

# BAGNALL PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Meeting

Thursday 11 January 2018

Village Hall  
School Lane  
Bagnall  
Staffordshire Moorlands

### Present:

Cllr Andrew Batson (Chair)  
Cllr Mark Butler

Cllr David Pearson  
Cllr Ken Simpson

### In attendance:

Denise Cooper (Clerk)  
Cllr Keith Flunder, SMDC

### Apologies

Cllr Peter Lawley  
Cllr Sybil Ralphs

### Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations made.

### Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted as a true and accurate record.

### 17.102 Finances

#### 17.75.02 – Bank Account

A replacement Signatories Mandate has been submitted to the bank.

The Clerk advised that SMDC was no longer accepting cheques in payment of invoices, preferring credit/debit card; on-line bank transfers; or BACS transactions. In this instance SMDC had agreed to accept a cheque, but would not do so in the future. The Clerk asked that discussion around on-line banking be re-opened, but Cllr Butler was not in favour of this approach. The Clerk was asked to ascertain if a variable direct debit could be set up instead.

#### 17.93.02 – Green and Playing Field Maintenance Tenders

Tenders for the above works have been received and opened in the presence of Cllr Andrew Batson and Denise Cooper, Clerk. The contract for the maintenance of the greens was awarded to Jackson's Nurseries (UK) Ltd, and the playing field contract to Coopers Pitch Care. Contractors have been advised.

The Clerk had been asked to obtain costs charged by organisations for the use of playing fields for the under-11's age groups. She reported that the City Council charged around £400.00 per season (no changing or parking facilities); the Hardman Centre charged around £500-£600 per season (changing and parking facilities available); and Birchall £94.60 per two week period (changing and parking facilities available). A season runs from September to April.

The Clerk was asked to compile an advert for the website for consideration at the next meeting.

#### **17.102.01 – Precept 2018/19**

At the November meeting the Parish Council agreed to an increase of 2% on the 2017/18 precept. This brings the amount requested from SMDC to £8,003.23 making an increase of £0.18 on a Band D property. The appropriate papers were signed and will be forwarded to SMDC.

#### **17.102.02 – Appointment of external auditors**

For a five-year period commencing April 2018 the external auditor appointed to oversee parish councils in Staffordshire is Mazars LLP based in Manchester.

#### **17.102.03 – Invoices / Receipts**

The following invoices were received and payment agreed:

- Clerk's Salary for January 2018 - £115.00
- Denise Cooper – Reimbursement for Walnut tree purchase - £63.89
- SMDC – Loan interest - £437.50
- Simpson & Co – engraved plaque for seat - £18.00
- Peter Lawley – reimbursement for purchase of fence posts - £9.48

The following payment has been received:

- HMRC – Reimbursement of VAT paid in 2016/17 - £185.64

### **17.103 Planning**

- SMD/2017/0631 – Land adjacent to Stoneville, Stanley Road, Stockton Brook  
Outline planning for the erection of 2 no. two-storey residential dwellings and 1 no. single-storey (bungalow) residential dwelling and the demolition to two external outbuildings

The Parish Council objected to this development as the site is on green belt land. Further information was required to ensure this development sat within the village setting and our incremental development proposals. Subsequently advised that SMDC has refused planning permission.

- SMD/2017/0716 – Land off Jack Hayes Lane, Armshead  
To apply for retrospective planning for removal and re-siting of ménage

The Parish Council objected to this development as it will be visually intrusive on the green belt. There was also no proposal to re-instate the original, poorly constructed ménage (which was in breach of planning development). What was a sound piece of agricultural land is in danger of becoming an industrial estate would be better returned to its productive self. Subsequently advised that SMDC had agreed planning permission.

- SMD/2017/0714 – White Gables, Clewloes Bank, Bagnall  
Proposed partial demolition – single storey side and rear extension
- SMD/2017/0745 – Woodlands View, Clewloes Bank, Bagnall  
Outline planning for replacement dwelling and associated works
- SMD/2017/0718 – Old Mill Farm, Old Mill Lane, Bagnall  
Two-storey extension with pitched roof
- SMD/2017/0817 – Linden, 1 the Avenue, Stanley Moor,  
Double-storey extension
- SMD/2017/0794 – Land to the southwest side of Stanley Road, Stockton  
Brook  
Formation of farm vehicular access
- SMD/2017/0839 – Pool Croft, School Road, Bagnall  
Internal alterations with an extension to the side (road side facing) of the  
dwelling

The Parish Council has no objections to the above applications.

A local resident queried how representation could be made to the Parish Council regarding planning applications they had issues with. After discussion, the Parish Council acknowledged that it had lessons to learn and agreed that residents could voice their planning concerns within this section prior to Cllrs making a final judgment. However, it was emphasised that SMDC made the final decision and any concerns should be raised with them directly.

#### **17.104 Footpaths**

##### **17.71 – Quarry adjoining Pointon’s land**

The Clerk at Cheddleton Parish Council advised that a meeting with Carl Pointon had not yet taken place. She warned that she was retiring in March 2018 and would endeavour to make contact with him prior to this.

