

BETLEY, BALTERLEY AND WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

23rd October 2025

Commenced: 7.30 pm

Terminated: 9.15 pm

**Present: Councillor Bettley-Smith
Councillors Berrisford, Bullock, Ecclestone, Hales, Head, Karling, Lovatt,
Owen, Speed and Watkin.**

There were 5 members of the public in attendance

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Daly, [Borough] Councillor Whitmore, and the Police. Councillor Daly's apologies were approved under Section 85(i) of the Local Government Act 1972.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Lovatt and Speed declared their interests in Minute 6. The Parish Council granted them both a special dispensation to enable them to remain in the meeting, but they were not permitted to contribute to the discussions, nor participate in the voting.

3. STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE

The Police representative had submitted his apologies.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 25th September 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

Councillor Clowes, the Ward Councillor of the adjoining Cheshire East Ward of Wybunbury, referred to Minute 14, and explained the challenges faced by Cheshire East residents regarding this matter.

A resident enquired about funding options to purchase the playing field and the Chair explained the up-to-date position.

6. SALE OF PLAYING FIELD

Further to the discussions held at recent meetings of the Parish Council, the Chair confirmed that he had been advised that third party funding, from outside the Parish, was not available. He therefore did not consider it appropriate for the Parish Council to proceed with the purchase of the playing field, but asked for Members to consider his proposal, and for the Parish Council to come to an agreement.

In response to a question, the Clerk advised that if the resolution was passed that the Parish Council should not purchase the Playing Field, there was nothing to stop individual Parish Councillors becoming involved with any potential purchasers, if they wished to do so.

RESOLVED

- (i) That in the absence of significant third party funding from outside the Parish, it is not appropriate for the Parish Council to proceed with the purchase of Lot 3 (Agricultural Land used as a Football Field).**
- (ii) That the Parish Council will support any third party organisation, within the Parish, that wishes to purchase the land (but not in financial terms).**

7. REPORTS

(i) Chair

The Chair reported that he had received correspondence from a resident regarding various comments relating to Planning Application 25/00646/OUT (Minute 13(ii) refers). He added that the Clerk had advised the resident to contact the Planning Department direct, as the deadline for comments had now passed.

(ii) County Councillor and Borough Councillors

Councillor Berrisford referred to:-

- Daffodil bulbs
- Car parks
- Civic Pride application for a kissing gate

(iii) Representatives on Outside Bodies

- Councillor Head reported that whilst he had now relinquished his role as Chair of the Village Hall Committee, he would still continue as the Parish Council's representative.
- Councillor Bullock referred to the Police proposed reorganisation and implications for the Parish.

RESOLVED

That the reports be noted.

8. FOOTPATHS WORKING PARTY

Councillor Berrisford gave a brief update on this project, which had unfortunately been delayed in recent months.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

9. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

RESOLVED

That a meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group be arranged as soon as possible.

10. ASSET REGISTER

RESOLVED

That the Asset Register 2025-2026, as Appended to these Minutes, be approved.

11. BUDGET AND FINANCE 2025-2026

The Parish Council discussed and 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 Transfer to Unity Trust Bank

RESOLVED

That the transfer of £2,000.00 from the Co-op Bank to the Unity Trust Bank Account, be approved.

(iii) Transactions – Unity Trust Bank

RESOLVED

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

PAYEE/PAYER	DETAILS	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
M Clough	September Salary		£468.67
Staffordshire Pensions	September Contributions		£174.22
HMRC	PAYE/NI		£147.64
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly Service Charge		£6.00
	Transfer from COOP	£3,000.00	
Shires Accountants	Invoice SHI-2978		£230.40
Luke Rimmer	September Maintenance Invoice 600		£160.00

(iv) Transactions – CO-OP Bank

RESOLVED

That the internal transfer of £3,000.00 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 payments be approved:-

M Clough	October 2025 Salary	£447.03
HMRC	October 2025 PAYE & NI (111.60 & £26.12)	£137.72
Staffordshire Pension	October 2025 Pension	£166.12
Luke Rimmer	October maintenance and winter bedding	(Contracted and within budget)
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service charge	£6.00

