

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

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2017**

### 262/17 PRESENT:

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Graham Ecclestone, David Hales (from Min.270), Richard Head, and Ian Walton.

### 263/17 IN ATTENDANCE:

One member of the public.  
County Cllr Northcott.  
Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

264/17 Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Berrisford (family), Daly (work), Speed (work), Thomas (holiday), Townsend (family) and Watkin (holiday).

265/17 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items. There were no declarations at this point.

266/17 Members considered the minutes of three recent meetings.

267/17 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of 27th July 2017 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

268/17 **RESOLVED** that in the absence of two members present at that meeting the minutes of the meeting of 10th August 2017 could not be approved as a true record and consideration was deferred to the next scheduled meeting.

269/17 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of 7th September 2017 be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

[Cllr Hales joined the meeting at this point]

270/17 The Chairman outlined the procedure for public participation, and the meeting was adjourned to allow the public to speak. One member of the public was present and provided an update on progress on the Church Tower Restoration Appeal. The appeal was close to reaching its target and further fundraising initiatives were described.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council places on record its appreciation of the fundraising effort by the Appeal.

271/17 The Chairman reported that other than correspondence which would be considered later in the meeting he had nothing to report on since the last meeting.

272/17 The Clerk advised members that he had now received a final audit report for 2016-17. Other than a transcription error on the Statement of Accounts (which had now been corrected) it was a “clean” audit.

273/17 County Cllr Northcott presented his report to members. In the absence of the Borough Councillors he also presented an update on Borough Council matters.

Borough Council.

The Council was moving to Castle House where it would share the building with Aspire, local County Council functions, Police and library services;

The Lyme Lottery had been in operation since August and was doing well;

Progress on the Joint Local Plan was paused during the consultation period and the collation of responses.

County Council.

An OFSTED review had assessed services for Cared For Children as Good;

A proposal from the Police and Crime Commissioner that he should take over responsibility for the Fire and Rescue Service had been rejected, except for some sharing of back office roles;

Healthwatch services were to be recommissioned from April 2018;

The Community Councillor Fund was open until November and applications were invited;

He had arranged a site visit with Rob Steele (Highways) for Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October and would welcome a Parish Council attendance;

274/17 The Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee reported that a legacy had been received from the estate of a former resident in the sum of £2,000. This had been placed in a holding account and would probably be applied to the playground project.

275/17 The Clerk advised members that under the Council's provision for Urgent Business he had "signed off" the application for speed monitoring equipment grant funding prepared by Cllr Townsend and approved at the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> September.

276/17 Members considered the following planning application.

**17/00747/FUL Two storey rear extension and ground floor side extension, Rostherne, Common Lane, Betley.**

**RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objection to the application.**

[Cllr Hales declared a prejudicial interest in the above matter as an immediate neighbour and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration.]

277/17 The Clerk advised members of the following planning decisions:

17/00086/FUL & 00087/LBC Garden room, patio and pizza oven, Lime View, Main Road, Betley - PERMITTED

17/00290/AGR Agricultural building, silage clamp and hardstanding, Bowhill Farm, Bowhill Lane, Betley - APPROVED

17/00471/FUL Changes to boundary treatment, Blue Bell site, Wrinehill - PERMITTED

17/00565/FUL Oak framed pitched roof garage, White Cottage, Main Road, Betley - PERMITTED

17/00629/FUL Oak framed garage, driveway etc, The Croft, Main Road, Betley - PERMITTED

All were broadly in line with Parish Council comments.

278/17 Members considered any further actions required in connection with HS2. It was noted that other Parish Councils were intending to petition Parliament in respect of the scheme and it was noted that information on the necessary procedures had been received and passed to the Clerk.

**RESOLVED that the information received be noted and that the Clerk should hold same but that at this time the Council is not proposing to petition Parliament.**

279/17 Members considered the Council's property and assets.

In respect of Laudy Croft it was noted that the facility was proving to be popular and well-used by families, including for picnics and informal games, and by dogs and their walkers. The topping of ragwort appeared to have been successful.

In respect of the Memorial Garden it was agreed that the Working Group (to be led by Cllrs Bettley-Smith and Hales) should carry out appropriate and necessary works to secure safe and effective lighting for Christmas. The switch-on this year would be Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**RESOLVED that the Working Group be authorised to carry out any necessary works within a budget of £300.**

280/17 Members considered a request from the Village Hall Committee that the noticeboard on the bus shelter at the Village Hall should be relocated to the interior of the shelter.

**RESOLVED that the request be granted, subject to the Village Hall Committee arranging the work and making good any damage which might occur during relocation.**

281/17 Members considered progress on the Neighbourhood Plan. A number of issues had arisen, primarily in connection with a Newcastle Neighbourhood Plans Forum, drawing together all the parishes currently working on such plans, being formed and with a recent government consultation paper which set out projected housing allocation figures which were significantly lower than those proposed in the emerging Joint Local Plan.

**RESOLVED a) that the Parish Council formally agrees to participate, through the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, in the Newcastle Neighbourhood Plans Forum and that no objection would be raised to any proposal to vary its name;**

**b) that the Parish Council agrees to fund, through existing budget provision, any appropriate and reasonable costs incurred by the Clerk providing clerical support on a rotating basis;**

**c) that the Parish Council supports any proposed meeting between the Forum (and Parish Councillors) with appropriate Borough Council officers and members;**

**d) that the Parish Council notes the Government consultation paper, and that the housing figures it suggests are significantly lower than those in the Joint Local Plan consultation.**

282/17 It was noted that a grant application had been lodged for further speed monitoring equipment.

283/17 Members considered area issues raised by members. There were no matters requiring decision or action.

284/17 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices dealt with under Urgent Business provisions, invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

285/17 **RESOLVED a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:**

<b>G Griffiths</b>	<b>Salary/ Expenses</b>	<b>£1,227.26</b>	<b>1315</b>
<b>Shires Pay Services</b>	<b>Payroll</b>	<b>£ 11.00</b>	<b>1316</b>
<b>Grant Thornton</b>	<b>Audit</b>	<b>£ 120.00</b>	<b>1317</b>
<b>Zurich Municipal</b>	<b>Insurance</b>	<b>£ 521.55</b>	<b>1318</b>

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

286/17 Members considered issues relating to council communication.

287/17 Members considered the date of the next meeting. In view of the likely absence of several members on the planned date of 26<sup>th</sup> October it was **RESOLVED** that the next meeting be held on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017**.