

BETLEY, BALTERLEY AND WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

27th November 2025

Commenced: 7.30 pm

Terminated: 9.45 pm

**Present: Councillor Bettley-Smith (Chair)
Councillors Berrisford, Daly, Ecclestone, Hales, Head, Karling, Lovatt and Owen**

**Councillor Whitmore – Borough Councillor
PCSO Hodgkinson – Staffordshire Police (part)**

There were 4 members of the public in attendance

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bullock, Speed and Watkin. Apologies for absence were also received from Councillor Williams, the Staffordshire County Councillor.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members of the Parish Council indicated that they felt they had a personal interest to declare in relation to Minute 11(iii), as they knew the applicant in a personal capacity. However, without a dispensation the number of Parish Councillors prohibited from participating in the particular business would be so great that the transaction of the business would be impeded.

3. STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE

The Parish Council received an update from PCSO Hodgkinson, on matters that had taken place in the Parish.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 23rd October 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

Members of the public referred to the Neighbourhood Plan; the storage of historic Parish Council documents and Broadband.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk writes to the MP, asking about the up to date position regarding his enquiries regarding Broadband, and requesting a progress report.

6. REPORTS

The Parish Council received the following reports:-

(i) The Chair

- A site visit to Doddlespool Hall had been held with the Leader of the Borough Council. Borough Officers were maximising their efforts in resolving the ongoing complaints on this site.
- A Special Meeting of the Council to consider the Local Plan, had been delayed.

(ii) County Councillor and Borough Councillors

Councillor Berrisford reported on potholes, and a letter sent to Government Ministers, regarding devolution. She also referred to the Council Tax

Councillor Whitmore reported on her work to support residents.

(iii) Representatives on Outside Bodies

Councillor Head reported that children's Christmas party would be held the following night, at the Village Hall, after the Christmas lights were switched on.

7. FOOTPATHS WORKING PARTY

Councillor Berrisford reported on additional gate donations, which would improve the footpath network.

Councillor Owen added that there would be a walk from the Hand and Trumpet, on 21st December 2025.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

8. BUDGET AND FINANCE 2025-2026

The Clerk presented a report 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.

(some transactions may have been made under the authority of the Financial Regulations).

PAYEE/PAYER	DETAILS	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
HMRC	VAT Refund	£331.16	
HufoFox	Emails		£120.00
	Transfer from COOP	£2,000.00	
M Clough	October Salary		£468.67
Staffordshire Pensions	October Pension		£174.22
HMRC	PAYE/NI		£147.64
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly Service Charge		£6.00
Newcastle Plumbing	Cable Ties		£23.57
Shires Accountants	Payroll Services		£21.00
Betley Village Hall	Room Hire Invoice 4267		£105.00
Luke Rimmer	Invoice 612		£830.00
Newcastle Plumbing	Cable Ties		£27.00

(iv) Transactions – CO-OP Bank

Members noted that there had been an 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.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

(v) Payment of Invoices and Reimbursements

Councillors Bettley-Smith and Lovatt declared their interests in this item, and did not take part in the voting thereon.

RESOLVED

That the following payments be approved:-

M Clough	November 2025 Salary	£468.67
HMRC	November 2025 PAYE & NI	£147.64
Staffordshire Pension	November 2025 Pension	£174.22
M Clough	December 2025 Salary	Approx. £447.03
HMRC	December 2025 PAYE & NI	Approx. £137.72
Staffordshire Pension	December 2025 Pension	Approx. £166.12
Luke Rimmer	November maintenance	(Contracted and within budget)
Luke Rimmer	December maintenance	(Contracted and within budget)
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service charge - November	£6.00
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service charge – December	£6.00
Robert Bettley-Smith	Sweets	£57.51
Betley Court Farm	Christmas Tree	£220.00

