

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February 2018

28/18 PRESENT:

Cllrs Robert Bettley-Smith, Mandy Berrisford, Seb Daly, Graham Ecclestone, David Hales, Richard Head, Frank Speed, Terry Townsend, Ian Walton and Chris Watkin (from min.40).

29/18 IN ATTENDANCE:

County Cllr Northcott (from min.55).

One member of the public (representing Dementia Friendly Communities).

Gwyn Griffiths (Clerk).

30/18 An apology for late arrival had been received from Cllr Watkin.

31/18 Members considered the declaration of interests in agenda items. Cllr Daly declared a personal interest in matters relating to Item 11 (Other Planning Matters) relating to issues at Doddlespool which would become a prejudicial interest if there was any substantive discussion.

32/18 Members considered the co-option of members to fill the two vacancies on the council. No firm expressions of interest had been received.

RESOLVED that as any co-option at the next meeting would only apply to one further meeting that the places remain unfilled until the elections in May.

33/18 **RESOLVED that subject to the addition of min.8 to the attendance of County Cllr Northcott in min.2) the minutes of the meetings of 25th February be approved as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.**

34/18 There were no members of the public present to exercise public participation.

35/18 The Chairman presented his report on matters dealt with since the previous meeting. The link with Agny, and the war Memorial were agenda items. An invitation had been received to the Mayor's Ball. There was nothing further to report regarding the future of the Rural Transport Scheme.

36/18 The Vice-Chairman presented his report on matters dealt with since the last meeting. The mobile library and Neighbourhood Plan were agenda items. He had met with the School Head, a parent and a representative of the Rural Transport Scheme where the school had indicated they wished to make more use of the minibus.

37/18 No report had been received from the Borough Councillors.

38/18 There were no matters to report from the Council's representatives on outside bodies.

39/18 The Clerk advised that no urgent business had been conducted since the last meeting of the Council.

40/18 The Council had invited Mr Paul Barrow to give a presentation on Dementia Friendly Communities. He explained the background and purpose of the scheme which was to inform the public about dementia and to change attitudes and actions to allow people living with

dementia to live fulfilled lives in their communities. This was done by the training of Dementia Friends in 45 minute sessions within the community. A number of potential appropriate locations were suggested. It was agreed that Cllrs Daly and Head would co-ordinate on behalf of the Parish Council.

[Cllr Watkin joined the meeting during the above item]

41/18 Members considered the following planning application.

17/00968/FUL Nine dwellings (4x2-bed cottages, 1x3-bed cottage, 3x2-bed apartments, 1x2-bed dormer bungalow), associated car parking, landscaping etc, former Wrinehill Garage site, Main Road, Wrinehill [AMENDED PLANS]

RESOLVED

The Parish Council welcomes the changes made and has no objection as the design objections previously raised in respect of the three storey apartment block have been met.

The Parish Council would wish to maintain the following observations previously made:

The choice of materials, particularly the brick and roof covering, should be similar to, and in keeping with, the traditional (vernacular) materials used throughout the village on similar properties. Choice of materials is something the Conservation Officer needs to be given the authority to agree, as part of the Planning Conditions.

The Parish Council strongly supports the views of the Conservation Officer on this proposal as set out in her report of 20th December.

The proposal is in accordance with the emerging Neighbourhood Plan in terms of meeting identified housing needs within the Parish.

The Parish Council is of the view that this development should be completed within a reasonable period of time not exceeding five years.

The £11,158, by way of a Section 106 obligation or unilateral declaration, needs to be transferred to the Parish Council to spend on landscape improvements in the immediate area and elsewhere in the Parish, as appropriate. The Parish Council would consult the Conservation Officer on such landscape proposals.

The Local Planning Authority will need to ensure that adequate provision is made to accommodate necessary works traffic without creating a road hazard.

42/18 Members considered the following planning application.

18/00069/FUL Single storey side extension, The Dingle, Old Road, Wrinehill

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objection to the proposal. On a wider planning policy aspect the Parish Council notes that this is another example of a 2-bedroomed property being extended to form a 4-bedroomed property leading to a further reduction in the availability of smaller and more affordable properties.

43/18 The Clerk advised members of the following planning determinations.
17/00747/FUL Rostherne, Common Lane, Betley - PERMITTED

44/18 The Clerk advised members of the receipt of a further planning application 18/00110 for a silage pit at Fields Farm, Church Lane, Betley which could be considered at the next meeting.

45/18 The Clerk advised members that the owner of land at Doddlespool had been successfully prosecuted by the Environment Agency and Newcastle Borough Council in relation to 1,800 tons of baled waste deposited on his land. The prosecution had resulted in a fine of £2,500, costs of £3,430 and victim surcharge of £170 to give a total of £6,100.

[Cllr Daly declared a prejudicial interest in the above matter and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration.]

46/18 Members considered issues relating to the War Memorial Window within the Church. It was noted that the Heritage Lottery Fund application by the Church had not been successful and that the Council had been asked to consider if it could support providing a memorial of some sort on the Memorial Garden to direct people to the Window within the Church and also possibly to act as a secular memorial.

RESOLVED: that the Council supports providing such a memorial in principle, but would be interested to know how such an arrangement, of the village war memorial being within a church, is reflected elsewhere.

47/18 Members reviewed their response to the consultation on library services. The Chairman advised that, having spoken to staff on the mobile library, it was clear that the Betley call met the necessary criteria for the service to be maintained. The Wrinehill call failed to meet the criteria and the few remaining regular users had indicated a willingness to use the Betley call instead. Cllr Daly advised that he was still working on a draft response and that the School would also be responding.

