

BAGNALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 19 September 2018

Village Hall
School Lane
Bagnall
Staffordshire Moorlands

Present:

Cllr Andrew Batson (Chair)
Cllr Mark Butler
Cllr Les Knowles

Cllr Peter Lawley
Cllr David Pearson
Cllr Sybil Ralphs

Apologies

Cllr Sally Brown; Denise Cooper (Clerk)

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no expressions of Pecuniary interest.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

18.44 Finances

17.82.02 – Benches on playing fields

The plinths for the benches have now been installed and the seats positioned.

17.129.04 – Commemoration of World War 1

A quotation in the sum of £353.86 from Nettlebanks for the refurbishment of the gilding on the church pulpit has now been received and a grant application has been submitted to SMDC in the sum of £435. The difference of £81.14 will be used towards the beacon lighting.

18.15.01 – Building Society Account

Cllr Andrew Batson has not yet closed the building society account in liaison with Frank Hayes.

18.35.01 – Playing Field – Use

SMDC, on our behalf, has registered the playing field with Staffordshire FA; they in turn will make league secretaries within our area aware of the facility. A suggested charge by SMDC for the hire of the field per season is biweekly £80 and weekly £130.00 (both amounts excluding VAT). These charges are for a pitch that does not have a pavilion. The Parish Council feels that these sums are a little excessive for our facility and therefore will be put on the agenda for the next meeting when the Clerk is present and can provide maintenance costings to enable full

discussion.

18.35.03 – Invoices / Receipts

The following invoices were received and payment agreed:

- Denise Cooper – Staffing costs for August and September 2018 - £236.00
- Jackson Nurseries – Green’s Maintenance (July) - £300.00
- Jackson Nurseries – Green’s Maintenance (August) - £540.00
- Jackson’s Nurseries – Positioning of concrete plinths and fixing benches - £894.00
- GeoXphere – Parish Online subscription - £42.00
- Hosting Systems – Annual subscription for website - £120.00

The Parish Council has had the following receipts:

- SMDC – Reimbursement for purchase of goal posts - £1,000.00
- Milton Utd FC AMC – Hire of playing field (July/August) - £24.00

18.45 Planning

SMDC Planning Decisions

- SMD/2017/0806 – Jack Hayes Farm, Jack Hayes Lane, Armshead
Application for ménage to exercise horses
SMDC approved – Parish Council objected. The Chair read out the Planning Officer’s comments, which are available on SMDC’s website, and expressed his dismay. Cllrs raised a number of concerns regarding the adverse impact the number of stables being erected across the Parish was having on the character of the area. The term ‘horsey culture’ used by SMDC was also felt to be unacceptable. Cllr Ralphs will request that Ben Hayward, a senior officer from SMDC, be invited to attend the November meeting.

New Applications

- SMD/2017/0806 – Jack Hayes Farm, Jack Hayes Lane, Armshead
Application for ménage to exercise horses
This was put before the Cllr at the July meeting. The Parish Council could not support this application and provided comments within the 21 days allocated.
- Tree Preservation Order – SM/309 (2018) – Land Adjacent to Hunter’s Lodge, Stanley Moss Lane, Stockton Brook
Area of Trees which are considered to be of significant amenity to provide useful wildlife habitat and to contribute to and enhance the local landscape character
The application was for information only and the Parish Council had no objections.

The Chairman asked for comments from the public in attendance in relation to planning issues. A Parishioner stated that the Parish Council needed to be “fair minded and treat each application with sensitivity”. Councillors responded that they were NOT anti-horse, but have to look at these matters from a planning perspective. One concern of Cllrs is that many equine developments were constructed without planning permission. Cllrs wanted to ensure consistency in approach from SMDC and ensure that appropriate and fair policing and guidance were in place to protect everyone.

18.46 Footpaths

18.46.01 – Footpath 28

The Parish Council was made aware that yet again motorcycles had been spotted

using the footpath on a number of occasions and Cllrs expressed their concerns regarding pedestrian and horse rider safety. These incidents have been reported to the Police with a request that they visit the area on a regular basis as part of their rounds in the village. Cllr Ralphs suggested that the Clerk make contact with Highways to seek legal advice regarding a By-law to protect the public and to add this issue to our Risk Register.

18.47 Highways

17.129.01 – Parking, Clewlovs Bank

The Clerk has been advised that as the speed limit at this point is more than 30mph, the Highways Department are unable to install double yellow lines.

18.48 Maintenance

17.126.01 – Notice Board

The erection of the notice board has now been undertaken. Thanks were expressed to Keith Weston and Brian Dean for their work in re-instating the notice board.

Cllrs felt that the use of the notice board was to principally advise parishioners of the work undertaken by the Parish Council and other local authority / charity events. It was not to advertise the facilities offered by businesses that will have other means to accomplish this. Therefore the use of the notice board by the Stafford Arms was declined.

