

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

18th July 2023

Commenced: 7:30 pm

Terminated: 9.20 pm

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

Mr G Griffiths – Retiring Clerk
Mrs M Clough - Clerk

Also in attendance was one member of the public

206/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Daly, Berrisford, Ecclestone, and Karling. Apologies were also received from the Police representative, the Borough Councillor and the County Councillor.

207/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair declared a prejudicial interest in the request for a grant application from the Croquet Club as he was a member, Item 14(i) refers.

Councillor Drakakis-Smith declared a personal interest in Item 9(i), as she lived close to the site.

RESOLVED

That in the absence of the Vice-Chair, Cllr Bullock will take the position of Chair on the withdrawal of Cllr Bettley-Smith for Item 14(i).

208/23 MINUTES

Councillor Drakakis-Smith circulated a report proposing an amendment to the Minutes and raising a number of concerns in relation to the Parish Council. The Clerk, Mrs Clough, advised the Members that the proposal for the amendment should be seconded and agreed by the Parish Council if it was to be adopted. Mrs Clough further advised that any personal concerns relating to the conduct of the Parish Council, should be referred to the Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED

- (i) **That the Minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 22nd June 2023, as circulated, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**
- (ii) **That Councillor Drakakis-Smith's vote against the approved Minutes be recorded;**

209/23 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 13th JULY 2023

Further to Minute 202/23(i) of the last Meeting, the Minutes of the proceedings of the Special Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th July 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

210/23 PUBLIC FORUM

The Chair welcomed Mr Paul Chase to the meeting, who represented the Croquet Club and had submitted an application for grant funding (Item 14 (i) refers). Mr Chase explained the history of the Club and its background for the request of funding which was due to insufficient monies to purchase some new equipment. Mr Chase invited questions and then left the meeting.

211/23 STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE

In the absence of a Police representative, there were no matters to report to the meeting on behalf of Staffordshire Police.

212/23 REPORTS

(i) The Chair

The Chair read the following statement:-

"There is no proposal to close the Wrinehill Medical Practice, modify the existing service provided or the administrative and other arrangements. Dr Brown, who is the son in law of Dr Patel, has joined the practice and has recently become a partner. Dr Patel, who is approaching retirement is now working reduced hours but, is still very active in what is currently a two doctor practice."

The Councillors were delighted with this news and added that Dr Patel had served the Parish extremely well over the years, so this news was most welcome.

(ii) The Clerk

Mr Griffiths reported on the following:-

- (i) that under the provisions of Standing Order 26, he had authorised the erection of a poster on the Memorial Garden by the Show Committee;
- (ii) a cheque for the new Clerk's PAYE had been authorised in advance, to meet HMRC deadlines. In future there might be a requirement to issue PAYE cheques before the meetings to meet future deadlines, especially because cheques had to be triple signed;
- (iii) that the Parish Council might wish to invest in a new copy of the Yellow Book entitled Local Council Administration (Charles Arnold-Baker). Members agreed to consider this further at the September meeting.

Mrs Clough reported that she had created a Parish Council email address which she encouraged Members to use to make contact with her.

(iii) County Councillor and Borough Councillors;

In the absence of the County and Borough Councillors, there were no matters to report.

(iv) Representatives on Outside Bodies

There were no reports to receive from representatives on outside bodies.

RESOLVED

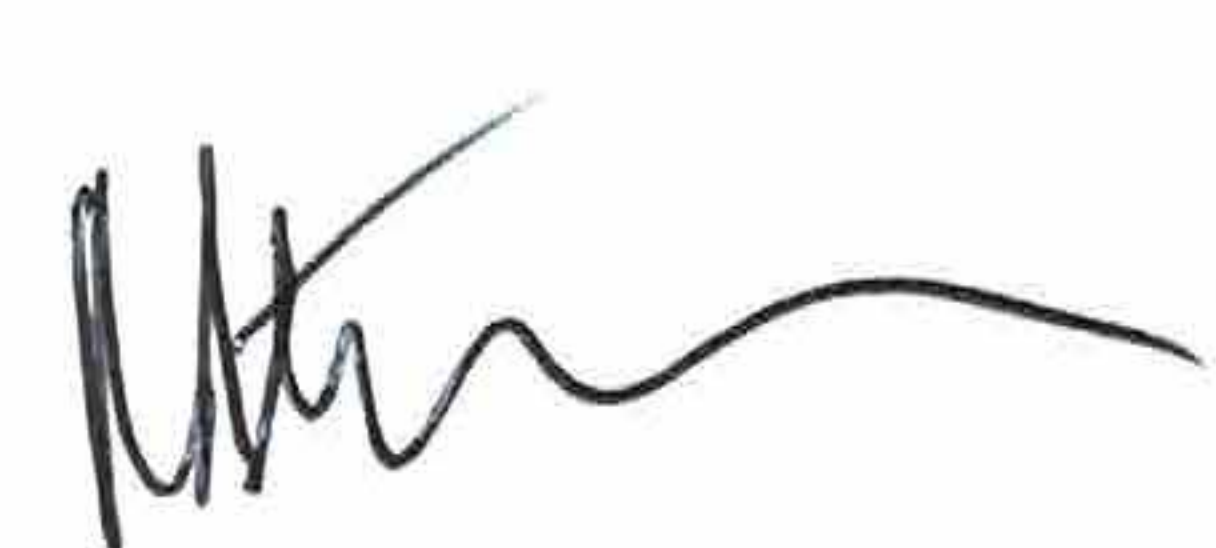
- (i) That the statement read by the Chair be received and welcomed;
- (ii) That the issuing of cheques to HMRC for PAYE before meetings, to meet future deadlines be noted and authority be granted where necessary for such payments to be made;
- (iii) That consideration be given to the purchase of an updated edition of Local Council Administration.

