

# BETLEY, BALTERLEY AND WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

26th March 2026

Commenced: 7.30 pm

Terminated: 9.15 pm

**Present:** Councillor Bettley-Smith (Chair)  
Councillors Berrisford (part), Bullock, Daly, Ecclestone, Head, Karling, Lovatt, Owen, Speed and Watkin

Councillor Whitmore – Borough Councillor  
PCSO S Forrest – (part)

There was 1 member of the public in attendance

## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hales and Councillor Berrisford (Councillor Berrisford was delayed).

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Councillors declared interests in Minute 7(i) (planning application **26/00118/FUL**) because the Deputy Chair, Councillor Daly, was the applicant. Councillors Daly, Bettley-Smith, Ecclestone and Karling withdrew from the meeting for the duration of the item, having declared that their interest was more than of a personal nature.

Councillor Owen also declared an interest in Minute 10(iii) as he was the recipient of a reimbursement. He did not take part in the discussions or voting of this Item.

## 3. STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE

PCSO S Forrest provided an update on policing matters relating to the Parish Council and the neighbouring parish.

Discussions ensued regarding the rising number of thefts, and PCSO Forrest agreed to provide information on trends, to the next meeting.

## RESOLVED

**That consideration of the purchase and installation of CCTV cameras for the village be added to the May Agenda.**

## 4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## 5. PUBLIC FORUM

The resident in attendance, wished to discuss the Woodland Trust's free community tree packs, and planning application 26/00118/FUL. The Chair agreed therefore, that the order of the items for discussion at the meeting be rearranged as follows, to support the resident.

## 6. WOODLAND TRUST'S FREE COMMUNITY TREE PACKS

The Parish Council noted that applications were open for free tree packs from the Woodland Trust to enable Parish Councils to get started with tree planting in their communities, whether for hedgerows, small woodlands, wildlife enhancements or urban settings.

The following packs were currently available:

- Hedge – to create natural boundaries or link habitats
- Copse – ideal for small woodland or outdoor learning spaces

- Wild Harvest – fruit and nut trees for community use
- Year-Round Colour – seasonal interest through flowers, berries and autumn colour
- Working Wood – suitable for small-scale fuel or craft use
- Wild Wood – hardy native species for exposed or wet sites
- Wildlife – trees and shrubs selected to support nature
- Urban Trees – designed for residential areas with limited space

(Councillor Berrisford arrived at the meeting)

## **RESOLVED**

**That delegation of the completion and submission of an application to the Woodland Trust for a wildlife pack, to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, in consultation with the Clerk, be approved.**

At this juncture, it was agreed that Councillor Head be appointed Chair for consideration of planning application 26/00118/FUL, and Councillors Bettley-Smith, Daly, Ecclestone and Karling left the meeting.

All remaining Councillors recorded a personal interest in the item, due to their relationship with the applicant. The Clerk advised that it was often the case that Parish Councillors might know the applicant of a planning application, however, as the Parish Council was a statutory consultee, and to enable the comments of the Parish Council to be submitted to the Borough Council (the Parish Council was not a decision making body for planning applications), the Clerk advised them that they could proceed with their deliberations.

## **7. PLANNING MATTERS**

The Parish Council considered the following planning application:-

- **New Planning Matters**

(i) **Application Ref No:** 26/00118/FUL

**Location:** Pool Farm Veterinary Main Road Betley

**Proposal:** Proposed internal alterations forming consulting room. Proposed erection of two portakabin units forming; office/ freezer store and staff room/WC

### **RESOLVED**

**That the application be supported.**

Councillors Bettley-Smith, Daly, Ecclestone and Karling returned to the meeting.

(ii) **Application Ref No:** 26/00142/FUL

**Location:** Ravenshall Top Farm Main Road Betley

**Proposal:** Conversion of agricultural buildings to 2 residential dwellings with garage block, drainage and access road.

### **RESOLVED**

**That at this stage, the application be noted, as the supporting documents have not yet been made available.**

## **8. REPORTS**

The Parish Council received the following reports:-

(i) **The Chair**

- The Parish Council had not paid any funds towards the legal hearing for the breach to the Councillor Code of Conduct, and the Clerk had been advised that the account at the Borough showed a nil balance.
- The King had withdrawn the honour previously bestowed on Mr Ian Ashbolt, as a result of his criminal conviction;

- The Chair and Deputy Chair had met with the Staffordshire Parish Councils representative, with a view to looking into possible sources of funding for a new mini-bus;
- In relation to the forthcoming elections, the Parish Council's next meeting would address only the essential planning and financial matters, to ensure Purdah regulations were not breached.

