

BETLEY, BALTERLEY AND WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

26th February 2026

Commenced: 7.30 pm

Terminated: 9.25 pm

Present: Councillor Daly (Chair)
Councillors Berrisford, Bullock, Hales, Karling, Owen and Watkin

There were 2 members of the public in attendance

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bettley-Smith and Speed (official Mayoral engagements), Ecclestone, Head and Lovatt. Councillor Whitmore, Borough Councillor, also submitted her apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Councillors declared their interest in Minute 9(ii), as the applicant was a Parish Councillor (Councillor Karling). Councillor Daly also declared his interest in Minute 8(iii) as he was the recipient of a reimbursement, and in relation to Minute 9(ii), he declared that the applicant was a close personal friend. He took no part in the discussions or voting of these items. Councillor Karling also took no part in the discussions or voting of Minute 9(ii).

3. STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE

There was no representative from Staffordshire Police at the meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk contacts Staffordshire Police and asks them to provide a written, or verbal report for meetings of the Parish Council.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 22nd January 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

The Parish Council welcomed Mr Furber to the meeting who was a member of Staffordshire Heritage of Fruit Trees, and was enquiring about the possibility of locating a Betley Bee Bush [a rare and unrecorded Apple Tree] in the community orchard on Common Lane. Whilst wandering around the orchard he had noticed that the trees were in need of pruning before the growing season to maximise their potential.

RESOLVED

That work to prune all trees, stake where necessary and replace a dead apple tree, on Sandy Croft, by Mr Allan Furber, in the sum of £60.00, be approved.

6. REPORTS

The Parish Council received the following reports:-

(i) **The Chair** – In the absence of Councillor Bettley-Smith, Councillor Daly reported that the Betley Bonfire Committee were highly commended and runners up in the Community Awards. The Parish Council extended its congratulations for this achievement.

(i) **The Vice Chair** – The two Sakura Cherry Trees, that had been donated to the Parish Council had now been planted at the bottom of East Lawns, due to the limitations of other locations. Councillor Karling agreed to investigate the cost of purchasing suitable plaques, for the next meeting.

(iii) County Councillor and Borough Councillors – Councillor Berrisford reported that Street Scene would add the school area into the sweeping schedule, and that an email had been received from Adam Joguee’s office regarding the ongoing broadband query. Councillor Berrisford added that the Borough Elections were still going ahead, as was the Local Government reorganisation.

(iv) Representatives on Outside Bodies – Councillor Bullock reported that hi-visibility vests had been purchased for the litter pickers.

7. FOOTPATHS WORKING PARTY

Councillor Berrisford reported on donations of gates that had been received from organisations and residents and she confirmed that an application for a further 5 gates had been made to the Betley Bonfire Committee.

The Parish Council agreed to defer consideration of purchasing additional gates from the Parish Council’s funds to a later date.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

8. 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

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council’s account with the Co-op Bank be closed, and its funds transferred to another bank account with the Unity Trust Bank, which provides interest.

(iii) Transactions – Unity Trust Bank

The Clerk reported that the sum of £11.99 taken by direct debit by HugoFox was incorrect and was being queried.

RESOLVED

That the following transactions in the Unity Trust Bank, be approved, with the exception of the sum of £11.99, taken by Direct Debit from HugoFox.

PAYEE/PAYER	DETAILS	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
HugoFox	Incorrect Direct Debit - should be £2.99 - query submitted on 12/02/2026		£11.99
	Transfer from Co-op	£2,000.00	
HugoFox	HugoFox Annual Website Fee		£143.86
WaterPlus	WaterPlus		£9.91
HMRC	B/P to: HMRC Cumbernauld		£147.64
M Clough	B/P to: Muna Clough		£468.67
Staffordshire Pensions	B/P to: Staffs Pension		£174.22
Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge		£6.00
Sebastian Daly	Mileage Fees Reimbursement 56.6 miles @ 0.45p reimbursement		£25.47
Betley Village Hall	Invoice 4286		£105.00

Neil Bullock	Reimbursement for High Viz Jackets		£99.90
M Clough	Reimbursement for Microsoft 365		£84.99

(iv) Transactions – CO-OP Bank

RESOLVED

That the internal transfer of £2,000.00 from the Co-op Bank to the Unity Trust Bank, as agreed at the last meeting of the Parish Council, be noted.

(v) Payment of Invoices and Reimbursements

RESOLVED

That the following forthcoming payments, be approved:-

M Clough	February 2026 Salary	£468.67
HMRC	February 2026 PAYE & NI	£147.64
Staffordshire Pension	February 2026 Pension	£174.22
Luke Rimmer	February Maintenance	(Contracted)
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service charge – February	£6.00
Allan Furber	Works to the Community Orchard at Sandy Croft	£100.00
Gareth Owen/ Mandy Berrisford	What3Words App Reimbursement	£60.00 (£30.00 each)

(vi) Budget Expenditure to 18th February 2026 – Unity Trust Bank

RESOLVED

That the following Budget Head expenditure to 18th February 2026, be approved:-

Budget Head	Total	Budget Allocated	£ Difference
Salary	£4,561.62	£5,758.00	£1,196.38
Income Tax/National Insurance	£1,469.46	£1,800.00	£330.54
Pension	£1,736.64	£1,784.00	£47.36
Insurance	£927.16	£975.00	£47.84
Audit Fees External	£0.00	£825.50	£825.50
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	£131.99	£150.00	£18.01
Information Commissioner	£47.00	£47.00	£0.00
Stationery	£131.20	£50.00	-£81.20
Payroll Services	£595.80	£625.00	£29.20
Mileage	£142.11	£150.00	£7.89
Footpaths	£755.39	£2,500.00	£1,744.61
Grants	£0.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Sandy Croft	£840.73	£1,100.00	£259.27
Memorial Garden	£3,542.66	£3,550.00	£7.34
Chair's Expenses	£0.00	£250.00	£250.00
Unity Trust Bank Fees	£60.00	£100.00	£40.00
	£15,991.44	£21,877.00	£5,885.56

(vii) Explanation of Variances

RESOLVED

- (a) That the virement of £82.00 from the External Audit Fees Budget to the Stationery Budget, to fund the Microsoft 365 Subscription, be approved.
- (b) That the virement of £256.00, from the Salary Budget to the Pension Budget, be approved.
- (c) That the virement of £30.00, from the Income Tax/National Insurance Budget to the Pension Budget, be approved.

