

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd October 2009

PRESENT

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Steven Ball, Mandy Berrisford, David Hales, Simon Harrison, and Chris Watkin.

IN ATTENDANCE

Borough Councillor Becket
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk)

248/09 Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Cameron, Daly, Head, Morris, Price and Speed.

An apology for absence was also received from County Cllr Chapman.

249/09 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Cllr Bettley-Smith declared a personal interest in items 10 (as a worshipper at the Church) and 11 (as a dogwalker in the area). Cllr Harrison declared a personal interest in item 11 (as a dogwalker in the area).

250/09 **RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 24th September 2009 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

251/09 There were no members of the public in attendance to engage in public participation.

252/09 The Chairman had no business of substance to report; having attended the recent SPCA training seminar on changes to planning laws the Vice-Chairman would be presenting a report to the November meeting.

253/09 Borough Councillor Becket reported on the following issues:

Bus Service. The 85 service was to be upgraded to a half-hourly service through much of the day (Mondays to Fridays), and it would be in the interest of the village for this to be a successful initiative, as there might otherwise be a possibility of a direct Crewe-Keele service abstracting custom and damaging the long-term future of the 85.

Bowhill Lane BOAT. Cllr Becket's view was that the Draft Traffic Order had been poorly advertised; in particular as no notices appeared to have been posted at the Betley end of Bowhill Lane. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had responded to the consultation, in the terms agreed at the last meeting.

Recycling. The response to the dry recycling service in the Betley area had been good with an 80-85% participation rate, but relatively low volumes. There had been a few complaints, but many more commendations.

Local Area Partnerships (LAPs). Cllr Becket reported that he had now been appointed as a Borough Council representative to the Betley & Madeley Area LAP, and had suggested the need for two meetings per year which gave the public the opportunity to meet all partner organisations. There was a need to produce an Action Plan, of things which could

be enabled by the LAP. The LAP would look at the Betley, Balterley & Wrinehill Parish Plan to see what could be achieved. The next meeting was scheduled for the afternoon of Wednesday 9th December.

254/09 There were no planning applications to hand.

255/09 The Clerk advised that there were no Decision Notices to hand.

256/09 The Clerk reported on the response received from the Borough Council in relation to the concerns expressed by the Parish Council at its last meeting.

On application 09/00267 (Wrinehill Garage) the Borough Council's change of attitude was the result of changes to the proposed design, which was considered to be inappropriate for a site within the Green Belt. Members noted the Borough Council's position, but remained of the view that the proposals within 09/00267 were acceptable, and arguably more appropriate than the design previously approved. The Clerk also reported that the Borough Council had undertaken to check the condition of the site to assess whether action could be taken to enforce its tidying, and making secure.

On application 08/00924 (The Spinney) the Borough Council had been unable to identify how incorrect information had been input to their system, leading to the Parish Council being misled regarding the status of the application. The Borough Council had asked whether the Parish Council wished to take the matter to the next stage of the complaints procedure.

RESOLVED That the complaint be taken to the next stage of the procedure in order to establish whether the failure was systemic, or an isolated instance.

257/09 The Council considered the development of a community website. The Clerk reported that there had been no expressions of interest following the advertisements placed on the local noticeboards. Members were asked to ensure that any expressions of interest, or possible contractors be notified to the Clerk by Monday 23rd November.

258/09 The Chairman reported that he had spoken with the Treasurer of the Parochial Church Council, who had assured him that appropriate notice would be given of any notice on the Parish Council with regard to future liability arising from the closure of Betley Old Churchyard.

259/09 Members considered issues arising from the use of footpaths in the Common Lane area. Following various incidents which had required police attendance the Parish Council had been asked whether it could help in defusing tensions. The Clerk reported that he had been in touch with the County Council's Public Rights of Way (PROW) Unit who would arrange for a Ranger to visit the area to check on the routes of footpaths. A member had obtained copies of relevant leaflets on the Countryside Code in respect of dogs in the countryside, use of public rights of way etc. [Countryside Access; You and Your Dog in the Countryside; The Countryside Code] and had arranged for these to be placed in the local vet's surgery.

RESOLVED a) that the Clerk seek to obtain copies of the relevant map/s of public rights of way in the area;

b) that the Clerk seek to arrange an urgent site meeting of councillors with representatives of the PROW Unit to discuss problems.