(vi) Budget Expenditure to 16th October 2025 – Unity Trust Bank

RESOLVED

That the following Budget Head expenditure to 16th October 2025, be approved:-

Budget Head	Total	Budget Allocated	£ Difference
Salary	£2,672.07	£5,758.00	£3,085.93
Income Tax/National Insurance	£872.13	£1,800.00	£927.87
Pension	£1,034.21	£1,784.00	£749.79
Insurance	£927.16	£975.00	£47.84
Audit Fees External	£0.00	£937.50	£937.50
Audit Fees Internal	£262.50	£262.50	£0.00
Venue Hire	£91.00	£450.00	£359.00
Subscriptions	£342.32	£350.00	£7.68
Website	£0.00	£150.00	£150.00
Emails	£0.00	£150.00	£150.00
Information Commissioner	£0.00	£35.00	£35.00
Stationery	£46.21	£50.00	£3.79
Payroll Services	£574.80	£625.00	£50.20
Mileage	£116.64	£150.00	£33.36
Footpaths	£600.00	£2,500.00	£1,900.00
Grants	£0.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Sandy Croft	£829.27	£1,100.00	£270.73
Memorial Garden	£2,300.07	£3,500.00	£1,199.93

Chair's Expenses	£0.00	£250.00	£250.00
Unity Trust Bank Fees	£36.00	£100.00	£64.00
	£10,704.38	£21,927.00	£11,222.62

(vii) Explanation of Variances

The Clerk reported that there were no virement requests at this meeting.

(viii) Bank Reconciliation as at 16th October 2025

RESOLVED

That the following Bank Reconciliation for Co-op Bank and Unity Trust Bank as at 16th October 2025, be approved:-

Bank Reconciliation 16th October 2025	
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) - 30th September 2025	£941.90
Reserve Account CO-OP (49148300) – 3rd October 2025 (£8,000 to be retained as a Reserve)	£34,156.25
Less: any unpresented cheques/payments	
Current Account UNITY (20500409)	£390.40
Reserve Account CO-OP (49148300)	
Add: any unbanked cash - Unity	£3,000.00
Add: any unbanked cash - CO-OP	
Net bank balances as at 16th October 2025	£37,707.75
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
Add: Receipts in the year	
Unity Trust Bank	£238.98
Co-op Bank	£22,191.00
Less: Payments in the year	
Unity Trust Bank	£10,704.38
Co-op Bank	

Closing balance per cash book [receipts and payments book] must equal net bank balances above	£37,707.75
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(ix) **Bank Statements**

RESOLVED

That the bank statements detailed below, as circulated with the Report, be received.

- **Unity Trust Bank Statement – 30th September 2025**
- **CO-OP Bank Statement - 3rd October 2025**

12. FORWARD PLANNING – DRAFT BUDGET 2026-2027

The Clerk presented a preliminary Draft Budget for 2026-2027, together with background information for consideration by Members.

RESOLVED

- (i) **That the Draft Budget detailed below, be submitted to the Parish Council for approval, as soon as the Taxbase for 2026-2027 is received:-**

Budget Head	Total Expenditure at 6 months	Budget Allocated 2025-2026	Proposed Budget 2026-2027
Salary	£2,203.40	£5,758.00	£5,750.00
Income Tax/National Insurance	£724.49	£1,800.00	£2,000.00
Pension	£859.99	£1,784.00	£2,000.00
Insurance	£927.16	£975.00	£1,000.00
Audit Fees External	£0.00	£937.50	Remove Budget
Audit Fees Internal	£262.50	£262.50	£300.00
Venue Hire	£91.00	£450.00	£450.00
Subscriptions	£342.32	£350.00	£400.00
Website	£0.00	£150.00	£175.00
Emails	£0.00	£150.00	£175.00
Information Commissioner	£0.00	£35.00	£50.00
Stationery	£46.21	£50.00	£75.00
Payroll Services	£344.40	£625.00	£800.00
Mileage	£116.64	£150.00	£175.00
Footpaths	£600.00	£2,500.00	£3,000.00
Grants	£0.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Sandy Croft	£829.27	£1,100.00	£1,250.00
Memorial Garden	£2,140.07	£3,500.00	£3,500.00
Highways			£1,000.00
Chair's Expenses	£0.00	£250.00	£250.00
Unity Trust Bank Fees	£30.00	£100.00	£100.00
	£9,517.45	£21,927.00	£23,450.00

