

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

26th October 2023

Commenced: 7.30 pm

Terminated: 9.05pm

Present:
Councillor Head (Chair)
Councillors Bullock, Drakakis-Smith, Ecclestone, Owen, and Watkin

PCSO S Forrest (part)
Mrs M Clough – Clerk

248/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bettley-Smith, Daly, Hales, Karling, Berrisford, Speed. County Councillor Paul Northcott. Borough Councillors Gary White and Simon White.

249/23 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

In the absence of Councillors Bettley-Smith and Daly, Councillor Head was voted to the position of Chair for this meeting.

250/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Head declared an interest in the payment of room rental to the Village Hall as he was a member of the Village Hall Committee. Consequently, Councillor Head did not sign the cheque payment.

251/23 MINUTES

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 28th September 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair of this meeting.

Councillor Drakakis-Smith did not approve the Minutes and requested that this be recorded.

252/23 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no Members of the Public in attendance at the meeting.

253/23 STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE

At this juncture, there were no representatives from Staffordshire Police at the meeting.

254/23 REPORTS

Members received the following reports:-

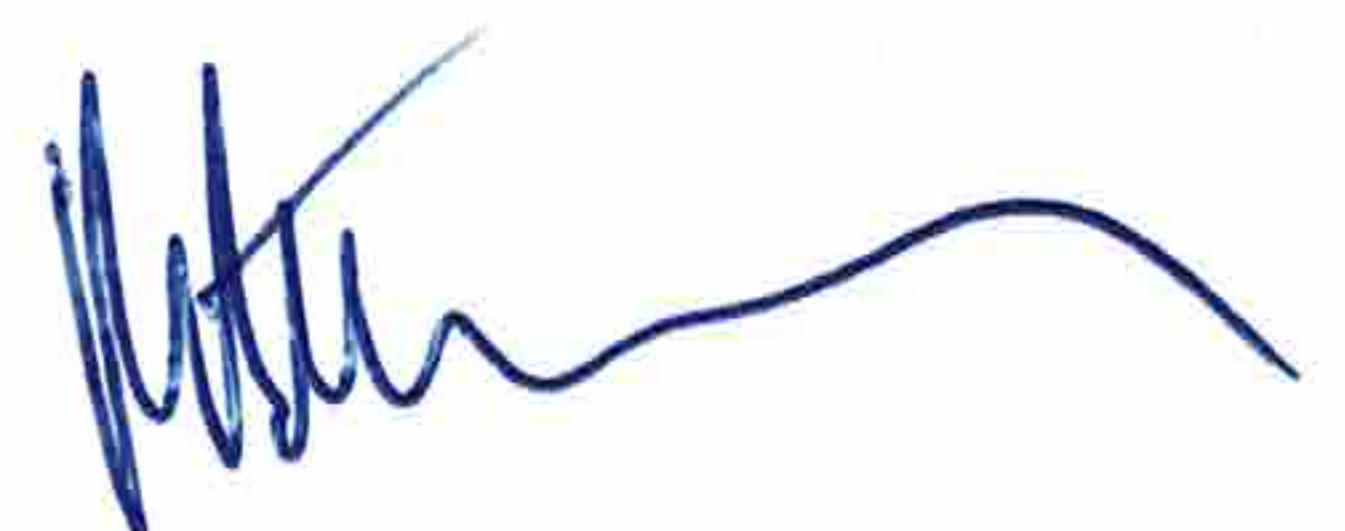
(i) The Chair and Vice Chair;

The Chair and Vice Chair had forwarded the following updates:

- The Chair had attended the Mayor's Ball along with the Vice Chair;
- Assistance was sought from Members by the Bonfire Committee on Sunday, 29th October, Saturday, 4th November and Sunday, 5th November;
- The Vice Chair would be representing the Parish Council at the Remembrance Service at the Church and would lay a wreath on behalf of the community;
- The Vice Chair was also participating in the ceremony at the Memorial Garden on Friday, 10th November where he would lay the wreath with the school children.

(ii) The Clerk;

The Clerk reported that the motorcycle track at Waybutt Lane was the subject of Enforcement Action by Newcastle Borough Council.



(iii) County Councillor and Borough Councillors;

The County Councillor and Borough Councillors were not in attendance at the meeting and no reports were submitted.

(iv) Representatives on Outside Bodies

There were no reports from representatives on Outside Bodies for consideration at the meeting.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the reports be noted;**
- (ii) That the Chair be consulted regarding the placement of poppies on posts and the Memorial Garden;**
- (iii) That the Clerk emails all Members of the Parish Council to seek assistance for the Betley Bonfire.**

255/23 FOOTPATHS WORKING GROUP

Councillor Owen updated Members on matters detailed in the report previously circulated.

