

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2014

PRESENT:

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Seb Daly, Dave Hales (from min.240), Richard Head, Frank Speed and Chris Watkin.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Borough Cllr Becket.
Three members of the public.
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

234/14 Apologies for absence was received from Cllrs Ball (work), Berrisford (work), Burton (work), Harrison (unwell), Kerr (family) and Thomas (holiday). An apology for late arrival had been received from Cllr Hales (work).

235/14 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items.

Cllr Speed declared a prejudicial interest in Item 15 (Public Entertainment Licence, Betley Court Farm) as the applicant. Cllr Head declared a prejudicial interest in Item 21a (Community Chest) as an officer of the Village Hall Committee which was applying for a grant.

All members declared a personal interest in Item 15 through friendship with the applicant. Cllr Bettley-Smith declared a personal interest in Item 13 (Collapsed wall) as a Director of Betley Heritage Ltd. Cllrs Daly and Speed declared a personal interest in Item 8 (planning) through acquaintance with the applicant.

236/14 **RESOLVED that, subject to the amendment of minute 224 by the substitution of 'projected' for 'projected', the minutes of the meeting of 24th July 2014 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

237/14 The Chairman outlined the procedure for public participation, and the meeting was adjourned to allow public participation. A member of the public indicated that he was the applicant in respect of planning application 14/00636 and that he was present to respond to any questions members might have regarding the matter. There were no questions at this point.

238/14 The Chairman reported to members on matters dealt with since the last meeting. Along with the Vice-Chairman he had attended a meeting of the Safety Advisory Group (Licensing of Betley Court Farm). There had been some difficulties with the Rural Transport Scheme following the resignation of the recently-appointed Secretary and on the question of key-holding. New arrangements had been put in place and he was confident that issues had been addressed.

239/14 The Vice-Chairman reported that the Bonfire Committee had discussed some concerns re fire safety which had been raised, but that the matter had been satisfactorily addressed. He had been discussing the future use of Laudy Croft with appropriate officers from the Borough Council and a site visit had been arranged for 9th October.

[Cllr Hales joined the meeting at this point]

240/14 The Clerk reported that he had received an application from the Bonfire Committee to erect a banner on the Memorial Garden. The application was in accordance with the Council's policy on such matters.

RESOLVED that permission be granted.

The Clerk advised members of two matters relating to the noticeboard at The Hand and Trumpet, Wrinehill: the poor condition of the noticeboard, and the placing of an unauthorised poster on the noticeboard glass by an unidentified person.

RESOLVED a) that the need for regular maintenance of the noticeboards be considered as an agenda item at the October meeting;
b) that the Council's existing policy on the use of its noticeboards – that they should be used only for Parish Council notices, statutory notices, and exceptionally for other matters only with the express permission of the Council – be reaffirmed, and that the action taken to remove the unauthorised notice be endorsed.

241/14 The Clerk reported that he had received an apology for late arrival from County Cllr Loades, who had been delayed whilst travelling. It was agreed that there remained a number of outstanding issues to be discussed with the county councillor and that his offer of meeting in the village to address these should be accepted.

242/14 Borough Councillor Becket presented his report to members.

Concurrent functions. Cllr Becket indicated that his concern regarding the Parish Council's involvement in discussions might have been overstated, and that all requested information had in fact been supplied to the Borough Council by the Clerk.

Cheshire East roadworks. He had escalated his complaint regarding the handling of the A531 roadworks to a Stage 2 complaint. The roadworks had been badly signed and badly scheduled, with signage which was misleading and/or in error, there had been major disruption to the bus service, and the date of the work had been changed at very short notice.

Doddlespool. There was to be a multi-agency meeting in early September, and the County Council was intending to take appropriate action. As a member of the planning committee it would be inappropriate for him to comment on the planning application at this stage.

Turbine planning application. Again he did not feel it appropriate to take a position on the application at this stage but it would be appropriate for such an application to include a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) covering the delivery of materials to the site. No such TMP had been received to date.

243/14 Cllr Head reported that Phase V of improvement works to the Village Hall was under preparation. The current Phase IV included a lot of necessary electrical work which would not be visibly obvious. From next season agreement had been reached which would allow the tennis club use of the pavilion. Cllr Daly reported that he had received training in his new role as a School Governor.

244/14 The Clerk advised members that one matter had been dealt with under the Council's provisions for Urgent Business since the previous meeting. After consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman he had arranged payment of the following invoices and accounts for payment:

Zurich Municipal	Insurance premium	£ 505.06	1148
TW Heler & Sons	Laudy Croft & Highways	£ 348.00	1149

Betley Mums & Tots Grant £ 300.00 1150

245/14 Members considered the scheduling of the October meeting.

