

Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill Parish Council

24th September 2026

Commenced: 7.30 pm

Terminated: 9.20 pm

Present: Councillor Head (in the Chair – part)
Councillor Bettley-Smith (in the Chair - part)
Councillors Bullock, Daly (part), Ecclestone, Hales, Karling, Owen and Watkin.

Councillor Paul Williams (Chair of Staffordshire County Council - part)
Councillor Whitmore – Borough Councillor

There were 3 members of the public in attendance

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED

That in the absence of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Parish Council, the appointment of Councillor Richard Head be approved, until the Chair arrives.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bettley-Smith (delayed), Berrisford, Daly (delayed), Lovatt and Speed.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members of the Parish Council on matters to be discussed at the Meeting.

4. STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE

The Parish Council welcomed Sergeant Matt Holdcroft to the meeting who reported on the following matters:-

- Speed of traffic through the village/community speed watch and camera vans – Members enquired about the deployment a speed van, and particularly referred to the vicinity of the Broughton.
- PCSO restructuring process and a drive for wider recruitment – Members asked Sergeant Holdcroft about the feasibility of greater PCSO presence in the Parish and also the holding of community meetings.
- Police Rural and Wildlife Crime Team.
- Youths on motorbikes.

Sergeant Holdcroft encouraged the Parish Councillors and residents to continue to report any incidents of concern, and he agreed to pass feedback to the Commander and Deputy Commander.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

5. MINUTES

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 23rd July 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair (Councillor Head).

6. PUBLIC FORUM

Members of the public referred to broadband matters and also of a new Christmas Market and Wedding Venue at Betley Court.

7. REPORTS

(i) County Councillor and Borough Councillors

Councillor Williams reported that all efficiency targets were being met, with the exception of SEND, which although was improving, was still overspending its budget.

Councillor Williams also reported on path clearance from Elmside to Madeley Heath which might be part of a capital funding programme.

Councillor Whitmore reported on her distribution of community fund forms, highways reporting, and the release of two swans onto Madeley pool.

(ii) Representatives on Outside Bodies

Councillor Head reported on the new resurfaced car park at the Village Hall, which had been completed from the Section 106 monies (Section 106 17/00968 Wrinehill).

RESOLVED

That the reports be noted.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

The Parish Council considered the following planning matters:-

- **Applications considered under the provisions of the Standing Orders**

(i) Planning Application 26/00539/LBC

Address: All Saints Church Balterley Green Road Balterley Crewe Cheshire CW2 5QF

Proposal: Conversion of building from an office use, to a private dental clinic. The key alterations as proposed comprise the construction of a mono-pitched pod within the nave to create a dental theatre, alongside the construction of a new security partition within the Chancel to create a second dental theatre. It is also proposed to form a small aperture within the kitchenette wall to allow for the creation of a clean/decontamination room in the adjacent W/C.

RESOLVED

That the comments submitted by the Parish Council, on 9th August 2026, and circulated with the agenda, be ratified.

(ii) Application Ref No: 26/00539/LBC (Amended)

Location: All Saints Church Balterley Green Road Balterley

Proposal: Conversion of building from an office use, to a private dental clinic. The key alterations as proposed comprise the construction of a mono-pitched pod within the nave to create a dental theatre, alongside the construction of a new security partition within the Chancel to create a second dental theatre. It is also proposed to form a small aperture within the kitchenette wall to allow for the creation of a clean/decontamination room in the adjacent W/C.

RESOLVED

That the comments submitted by the Parish Council, on 14th September 2026, and circulated with the agenda, be ratified.

- **New Planning Application**

(iii) Application Ref No: 25/00346/OUT

Location: Land South East Adjacent Junction 16 M6 At Cheshire Boundary Newcastle Under Lyme

Proposal: AMENDED PLANS/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RECEIVED 13.08.2026

Development of up to 220,000m² GIA of storage and distribution units (B8), general industrial units (B2) and industrial units (E(g)(iii)); training and education (F1(a)) and occupier support services accommodation; service yards and parking areas; new main vehicular

access off the A500 and emergency access off Barthomley Road; lorry parking and ancillary driver amenity facilities; with associated landscaping, earthworks, drainage and attenuation features and other associated works (outline, all matters reserved except for the principal means of vehicular access to the Site).

RESOLVED

That the following comments, be submitted by the Clerk, following consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair:-

The Parish Council considers that a planning condition should be that the A500 and Jct 16 should be used as the ingress and egress of the site as this is what is proposed in the application. The planning condition should also discourage the use of the A531, as that would be in contravention of MM67.

The Parish Council strongly supports the major modifications MM06 and MM67 to the Borough Plan. MM06 in respect of no additional housing requirements being set out for each Designated Neighbourhood Area. MM67 in respect of the Travel Plan that it "should discourage the routing of traffic past the Black Firs and Cranberry Bog SSSI on the A531".