Discussions ensued on the following:-

- (i) The number of gates purchased;**
- (ii) The number of gates installed;**
- (iii) The locations of the installed gates;**
- (iv) Identification of the remaining dangerous gates;**
- (v) Total grant spent to date;**
- (vi) Details of the Training Day;**
- (vii) Number of volunteers participating.**

RESOLVED

That the Footpaths Working Group be asked to submit an update report to include the matters detailed above, to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

256/23 CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

Councillor Drakakis-Smith submitted reports on the Civility and Respect Pledge and reported thereon.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Drakakis-Smith submits a further report to the next meeting of the Parish Council with additional information particularly relating to:

- (i) Training requirements;**
- (ii) Costs involved;**
- (iii) Gap analysis.**
- (iv) The benefits to the local community if this Pledge is adopted;**

257/23 STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE

PCSO Sarah Forrest reported on the following matters:

- (i) The recent road traffic incident whereupon the driver collided with a property;**
- (ii) Suspicious males observed in the location of the school;**
- (iii) A road traffic collision caused by mud on the road.**

RESOLVED

That PCSO Forrest reports back to the next meeting of the Parish Council on the number of reported accidents on the stretch of A531 from the Broughton Arms to Bowsey Wood, over the last twelve months.



At this juncture, Councillor Owen left the meeting.

258/23 PLANNING MATTERS

The Clerk updated the Parish Council on the following planning matters:-

- **New Planning Application/s**

- (i) Application Ref No: 23/00751/COU Proposal: Change of use from an agricultural grassland to a dog exercise pen. Location: Land At Fields Farm Church Lane Betley.

Members queried the ownership of the land regarding this planning application, but agreed that this probably wasn't a material planning consideration.

RESOLVED

That the Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor Bettley-Smith, be asked to look into this matter and be given delegated authority to submit any comments on behalf of the Parish Council, to the Borough Council.

- **Planning Decisions**

- (ii) Members noted the Minutes of the Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council Planning Committee held on Tuesday, 10th October 2023
- (iii) Members noted the decision of refusal to Application number: 23/00235/FUL Land South and Adjacent to Checkley Lane Wrinehill.

- **Ongoing Planning Applications (including appeals/enforcement issues and other planning matters)**

There were no ongoing planning applications for consideration.

RESOLVED

That the reports be noted.

At this juncture, the Clerk left the meeting.

259/23 EMPLOYEE PENSION

Further to Minute 243/23 of the last meeting, Members considered a report by Councillor Bettley-Smith, seeking the approval of the Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer as a Member of the Staffordshire Local Government Pension Scheme.

RESOLVED

That the Membership of the Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Mrs Muna Clough to the Staffordshire Local Government Pension Scheme, be approved.

The Clerk returned to the meeting.