213/23 FOOTPATHS WORKING GROUP

Further to Minute 189/23 of the last Meeting, Councillor Owen updated the Parish Council on a report by the Members of the Footpaths Working Group. It was noted and recognised that progress was considerable due to the community spirit and cooperation of everyone involved.

RESOLVED

That the report be received.



214/23 ARMISTICE DAY AND REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2023

Further to Minute 190/23 of the last Meeting, Councillor Owen reported on merchandise that could be purchased, to celebrate these important events within the Parish. Products that were considered included poppies, stickers and statues.

RESOLVED

- (i) That Councillor Owen investigates lead times to order the statues, and reports back to the Members.**
- (ii) That Members give further consideration to purchasing male and female statues to be erected in the Memorial Garden.**

215/23 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) New Planning Applications

- 23/00519/FUL Former Wrinehill Garage Main Road Betley Crewe Cheshire CW3 9BZ Application for variation of condition 1 of planning permission 19/00875/FUL to include French doors/Juliet balconies in lieu of windows to the central gable.

Councillor Drakakis-Smith reported that in her opinion, there were no matters within this application, that should be a concern to the Parish Council. The Chair reported that an objection had been received regarding this application, which was considered to impact on the privacy of a neighbour. Councillor Drakakis-Smith added that she was not aware of this objection. Discussions ensued regarding the visual impact of the proposal and it was:-

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council raises no objections to this planning application.

- 23/00137/FUL Land Off Church Lane Betley Crewe Cheshire CW3 9AY - Siting of cabin to be used as agricultural workers dwelling for temporary period. Mr Griffiths reported that the deadline for comments was 8th August 2023.

RESOLVED

That a Special Meeting of the Parish Council be held to discuss this application in August.

(ii) Planning Decisions

The Parish Council noted that application number 23/00074/FUL Pear Tree Lake Farm, Balterley Green Road, Balterley, Crewe, Cheshire. CW2 5QE - Retention of stable buildings for commercial livery purposes (revised description) was permitted.

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

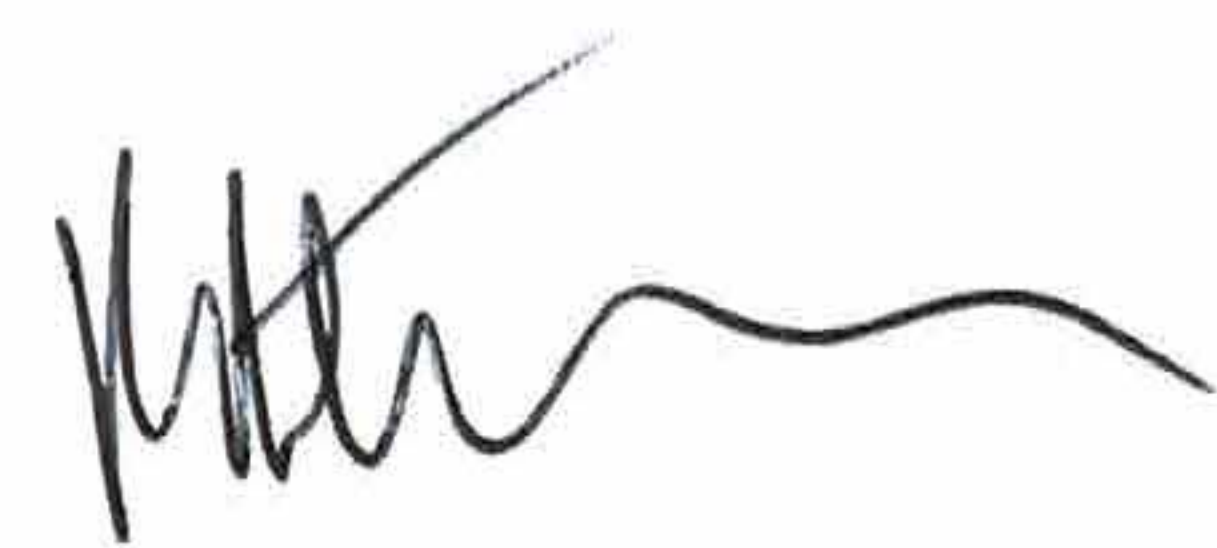
There were no ongoing planning matters for consideration.

