

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2013 (and adjourned to 3rd October 2013)

PRESENT:

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Steven Ball, Karen Burton (from min.300), Seb Daly, Dave Hales (Minutes 275 to 299 and from min.303), Richard Head, Hayley Kerr (from min.300), Frank Speed (to min.299), Jo Thomas (Minutes 275 to 286) and Chris Watkin.

IN ATTENDANCE:

County Cllr Loades (from min.300)
Approximately 18 members of the public.
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

275/13 Apologies for absence was received from Cllrs Berrisford, Burton, Hales and Kerr.

RESOLVED that the apology for absence received from Cllr Burton (work) be accepted as a valid reason for absence under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

276/13 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Cllr Speed declared a prejudicial interests in Item 8 (August Music Event) as landowner of the event site.

Cllr Bettley-Smith declared a personal interest in Item 8 as an attendee on the Friday, and having been put to inconvenience on the Sunday.

Cllr Thomas declared a personal interest in Item 8 having been inconvenienced by the event.

Cllrs Ball & Head declared personal interests in Item 8 as friends of the landowner.

Cllr Daly declared a personal interest in Item 8 as a friend of the landowner, and having attended on Friday and Sunday.

Cllr Watkin declared a personal interest in Item 8 as an attendee on the Friday.

277/13 The Chairman advised members, and the public, that in view of the size of the agenda and the matters to be discussed, it was almost certain that the meeting would be adjourned at an appropriate point to reconvene one week later. This would also allow the Council to consider a planning application of which the Council had only just been made aware.

278/13 **RESOLVED that, subject to the correction of minor typing errors in Minute 256 (Bus for Bu) and Minute 264 (Village for Vuillage), the minutes of the meeting of 25th July 2013 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

279/13 The Chairman outlined the procedure for public participation, and the meeting was then adjourned to allow such participation.

One member of the public present commented on planning issues at Buddleigh Farm, including the recent removal of a section of hedging alongside the A531 and an application which he understood had been submitted relating to Hunters Tryst.

The Chairman responded by indicating that the Borough Council had been advised of the hedging issue, but that no response had been received by the Parish Council to date, and that the planning application was likely to be considered by the Parish Council next week.

Several members of the public commented on the recent music event, and the Council's response. The following points were raised:

- Had comments made at the public meeting been collated?
- Wanted the Parish Council to press for a Review of the Licence.
- Would the collated document include all views, both for and against? The Chairman indicated this would be the case.
- Thanked the PC for holding the meeting. Personally felt the venue was unsuitable and felt the Council should press for revocation of the Licence.
- Only a few objectors. There had been too much fuss.
- Others hadn't had to endure what some residents had endured. They had a right to a peaceable life. Referred to 2003 Act issues which had not been met.
- Blame lay not with promoter and landowner, but with statutory authorities (Borough & County Councils and Police) who had let down the village.
- Issue was not personal, but venue was unsuitable as the only practicable position for the stage led to unacceptable noise for neighbours.

280/13 The Chairman reported on activities undertaken since the last meeting:

He had attended a meeting of the Rural Transport Scheme. The proposal to replace the existing minibus was proceeding and would be self-financed. He had attended Community Speed Watch training.

281/13 The Vice-Chairman advised that he had represented the Parish Council at the induction of the new vicar. The Chairman expressed his thanks to Cllr Daly for his attendance.

282/13 The Clerk advised members that Borough Cllr Becket had been in touch to report that he was still pressing the Borough Council regarding planning issues at Buddleigh Farm.

283/13 The Clerk advised members that no matters had been dealt with under the Council's provisions for Urgent Business

284/13 The Clerk tabled a report on the Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED that the Council reaffirms its adoption of the Code of Conduct as set out in the Clerk's Report.

[Cllr Speed, having declared a prejudicial interest in this matter left the meeting at this point. Cllr Daly declared a further personal interest at this stage as Vice-Chairman of the Show & Horticultural Society which used Betley Court Farm as a venue]

285/13 Members considered the Council's position on a potential Review of the Premises Licence issued to Betley Court Farm in the light of the recent three day music event held at that location. The Clerk tabled a collation of views expressed at the recent public meeting, and a draft submission which he had drawn up in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and which was intended to reflect views expressed to the Council.

Members first considered whether a Review was felt to be appropriate.

RESOLVED that in view of public comment there was sufficient concern to require the Parish Council to request a Review of the Licence.

286/13 The Clerk outlined the background to the preparation of the draft submission, emphasising that the document was a basis for discussion and was open to amendment or replacement as members saw fit. Members then reviewed the draft submission paragraph by paragraph.