(viii) Bank Reconciliation as at 18th February 2026

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Bank Reconciliation for Co-op Bank and Unity Trust Bank as at 18th February 2026, detailed below, be approved.
- (b) That the Clerk contacts the Elections Office and enquires again about the possible costs of the election recharge to the Parish Council.

Bank Reconciliation 18th February 2026	
BETLEY BALTERLEY AND WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL	
Financial year ending 31 March 2025	
Prepared by: Muna Clough, Parish Clerk & RFO	
Balance per bank statements as at	£
Current Account UNITY (20500409) - 31st January 2026	£4,910.96
Reserve Account CO-OP (49148300) - 4th February 2026 (£8,000 to be retained as a Reserve)	£28,156.25
Less: any unpresented cheques/payments	
Current Account UNITY (20500409)	£315.36
Reserve Account CO-OP (49148300)	£0.00
Add: any unbanked cash - Unity	£0.00
Add: any unbanked cash - CO-OP	£0.00
Net bank balances as at 18th February 2026	£32,751.85
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments account) for the year, as follows	
CASH BOOK	
Opening Balance	
Unity Trust Bank @ 1st April 2025	£5,016.90
Co-op Bank @ 1st April 2025	£20,965.25
Add: Receipts in the year	
Unity Trust Bank	£570.14
Co-op Bank	£22,191.00
Less: Payments in the year	
Unity Trust Bank	£15,991.44
Co-op Bank	

Closing balance per cash book [receipts and payments book] must equal net bank balances above	£32,751.85

(ix) Bank Statements

RESOLVED

That the following Bank Statements, as circulated with the Report, be received:-

- **Unity Trust Bank Statement – 31st January 2026**
- **CO-OP Bank Statement – 4th February 2026**

9. PLANNING MATTERS

The Parish Council considered the following planning matters:-

- **New Planning Matters**

(i) Four Lanes End, Balterley

Members discussed concerns on land adjacent to the fisheries on Gorsty Hill. The land was within Weston Parish Council in Cheshire East, but abutted Balterley.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk writes to Cheshire East Planning Authority and Weston Parish Council, raising concerns of activities on the site, and requesting an update on future proposals.

The following planning matter was an application submitted by Councillor Karling. A special dispensation was not granted to Councillors Karling and Daly, so they both left the meeting during the discussion and decision making.

(ii) Application Ref No: 25/00952/FUL

Location: Daisy Farm, Balterley Green Road, Balterley

Proposal: Proposed single storey side extension

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council raises no objections to this proposal. (This decision was unanimous).

At this juncture, Councillors Karling and Daly returned to the meeting.

All Councillors declared a personal interest in the following item, as they knew the applicant.

(iii) Application Ref No: 25/00853/FUL

Location: The Steps A New Road Wrinehill

Proposal: Proposed new driveway / carparking to existing dwelling (AMENDED DESCRIPTION AND PLANS)

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council raises no objections to this proposal. (This decision was unanimous).

10. PLANNING INSPECTORATE ROW/3365064

The Parish Council noted that there might be a request from the Planning Inspectorate to meet with Members to discuss the objection submitted, in relation to this application.

11. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Parish Council considered the adoption of a vision and objectives document (circulated) of the revised Neighbourhood Plan, as proposed by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group;

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Vision and Objectives document, be approved. (This decision was unanimous)**

- (ii) That authorisation of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, to complete additional work on the revised Neighbourhood Plan, which will be further considered by the Parish Council, be approved. (This decision was unanimous).

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

Further to the last meeting's decision, Members were undecided on the proposal to adopt the decommissioned payphone, mainly due to the liabilities that would be incurred.

RESOLVED

That further consideration of this matter be deferred, but the item remains as a standing item on the Agenda until further notice. (This decision was unanimous).

13. KEELE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION

RESOLVED

That a response to the Keele Neighbourhood Plan be delegated to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, in consultation with the Clerk, Chair and Deputy Chair. (This decision was unanimous).

14. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION CONSULTATION

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be delegated to respond that the Parish Council strongly disagrees to the proposals for the Reorganisation of Local Government.

15. 800TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARKET CHARTER IN 2027

RESOLVED

That Councillors Bullock and Karling investigate the purchasing of coins to commemorate the event and that they report back to the Parish Council.

16. AREA MATTERS

Members discussed the increase in traffic on Post Office Lane, and it was hoped that an improved dialogue with the police, would be possible.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

RESOLVED

That the following schedule of meetings, be approved:-

Thursday, 26th March 2026, 7.30 pm Betley Village Hall (Committee Room)

Thursday, 23rd April 2026, 7.30 pm Betley Village Hall (Committee Room)

Tuesday, 12th May 2026, 7.00 pm Annual Parish Meeting (Committee Room)

7.30 pm Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, at the rise of the
Annual Parish Meeting (Committee Room)

18. URGENT ITEMS

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