Cllrs agreed that diplomacy was the best way forward, but this was difficult when the third party was not willing to engage. The Parish Council did not have the resources to enter into legal proceedings against such a large organisation. One option would be to fence off the quarry, but whilst we were aware of the position of the quarry face, it was not clear, now that it had been filled in, what the extent of excavations was. Cllr Butler will try to obtain further information for the next meeting.

##### **17.95.01 – Definitive Footpaths Consultation**

The Parish Council has submitted its response to the consultation, requesting the Footpath 28 be promoted to an ‘A’ graded path and Footpath 12 demoted to a ‘B’ grade.

A response regarding Footpath 12 is still awaited.

#### **17.105 Highways**

##### **17.96.01 – Pot Holes**

Cllrs are still awaiting an update on repairs to pot holes within the Parish from Cllr Ralphs.

Cllr Pearson notified the Parish Council of a large pot hole that needs urgent attention and agreed to report this to Highways.

## **17.106 Maintenance**

### **17.79.01 – Playing Fields**

Jackson's Nurseries has been asked to undertake a one-off cut of the playing fields.

### **17.88.01 – Fence Posts on Green**

Cllr Lawley has purchased replacement concrete posts, but advised that these were the last in stock. Some consideration as how we proceed in future to replace damaged posts needs to be undertaken.

### **17.106.01 – Purchase of Walnut tree**

A sapling tree has now been purchased. This will be planted on 2 February 2018, 1.30pm and past Chestnut Queens will be invited to the event.

### **17.106.02 – Dangerous use of Footpath 28**

The Parish Council has received a reported issue of off-road motorcycles using the footpath and incidents of inconsiderate use by horse riders. These incidents have been reported to the County Council and the Police (who have enforcement powers). The Parish Council has been asked to compile a record of such antisocial behaviour with a view to installing Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to restrict access.

Cllr Pearson advised that the signs previously erected had weathered and asked that more substantial signs be purchased. Cllr Simpson will ascertain costs for these. Cllr Flunder agreed to ascertain if Staffordshire County Council would agree to our using their logo on the signs and will also give consideration to funding the signs from budgets that he oversees.

## **17.107 Environment**

### **17.98.01 – Fly Tipping**

The issue of young people are congregating/parking in the gateway to the woods at the bottom of Springs Bank / Thorneyedge Road and leaving take-away debris and drug paraphernalia has been notified to the Police. It was noted that the number of incidents had decreased over the past couple of months.

## **17.108 Correspondence**

### **Matters Arising**

SCC – CPI bid. The Parish Council submitted a bid against the CPI fund to install a gate. However, since submission of the bid, which was successful, one of the joint owners decided to sell the barn and field through which the footpath passes. It was hoped that the sale would proceed quickly but this has proved not to be the case. Whilst initially supportive, the current owners are now reluctant to confirm the proposal given the pending sale/negotiation. In the circumstances the Parish council are regrettably unable to proceed at the present time and have withdrawn their application.

### **New Issues**

- SMDC
  - Various agenda / minutes of meetings
- SCC – Subsidised Bus Services agreed options. Route 44 which calls at Bagnall will no longer be subsidised, it is at the prerogative of the service provider when and if buses will operate.

- Matthew Ellis, PCC – Safety Camera Partnership. Opportunity to submit an expression of interest in the purchase of interactive speed signs. The Parish Council agreed not to take up this opportunity, but will revisit this issue should the need arise.
- Community Council of Staffordshire – Best Kept Village 2018 – request to consider entering. The Parish Council did not feel obliged to enter the competition.
- Frank Hayes – Letter of resignation. With regret the Parish Council accepted Mr Hayes’ resignation and thanked him for his valued advice and service over the past 19 years. This now leaves the Parish Council with a Casual Vacancy, which will be advertised for a period of 4 weeks. If during this timeframe parishioners do not call for an election the post will be co-opted. Any interested residents should submit an expression of interest to the Clerk for consideration.

**17.109 Any Other Business / Issues for Further Discussion**

**17.82.02 – Benches on playing fields**

A site for the third seat has yet to be agreed.

The Parish Council is currently awaiting a quotation from Jacksons Nurseries for installing concrete plinths for them to be affixed to. Cllr Simpson to chase up.

**17.110 Public Section**

Cllr Funder advised that the Community Fund for 2017 is now closed. He would like to work with us to elicit funding for projects from the next tranche.

Funding from the DHP fund is still available. The next funding round starts in May 2018.

Cllr Funder emphasised the need for residents to attend the various drop-in sessions organised around the consultation on libraries, which ends on 1 April 2018. The County Council is moving the emphasis of these to a more community focus and using smaller buses to enable smaller villages to be accessed. He suggested that residents advised the Parish Council of their views to enable a more robust response to be made. Local drop-sessions are on Wednesday 28 February 2018, 7-9pm at Leek Library and on Thursday 9 March 2018, 9.45-11.15am at Brown Edge Mobile Library, The Post Office.

There is currently an aging population who will find it increasingly difficult to get to medical appointments, do shopping, etc together with young people who need to access education institutions and sustain a social life. Cllr Flunder stated that using taxi services was very expensive and suggested that encouraging voluntary transport options, possibly in liaison with other local villages, was the best way forward.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on **Thursday 8 February 2018, 7.30pm.**

Signed .....(Chairman)

Dated: 8 February 2018