

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

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd October 2015**

### 269/15 PRESENT:

Cllrs Seb Daly, Mandy Berrisford, Dave Hales, Richard Head, Jo Thomas (from min.281), Terry Townsend, Ian Walton and Chris Watkin.

### 270/15 IN ATTENDANCE:

Two members of the public.  
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

271/15 Apologies for absence was received from Cllrs Bettley-Smith (holiday), Ecclestone, Morris (work) and Speed (another commitment). An apology for late arrival had been received from Cllr Thomas who had another village commitment. An apology had also been received from Borough Cllr Frankish who was attending a meeting of the Borough Council Licensing Committee.

272/15 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

All members declared a personal interest in Item 14 (Licensing, Betley Court Farm) through their acquaintanceship with the applicants. Cllr Daly indicated that he would declare a prejudicial interest in the same matter if necessary as an Officer of the Bonfire & Show Committee, which was a party to the licence.

273/15 **RESOLVED** that, subject to the correction of two typing errors in Minute 257 ('The' for 'RThe' and "exercised" for "exercided") the minutes of the meeting of 24th September 2015 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

274/15 The Chairman outlined the procedure for public participation and the meeting was then adjourned.

275/15 Two members of the public wished to contribute.

The first member of the public indicated that she was present for Agenda Item 14 (Licensing) to answer any questions which might arise. Councillors had no questions at this point.

The second member of the public indicated that he was interested in Item 11 (Parish Plan) and wished to hear the discussion.

276/15 The Vice-Chairman advised that an invitation had been extended to the Chairman to lay a wreath on behalf of the community on Remembrance Sunday. As the Chairman would be absent the Vice-Chairman would represent the Council on this occasion. The Vice-Chairman also advised that he had scattered wildflower seeds on Laudy Croft as previously agreed. The intended meeting with the County Councillor and a Highways representative had not taken place as a result of illness in the County Councillor's family; alternative arrangements would be made. An incident in which inconsiderate parking by a delivery vehicle had led to traffic chaos and potential danger to pupils had been drawn to his attention, and he had fed back

details to the school for them to progress. He had that day met with police representative and a general discussion had taken place.

277/15 The Clerk expressed his thanks to Cllr Townsend who had carried out very effective repairs and refurbishment to the Balterley noticeboard.

278/15 There were no matters to be reported on by representatives on outside bodies.

279/15 The Clerk advised members that, since the last meeting, there had been no urgent business requiring action.

280/15 Members considered the following planning application:

**15/00759/FUL Four detached dwellings, former Blue Bell Inn site, New Road, Wrinehill**

**RESOLVED that the Council objects to this proposal in the strongest terms for the following reasons:**

**a) the loss of the two affordable housing units, which were part of the original planning consent and formed the special circumstances justifying planning consent in the Green Belt, render the proposal unacceptable to the Council;**

**b) that the Council considers the design and layout proposed (which would be more appropriate in a suburban estate setting) to be unacceptable in the location given its close proximity to an important Listed Building (the Summer House), and its important position at a gateway to the village and within the Green Belt. The design proposed fails to reflect either the local vernacular or the character of the surrounding area.**

[Cllr Thomas joined the meeting at this point]

281/15 The Clerk advised members of the following planning decision notices:

15/00662 Retention of residential annexe, Beehive Cottage, Balterley -

PERMITTED

15/00739 Summer Room, Briarwood, Common Lane, Betley - PERMITTED.

282/15 Members considered works in the village currently being undertaken by BT in connection with the provision of fibre optic broadband. Concern was expressed that, although the Parish Council was excited to see the introduction of high-speed broadband, care must be taken that the necessary structures should not create an obstruction on pavements, or have an adverse impact on the Conservation Area.

**RESOLVED that the Clerk be asked to contact the Borough and County Councils to express the Parish Council's concerns, and to establish whether BT was subject to any planning or highways controls.**

283/15 Members considered the revised plan relating to first phase works to bring the Laudy Croft site back into community use.

**RESOLVED a) that the first stage scheme be approved, subject to the alterations agreed at the meeting;**

**b) that Cllr Hales provide an amended plan to permit the Clerk to issue an Invitation to Tender;**

c) that the tender invite contractors to propose and price different options for the fencing on the southern and eastern part of the site with gates as indicated;

d) that further fencing be provided to prevent public access to the area of the rabbit burrows.