**(ii) Borough Councillors**

Councillors Whitmore and Berrisford provided brief updates. Councillor Berrisford confirmed that she had not received any updates, in relation to her enquiries with the MP over the broadband queries.

Members expressed their disappointment over the non-attendance of the County Councillor, and requested that the Clerk contacts her to request her attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

**(iii) Representatives on Outside Bodies**

Councillor Head reported that the Village Hall was progressing the work to the car park with the Section 106 monies.

**RESOLVED**

**That the reports be noted, and the Clerk contacts Councillor Williams in relation to 8(ii) above.**

**9. FOOTPATHS WORKING PARTY**

Councillor Berrisford reported that there were a significant number of landowners who were requesting their stiles be replaced by gates, and a meeting would be taking place with Nigel Hopkins from Staffordshire County Council, together with site visits, to gauge feasibility, as soon as possible.

A number of gates had been donated (the Bonfire Committee had provided four gates), and landowners were also purchasing their own gates, which meant more circular routes were now being considered. The scouts were also participating in the project.

**RESOLVED**

**That the report be noted.**

**10. BUDGET AND FINANCE 2025-2026**

The Parish Council considered a report of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer on the following matters:-

**(i) Applications for Financial Assistance**

There were no applications for financial assistance

**(ii) CO-OP Bank**

The Parish Council noted that the Co-op Bank account was now closed and that the funds of £28,156.25 had been transferred to the Unity Trust Instant Access Account (20500412).

**(iii) Transactions – Unity Trust Bank**

**RESOLVED**

**That the following transactions in the Unity Trust Bank be approved:-**

<b>PAYEE/PAYER</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>PAYMENTS</b>
Staffordshire Pensions	February Pension		£174.22
HMRC	February PAYE/NI		£147.44
M Clough	February Salary		£468.87

Gareth Owen	Reimbursement for W3W App for Footpath Project		£29.99
Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge		£6.00
WaterPlus	Invoice wp-INV11660810		£9.91
HugoFox	Refund for 81 (February)	£11.99	
HugoFox	Goodwill Gesture Refund	£90.00	
HugoFox	Emails		£2.99

**(iv) Transactions – Unity Trust Instant Access Account (20500412)**

The Parish Council noted that the balance transferred from the Co-op Bank was now in the Unity Trust Bank Instant Access Account, in the sum of £28,156.25.

**(v) Payment of Invoices and Reimbursements**

**RESOLVED**

**That the following forthcoming payments be approved:-**

M Clough	March 2026 Salary	£468.67
HMRC	March 2026 PAYE & NI	£147.64
Staffordshire Pension	March 2026 Pension	£174.22
Luke Rimmer	March Maintenance	(Contracted and within budget)
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service charge – February and March	£6.00 £6.00
NPower	Invoice 1 Mar 2025 to 28 Feb 2026 Invoice number: IN15040333	£79.25
Alan Furber	Work to fruit trees	£33.12
Sandy Croft	Water supply	£8.95
HugoFox	Emails	£2.99
	Petrol Reimbursement for Notices	£14.58
	18 <sup>th</sup> September 2025 – 32.4 miles	£14.58
	16 <sup>th</sup> October 2025 – 32.4 miles	£14.58
	20 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 – 32.4 miles	£14.58
	15 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 – 32.4 miles	£14.58
	19 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 – 32.4 miles	£14.58
	19 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 – 32.4 miles	£14.58
	Total Miles - 194.40	Total Reimbursement £87.48
M Clough		

**(vi) Budget Expenditure to 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**RESOLVED**

**That the following Budget Head expenditure to 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026, be approved:-**

Budget Head	Total	Budget Allocated	£ Difference
Salary	£5,030.49	£5,502.00	£471.51
Income Tax/National Insurance	£1,616.90	£1,770.00	£153.10
Pension	£1,910.86	£2,070.00	£159.14
Insurance	£927.16	£975.00	£47.84
Audit Fees External	£0.00	£743.50	£743.50
Audit Fees Internal	£262.50	£262.50	£0.00
Venue Hire	£301.00	£450.00	£149.00
Subscriptions	£342.32	£350.00	£7.68
Website	£143.86	£150.00	£6.14
Emails	£146.97	£150.00	£3.03
Information Commissioner	£47.00	£47.00	£0.00