17.129.02 – Bulbous Tree, Stanley Road

This issue is still not resolved as the Parish Council continues to await the outcome of the survey scheduled by Highways. Cllr Ralphs agreed to again request a report from Steve Massey.

18.29.01 – Playing Fields

The undulations that have occurred as the land has settled on the playing fields have been reported to Pugh-Lewis via SMDC. Pugh-Lewis has agreed to undertake remedial repairs within the next couple of weeks now that weather conditions have improved.

18.42.04 – Seedling Trees

Highways have been notified regarding the problem of seedling trees in the vicinity of Salters Wells and we are awaiting the outcome of their inspection.

18.42.07 – Blocked Drainage

The issue of blocked drainage in the vicinity of Wren Cottage has been reported to Highways and we are currently awaiting their inspection.

18.42.08 – Playing Field – fencing

Cllrs Les Knowles and Dave Pearson have effected some repairs, but advised that the issues lie with the far right-hand fencing post, which is situated behind and outside of the perimeter field fencing within the gap between the perimeter fencing and the stone wall alongside the road. The play area fence panel is attached to this post. Unfortunately this post had not been secured into the ground relying solely on keeping the fence (and itself) upright by the close fit of the perimeter fencing mesh. This obviously puts a strain on the fence which it was not designed or intended to take. Cllr Ralphs was asked put in place further remedial works to ensure the post is more permanently fixed.

18.49 Environment

18.49.01 – Commemorative Tree Planting – Queen’s Commonwealth Canopy

The Rt Hon Karen Bradley has been given 5 trees to plant across the Staffordshire Moorlands and Bagnall PC has been fortunate in securing one of these. An official planting will take place on Thursday 25 October 2018. Once full details are available a programme of events will be notified.

The Parish Council has requested a Rowan tree, and it was suggested that this be planted alongside the other Rowan trees on the front village green opposite Old Hall Farm.

18.50 Correspondence

- Staffordshire Police and Crime Commission – Merge of Staffordshire Police and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service. - *It’s been four months since the Home Office confirmed that Staffordshire’s Police and Crime Commissioner would take responsibility for governance of the fire and rescue service. Those new arrangements started on 1 August 2018. To clarify the position, it will be business as usual. It is important to understand this is not, and never has been, a merger of the two authorities. They will remain separate entities with separate budgets and staff. The only area that will change is the development of a shared approach to some support and administrative functions and to ensuring more of the money available is allocated in a way that enables police and fire to work better together generally.*
- SMDC – Notification of submission of the Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan to the Secretary of State – *The Local Plan, together with its Sustainability Appraisal, other supporting documents and all public representations received have been submitted for independent examination by a planning inspector.*
- SMDC Chairman’s Ball on 6 October 2018 at Alton Towers – Invitation to all councillors
- SMDC – Request for notification if the church will be ringing the bells to commemorate WW1 on 11 November 2018. *The Church has notified us that they will be rung.*
- SCC - County Council Great War Centenary Steering Group – Request for information on our proposals to commemorate WW1 on 11 November 2018
- Staffordshire Fire and Rescue service will once again be holding its much acclaimed conference ‘Making a Difference – the Difference we Make on Thursday, November 15, 2018 at the Best Western Moathouse Hotel, Festival Park, Stoke-on-Trent.
- Community Council of Staffordshire – Notice of closure
- Staffordshire County Council – Notification of early disclosure of their 2019/20 budget in view of further budget cuts. Details to be released on 18 September 2018. Full details available on their website - <http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments>.

18.51 Any Other Business / Issues for Further Discussion

- Cllr Ralphs has received a request from a parishioner to install double yellow lines along Stanley Road from its junction with the A53 to the James Brindley Bridge by the golf course to ensure safety given the volume of traffic.
- Government Precept Announcement – *The Government has published a “technical consultation” on the draft local government finance settlement. This contains very welcome paragraphs about referendum principles and English*

town and parish councils. In brief the Government has decided to defer the setting of referendum principles for 3 years, conditional upon the sector taking all available steps to mitigate the need for council tax increases, including the use of reserves where they are not already earmarked for 'invest to save' projects which will lower ongoing costs. (Our 'invest to save' will include capital payment towards the playing field loan which will ultimately reduce our outgoings.) The Government is seeing clear evidence of restraint in the increases set by the sector. In 2018-19 the average Band D precept increased by 4.9%, against 6.3% in 2017/18. The area is being kept under active review.

- *Parliamentary Boundaries – The Boundaries Commission submitted its review report on the Parliamentary Boundaries to Government on 5 September 2018. This is in connection with initial proposals to reduce the total number of MPs from 650 to 600. It will then be up to the Government to turn the recommendations into law. Further information can be found at <https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7696>*

18.52 Public Section

There were no issues raised by members of the public.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 16 October 2018, 7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed
(Chairman)

Dated: 16 October 2018