(vi) Budget Expenditure to 20th November 2025 – Unity Trust Bank**RESOLVED**

That the following Budget Head expenditure to 20th November 2025, be approved:-

Budget Head	Total	Budget Allocated	£ Difference
Salary	£3,140.74	£5,758.00	£2,617.26
Income Tax/National Insurance	£1,019.77	£1,800.00	£780.23
Pension	£1,208.43	£1,784.00	£575.57
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	£196.00	£450.00	£254.00
Subscriptions	£342.32	£350.00	£7.68
Website	£120.00	£150.00	£30.00
Emails	£0.00	£150.00	£150.00
Information Commissioner	£0.00	£35.00	£35.00
Stationery	£46.21	£50.00	£3.79
Payroll Services	£595.80	£625.00	£29.20
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	£3,180.64	£3,500.00	£319.36
Chair's Expenses	£0.00	£250.00	£250.00
Unity Trust Bank Fees	£42.00	£100.00	£58.00

	£12,627.48	£21,927.00	£9,299.52
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(vii) Explanation of Variances

There were no virement requests at this meeting.

(viii) Bank Reconciliation as at 20th November 2025

RESOLVED

That the following Bank Reconciliation for Co-op Bank and Unity Trust Bank as at 20th November 2025, be approved:-

Bank Reconciliation 20th November 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) - 31st October 2025	£4,966.13
Reserve Account CO-OP (49148300) - 4th November 2025 (£8,000 to be retained as a Reserve)	£32,156.25
Less: any unpresented cheques/payments	
Current Account UNITY (20500409)	£1,006.57
Reserve Account CO-OP (49148300)	
Add: any unbanked cash - Unity	
Add: any unbanked cash - CO-OP	
Net bank balances as at 20th November 2025	£36,115.81
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	£570.14
Co-op Bank	£22,191.00
Less: Payments in the year	
Unity Trust Bank	£12,627.48
Co-op Bank	
Closing balance per cash book [receipts and payments book] must equal net bank balances above	£36,115.81

(ix) Bank Statements

RESOLVED

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

- **Unity Trust Bank Statement – 31st October 2025**
- **CO-OP Bank Statement – 4th November 2025**

9. BUDGET-PRECEPT 2026-2027

The Parish Council considered and debated a report of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer on the proposed Budget for 2026-2027, and the associated Precept. The Taxbase for 2026-2027 was 649.

Members noted that as a result of the increase to the number eligible properties (from 620 to 649), although the percentage increase of the total Precept (from £21,927.00 in 2025-2026 to £23,450.00 in 2026-2027) represented 6.95%, this would only be an increase of 0.95% for each Band D property. In practical terms, this would have an impact of 34p per year, per Band D property, ie. £35.79 to £36.13.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the 2026-2027 Budget, as Appended to these Minutes, be approved;**
- (ii) That the Precept request, for the sum of £23,450.00, which would represent an increase per Band D property, of 0.95%, be approved.**

10. IT POLICY

RESOLVED

That consideration of this matter be deferred until January, and in the meantime Councillors to submit their written suggestions to the Clerk, for debate at the January meeting.

11. PLANNING MATTERS

To consider the following planning matters:-

(i) Planning Assessment Form

RESOLVED

That the Planning Assessment Form be approved, with the addition of the name of person/s carrying out the assessment.

- **New Planning Applications**

(ii) Application Ref No: 25/00726/FUL

Proposal: Two-Storey Extension to Front of Dwelling

Location: 8 Brassington Street Betley Crewe

RESOLVED

That this application be supported, with the following comments:-

This Planning Application meets NDP Policies:-

BBW4 - Detailed design needs

BBW5 - Conserving and enhancing Betley Conservation Area

Betley, Balterley and Wrinehill Parish Council therefore supports this proposal, so long as the choice of materials is compatible with, and in keeping with, the existing building, as specified in the application.

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

Proposal: Proposed two storey side extension and alteration to front garden to form new driveway

Location: The Steps A New Road Wrinehill

RESOLVED

That this application be supported.