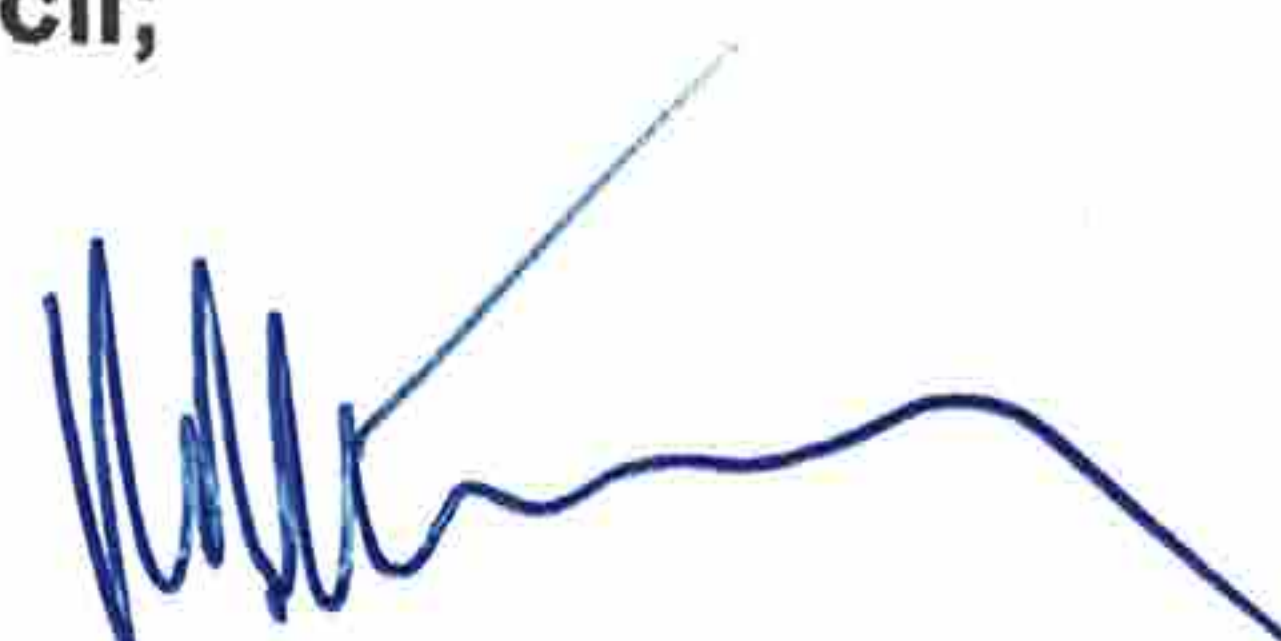
260/23 AREA MATTERS

Members discussed the following matters:-

- (i) The condition of the highways;
- (ii) Road cleaning restrictions due to debris;
- (iii) The adoption of an area of highway;
- (iv) The reporting of highway concerns;
- (v) Obligations of the County and Borough Councillors to the Parish Council;
- (vi) Implications of the raised kerb opposite the Hand and Trumpet, Old Road.

RESOLVED

- (i) **That these matters be considered at a future meeting of the Parish Council;**



- (ii) That Councillor Drakakis-Smith circulates examples to Members of successful schemes relating to the adoption of an area of highway;
- (iii) That the Clerk looks into the obligations of the County and Borough Councillors to the Parish Council.

261/23 BUDGET AND FINANCE 2023-2024

The Clerk reported on the following matters:-

(i) Applications for financial assistance

There were no applications for financial assistance.

(ii) Approval of the payment of invoices, including necessary reimbursements

Members considered the following payments for approval:-

1624	Shires Accountants	Payroll Services	£275.40
1625	Cartridge People	Reimbursement to Clerk for Ink	£63.98
1626	T W Heler & Son	Pavement, clearing, pruning and tidy of pavement - July	£384.00
1627	Luke Rimmer	Maintenance September	£155.00
1628	Information Commissioner	Data Protection Fee	£40.00
1629	WaterPlus	Water Supply	£18.85
1630	Betley Village Hall	Room Hire	£112.50
1631	M Clough	Clerk's Salary – October 2023	£412.00
1632	HMRC	PAYE – Clerk October 2023	£113.00

(iii) Budget Expenditure to date during this Financial Year

Members considered the following 2023-2024 Budget Expenditure to 14th October 2023 (this did not include payments 1630; 1631 and 1632 detailed in 12(ii) above):-

Budget Head	Total	BUDGET ALLOCATED
Salary	£4,051.35	£6,500.00
Admin - Insurance	£783.67	£725.00
Admin - Audit Fees	£40.00	£320.00
Admin - Venue Hire	£187.50	£520.00
Admin - Subscriptions	£0.00	£330.00
Admin - Website	£122.28	£100.00
Admin - Other	£756.58	£500.00
Highways	£8,070.00	£1,500.00
Footpaths	£2,911.20	£1,000.00
Grants	£822.50	£1,150.00
Miscellaneous	£177.23	£250.00
Sandy Croft	£1,998.33	£1,100.00
Memorial Garden	£4,374.75	£4,170.00
Neighbourhood Plan	£0.00	£300.00
Contingency	£0.00	£1,200.00

(iv) Financial and Bank Statements

The Chair signed and approved the Bank Statement.

(v) Bank Reconciliation as at 3rd October 2023

The Chair confirmed that the Bank Statement at the 3rd October reconciled with the Cashbook at that date, and also confirmed that the unpresented cheques reconciled to the date of this meeting.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the payments detailed in 12(ii) above be approved;
- (ii) That the Budget and Finance 2023-2024 detailed above in 12(iii) be received;
- (iii) That two payments in the sum of £3,000.00 (Grant for footpaths) and £7,400.00 (Grant for Speed Indicator Devices) received in the Parish Council Bank Account on 19th May 2023, be noted.

262/23 TELEPHONE SERVICE – DIGITAL SWITCHOVER

Councillor Bullock circulated a report on the digital switchover in the Parish and its implications.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Bullock discusses this matter with the Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor Bettley-Smith.

263/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday, 23rd November 2023.

264/23 URGENT ITEMS

There were no items which the Chair was of the opinion required consideration a matter of urgency.


23/11/2023