

BAGNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 8 May 2018

Village Hall
School Lane
Bagnall
Staffordshire Moorlands

Present:

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

Cllr Peter Lawley
Cllr David Pearson
Cllr Sybil Ralphs

In attendance:

Denise Cooper (Clerk)
Cllr Keith Flunder (SMDC)

Apologies

There were no apologies tendered.

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.

18.14 Review of Meeting Dates / Standing Orders

A further request had been received from two Councillors to review the meeting dates. After discussion it was agreed to change the date to the third Tuesday in the month, excluding August and December when meetings do not take place. The Standing Orders will be amended accordingly.

18.15 Finances

17.79.01 – Playing Fields: Hire charges/purchase of goal posts

Cllr Andrew Batson has agreed to pursue the purchase of goal posts with the costs being reimbursed by SMDC.

17.82.02 – Benches on playing fields

We have now received three quotations for the supply and fitting of concrete plinths for the seats on the playing field. Mark Leese Builders in the sum of £2,180.00 plus VAT; Jacksons Nurseries £745.00 plus VAT; and Street Services £1,200.00 plus VAT. Cllrs agreed to proceed with the quotation from Jackson's Nurseries and the Clerk will advise contractors accordingly.

17.129.04 – Commemoration of World War 1

Cllr Peter Lawley has approached the church with our suggestion of cleaning the pulpit, which is the parish's War Memorial. They are delighted with the idea and Cllr Lawley will pursue with them obtaining quotations for the work and develop a draft application for the monies from SMDC.

18.01.01 – Quarter 4 / Year End Accounts

The accounts have been submitted to the internal auditor, Elizabeth Thompson, who has agreed our accounts. Copies have been forwarded to the external auditor, Mazars, and we have been advised that as our accounts are below the £25,000 threshold and the internal auditor has not reported any problems, we are exempt from an external audit. Copies of the accounts, including the internal auditor's report, are published on the website. Electors have the right to inspect the full financial paperwork between 4 June 2018 and 13 July 2018 and can make representation to the external auditors if they are not satisfied with the accounts. Details are on the website.

18.15.01 – Building Society Account

The Parish Council holds a building society account within which is held capital funds towards the repayment of the playing fields. As one of the account signatories has resigned from the Council it was felt prudent for Cllr Batson to arrange closure of the account. The monies will be transferred to a deposit account with our bankers.

18.15.02 – Insurance

The Parish Council currently insures with Zurich and has done so for some considerable years. With the addition of new equipment and potential use of the playing field the premium has increased by over £100 to £371.60. An alternative quotation has been received from Came & Co in the sum of £344.76. R Henshalls were unable to provide a comparable premium. Cllrs felt that as we were familiar with Zurich we should continue insuring with them. The Clerk will advise companies accordingly.

18.15.03 – Additional play equipment

The Clerk was asked to organise a survey of the playing field by a reputable company with a view to purchasing additional play equipment for the playing field.

18.15.04 – Invoices / Receipts

The following invoices were received and payment agreed:

- Denise Cooper – Staffing costs for May 2018 - £118.00
- Elizabeth Thompson – Internal Audit - £80.00
- Zurich – Insurance Premium - £371.60

The following sums have been received:

- Staffordshire County Council – DHP Funding - £924.00
- HMRC – VAT Repayment - £689.27

18.16 Planning

SMDC Planning Decisions

- **SMD/2017/0542 – Bruland, Clewloes Bank, Bagnall**
Proposed detached dwelling with attached garage
Bagnall PC Supported – SMDC Approved
- **SMD/2017/0262 – Luzlow Nursery, Luzlow Lane, Bagnall**
Proposed agricultural storage building to replace redundant polytunnel

Bagnall PC no objection – SMDC refused permission on the grounds that the development is not agricultural; the current business – A Parr Landscaping – is deemed to be more constructional. Also, the development will adversely impact on green belt land and is of a scale that will harm the character of surrounding area.

- **SMD/2018/0116 – Land adjacent to 2 Canal Cottages, Stanley Moss Lane, Stockton Brook**
Proposed detached dwelling
Bagnall PC no objection – SMDC refused permission on the grounds that it was an inappropriate dwelling in green belt.

New Applications

- **SMD/2018/0259 – Houghwood House, Houghwood Lane, Stockton Brook**
Single storey side and rear extension
The Parish Council had no objections to the application.

No concerns were raised by residents.

18.17 Footpaths

18.17.01 – Hire of Playing Fields

The Parish Council has received an enquiry regarding the hire of the playing field for an under 9's team. An inspection of the site has been undertaken and a decision is now awaited from their Committee.