(iv) To consider, if appropriate, any further response to the consultation on the Newcastle Borough First Draft Local Plan

The Chair referred to the First Draft Local Plan and highlighted his concerns that an increase in traffic, might justify proposals for the implementation of counter measures, such as the reinstatement of a school crossing patrol, and a 20mph speed limit from East Lawns to the Village Hall.

Councillor Drakakis-Smith circulated a report highlighting additional points for consideration within the proposals, which included:

- (i) implications relating to the term 'Rural Centre';
- (ii) implications for the Green Belt/Countryside;
- (iii) the interpretation of caveats incorporated with the Draft Local Plan;
- (iv) the infrastructure.



RESOLVED

- (i) That Recommendation 3 in the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th July 2023 be amended to:-

That the maintenance of Green Belt status across the Parish be strongly supported and the Parish Council urges the Borough Council to take measures to protect the wider Green Belt areas.

- (ii) That the Parish Council will revisit its Recommendations 6 and 7 in response to the First Draft Consultation if, during consideration of the following version of the Local Plan, there is a possibility of an increase in traffic through the village.

216/23 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

- (i) **Speed Indicator Devices**

Further to Minute 197/23 of the last Ordinary Meeting, Councillor Bullock circulated a report on plans to install three new solar powered Speed Indicator Devices, and to redeploy existing battery powered Speed Indicator Devices.

RESOLVED

That the report be received.

- (ii) **Highway Safety Concerns**

Further to Minute 198/23 of the last Ordinary Meeting it was noted that the refuse bin collection at East Lawns was haphazard due to inconsiderate parking and also a shortage of drivers.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the matter be noted and further consideration be given at the September meeting, with a Review of Refuse Collection in the Parish with special reference to East Lawns;
- (ii) That Councillor Bullock speaks to the police, requests an update and reports back to the next Meeting of the Parish Council on this matter.

217/23 COUNCIL PROPERTY AND ASSETS

There were no matters for consideration relating to Sandy Croft or the Memorial Garden.

218/23 HS2a

There were no matters for consideration relating to the impact of HS2a on the Parish

219/23 AREA MATTERS

Councillor Drakakis-Smith circulated a report relating to roads and other issues in Wrinehill. The report covered flooding; the telecom mast water issue; the housing development on the former Wrinehill garage site; pavements and accidents sustained by parishioners.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and forwarded to County Councillor Northcott.

220/23 BUDGET AND FINANCE 2023-2024

At this juncture Councillor Bettley-Smith withdrew from the Meeting and left the room. Councillor Bullock assumed the position of Chair for the discussion of the following item.

- (i) **Application for financial assistance;**

Consideration was given to an application from the Croquet Club to replace 6 sets of croquet balls at a cost of £80 per set, totalling £480.



RESOLVED

That a grant in the sum of £240 (50% of the cost) be approved with the following conditions:-

- (i) That the Club further promotes itself throughout the Parish, to broaden its accessibility to more parishioners;
- (ii) That the Club ensures that the majority of its members, are local residents.

Councillor Bettley-Smith returned to the Meeting and resumed the Chair

- (ii) The approval of the payment of invoices, including necessary reimbursements;
Mr Griffiths circulated the Financial Statement for 2023-2024 to 18th July 2023 for consideration and approval.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the following payments be authorised:

Payee & Description	Cheque Number	Sum
HMRC Tax	1595	£91.60
M Clough Salary	1596	£366.68
G Griffiths Salary and Expenses	1597	£969.15
G Griffiths Reimbursements	1598	£134.00
L Rimmer Memorial Garden (Maintenance)	1599	£170.00
Steve Hough Speed Indicator Device repositioning	1600	£110.00
WaterPlus Sandy Croft Water Supply	1601	£182.45
Zurich Municipal Insurance Premium	1602	£783.67
Cancelled by Clerk	1603	N/A
Cancelled by Clerk	1604	N/A
Clearwire Footpaths	1605	£2,527.20
M Clough Salary	1606	£ 443.62
HMRC Tax	1607	£ 110.80


- (ii) That the Financial Statement for 2023-2024 to 18th July 2023, as circulated by Mr Griffiths, including the Payments made to date during this Financial Year, be approved.
- (iii) That the Bank Statement and Reconciliation, as inspected by the Chair at the meeting, be signed and approved.
- (iv) That the implications of the payment of PAYE for the new Clerk be noted

221/23 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

There were no additional items submitted for the next meeting.

222/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the date of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, be held on Thursday 28th September 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Committee Room at the Village Hall.


28/9/23