RESOLVED a) that the draft submission, as amended at the meeting, be approved from Sections 1 to 4;
b) that further consideration of a summary and conclusion to the submission be deferred to a later point in the meeting (following any adjournment) to allow further consideration.

[Cllr Thomas left the meeting at this point. Cllr Speed rejoined the meeting]

287/13 Members considered the following planning application.

13/00631 Erection of detached garage with gym/en-suite above and conversion of existing garage to form games room, Ivydene, Main Road, Betley.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objection to the principle of what is proposed but wishes to see the elevation of the double garage, particularly the first floor window, to be in keeping with the existing building, which is a significant property within the village.

288/13 Members considered the following planning application.

13/00670 Single storey and two storey side extensions, Yew Tree Cottage, Deans Lane, Balterley

RESOLVED that the Parish Council supports the proposed works as an improvement over the previously approved scheme.

289/13 The Clerk advised members of a planning application which was current, but of which no notice had been provided to the Parish Council by the Borough Council. A member had obtained a copy of the application via the website but this was not of sufficient size to allow proper consideration.

RESOLVED a) that consideration of application 13/00716FUL Conversion of barn to holiday accommodation, Hunters Tryst, Buddleigh Farm, Balterley be deferred to a later point in the meeting (following the adjournment);
b) that the Clerk be asked to obtain proper copies of the plans from the Borough Council.

290/13 The Clerk advised members that no planning Decision Notices had been received.

291/13 Members considered ongoing issues at Buddleigh Farm, specifically the removal of a section of hedge onto the A531.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council place on record with the Borough Council its concerns regarding activities at Buddleigh Farm and asks the Borough, as Local Planning Authority, to visit the site and to take any appropriate action.

292/13 Members were advised that no significant developments had occurred relating to the collapse of a wall to the rear of Main Road, Betley since the previous meeting, as quotes for the appropriate works were still being obtained.

293/13 Members considered initiatives being undertaken or considered by the Parish Council.

294/13 Clearance of pavements and gullies. It was noted that works on the B5500 in Balterley had been carried out and were satisfactory, but that regrowth was beginning to affect sections of pavement previously cleared. It was agreed that the matter of pavement clearing should be considered at the February meeting.

295/13 East Lawns Bus Shelter. In view of the difficulty in achieving any other works to improve sightlines it was **RESOLVED that the possibility of installing a mirror at this location be investigated.**

296/13 Dog fouling. A further request for signage having been received it was agreed that Cllrs Hales & Thomas would supply and install.

297/13 The Chairman indicated that as it was nearing ten o'clock it was his intention to propose that the meeting be adjourned. However, at the request of the Clerk, it was agreed that the following financial business would be transacted.

298/13 **RESOLVED that the following accounts be authorised for payment:**

DT Askey	Meml Garden maintenance	£ 135.00	1107
TW Heler & Son	Highways works	£1,548.00	1108
M Morris	Bus shelter repair	£ 250.00	1109
Betley Heritage Ltd	Start-up costs	£ 147.20	1111

Note. Cheque 1110 related to a payment of salary/expenses to the Clerk but no invoice was to hand. Payment was therefore not authorised.

299/13 **RESOLVED that the Council stand adjourned until Thursday 3rd October, at 7.30pm in The Village Hall (if available).**

The meeting then adjourned

The meeting resumed on Thursday 3rd October at 7.30pm

300/13 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Berrisford (work), Speed (work) and Thomas (other engagement). An apology for likely late arrival was received from Cllr Hales. An apology for absence had been received from Borough Cllr Becket (other meeting).

301/13 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items. No interests were declared at this point. (The Chairman indicated that any interests declared at the start of the meeting on 26th September would automatically be carried forward to the adjourned meeting.)

302/13 There were no members of the public present to engage in public participation.

303/13 Cllr Loades presented his report to members.

He had arranged an appointment with the appropriate officer of Staffordshire Highways to discuss various issues which he reviewed with members.

[Cllr Hales joined the meeting at this point]

He advised members of his Community Grant Fund which could provide financial support for local initiatives, with a particular emphasis on the young and elderly. It was suggested that further works at the Village Hall, and/or capital costs of the Community Speed Watch Scheme might be appropriate applicants.

304/13 The Clerk reported that no matters had been dealt with under the provision for urgent business since the last meeting.

