

# BAGNALL PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 15 January 2019

Village Hall  
School Lane  
Bagnall  
Staffordshire Moorlands

**Present:**

Cllr Andrew Batson (Chair)  
Cllr Sally Brown  
Cllr Mark Butler

Cllr Les Knowles  
Cllr Peter Lawley  
Cllr Sybil Ralphs

**In attendance:**

Denise Cooper (Clerk)

**Apologies**

Cllr David Pearson

**Declaration of Personal / Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of Personal or Pecuniary Interest

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

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

**18.72 Elections 2019**

The Clerk advised that councils across Staffordshire Moorlands will go to election on Thursday 2 May 2019. Bagnall Parish Council has 7 Councillors and therefore if 7 or less candidates put up for office we will not have an election (any vacant places will be filled via the Casual Vacancy process). If 8 or more candidates put up for office this will result in an election. Any campaigning funding must be paid for by each individual candidate, the Parish Council funds cannot support these activities.

The election date may have some influence over the date of the May meetings (general and annual) as the first meeting after an election has to be held within a specified timeframe. Any changes to the timeframe will be notified in due course.

The cost implication of an election is not yet known. Bagnall has not needed to hold elections on previous occasions and has therefore only had to pay minimal costs, the bulk of the costs being borne by SMDC. However, this may not be the case going forward.

SMDC will be organising some briefing sessions for potential councillor candidates and relevant information will be posted on the notice boards and our and SMDC's websites.

## **18.73 Moorlands Village Hall – Forward Planning**

Bagnall Parish Council has been approached by the Village Hall Committee who have concerns around the future of the village hall and its assets, and have put forward a possible solution – that the Parish Council take on the role of Holding Trustee.

The day-to-day running of the Village Hall would remain with the Village Hall Committee, but in the event of the Committee folding the Parish Council (as an entity) would be responsible for resolving the situation. The liability for disposing of the asset would fall onto the Parish Council, who could invest in the building if they felt it appropriate or dispose of the asset and hold the money so long as it was spent to the benefit of the community.

Legal advice has been obtained through SMDC, who assured that this is a pragmatic approach, not out of step with other similar situations.

After brief discussion the Parish Council agreed to this approach. This will be conveyed to the Village Hall Committee and the appropriate legal processes will commence.

## **18.74 Finances**

### **18.15.01 – Building Society Account**

Cllr Andrew Batson has not yet been in touch with Frank Hayes regarding the closure of the building society account.

### **18.35.01 – Playing Field – Use / Hire Charges**

As part of agreeing the hire costs for use of the field, the Clerk was asked to review the cost of its maintenance. In liaison with Jackson's Nurseries (UK) Ltd a revised specification has been developed and this sent to the current groundsman for comment and costings.

The groundsman felt that the move to less frequent and shorter cutting of the grass was a false economy as it would have a detrimental effect on the health of the grass and the machinery used. He recommended a half-way position which after discussion the Parish Council agreed with. This new position will halve the current cost implications and leave the Parish Council in a much better financial position.

The Village Hall Committee has requested the use of the playing field for the Village Fete which is scheduled for 29 June 2019. Permission was granted on the condition that there would be no vehicle based events. Liaison with the Committee on their proposals will continue.

### **18.74.01 – Quarter 3 Financial Report**

The Clerk tabled the financial report for the period September-December 2018. At the end of the quarter the Parish Council held £18,924.73 in the bank, with a further £825.48 in a building society account (this is ear marked for a capital payment towards the loan).

### **18.74.02 – Precept 2019/20**

In accordance with agreements reached at the November 2018 meeting the sum of £8,400 has been requested for 2019/20. This equates to a £0.97 change in Band D precept charge on the Council Tax.

### **18.74.03 – Invoices / Receipts**

There were no receipts in the current month.

The following invoices were received and payment agreed:

- Denise Cooper – Staffing costs (December-January) - £236.00
- SMDC – Year 4 Interest on loan - £437.50
- Jackson’s Nurseries (UK) Ltd – Leaf collection - £180.00
- Cooper’s Greens & Maintenance – Playing field maintenance - £1,580.00

## 18.75 Planning

SMDC Planning Decisions

- SMD/2018/0626 – Lime Tree Farm, Clewlovs Bank, Bagnall  
Erection of agricultural building  
*Bagnall PC had no objections – SMDC approved*
- SMD/2018/00683 – Greenway Hall Golf Club, Stanley Road, Stockton Brook  
Proposed single-storey extension to driving range  
*Bagnall PC had no objections. SMDC approved.*

New Applications

- SMD/2018/0748 – Red Ridge, Clewlovs Bank, Bagnall  
Rear extension to existing dwelling
- SMD/2018/0747 – Luzlow Nursery, Luzlow Lane, Bagnall  
Erection of single storey side extension to create garage/store

There were no comments raised in relation to planning from the public present.

The Parish Council had no objections to these applications.

## 18.76 Footpaths

### 18.46.01 – Footpath 28

Cllr Les Knowles has managed to obtain a partial registration number and this will be made known to the Police. Local residents and the horse fraternity were asked to remain vigilant in trying to secure details of the motor cycle users to ensure that use of the footpath can be undertaken safely.

### 18.55.04 – Footpath 14

The Rights of Way officer is currently seeking further advice on a way forward regarding this issue. Any issues of wilfully blocking the footpath or threatening behaviour from the landowner should be notified to the Police.

## 18.77 Highways

There were no issues raised.

## 18.78 Maintenance

### 18.78.01 – Fence Posts to the Green

Cllr Lawley advised that two of the wooden posts on the green have rotted and fallen over, leaving the rails straddling across the grass, and two further ones are leaning. All four need replacement.

One suggestion was to remove the posts / rails altogether to create a more open appearance as the historic need for fencing had now been removed. However, following discussion it was felt better to retain the fencing to prevent transient use on the green. A full survey of the area will be undertaken by Cllrs Butler and Lawley and a report with full costs will be submitted to the next meeting.

## 18.79 Environment

There were no issues raised.

## 18.80 Correspondence

- Sunshine Gym – Promotional information regarding the installation of an outdoor gym facility.
- British Legion – Thanks for our donation.
- British Legion – Information of a number of activities they are operating throughout the year to enable New Year's resolutions to be put into practice and to raise funds for the organisation at the same time.
- Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association – invitation to join the association.
- Staffordshire County Council – Connect Website. Request for information on things to do, places to go in the Staffordshire Moorlands. Local organisations can set up a link between this website and their own.
- Community Foundation – Invitation to submit an Expression of Interest for the Best Kept Village Competition 2019.
- Staffordshire County Council – Highways Your Way website. Survey to ascertain if the Parish Council was aware of the website.
- Midlands and Lancashire CSU. Consultation on health services in North Staffordshire which ends on 17 March 2019 and an invitation to attend workshops.
- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – Notification of the availability of a presentation on Scam Awareness.

## 18.81 Public Section

Cllr Flunder advised that:

- The Community Fund has now closed for this financial year. Bagnall Cricket Club has been successful in securing funding.
- The next round of the DHP Fund will end in February, notification of any potential projects (around maintenance and repairs) to be put forward as quickly as possible.
- Additional funding from the Business Rates has been secured (approximately £7.4M) and SMDC is currently undertaking a review of services to ascertain the best use of this money going forward.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 16 February 2019, 7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed  
(Chairman)

Dated: 16 February 2019