

Bagnall Parish Council: Chairman's Annual Report May 2018

Bagnall Parish Council is made up of the following:

The Clerk – Denise Cooper

Tel: email: bagnallpc@gmail.com

The Parish Council records it's appreciation to the stand in Clerk, Zoe Chadwick, prior to Denise Cooper returning from a period of illness in Autumn 2017.

The Councillors – were all elected for office on May 5th May 2017 and their positions 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)

Frank Hayes **– Old Mill Cottage (503905)

Ken Simpson** – Everest. (503972)

*Sybil Ralphs is also our Staffordshire Moorlands District Councillor.

**Councillors Hayes and Simpson retired during the session. Councillor Sally Brown has been co-opted on to the parish Council. One seat is currently vacant.

Parish Council Meetings and Main Agenda Items:

The Councils Standing Orders indicate that meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month 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 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: Recent consultation has taken place with the County Council regarding the status of footpaths in future years. Proposals are in place for the inspection and maintenance to be graded in future determined by their 'importance' of the footpath.

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. Issues were raised during the year regarding the consultation process. The general advice provided remains- 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- principally this year potholes. 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. During the year Councillor Hayes approached the County Council with proposals to reduce the speed limit on most roads. The County Council responded that they currently have no proposals to reduce the speed limits however they do keep these under review at all times. 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 raised in the financial year 2017/18. There was an increase in Council Tax to households of 61p on a Band D, or a 0.2% increase, as a direct result of the Parish Council's decisions. This was based on 359 households. The total precept was £7,846.35. A more detailed analysis is contained within the Financial Report.

Environment. The Village Field: Following major earth works, the provision of new boundary fencing and drainage installation the village field was handed back to The Parish Council by the Contractor following completion of the works in Summer 2017. The Parish now has a wonderful sports field and new swings in the children's play area. The sports field requires appropriate maintenance and a contract has been given to Coopers Pitch Care to undertake this work. The Parish Council has advertised the field for the use of a sports team for the season 2018/ 2019. Three seats have been purchased during the year with an intention for them to be placed around the field shortly.

Mowing: Jacksons Nurseries is our current mowing contractor and maintains the village greens. Following an inspection of the trees on the village green by Mr Massey of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council a Chestnut Tree was classified in his report as diseased and dangerous. The tree was removed and in February 2018 a Walnut tree was

planted by a number of past village queens in a simple ceremony. As in previous years the Parish has suffered from Fly Tipping. Efforts continue to identify the 'culprits'. The Parish Council has decided to tidy up the area of bare ground adjacent to the Village Green post box. This will be grant aided by County Councillor Flunders community fund.

And lastly, 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 – 2018)