With reference to MM67 there should be a planning condition discouraging the use of the A531, consistent with MM67, as a means of access to and from the site, due to the risk of damage to the SSSI and to listed buildings within the Betley Conservation area due to vibration. Additionally, the A531 through the village is already extremely busy at peak times, due to developments in recent years in adjacent areas, with an (unpatrolled) primary school crossing point in the middle of the village.

With recent developments in Madeley (and other nearby areas), the Parish Council has seen a significant increase in traffic at peak times. This will be exacerbated by the 120 house development at Bar Hill in Madeley. The school crossing in the centre of Betley was discontinued some years ago and there is strong argument for it to be reinstated. The warning lights (which were turned on manually by the school crossing patrol) are no longer activated. There is an argument for a 20mph speed restriction, as occurs in many places, during school crossing times. Therefore, additional traffic from this development would cause problems within the Betley Parish, apart from being in contravention of MM67, due to the risk of damage to the SSSI.

At this juncture Councillor Bettley-Smith took the Chair

9. FOOTPATHS

The Chair reported that the County Councillor had advised that her community funding budget had already been allocated to March 2027 and at the moment she could not assist in the purchase of additional gates for the work of the Footpaths Working Party. Councillor Williams invited the Parish Council to apply to her fund in April 2027. The Borough Councillor indicated that he may be able to assist.

RESOLVED

That a referral be made to the Borough Councillor for the purchase of additional gates to support the work of the Footpaths Working Party.

10. FOOTPATHS WORKING PARTY

Councillor Owen presented a verbal update from the Working Party.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the report be noted.**
- (ii) That discussions be held with the landowner of PROW Betley 11 regarding the replacement of the two unusable stiles and the installation of a gate alongside each**

replacement stile, which is suitable for use by walkers accompanied by dogs that are unable to negotiate the stiles.

11. BUDGET AND FINANCE 2026-2027

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

(i) Applications for Financial Assistance

There had been no applications for financial assistance.

(ii) Transactions – Unity Trust Bank Current Account/Unity Trust Instant Access Account

RESOLVED

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

PAYEE/PAYER	DETAILS	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
Bison Limited	Gates		£3,362.40
HugoFox	Emails INV 29836		£2.99
R Bettley-Smith	Reimbursement for Picnic Benches		£1,630.80
Waterplus	Monthly direct debit		£10.09
Shires Accountants	Invoice SHI-3693		£21.00
BetleyVillageHall	Room Hire INVOICE NO: 4313		£140.00
Internal Transfer		£1,500.00	£1,500.00
Staffs Pension	July Pension		£160.79
HMRC	July PAYE/NI		£154.53
Newcastle Plumbing	Sandy Croft Sundries INVOICE NO 494611		£975.80
M Clough	July Salary		£484.31
Unity Trust Bank	Service charge		£7.00
Newcastle Plumbing	Sandy Croft Sundries INVOICE NO 495445		£222.24
Zurich Municipal	Annual Insurance Premium		£847.85
Luke Rimmer	Memorial Garden INVOICE NO: 0051		£180.00
Internal Transfer		£2,000.00	£2,000.00
HugoFox	Emails INV-31023		£2.99
TW Heler & Son	Clearing the Wilderness		£500.00
ELAN CITY LTD,	Extended Warranty SO-UK05424		£716.40
Waterplus	Monthly direct debit		£10.44
Staffs Pension	August Pension		£158.21
M Clough	August Salary		£476.39
HMRC	August NI/PAYE		£151.19
Unity Trust	Service charge		£7.00
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council	Grant award	£455.00	
Luke Rimmer	Memorial Garden INVOICE NO: 0057		£150.00
Internal Transfer		£2,000.00	£2,000.00
R Bettley-Smith	Reimbursement for Bench		£491.40

(iii) Payment of Invoices and Reimbursements

RESOLVED

That the following forthcoming payments be approved:-

M Clough	September 2026 Salary (inc backpay)	£570.81
HMRC	September 2026 PAYE & NI	£193.52
Staffordshire Pension	September 2026 Pension	£189.55
Luke Rimmer	September Maintenance	(Contracted and within budget)
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service charge – September 2026	£7.00
HugoFox	September Emails	£2.99

(iv) Budget Expenditure to 15th September 2026

RESOLVED

That the following Budget Head expenditure to 15th September 2026, be approved:-

Budget Head	Total	Budget Allocated	£ Difference
Salary	£2,366.91	£5,750.00	£3,383.09
Income Tax/Ni	£748.44	£2,000.00	£1,251.56
Pension	£785.86	£2,000.00	£1,214.14
Insurance	£847.85	£1,000.00	£152.15
Audit Fees Internal	£275.65	£300.00	£24.35
Venue Hire	£140.00	£450.00	£310.00
Subscriptions	£461.09	£400.00	-£61.09
Website	£0.00	£175.00	£175.00
Emails	£14.95	£175.00	£160.05
Information Commissioner	£0.00	£50.00	£50.00
Stationery	£0.00	£75.00	£75.00
Payroll Services	£248.40	£800.00	£551.60
Mileage	£0.00	£175.00	£175.00
Footpaths	£3,862.40	£3,000.00	-£862.40
Grants	£0.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
* Sandy Croft	£3,431.33	£1,705.00	-£1,726.33
Memorial Garden	£1,835.93	£3,500.00	£1,664.07
Highways	£716.40	£1,000.00	£283.60
Chair's Expenses	£0.00	£250.00	£250.00
Unity Trust Bank Fees	£35.00	£100.00	£65.00
	£15,770.21	£23,905.00	£8,134.79

* Sandy Croft Budget Head increased by £455.00 as a result of a successful grant application.

