

BETLEY, BALTERLEY AND WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

23rd April 2026

Commenced: 7.30 pm

Terminated: 8.50 pm

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

There was 1 member of the public in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Head and Lovatt. Councillor Whitmore, Borough Councillor, also submitted her apologies.

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, Ecclestone, Hales and Karling withdrew from the meeting for the duration of the consideration of the item, having declared that their interest was more than that of a personal nature. Councillor Bettley-Smith confirmed that his interest was now only of a personal nature (previously he had a pecuniary interest), and remained in the meeting.

Councillor Speed declared a personal interest in 7(ii).

All Councillors declared a personal interest in 7(iii).

Councillor Daly declared a personal interest in 7(iv).

3. MINUTES

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

4. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

5. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2025-2026 RESOLVED

That the following documents be approved:-

- (i) Certificate of Exemption 2025-2026
- (ii) Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2025-2026
- (ii) Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/26

That the following documents be received:-

- (iv) Annual Internal Audit Report 2025-2026
- (v) Detailed Internal Audit Report 2025-2026

6. BUDGET AND FINANCE 2025-2026

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

(i) Applications for Financial Assistance

There were no applications for financial assistance.

(ii) Transactions – Unity Trust Bank Current Account

RESOLVED

That the following transactions, be approved:-

PAYEE/PAYER	DETAILS	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
HugoFox	Emails - INV-24721		£2.99
A Furber/Staffordshire Fruit Trees	Work to fruit trees		£33.12
Npower	Invoice period: 01/03/25 to 28/02/26		£79.25
WaterPlus	Invoice wp-INV11938702		£8.95
M Clough	March Salary		£468.67
HMRC	March PAYE/NI		£147.64
Staffordshire Pensions	March Pension		£174.22
M Clough	Mileage Fees Reimbursement 194.40 miles @ 0.45p reimbursement		£87.48
Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge		£7.00

(iii) Transactions – Unity Trust Instant Access Account

RESOLVED

That the interest accrued since the opening the Access Account as follows, be noted:-

PAYEE/PAYER	DETAILS	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
Unity Trust Bank	Interest	£36.68	

(iv) Payment of Invoices and Reimbursements

RESOLVED

That the following payments be approved:-

M Clough	April 2026 Salary	£468.87
HMRC	April 2026 PAYE & NI	£147.44
Staffordshire Pension	April 2026 Pension	£174.22
Luke Rimmer	April Maintenance	(Contracted and within budget)
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service charge – April 2026	£7.00
HugoFox	Emails	£2.99

(v) Budget Expenditure to 31st March 2026

RESOLVED

That the following Budget Head expenditure to 31st March 2026, be approved:-

Budget Head	Total	Budget Allocated	£ Difference
Salary	£5,499.16	£5,502.00	£2.84
Income Tax/National Insurance	£1,764.54	£1,770.00	£5.46
Pension	£2,085.08	£2,070.00	-£15.08
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	£229.59	£150.00	-£79.59

Footpaths	£785.38	£2,500.00	£1,714.62
Grants	£0.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Sandy Croft	£892.71	£1,100.00	£207.29
Memorial Garden	£3,621.91	£3,550.00	-£71.91
Chair's Expenses	£0.00	£250.00	£250.00
Unity Trust Bank Fees	£73.00	£100.00	£27.00
	£17,849.18	£21,877.00	£4,027.82

(vi) Explanation of Variances

There were no variances to report at this meeting as the Budget above, demonstrated the financial position of each Budget Head at the end of Financial Year 2025-2026.