305/13 Further to minutes 285 & 286 members considered their final submission relating to a request for a Review of the Premises Licence related to Betley Court Farm, Main Road, Betley. The Clerk explained that the draft resolution had been amended as follows:

- a) Paragraph 4 had been renumbered as Para 3.5 as it was now so brief;
- b) A new Para 4 had been created, based on the proposal drafted by Cllr Watkin

in discussion with the Chairman.

This draft submission was then placed before members.

RESOLVED that, subject to two further amendments (the addition of the words “those expressing concerns at” between ‘from’ and ‘the’ in bullet point 3 of Section 4; and the substitution of “heard and received favourable reports” for “heard some favourable reports” in the footnote), the submission, as circulated, be approved and the Clerk be authorised to submit the appropriate documentation to the Borough Council.

306/13 Members considered planning issues, other than applications before the Council, and considered the land drawing and tipping issue at Doddlespool Farm. Cllr Loades advised that the matter had been ‘called in’ to committee and was the subject of investigation by the County Council. He hoped to have more to report in approximately three weeks.

307/13 The Chairman advised members that he had received correspondence relating to the removal of hedgerows adjoining the entrance to the site off Main Road, Balterley for which use as a wedding venue had been permitted under a Certificate of Lawful Development. It was suggested that such alterations might place the use outside the provisions of Article 3(6) of the General Permitted Development Order. The Clerk indicated that the position was unclear.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact the Borough Council asking them to investigate as a matter of urgency, and to advise the Parish Council of the legal position.

308/13 Members considered the following planning application.

13/00716 Conversion of part of existing barn buildings to provide additional holiday accommodation in association with Hunters Tryst, Buddleigh Farm, Balterley.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objection to the principle of holiday use, but has serious concerns regarding the use of land under the same ownership which may amount to breaches of planning regulations.

The Parish Council would therefore ask the Local Planning Authority to ensure that the premises are restricted to holiday use only, and not for permanent occupation, nor for use in connection with other businesses on adjoining land under the same ownership.

309/13 Cllr Burton advised that there was nothing to report regarding the Community Footpaths Initiative.

310/13 Members considered progress on a Community Speed Watch Scheme. Training had begun and there was a need to consider potential monitoring sites. Concern was expressed that the Scheme should not be councillor-led.

311/13 Further to minute 303 it was agreed that the Village Hall and Community Speed Watch Scheme would be appropriate applicants under the County Councillor's Community Grant Fund.

312/13 Cllr Watkin reported on VAST (Voluntary Assistance Staffordshire) which had been established to support the voluntary sector in the county. He reported that it seemed to be providing sound information for voluntary groups, but had no direct relevance to the Parish Council.

313/13 Members considered area issues raised by members. There were no matters requiring decision.

314/13 Members considered concerns expressed regarding traffic speeds on Checkley Lane.
RESOLVED that Staffordshire Highways be asked to consider an extension of the 30mph limit to either the margins of the village or to the county boundary.

315/13 The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting.

RESOLVED a) that the Parish Council expresses its disappointment in not being notified of the changes to the arrangements for police surgeries in the village;
b) that consideration of links to the police be tabled as an item on the next agenda;
c) that the draft letter in response to the behaviour of a HGV passing through the village be approved.

316/13 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

317/13 **RESOLVED** a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:

G Griffiths	Salary & expenses	£ 803.59	1110
DT Askey	Meml Garden maintenance	£ 135.00	1112
Grant Thornton	Audit fee	£ 120.00	1113

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

318/13 Members of the Laudy Croft Working Group advised that the topping of ragwort on the site had been successfully completed.

319/13 Members reviewed the arrangements for the switching on of the Christmas Lights at the Memorial Garden. The Clerk confirmed that the Borough Council had confirmed that the tree would be supplied in week ending 15th November. It was agreed that in 2014 and subsequent years the lights would be switched on at the standard date (the Friday before the commencement of Advent).

RESOLVED that packs of sweets be supplied to children attending the event as last year, within a budget of £60.

320/13 Members considered Council communication, and matters to be included in the next issue of the Parish Magazine.

321/13 The Chairman advised members that he and the Vice-Chairman would be absent on the scheduled date of the January meeting.

RESOLVED that the January meeting be rescheduled to Thursday 30th January 2014.

322/13 Members considered matters for future Agenda.

323/13 Date of next meeting: Thursday 24th October 2013.

324/13 **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/or potential legal proceedings by or against the authority, and that it is considered to be in the public interest to exclude.**

325/13 The Clerk advised that no further communication had been received from the Borough Council regarding land at Laudy Croft.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council should consider options for the future use of the land at Laudy Croft at its next meeting.