

Bagnall Parish Council: Chairman's Annual Report May 2019

Bagnall Parish Council is made up of the following:

The Clerk – Denise Cooper

Tel: email: bagnallpc@gmail.com

The Councillors – were initially elected for office on May 5th May 2017. Two new members have been co-opted following retirements. The councillors over the last year have been:

Andrew Batson – The Cottages. Chairman (502488)

Peter Lawley– Manor House Farm. Vice Chairman (504752)

Mark Butler- Lower Greenfields Farm.

David Pearson – Bank Farm. (503589)

Sybil Ralphs*. Tuscany House (504364)

Sally Brown– Old Mill Farm

Les Knowles- Rock Cottage

*Sybil Ralphs is also our Staffordshire Moorlands District Councillor.

[Councillor Simpson retired during the previous session. Councillor Les Knowles was co-opted on to the Parish Council.]

Parish Council Meetings and Main Agenda Items:

The Council's meetings were amended during the year from the 2nd Tuesday of every month to now meet on the 3rd Tuesday starting at 7.30pm in the evening at the Village Hall. Members of the public are most welcome to just come along to listen, to raise a subject or ask questions during "public participation", which is currently scheduled for 8.30pm during the meeting. The meeting can be opened during the course of the agenda at the discretion of the Parish Council. The principal items addressed during the meetings this last year include:

Footpaths: The consultation exercise undertaken by the County Council regarding the status of footpaths in future years has now been implemented. Arrangements are in place for the inspection and maintenance of footpaths graded by the 'importance' of the footpath. A regular issue raised during the year has been the use of footpath 28 by motorcycles. The May meeting of the Parish Council was attended by PCSO's, representing Staffordshire Police, who provided an update on their investigations. Several stiles in the Parish have been repaired over the past year by Staffordshire County Council.

Planning: Through the year the Parish Council is consulted on planning applications and is invited to comment. The Parish Council have no power over the decisions reached by the Planning Department at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, but any comments that are made in the Parish are taken into consideration, along with letters received from members of the public. The Parish Council is only classed as one voice. It is worth repeating that if a member of the public is concerned about any planning application they need to make their feelings known to the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Planning Department.

Highways matters: Reports of various problems on the roads have been made throughout the year to both Staffordshire County Council and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council whenever they have been noticed. In addition to potholes in the carriageway areas affected by flooding have also been reported. There are varying timescales for the resolving of such issues and we very much welcome input from the public in keeping abreast of any developments. Finally Parishioners should be aware that both the County and District Councils operate an online reporting system in addition to telephone contact.

Finance: The Precept was slightly increased in the financial year 2018/19. There was an increase in Council Tax to households of 18p on a Band D, or a 0.8% increase, as a direct result of the Parish Council's decisions. This was based on 362 households. A more detailed analysis is contained within the Financial Report.

The Village Field: The Parish has a wonderful sports field with new swings in the children's play area. The sports field requires appropriate maintenance and the contract is with Coopers Pitch Care to undertake this work. The Parish Council has previously advertised the field for the use of a sports team. During the year the Parish Council has purchased two sets of goal posts. Three seats were installed during the year and they have been placed around the field. As part of the Queens Commonwealth Canopy project in October the Rt. Hon. Karen Bradley MP planted a Rowan tree sapling on the village green.

Mowing: Jacksons Nursery is our current mowing contractor and maintains the village greens. The Walnut tree which was planted by a number of past village queens in early 2018 is now in bud. Again, as in previous years, the Parish has suffered from Fly Tipping. Efforts continue to identify the 'culprits'. In conjunction with SMDC a community litter pick was arranged on Sunday 5th May 2019 which I attended accompanied by Councillors Brown and Knowles. The exercise resulted in the removal of a large quantity of litter from the local area.

Commemorations. The Parish Council liaised with SMDC to fund the cleaning of the pulpit War Memorial in the Parish Church as part of the centenary commemorations for the end of World War 1.

Finally, a big thank you again to all the organisations and individuals who help to make village life more enjoyable and community orientated. Please remember that the people who make things happen in the village are all volunteers and need your continued support!

Andrew Batson, Chairman Bagnall Parish Council (2017 – 2019)