Stationery	£131.20	£132.00	£0.80
Payroll Services	£595.80	£625.00	£29.20
Mileage	£142.11	£150.00	£7.89
Footpaths	£785.38	£2,500.00	£1,714.62
Grants	£0.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Sandy Croft	£850.64	£1,100.00	£249.36
Memorial Garden	£3,542.66	£3,550.00	£7.34
Chair's Expenses	£0.00	£250.00	£250.00
Unity Trust Bank Fees	£66.00	£100.00	£34.00
	£16,842.85	£21,877.00	£5,034.15

**(vii) Explanation of Variances**

The Clerk reported that there were no variances to report at this meeting.

**(viii) Bank Reconciliation as at 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**RESOLVED**

That the following Bank Reconciliation as at 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026, be approved:-

<b>Bank Reconciliation 18th March 2026</b>	
<b>BETLEY BALTERLEY AND WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL</b>	
<b>Financial year ending 31 March 2025</b>	
Prepared by: Muna Clough, Parish Clerk & RFO	
Balance per bank statements as at	£
Current Account UNITY (20500409) - 28th February 2026	£3,757.09
Reserve Account CO-OP (49148300) - 4th February 2026 (£8,000 to be retained as a Reserve)	£28,156.25
Reserve Account UNITY (20500412) - 28th February 2026	£0.00
Less: any unpresented cheques/payments	
Current Account UNITY (20500409)	£12.90
Reserve Account CO-OP (49148300)	£28,156.25
Reserve Account UNITY (20500412)	£0.00
Add: any unbanked cash - Unity	£101.99
Add: any unbanked cash - CO-OP	£0.00
Add: Instant Access Account UNITY (20500412)	£28,156.25
<b>Net bank balances as at 18th March 2026</b>	<b>£32,002.43</b>
<b>The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments account) for the year, as follows</b>	
<b>CASH BOOK</b>	
Opening Balance	
Unity Trust Bank @ 1st April 2025	£5,016.90
Co-op Bank @ 1st April 2025	£20,965.25
Instant Access Account UNITY (20500412) @ 9th March 2026	

Add: Receipts in the year	
Unity Trust Bank	£672.13
Co-op Bank	£22,191.00
Instant Access Account UNITY (20500412)	
Less: Payments in the year	
Unity Trust Bank	£16,842.85
Co-op Bank	
Instant Access Account UNITY (20500412)	
<b>Closing balance per cash book [receipts and payments book] must equal net bank balances above</b>	<b>£32,002.43</b>

**(ix) Bank Statements**

**RESOLVED**

That the following bank statements and screenshot, as circulated with the Report, be approved:-

- **Unity Trust Bank Statement – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026**
- **CO-OP Bank Statement – 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026**
- **Unity Trust Bank Instant Access (Reserve Account) - 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Screenshot**

**11. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Councillor Head reported that the Steering Group had welcomed two new members, who were focussing on sustainability issues in the parish, which were not included in the original Neighbourhood Plan. They would be contacting Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England for further information.

The Parish Council extended its thanks to the Group, in particular Messrs Mick Padmore and Joe Berman, for contributing their invaluable technical expertise.

**RESOLVED**

That the report be noted.

**12. DECOMMISSIONED PAYPHONE, MAIN ROAD (A531), BETLEY VILLAGE, CHESHIRE**

**RESOLVED**

That this item be noted.

**13. 800TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARKET CHARTER IN 2027**

The Chair reported that a Betley Bee Bush Apple Tree had been found with the correct DNA and that Mr Furber was hoping to propagate this for the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. It was anticipated that residents could apply for a limited number of available saplings.

**RESOLVED**

That if possible, the provision of the Betley Bee Bush to celebrate the event, for a limited number of residents, be pursued.

**14. AREA MATTERS**

Parish Councillors raised the following matters:-

- Common Lane road surface;
- Fallen tree;
- The blossoming of the newly planted Sakura Cherry Trees.

**RESOLVED**

That the report be noted.

## **15. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The Parish Council noted that the next meetings would be held as follows:-

Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026, 7.30 pm Betley Village Hall (Committee Room)

Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 7.00 pm Annual Parish Meeting (Committee Room – note room change)  
7.30 pm Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, at the rise of the Annual Parish Meeting (Committee Room)

## **16. URGENT ITEMS**

There were no items which the Chair of Council Business was of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.