18.18 Highways

17.129.01 – Parking, Clewloes Bank

Following the Clerk writing to the householders to request consideration in not causing a hazard by parking on the road, the situation did seem to ease. However, parking on this dangerous bend has now recommenced so the clerk has written to Highways requesting consideration of yellow lines along the bend on both sides of the road. A survey is being scheduled by Highways and we await their decision.

18.18.01 – Bridge over the Canal, Stanley Road

Cllr Sybil Ralphs advised that the bridge over the canal, which is an example of a James Brindley construction and a Grade 1 listed building, is showing signs of severe wear and tear and to protect it for the future SMDC are giving consideration to a weight restriction and asked the views of the Parish Council. Although it is important to preserve this important historical structure, concerns were raised as there is already a restriction on the canal bridge on Post Lane. However, after full discussion it was felt that there were sufficient alternative routes to service businesses in Bagnall and Stanley and therefore the Parish Council supported the initiative, with the caveat that the restriction was not too prohibitive.

18.19 Maintenance

17.106.02 – Dangerous use of Footpath 28

Cllr Flunder passed to the Clerk an email from Dawn Plant, Staffordshire County Council, suggesting that the Parish Council develop our own suitable signs to caution against galloping horses and non-use of motor bikes on the footpath. Cllr Flunder agreed to assist with funding.

17.115.01 – Satellite Navigation Signage

Cllr Flunder informed the Parish Council that Highways were insisting that any such

signs were illuminated. The cost of a survey for positioning would be £3,000.00 with each sign costing £1,000.00; the cost of which would have to come from the Parish precept. Cllrs felt that such signage would detract from the character of the village and the cost was prohibitive. It was therefore agreed not to pursue this.

17.115.02 – Footpath outside the Church

The Clerk is currently pursuing a start date for the works.

17.126.01 – Notice Board

The erection of the notice board is currently being pursued by Cllr Batson.

17.129.02 – Bulbous Tree, Stanley Road

This hazardous tree has been reported to Highways, who have agreed to survey the area and report back.

18.20 Environment

18.20.01 – Bottle Bank

A resident has requested consideration be given to the location of a bottle bank within the village. Cllrs felt that as there are sufficient recycling facilities available to householders the need for a separate bottle bank was not necessary.

18.21.02 – Litter Bins on the Playing Field

A request has been received regarding the siting of a bin on the playing fields. A possible site would be the landing by the entrance to the village hall car park. The Clerk has made enquiries and ascertained that SMDC would charge for undertaking the emptying of the bins which would have to come from our precept. This will be considered further.

18.21 Correspondence

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

New Issues

- Ken Simpson – Letter of resignation.
- Heaward Sports Ltd – Offering support / advice to raise funds to enhance play areas.
- UK Air ambulance Service – collecting postage stamps which they will convert into funds distributed equally to all UK Air Ambulance Services. Details on the notice board.
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner – 2018 National Rural Crime Network Survey. A survey was undertaken 3-years ago; they are now looking to ascertain what has changed. Closing date 10 June.
- Staffordshire County Council/Public Health – notification a “Death Matters” awareness week from 14 May 2018, encouraging discussion around what our wishes are around death with family and friends.
- Red Industries Community Grants – Funding for community projects from Landfill tax. Cllrs felt that we may be able to obtain a grant towards the purchase of additional play equipment.
- Support Staffordshire – Free and part-funded training for volunteers.

18.22 Any Other Business / Issues for Further Discussion

18.22.01 – Wetley Moor Common

Cllr Batson advised that during the meeting on 26 April 2018 it was confirmed that grazing of cattle on the common during last year had stopped due to the contractor withdrawing. The group is very close to securing another contractor to provide grazing on the common which is a crucial factor in preserving this habitat.

Stoke on Trent City Council and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council are currently negotiating the handover of the management of the Common to Staffordshire Wild Life. This move would preserve the future of the Common, which is a Site of Specific Scientific Interest.

18.22.02 – DPRG

The Clerk attended an information workshop scheduled by SMDC and was advised that an amendment to the Bill had been submitted which proposed the exemption of Parish Council from requiring an independent Data Protection Officer and thereby making it possible for the Clerk to adopt this position. We await final confirmation of this.

18.22.03 – Casual Vacancy

In view of the resignation tendered by Ken Simpson, the Parish Council has asked parishioners if they wished to call an election. Notices were put in the notice boards and details were published on the website. As an election was not called, the Parish Council will go through the process of co-opting a Councillor.

18.23 Public Section

There were no issues raised by members of the public.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 19 June 2018, 7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed
(Chairman)

Dated: 19 June 2018