RESOLVED that the October meeting be rescheduled to Thursday 30th October.

246/14 Members considered the following planning application.

14/00636/FUL Installation of wind turbine and associated infrastructure including access track and diversion of footpath, land south of Fields Farm, Church Lane, Betley.

RESOLVED

a) that the Council is not convinced that the proposed works represent appropriate development within the Green Belt;

b) that it is a matter for the Borough Council to determine whether there are very special circumstances to justify granting permission;

c) that if the Borough Council is minded to grant permission the Parish Council would require that there would be no damage to existing hedgerows and other environmental features as a consequence of carrying out the development.

247/14 The Clerk reported the following planning decision notices:

14/00355FUL & 356LBC Retention of external alterations to NW gable pike elevations – PERMITTED

14/00433FUL Ground floor rear extension, garage extension and roof lights to rear elevation, Windrush, bowhill Lane – PERMITTED

14/00489FUL Various extensions and alterations, Langholm, Checkley Lane - APPROVED

248/14 Members considered current planning issues including the submission of a planning application relating to works on land at Doddlespool.

RESOLVED that a special meeting of the Council be held on Thursday 9th October to consider the planning application.

supports the view that a planning application would be appropriate in relation to the formation of a trackway at Old Hall Farm;

b) that the Clerk write to the Environment Agency prompting them to take appropriate action in relation to activities at Doddlespool Farm.

249/14 The Clerk advised members that the Borough Council had abandoned the Local Plan process previously considered, and was now restarting consultation on a new Local Plan. At this stage parish councils were being invited to nominate any potential development sites. The Parish Council had also been notified of the outcome of a Peer Review of Borough planning services and had been invited to make any comment.

RESOLVED a) that no development sites be proposed for Local Plan purposes at this stage, but that the planning authority be reminded of the need to develop the two existing sites at Wrinehill (former garage and former Blue Bell) within a reasonable timescale;

b) that the Council expresses general satisfaction with the planning authority's performance in dealing with applications, but is concerned at the inadequacy of the authority's record on enforcement.

250/14 Members considered the potential future use of the Laudy Croft site. The Vice-Chairman reported that a site meeting with the appropriate officers at Newcastle Borough Council had been arranged for 9th October, to be attended by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk.

RESOLVED that the Vice-Chairman's actions in arranging a site meeting be endorsed.

251/14 Members were advised that building work to restore the collapsed wall at the rear of Main Road was now complete. There was currently a shortfall of funding of around £1,000 which had been covered by a Director's Loan. The Parish Council had previously provided financial support toward the set-up costs of Betley Heritage and it was suggested that further support from the Parish Council might be appropriate.

RESOLVED that consideration of further funding be considered at the October meeting.

252/14 Members considered the recent music event at Betley Court Farm, and whether any response was felt to be appropriate in relation to the Public Entertainment Licence. The view was expressed that no significant issues had been presented by the competent authorities and that there were therefore no grounds for the Parish Council to call for a Licence Review.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council concludes that on the basis of this year's event that it does not wish to request a Review of the Licence.

[Having declared a prejudicial interest Cllr Speed withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the above matter]

253/14 There was nothing further to report regarding planned work under the Community Footpaths Initiative.

254/14 Members noted that the Community Speed Watch equipment was now being satisfactorily deployed on the A531 on a regular basis and the scheme seemed to be working well. There was still a need for more volunteers.

255/14 Area issues raised by members were considered.

**RESOLVED a) that the Clerk ask the County Council to amend the road sign at Wrinehill which referred to 'Balterly';
b) that options for further pavement clearing works on the A531 and B5500 be presented to the October meeting.**

256/14 Members considered highways issues. The Clerk reported on a phone call he had received from a local resident expressing concern at the volume and excessive speed of vehicles on the A531 at the northern edge of Betley. Members noted efforts made to address the issue, but the appropriate authority was the County Council as highways authority.

257/14 The Clerk tabled correspondence received since the last meeting. There were no matters requiring decision.

258/14 Members considered a request for financial assistance under the Community Chest scheme from Betley Village Hall Committee.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council recommends a grant of £400 to the Borough Council, and that potential further funding by the Parish Council be considered at the October meeting.

[Having declared a prejudicial interest Cllr Head withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the above matter]

259/14 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

260/14 **RESOLVED** a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:

G Griffiths	Salary/expenses	£ 764.11	1151
Staffordshire County Council	Speedwatch signs	£ 320.09	1152

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

261/14 Members considered the Report of the External Auditor for 2013-14.

RESOLVED that the Report be received.

262/14 Members considered Council communication, and matters to be included in the next issue of the Parish Magazine.

263/14 Members considered matters for future Agenda.

264/14 Date of next meeting: Thursday 9th October 2014 (special) 30th October 2014