284/15 Members considered a review of the Parish Plan.

**RESOLVED** a) that the Parish Council unanimously supports a Review of the Parish Plan;

b) that the Clerk be asked to provide copies of the Parish Plan to the next meeting and to establish whether it is possible to place an electronic copy on the website;

c) that a small Working Group of councillors and interested members of the public be formed to progress such a Review.

285/15 In the absence of Cllr Speed the matter relating to footpaths was deferred to the next meeting.

286/15 As the site meeting with Highways officers and Cllr Loades had yet to take place it was agreed that further discussion relating to the condition of pavements should be deferred until such meeting had taken place.

287/15 Members considered issues relating to recent events held under the Premises Licence relating to Betley Court Farm and details of the meeting of the Safety Advisory Group on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**RESOLVED** that the report from the Council's representatives be noted and that no further action was necessary until further events were proposed to be held.

288/15 In the absence of Cllr Loades there was no progress to report in respect of highway safety issues on Bowhill Lane/ Church Lane.

289/15 Members considered the Council's policy on contact information for councillors.

**RESOLVED** that the Council maintain its existing policy, that neither e-mail addresses nor telephone numbers be advertised, and that the initial point of contact with the Council should normally be via the Clerk.

290/15 Progress on the Community Speed Watch Scheme was reviewed. Progress had been made on future arrangements, with a rota to be introduced for sessions in 2016. A member advised members that he had been in contact with the County Council which had Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) one of which could be deployed in the area as a further measure to discourage speeding.

291/15 Area issues raised by members were considered.

Balterley. The Wildlife Trust had carried out works to cut the hedges at Black Firs which had been overgrowing the pavement. Unfortunately this had highlighted the extent of other vegetation obstructing the pavement.

e had been assured that work would be carried out within the next two weeks.

Wrinehill. Concern was expressed regarding a hedgerow overgrowing the pavement on New Road. The Clerk would report this to the County Council.

292/15 The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting. There were no matters requiring decision. The Clerk had received a request from a neighbouring Parish Council for information and advice regarding licensing matters.

**RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to offer appropriate information and advice, without liability to the Parish Council.**

293/15 Members considered a request for financial assistance from the Betley Senior Citizens Group toward the cost of their annual Christmas event. He had also received an initial enquiry from another local organisation, but without any detail of the scale of funding sought or the use to which it would be put.

**RESOLVED a) that a grant of £200 be offered to Betley Senior Citizens;  
b) that the other applicant be advised that further information would be required before the Parish Council could consider the matter further.**

294/15 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

295/15 **RESOLVED a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:**

<b>P Brooks &amp; Son</b>	<b>Memorial Garden maint</b>	<b>£ 100.00</b>	<b>1199</b>
<b>G Griffiths</b>	<b>Salary/expenses</b>	<b>£ 388.52</b>	<b>1200</b>
<b>S Daly</b>	<b>Seeds for Laudy Croft</b>	<b>£ 26.21</b>	<b>1201</b>
<b>G Griffiths</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>£ 15.00</b>	<b>1202</b>
<b>CVS Cheshire East</b>	<b>Payroll</b>	<b>£ 48.00</b>	<b>1203</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.**

296/15 Members considered any necessary works at Laudy Croft. No immediate works were required.

297/15 Members considered any necessary works at the Memorial Garden.

[As the discussion related to contractual terms between the Council and its contractors members considered whether the press and public should be excluded during consideration of this matter]

298/15 **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 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.**

Following discussion it was:

**RESOLVED a) that the contractor who had arranged the summer bedding be asked to strip out that bedding when appropriate, and that the Memorial Garden Working Group make arrangements for winter bedding in line with past policy;  
b) that from 2016 the Council seek a single contract to carry out all works throughout the year to include preparation of the site; spring/summer bedding; grass cutting; winter bedding; maintenance of borders/ shrubberies etc. And that the**

**Clerk, in conjunction with the Working Group, be authorised to draw up an appropriate Invitation to Tender.**

299/15 Date of next meeting: Thursday 28th January 2016.