260/06 The Clerk reported that he had still received no response from Aspire Housing regarding the questionnaire and survey carried out by the Parish Council, and passed to Aspire earlier in the year, despite several phone calls and e-mails.

RESOLVED that Cllr Becket's offer to help be taken up.

261/06 Members considered the value of the Council's membership of CPRE (Council for the Protection of Rural England). Cllr Berrisford outlined the potential benefits of membership, based on the information provided during the past year's membership.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council maintain its membership of CPRE until further notice, as it was considered that information supplied may be of future value.

262/06 Members considered nominating local buildings to feature on the Borough Council's commission of a work of art portraying the Borough.

RESOLVED that the following buildings be nominated:

Balterley : Township of Balterley milestone

Betley : Church; Betley Court; Dovecote, Old Hall; Reading Room

Wrinehill : Summer House

263/06 **RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded during consideration of this matter under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Section 100A (Schedule 12A Part I (8 & 9)) of the Local Government Act 1972, in that it relates to the terms proposed in the course of negotiations for a contract for the supply of goods or services to the authority.**

264/06 The Clerk reported on the response to the second stage tendering for the repaving of the path at the Memorial Garden, Betley. Two of the original six tenderers had declined to respond, leaving four compliant tenders. Tender prices (net) were £2,500, £3,650, £3,950 and £4,650.

RESOLVED that the tender identified as Company B, in the net sum of £2,500, be accepted, and that the Clerk be instructed to award the contract to that company, and to arrange for the work to be carried out as soon as practicable.

The Clerk advised members that the successful tenderer was MTM Construction of Wrinehill.

265/06 **RESOLVED that the press and public be readmitted.**

266/06 It was confirmed that arrangements had now been completed for the switching-on of Christmas lights, Friday 27th November at the Memorial Garden, to be followed by a switching-on at the Village Hall.

267/06 The Chairman reported that he had received the annual request for financial assistance toward the Betley Senior Citizens' Club Christmas meal, for which financial provision had been made in the Council's annual budget.

RESOLVED that a contribution of £150 be made to the Betley Senior Citizens' Club, in respect of their annual Christmas meal.

(Cllr Bell declared a personal interest in this matter, as a parent would be a beneficiary)

268/06 The Chairman reported that the Church Treasurer (St. Margaret's, Betley) had spoken with him in respect of possible improvements to the kitchen and toilet facilities (including making the latter more suitable for disabled users), that these improvements would have a

more general community benefit, and that some assistance might therefore be sought through the Community Chest scheme to reflect community interest.

269/09 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial Statement to date. He noted that only two councillors who were signatories to the account were present.

RESOLVED a) that on this occasion the Clerk be authorised to act as a signatory;

b) that the Council authorises payment of the following:

DT Askey Meml Garden maintenance £135.00 849

DT Askey Meml Garden maintenance £135.00 850

Betley Senior Citizens

Club Donation re Christmas meal £150.00 851

Royal British Legion

Poppy Appeal Donation re supply of wreath £ 18.00 852

c) that the Financial Statement be received;

d) that, in the interests of exercising a more rigorous and contemporary audit trail, the Clerk be asked to present appropriate bank statements to meetings in future in support of the Financial Statement.

270/9 Members of the Laudy Croft Maintenance Working Group reported that no further maintenance work was required.

271/09 Members considered issues relating to communication. Cllr Harrison would arrange for copy for the Parish Magazine to be submitted by 12th November for the December issue.

Cllr Berrisford outlined copy for the Autumn Parish Council News.

**RESOLVED a) that the draft of the Autumn Parish Council News be approved;
b) that the existing arrangements for printing and distribution be maintained.**

272/09 There being no members of the Memorial Garden Working Group present, discussion of the management of the Memorial Garden was deferred.

273/09 The Council considered area issues raised by members.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be instructed to contact BT urgently regarding the collapsed manhole cover in the footway opposite the Village Hall, in view of the Betley Bonfire, and the significant number of visitors likely to attend.

[On checking, it was found that the cover had now been repaired]

274/09 The Clerk submitted details of correspondence received since the last meeting.

RESOLVED that the Borough Council's Carbon Reduction and Energy Efficiency Officer be invited to attend an early meeting of the Parish Council.