- (ii) **That the appointment of Davenport Accountants, for the 2025-2026 Internal Audit, be approved;**
- (iii) **That the contract for Payroll Services with Shires Accountants for 2026-2027, be approved.**

13. PLANNING MATTERS

The Parish Council considered the following planning matters:-

(i) Planning Application Monitoring Report

RESOLVED

That a revised Planning Application Monitoring Report, be submitted to the next meeting of the Parish Council, for approval, but in the meantime, the existing form to be used when assessing Planning Applications.

(ii) Planning Application considered under the provisions of the Standing Orders

Application Ref No: 25/00646/OUT

Proposal: Development of one serviced plot for self-build and custom housebuilding (all matters reserved except access).

Location: The Old Wood Betley Hall Gardens Betley

In summary, the Parish Council concluded that there was no evidence that this development would be appropriate in the green belt and there were no special reasons to justify such a development. Without detailed plans it was not possible to determine whether the development would be suitable in the conservation area. Therefore, the Parish Council strongly objected to this development. (For full details, please refer to the Agenda Item).

RESOLVED

That the comments be received.

14. APPEAL – LAND TO THE SOUTH OF WAYBUTT LANE, CHORLTON, CHESHIRE EAST

The Parish Council considered documentation relating to an appeal made by a landowner against an Enforcement Notice, served by Cheshire East Council. The Parish Council had already expressed concerns to the Environment Agency and the Borough Council, regarding land owned by the same landowner, within this Parish.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council objects in the strongest terms to this appeal, which should be dismissed.

The grounds for objection are:

- (i) Environmental offences relating to waste on the land in Staffordshire and Cheshire East have occurred (details attached) and are still occurring.**
- (ii) The site is accessed from the A531, in Staffordshire, with vehicles posing an environmental and traffic hazard.**
- (iii) The materials stored on and/or buried on the site have a detrimental effect on the environment including the risk of, or actual pollution of, water courses, natural springs, the aquifer and air quality due to noxious odours, dust and debris.**
- (iv) Throughout the summer of 2025 and before, fires have regularly occurred on the land, in connection with the burning of waste and other materials, which have a significant detrimental effect of air quality in the Parish of Betley (styled as Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill). The smoke is such as to pose a hazard to traffic and the Fire and Rescue Services have attended on numerous occasions. The air pollution has been reported on regular occasions to the Borough Council.**
- (v) A public footpath runs through or adjacent to the site and the storage of waste and other materials is posing a hazard to the public.**
- (vi) There is a Care Home adjacent to the site and the activities on the site are understood to be having a significant adverse impact on the residents.**

For the purpose of the Minutes, this decision was unanimous

15. AREA MATTERS

There were no individual area matters raised.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The Parish Council noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 27th November 2025.

17. URGENT ITEMS

The Chair was of the opinion that there were no items to be considered as a matter of urgency.

ASSET REGISTER

BETLEY, BALTERLEY AND WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL 2025/2026

	Asset	Location	Initial Cost/Value
	Land and Property		
•	• Field known as Sandy Croft (previously Laudy Croft)	Common Lane, Betley	£1.00
•	• Part of open ground known as Memorial Garden	Main Road, Betley	£1.00
	Structures		
•	• Noticeboards	Balterley (A531)	£1,500.00
		Betley (Memorial Garden)	£950.00
		Sandy Croft	£1,400.00
		Hand & Trumpet	£1,500.00
•	• Bus Shelters	East Lawns	£1,000.00
		Village Hall	£1,000.00
		The Wilderness	£1,000.00
•	• Speed Indicator Devices	5 x Devices @ £3,000 each	£15,000.00
		3 x Devices @ £2,350 each	£7,050.00
•	• Benches	6 x £500.00	£3,000.00
		Sandy Croft	£4,000.00
•	• Miscellaneous	Christmas lights	£300.00
		Statues	£300.00
		Laptop	£300.00
		Poppies	£500.00

Inspections and Comments

Assets inspected by Councillor Daly on 3rd September 2025