(vii) Bank Reconciliation as at 31st March 2026

RESOLVED

That the following Bank Reconciliation as at 31st March 2026, be approved:-

<u>Bank Reconciliation 31st March 2026</u>	
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 March 2026	£2,839.85
Reserve Account UNITY (20500412) - 31st March 2026 (£8,000 to be retained as a Reserve)	£28,192.93
Less: any unpresented cheques/payments	
Current Account UNITY (20500409)	£0.00
Reserve Account CO-OP (49148300)	£0.00
Reserve Account UNITY (20500412)	£0.00
Add: any unbanked cash - Unity	£0.00
Add: any unbanked cash - CO-OP	£0.00
Add: Instant Access Account UNITY (20500412)	
Net bank balances as at 31st March 2026	£31,032.78
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments account) for the year, as follows:-	
<u>CASH BOOK</u>	
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	£0.00
Add: Receipts in the year	
Unity Trust Bank	£672.13
Co-op Bank	£22,191.00

Instant Access Account UNITY (20500412)	£36.68
Less: Payments in the year	
Unity Trust Bank	£17,849.18
Co-op Bank	
Instant Access Account UNITY (20500412)	
Closing balance per cash book [receipts and payments book] must equal net bank balances above	£31,032.78

(viii) Bank Statements

RESOLVED

That the Bank Statements detailed below, and circulated with the Report, be received:-

- **Unity Trust Bank Statement – 31st March 2026**
- **Unity Trust Bank Instant Access (Reserve Account) – 31st March 2026**

7. PLANNING MATTERS

To consider the following planning matters:-

- **New Planning Applications**

Councillors Daly, Ecclestone, Hales and Karling withdrew from the meeting for the following planning application.

- (i) **Application Ref No:** 26/00118/FUL Ecclestone; Hales; Karling; Daly retired.

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

The Parish Council notes the detail of the condition and the finish on the portacabins and supports the application.

Councillors Daly, Ecclestone, Hales 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 the following comments be submitted to the Local Planning Authority:-

In principle, Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill Parish Council has no objection to the proposal to convert the redundant farm building into two dwellings.

However, the Parish Council has serious concerns regarding the ecological impact of the proposed development. The submitted Bat Emergence Survey Report (Ecology Report) identifies the potential presence of bats and birds within the existing structure, and highlights the likelihood of both permanent and temporary loss, or alteration of habitats on the site.

Given these findings, the Parish Council considers it is essential that the Borough Council is fully satisfied that all recommendations and mitigation measures set out in the Ecology Report are implemented in full, and in a manner which is explicitly

secured by way of robust planning conditions, ensuring that:

- All ecological requirements are adhered to before, during, and after construction;
- The management of the development process follows the ecological method statements and timing restrictions;
- Any required habitat compensation or enhancement is delivered and monitored.

The Parish Council also notes that the Neighbourhood Plan contains relevant biodiversity and habitat protection policies, particularly Policy BBW6. Compliance with this policy should also be required as part of the planning conditions. In principle, the pc has no objection to the proposal to convert the redundant farm dwelling into two dwellings.

- (iii) **Application Ref No:** 26/00266/FUL
Proposal: Proposed two storey side extension to existing dwelling
Location: The Steps A New Road Wrinehill

RESOLVED

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

- (iv) **Application Ref No:** 26/00295/FUL
Location: 25 Ladygates Betley Crewe
Proposal: Demolition of conservatory and construction of single story rear extension and minor internal and external alterations.

RESOLVED

The Parish Council supports this application. (This decision was unanimous).

- (v) **Application Ref No:** 25/00906/FUL
Location: The Old Wood Betley Hall Gardens Betley
Proposal: Alterations, including replacement entrance, replacement windows, roof tile, installation of solar panels and fascia cladding. (Description amended and amended plans received 31.03.2026)

RESOLVED

The Parish Council has no objections to this application. (This decision was unanimous).

- (vi) **Application Ref No:** 26/00290/AGR
Location: Rose Hill Farm Newcastle Road Balterley
Proposal: Steel frame building of agricultural design featuring concrete panel walls, open frontage, timber boarding to clad and fibre-cement roof.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council has no objections to this application. (This decision was unanimous).

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The Parish Council noted that the next meetings would be held on Tuesday, 12th May 2026, as follows:-

- 7.00 pm **Annual Parish Meeting** (Committee Room – note room change)
- 7.30pm **Annual Meeting of the Parish Council**, at the rise of the Annual Parish Meeting (Committee Room)

9. URGENT ITEMS

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