(v) Explanation of Variances

There are substantial overspends to the Footpaths and Sandy Croft Budget Heads. These are explained as follows as all expenditures have been approved by the Parish Council:-

Budget Head	Description	£
Sandy Croft	Work to fruit trees	£60.00
Sandy Croft	Water supply	£10.03
Sandy Croft	Water supply	£10.09
Sandy Croft	Water supply	£10.44
Footpaths	Gates	£3,362.40
Sandy Croft	Picnic Table	£1,630.80
Sandy Croft	Monthly direct debit	£10.09
Sandy Croft	Sandy Croft Water Sundries	£975.80
Sandy Croft	Sandy Croft Water Sundries	£222.24

Footpaths	Clearing the Wilderness	£500.00
Sandy Croft	Water supply	£10.44
Sandy Croft	Bench	£491.40

RECOMMENDATION

That an increase to the Sandy Croft Budget Head of £1,500.00 to be taken from the Parish Council's reserves, be approved.

(vi) Bank Reconciliation as at 15th September 2026

RESOLVED

That the following Bank Reconciliation as at 15th September 2026, be approved:-

Bank Reconciliation 15th September 2026	
BETLEY BALTERLEY AND WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL	
Financial year ending 31 March 2027	
Prepared by: Muna Clough, Parish Clerk & RFO	
Balance per bank statements as at	£
Current Account UNITY (20500409) - 31st August 2026	£1,372.00
Reserve Account UNITY (20500412) - 31st August 2026 (£8,000 to be retained as a Reserve)	£38,349.34
Less: any unpresented cheques/payments	
Current Account UNITY (20500409)	£641.40
Reserve Account Unity (20500412)	£0.00
Add: any unbanked cash - Unity	
Add: any unbanked cash - Unity Reserve	£455.00
	£0.00
Net bank balances as at 15th September 2026	
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments account) for the year, as follows	£39,534.94
CASH BOOK	
Opening Balance	
Unity Trust Bank @ 1st April 2026	£2,839.85
Unity Reserve @ 1st April 2026	£28,192.93
Add: Receipts in the year	
Unity Trust Bank	£6,115.96
Unity Reserve	£23,656.41
Less: Payments in the year	
Unity Trust Bank	£15,770.21
Unity Reserve	£5,500.00
Closing balance per cash book [receipts and payments book] must equal net bank balances above	£39,534.94

(vii) Internal Transfer

There were no requests for internal transfers.

(viii) Bank Statements

RESOLVED

That the following bank statements, as circulated with the report, be approved:-

- Unity Trust Bank Statement (Current Account 20500409) – 31st July 2026
- Unity Trust Bank Statement (Current Account 20500409) – 31st August 2026
- Unity Trust Bank Instant Access (Reserve Account 20500412) – 31st July 2026
- Unity Trust Bank Instant Access (Reserve Account 20500412) – 31st August 2026

12. 2026-27 NATIONAL SALARY AWARD

The Parish Council noted that The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) had agreed the new pay scales for 2026-27 to be implemented from 1 April 2026 which equated to a pay increase of 3.3%.

13. LEAF CLEARANCE OUTSIDE SCHOOL

The Chair reported that, although the school pavement was not included in the routine sweeping schedule, the Borough Council had agreed to sweep the area. He added that Betley Hall Gardens was now included in the routine sweeping schedule.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

14. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

The Parish Council considered requesting a traffic survey from the County Council following recent concerns regarding speeding on Main Road, Betley. Members also raised concerns about the condition of the pavements, which some Councillors considered to be a higher priority.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

15. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW

Councillor Head reported that the Steering Group was meeting regularly and was developing ideas particularly to ensure compliance with environmental and ecological matters.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

At this juncture, Councillor Daly arrived at the meeting.

16. PARISH NEWS

Councillor Daly reported that a volunteer had agreed to take on the role of Editor.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

17. 800TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARKET CHARTER IN 2027 WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED

That consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting.

18. AREA MATTERS

Members noted that a Civic Pride litter pick was taking place the following morning and volunteers were asked to meet at the Memorial Garden at 10.00 am.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Parish Council noted that the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 29th October 2026. Apologies for absence were submitted in advance by Councillors Daly and Karling.

20. URGENT ITEMS

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