Police setting out the Council's views.

255/10 Members considered the following planning application:

(Cllr Ball declared a personal interest as he was acquainted with the applicant)

10/00550/FUL First floor rear extension with balcony, Orchard House, Chamberlain Court, Betley

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objection.

256/10 The Clerk reported the following Decisions of which he was aware:

10/00435 Detached dwelling and alterations to access, land opp. 1 Church Villas, The Butts, Betley - PERMITTED

10/00501 Part single storey/part first floor side extension, Quinneys, Den Lane, Wrinehill – PERMITTED

257/10 The Clerk drew to the attention of members three further planning matters.

The Borough Council had published its Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment for 2010-25. This showed a very irregular pattern of development over the period in the rural areas, with 126, 7 and 544 completions projected in each 5 year period. Cllr Becket undertook to seek an explanation of this rather strange pattern, and its possible implications for the Parish Council's area.

The Borough Council had also published its List of Locally Important Buildings. The Parish Council had contributed to the development of this list, and twelve buildings/ groups of buildings/ structures had been listed.

Notice had been received of planning application 10/00580/FUL Change of use from field to form additional car parking, land adjacent to the Hand & Trumpet, Wrinehill. The closing date for consultation was 12th November.

RESOLVED that the documents be formally received and noticed, and that a special meeting be held on Thursday 11th November to consider planning application 10/00580.

258/10 The Clerk advised members of the comments made by the contractor in response to the views of the Website Working Group regarding the basic structure of the proposed community website.

RESOLVED that a meeting of the Working Group be held to discuss the format suggested by the contractor, and that recommendations be placed before the meeting of 11th November.

259/10 The Council considered area issues raised by members.

A member noted the positive response by residents to the pavement clearance work carried out by the County Council neighbourhood gang.

RESOLVED a) that the Clerk advise the local police of the theft of topiary from the area;

b) that the Clerk write to the County Council asking why the school crossing patrol warning lights had been removed.

260/10 The Clerk submitted details of correspondence received since the last meeting. There were no items requiring decision. One item of correspondence received from Staffordshire County Council had been shared with the Parish Council on terms of confidentiality. It was

therefore **RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded during consideration of this item under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Section 2 and Section 100A (2) of the Local Government Act 1972, in that if members of the public were present confidential information would be disclosed to them in breach of the obligation of confidence; in that the information supplied by a third party falls under the provisions of Section 100A (3) (a).

261/10 Members considered the following issues referred from previous meetings:

Church Lane Bench. The site had been surveyed and the base was adequate. The bench would be installed when members were available to carry out the work.

Bus Shelters. The Clerk was awaiting details of contractors capable of carrying out the work at East Lawns. Members who had inspected the Village Hall shelter estimated repair costs at approximately £100.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to seek a grant from the County Council toward the repair work identified.

262/10 Members considered the future of Parish Council News.

RESOLVED that distribution of the final Parish Council News be scheduled to follow the launch of the community website.

263/10 Members considered an application for financial assistance from the Betley Senior Citizens Club.

RESOLVED that a contribution of £175 be made to the Betley Senior Citizens' Club in respect of their annual Christmas meal.

264/10 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank statements to date.

265/10 **RESOLVED** a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|-----|
| G Griffiths | salary & expenses | £326.71 | 918 |
| DT Askey | memorial garden maintenance | £135.00 | 919 |
| Betley Village Hall Cttee | hall hire | £272.25 | 920 |
| Betley Senior Citizens | donation to Christmas Lunch | £175.00 | 921 |

b) that the Financial Statement be received;

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

266/10 The Clerk invited members to consider their response to the issues raised by the Council's External Auditor.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be asked to clarify with the Auditors that they were now satisfied with the Council's risk management arrangements.

267/10 Members of the Laudy Croft Working Group reported that no actions were required.

268/10 Members considered material appropriate for the next issue of the Parish Magazine.

RESOLVED that the following matters be included: dog faeces bins & bags; the lighting of the Memorial Garden Christmas Tree; issues relating to overgrown hedges.

269/10 Members of the Memorial Garden Working Group reported that no works were currently required, and that arrangements for winter bedding were in hand.

270/10 Date of next meeting Thursdays 11th November (special) & 25th November.