**12. NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME LOCAL PLAN
CONSULTATION ON MAIN MODIFICATIONS 5TH NOVEMBER 2025 – 17TH DECEMBER 2025**

The Parish Council considered recommendations by the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, in response to this consultation.

RESOLVED

- (i) That delegated authority be given to the Steering Group, to draft a response to this consultation, which will be forwarded to the Clerk, to enable a reply to be submitted by 17th December 2025.
- (ii) The response must include the Parish Council's support of the following proposals:-
 - MM06 - No additional housing requirements for each designated neighbourhood area
 - MM67 - The proposed travel plan should discourage the routing of traffic through the Parish

13. AREA MATTERS

The Parish Council discussed the significant gas works that had been undertaken, and recognised, with thanks, the efficient works completed by CADENT.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

**14. DECOMMISSIONED PAYPHONE, MAIN ROAD (A531), BETLEY VILLAGE, CHESHIRE
RESOLVED**

That this matter be deferred to the January meeting.

15. STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE PCSO CONSULTATION TO REDUCE HOURS

The Parish Council considered a consultation report of Staffordshire Police on the proposal to reduce the hours of PCSOs.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk submits the following response to Staffordshire Police:-

The Parish Council considers this proposal to be a retrograde step. The Members note the proposals and have concerns over the detrimental effect of policing in the Parish. Furthermore, the Parish Councillors are concerned that this means that there will not be police representation at Parish Council meetings.

16. SECTION 106 MONIES

Councillors Bettley-Smith, Daly, Hales declared their interests in this item as their spouses were Trustees of the Village Hall Committee. They took no part in the voting thereon. Councillor Head declared his interest as he was a Trustee of the Village Hall Committee, and he left the meeting.

The Parish Council considered the Section 106 monies allocated for the former Wrinehill garage site. The Members received a report, from the Trustees of the Village Hall proposing the refurbishment of the Village Hall Car Park and associated areas.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Section 106 money allocation for the former Wrinehill garage site be used for the refurbishment of the Village Hall Car Park and associated areas.
- (ii) That authorisation, for the release of the Section 106 money, direct to the Village Hall Trustees, by the Borough Council, be approved.

At this juncture, Councillor Head returned to the meeting.

17. ISSUES ON LAND AT DODDLESPool HALL, SITUATED IN STAFFORDSHIRE AND CHESHIRE EAST

Members noted the enforcement actions by Cheshire East Council, Staffordshire County Council and Staffordshire Police.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

18. DOCUMENTS TO STAFFORDSHIRE RECORDS OFFICE

Councillor Bettley-Smith reported that he was awaiting a date from the Records Office, on which he could deliver the remaining documents for storage.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Parish Council noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 22nd January 2026.

20. DATE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLVED

That the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council be held on Tuesday, 12th May 2026 at 7.30pm.

21. URGENT ITEMS

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

22. EXEMPT BUSINESS

The Parish Council resolved that the following item of business was exempt from the Press and Public as it involved discussions of a confidential nature.

23. ANNUAL PAY REVIEW

RESOLVED

That the Parish Clerk be thanked for a satisfactory performance review, and that her pay be increased from SCP 12 £14.82 to SCP 13. £15.06

BETLEY, BALTERLEY AND WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

BUDGET

2026-2027

Budget Head	Budget 2026-2027
Salary	£5,750.00
Income Tax/Ni	£2,000.00
Pension	£2,000.00
Insurance	£1,000.00
Audit Fees Internal	£300.00
Venue Hire	£450.00
Subscriptions	£400.00
Website	£175.00
Emails	£175.00
Information Commissioner	£50.00
Stationery	£75.00
Payroll Services	£800.00
Mileage	£175.00
Footpaths	£3,000.00
Grants	£1,000.00
Sandy Croft	£1,250.00
Memorial Garden	£3,500.00
Highways	£1,000.00
Chair's Expenses	£250.00
Unity Trust Bank Fees	£100.00
Total Budget	£23,450.00