RESOLVED that the Council's response be determined at the March meeting.

48/18 The Clerk presented his draft response to the current Joint Local Plan Consultation for members' consideration, together with the response approved by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

RESOLVED that the draft response, as circulated to members and now amended, including the additional response to the final section of the consultation document be approved and be forwarded to the Borough Council, to include the Parish Council's endorsement of the Steering Group's response.

That the Clerk be thanked for his efforts in drawing up an appropriate response.

49/18 Cllr Head reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was working well and that the Parish Council representatives had, to a degree, drawn back from leading the Group as had been intended, in order to encourage wider community ownership and leadership. Members of the Steering Group were considering whether it was now appropriate to engage consultants to facilitate further progress. The general feeling was that this would probably be appropriate but any consultants engaged would need to show that they had a track record in developing Neighbourhood Plans that were successful in achieving approval.

50/18 The Clerk advised members of an e-mail from the local Ramblers group asking for the Council's assistance in identifying the landowners responsible for various rights of way in the parish, and offering their assistance in carrying out various minor repairs.

RESOLVED that the letter be received and the offer of assistance welcomed, and that the Clerk be asked to liaise with the Ramblers group to identify what information was required.

51/18 The Chairman reported on his communications with Claude Bailly of Agny.

RESOLVED a) that the suggestion of a visit by Agny residents to Betley Show be welcomed, with the possibility of their taking a stand at the show;

b) that it was unlikely that any reciprocal visit could be arranged prior to the Show.

52/18 Members considered the Council's property and assets.

53/18 In respect of the Memorial Garden the Clerk advised members that four invitations to tender for the maintenance contract had been issued, but only one tender offer had been received. The tender price was broadly in line with the budget allocated and the contractor involved met the Council's quality standard.

RESOLVED that the contract be awarded to Luke Rimmer Gardening in the sum of £1,800.

54/18 Members considered the condition of the large conifer on the Memorial Garden, which was felt to have grown excessively large.

RESOLVED that the Clerk engage a suitably qualified tree surgeon to advise on the condition of the tree and the practicality of reducing its size and spread.

55/18 In respect of Sandy Croft members considered issues relating to fencing on the site. It was felt that the boundary fencing to Common Lane was tatty, and that some form of screening would be appropriate to separate the Community Orchard from the rest of the site.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be asked to contact the Council's usual contractor to obtain prices to refence the various lengths onto Common Lane, and to consider options for fencing/ screening of the Community Orchard.

[County Cllr Northcott joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.]

56/18 The Chairman welcomed County Cllr Northcott and invited him to present his report, which covered the following areas.

In the absence of both Borough Councillors Cllr Northcott provided an update on Borough Council business.

Borough Council.

The Borough Council was clearly facing difficulties which the new administration would seek to address.

Budget. The Borough Council had approved a Council Tax increase of 2.7%.

Mental Health Challenge. He had been appointed as the lead member in this area.

HS2. The Borough Council had resolved to 'petition' on the current legislation to protect the interests of residents. He had met with members of the Stone Railhead Group who were seeking to have the infrastructure depot originally planned for Crewe, then relocated to the Stone area, to be resited in the Keele area.

Enforcement Policy. This was currently under review (this was general enforcement other than planning enforcement).

Joint Local Plan. Consultation was currently underway. Complaints had been received regarding the consultation meetings.

Castle House. The partner bodies were still waiting for works to be completed. The Borough Council had been given additional time to vacate the Ryecroft site.

Recycling. There were still clear problems with domestic recycling and a cross-party working group had been set up to review the matter. (Members commented that - some specific issues relating to more remote properties aside - the current arrangements seemed to work reasonably well locally and were certainly better than the previous system.)

County Council.

Budget. The County Council had approved a Council Tax increase of 5.9%. This reflected the additional 3% permitted for adult social care services.

HS2. The County Council was also 'petitioning' on HS2, seeking a longer, deeper tunnel within the county.

Connected Staffordshire. This was a programme to achieve efficiency savings in 2018-22 within, and by linking, social services and health services and budgets.

Safer Roads Partnership. Further tranches of funding for safety schemes would be released from 1st March and 1st August.

Potholes. A further £5million had been allocated for repair work. There would be more emphasis on repairing damaged areas rather than individual potholes, and more surface dressing to prolong surface life. 293 potholes had been repaired in the past week, but 329 new reports had been received.

Weston Anniversary Fund. This was a potential funding stream for schools, places of worship and charities offering grants between £30k and £150k.

Mobile Libraries Consultation. The Chairman made the County Cllr aware of the earlier discussion regarding the library service and of the information regarding usage levels.

Doddlespool. The County Cllr noted the prosecution of Mr Oulton which had taken place, following enforcement action by the Environment Agency in conjunction with the Borough Council. The precise details of the level of fine, and further actions required, being unclear the Parish Council would make details available when they were to hand.

57/18 Members considered area issues raised by members. There were no matters requiring decision.

58/18 The Clerk tabled correspondence received. There were no matters requiring decision.

59/18 The Clerk submitted to members a list of invoices to hand and payments due, and the Financial and Bank Statements to date.

RESOLVED a) that the Council authorises payment of the following:

Royal Mail	Freepost (N Plan)	£116.40	1336
Shires Pay Services	Payroll	£ 41.50	1337

c) that the Financial Statement be received;

d) that the Bank Statements be noted, and the reconciliation verified and be signed by the Chairman.

60/18 Members considered issues relating to council communication.

61/18 Date of the next meeting: Thursday 22nd March 2018.